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考研英语 阅读练习

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AI and the Future of Work • 阅读

考研英语 · LingoSheets

Discussions of artificial intelligence often swing between two extremes: the utopian promise of a world without work and the dystopian fear of mass unemployment. Neither captures what is likely to happen. History suggests that technology rarely eliminates work altogether; it changes what people do. The industrial revolution destroyed many crafts but created factories, offices and professions that no one could have predicted. AI is likely to follow a similar path, automating tasks rather than whole jobs. A lawyer may spend less time reviewing documents and more time advising clients; a doctor may delegate routine diagnosis and focus on complex cases. The danger is not that there will be no work, but that the transition will be uneven. Those whose tasks are easily automated may lose their footing, while those who can use the new tools may become more productive and better paid. This is why the debate should focus less on whether machines will take our jobs and more on how the gains are shared: through training, social protection and fair taxation.

Questions

1. 1. What does history suggest about technology?

- A. It changes what people do rather than eliminating work B. It always destroys jobs C. It creates a world without work D. It has no effect

2. 2. What does AI automate according to the author?

- A. Tasks rather than whole jobs B. Only factories C. Only office work D. Nothing

3. 3. What is the real danger?

- A. The transition will be uneven B. There will be no work C. Machines will stop D. Everyone will be richer

4. 4. What should the debate focus on?

- A. How the gains are shared B. Whether machines will take jobs C. Banning AI D. Reducing training

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答案与解析

1. **1. A** — technology rarely eliminates work altogether; it changes what people do.
2. **2. A** — automating tasks rather than whole jobs.
3. **3. A** — the transition will be uneven.
4. **4. A** — how the gains are shared: through training, social protection and fair taxation.

The Rebound Effect • 阅读

考研英语 · LingoSheets

When a machine becomes more efficient, we expect energy use to fall. Often it does not. Economists call this the rebound effect. A fuel-efficient car may cost less to run, so people drive further; a better heater may make a room comfortable at lower cost, so people heat more rooms. At the level of a household, the saving is real, but at the level of the economy, part of it can disappear. The rebound effect does not mean efficiency is pointless. It means that efficiency alone may not deliver the absolute reductions in energy use that policymakers expect. To achieve those, prices and regulations matter too. Carbon taxes, building standards and investment in public transport can ensure that efficiency gains are not simply spent on more consumption. The lesson is uncomfortable for those who prefer simple solutions: technology improves, but behaviour and policy decide how much the improvement actually helps.

Questions

1. 1. What is the rebound effect?

- A. Efficiency gains are partly offset by more use B. Energy use always falls C. Machines stop working D. Prices fall forever

2. 2. Why might people drive further?

- A. The car costs less to run B. Roads are narrower C. Fuel is more expensive D. Cars are slower

3. 3. What does the author say about efficiency alone?

- A. It may not deliver absolute reductions B. It is pointless C. It always works D. It raises prices

4. 4. What is the main idea?

- A. Behaviour and policy decide how much efficiency helps B. Technology is useless C. Carbon taxes fail D. Energy use is stable

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答案与解析

1. **1. A** — part of it can disappear; people drive further.
2. **2. A** — A fuel-efficient car may cost less to run, so people drive further.
3. **3. A** — efficiency alone may not deliver the absolute reductions.
4. **4. A** — behaviour and policy decide how much the improvement actually helps.

The Value of Boredom • 阅读

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Boredom has a bad reputation. We treat it as a problem to be solved, and smartphones offer a constant escape. Yet psychologists suggest that boredom can be useful. When the outside world stops providing stimulation, the mind begins to wander, connecting ideas that do not usually meet. Some studies find that people who have just completed a boring task perform better on tests of creativity. The effect is not automatic—boredom can also lead to frustration and risk-taking—but it seems to create space for reflection. The problem with constant entertainment is that it fills that space. If every spare moment is occupied by a screen, the mind never has to be alone with itself. Some researchers therefore recommend deliberately leaving gaps in the day: a walk without headphones, a queue without a phone, a few minutes of doing nothing. These small experiments are not a cure for boredom; they are a way of letting it do its work.

Questions

1. **1. What can boredom be according to psychologists?**

A. Useful for creativity B. A disease C. A sign of failure D. A waste of time

2. **2. What does constant entertainment do?**

A. It fills the space for reflection B. It cures boredom C. It improves sleep D. It reduces screen time

3. **3. What do some researchers recommend?**

A. Leaving gaps in the day B. More screen time C. Avoiding walks D. Filling every moment

4. **4. What is the main idea?**

A. Boredom has value and needs space B. Boredom is a problem C. Phones cure boredom D. Creativity is automatic

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答案与解析

1. **1. A** — boredom can be useful... perform better on tests of creativity.
2. **2. A** — constant entertainment... fills that space.
3. **3. A** — deliberately leaving gaps in the day.
4. **4. A** — a way of letting it do its work.

Why Cities Keep Growing • 阅读

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Economists have long wondered why cities keep growing even when living costs are high. One answer is that cities offer what economists call agglomeration benefits: when many people and firms are close together, ideas spread faster, workers find better matches and suppliers can specialise. A dense city can support a restaurant for every taste, a specialist lawyer for every niche and a network of investors willing to fund risky ideas. These advantages are powerful, but they also create a paradox. Success attracts more people, which pushes up rents and congestion, which in turn pushes some people away. Cities that manage this tension well invest in transport, housing and public spaces, so that the benefits of density are not cancelled by the costs. Those that do not may find that growth becomes a source of conflict rather than prosperity. The city is not a machine for producing wealth automatically; it is a system that has to be maintained.

Questions

1. 1. What are agglomeration benefits?

A. Ideas spread faster and workers match better B. Cheaper rents C. Less traffic D. Fewer firms

2. 2. What is the paradox?

A. Success raises costs and pushes people away B. Cities stop growing C. Rents fall D. No one wants to live there

3. 3. What do well-managed cities do?

A. Invest in transport, housing and public spaces B. Ban new residents C. Raise rents D. Cut public spaces

4. 4. What is the main idea?

A. A city has to be maintained B. Cities produce wealth automatically C. Growth is always conflict D. Density has no costs

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答案与解析

1. **1. A** — ideas spread faster, workers find better matches.
2. **2. A** — Success attracts more people, which pushes up rents and congestion.
3. **3. A** — invest in transport, housing and public spaces.
4. **4. A** — it is a system that has to be maintained.