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Why? Is it positive or negative?

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预测题目

1. More people are using mobile phones and computers to communicate. Therefore, people are losing the ability to communicate with each other face to face. To what extent do you agree or disagree?(课上讲解练习)

概念解释:

The ability to communicate with each other face to face: the abilities one uses when giving and receiving different kinds of information. (how to pose questions, make comments clearly and give response; how to understand the attitude of others through nonverbal cues such as body language, facial expressions and eye contact; how to point out problems politely)

个人立场: disagree

反方立场论点:

To some extent, the reliance on communication tools has more or less affected faceto-face communication.

个人立场论点一:

However, technology is not the direct cause leading to the decline in the development of communication abilities.

个人立场论点二: In addition, modern communication tools facilitate human interaction.

2. Many people believe that counties should produce food for all population eats and import food as little as possible. To what extent do you agree or disagree?

个人立场: I firmly believe that self-sufficiency in food supply can ensure the stable and sustainable development of a country.

个人立场论点一: Importing food poses a big threat to environment. when perishable food is transported by plane, the emission of carbon dioxide and other gases released by the plane will lead to air contamination and global warming. Also, imported

food generally contains more packaging in order to keep fresh. A plastic bag could take hundreds of years for it to decompose, which will destroy the oceans and other natural habitats.

个人立场论点二: food safety cannot be guaranteed. Eating imported foods, especially fruits and vegetables, often have chemicals added, such as chemicals to prevent the fruits from ripening, which make the food unhealthy and often have dangerous side effects. More seriously, in order to increase the yield of crops efficiently, the organisms of the crops have been changed slightly, but there are many undiscovered health risks of eating genetically-modified food

3. Some people believe that the range of technology available to individuals is increasing the gap between the rich people and the poor people. Others think this has an opposite effect. Discuss both views and give your own opinion.

个人立场: certain technologies are available to all people in the society and help reduce the gap between the rich and the poor. However, certain innovations are inaccessible to the poor because of their high cost.

第一方论点:

Certain inventions and discoveries decrease the gap between people of different income levels. This is because they are accessible to all people due to their availability at cheaper rates. For example, the internet technology is available to almost all sections of the society. It is affordable to all people and certain places such as railway stations, bus stations and airport are WiFi hotspots where internet is freely available. Online shopping facilities, e-learning opportunities and social networking sites are available to both affluent and poor people in the society and they decrease the gap between the rich and the poor.

第二方论点:

However, certain advancements in technology are not affordable for the poorer sections of the society. Modern medicine, for example, is expensive. Certain new drugs and diagnostic procedures are very costly. Certain affluent people who developed cancer took treatment with a special kind of protein which was very expensive but had

fewer side effects compared to conventional chemotherapy. Rich people can access these treatments by spending only a small portion of their income and improve their health. Poor people, on the other hand, have to spend all of their money for conventional treatments and yet there is no guarantee that they condition will improve.

4. Should education and healthcare be free of charge and funded by the government, or should it be the responsibility of the people to pay for these services? Discuss the above and give your opinion using examples.

个人立场: governments should take the main responsibility and individuals can be allowed to have their own choices

个人立场论点一: education is largely considered a basic right. A population unable to calculate, read, write or even learn would be doomed in such a competitive global economy. Globalization has increased competition and shifted the emphasis to knowledge, information and science. A state education should, therefore, be freely available to everybody. However, if people wish to purchase private education, this should also be allowed or even encouraged. Private education reduces the strain on public services and provides a source of tax revenue for the government, in effect, subsidizing state education.

个人立场论点二: health services must undoubtedly be available to all because the entire nation is paying taxes and, therefore, should not be excluded from any service. Take the NHS in the UK, for example; this organization caters for the entire population, and no private medical insurance is needed. Unfortunately waiting lists can be long and service is occasionally slow; therefore, some purchase private medical insurance for a faster service. This reduces the workload of the public sector.

5. Nowadays people waste a lot of food that was bought from shops and restaurants. Why do you think people waste food? What can be done to reduce the amount of food they throw away?

原因一: The low cost of food seems to be one of the obvious reasons, exacerbating the problem. Due to the revolutionary technological achievements, people have

increased both the quality and the quantity of their crops. In turn, according to the laws of supply and demand, the prices of the crops have immensely dropped. This enables people to buy excessive amounts of food without a real need.

原因二: Furthermore, the absence of strict regulations to discourage or punish this attitude can also be considered a major cause. Not everyone is aware that wasting food may create problems. Consequently, they are likely to resist any calls for controlling the consumption of dietary supplies unless they are forced by the power of law. Several countries in the world saw a drop in their national food waste after implementing a ban on the excessive purchasing of food.

解决措施: Fortunately, there are some possible approaches that can be adopted by both people and governments. Firstly, raising the awareness of this issue is immensely important. Using social media platforms can draw public attention to the potential dangers of food waste and how communities can confront it. Secondly, enforcing laws that prohibit the wasting of food by people and companies will deter such harmful practice.

6. Human activities have negative effects on plant and animal species. Some people think it is too late to do anything about this problem. Others believe that effective measures can be taken to improve this situation. Discuss both views and give your opinion.

个人立场: while the extinction of wildlife seems an inevitable result of the development of human society, it can be dealt with

第一方论点:

Throughout history, there are many examples, which support the pessimistic view. even if we bring the Sri Lanka legume trees back, there is no room for them to survive today. The dinosaurs are a good example in this context. If, by some miracle, we are able to bring them back, from where do we get the space for them to move about and proliferate? So, it is futile to save the weak species, unless these species themselves are able to continue their life.

第二方论点:

On the other hand, we should and must take actions to save the environment where we live, otherwise we are heading for doom. overexploitation of natural resources should be reduced. Hunting and smuggling of wild animals should be banned. Overgrazing and over cultivation should be stopped so that we can have a sustainable development. Afforestation should be encouraged, which means planting trees where there were none before. For example, if we adopt the motto of 'each one plant one', then the results would be stupendous.

7. Some people argue that job satisfaction is more important than job security, while others believe that they cannot always expect job satisfaction and a permanent job is more important. Discuss both views and give your opinion.

个人立场: it is a subjective issue.

第一方论点: On the one hand, some people opine that having a permanent job is essential for stable life even if it is not as fulfilling as one wants it to be. They are more inclined towards making a living without thinking about the long-term purpose. For instance, a daily-wage worker is more focused on earning his bread and butter rather than worrying about the amount of labor that needs to be put in as he has only one goal and that is to feed his family. Overall, being able to work and generate income is itself a blessing for these people.

第二方论点: On the other hand, many others, especially youngsters, believe that having a satisfying job is crucial for the mental health of an individual. If not content with the job he or she takes, an individual would generate negative emotions such as anxiety, frustration and so on. For example, if employees are required to devote a surplus of time and energy to their on-the-clock pursuits at the expense of their personal lives, their personal lives will inevitably result in exhaustion, and then both work and life will unquestionably suffer. Therefore, work-life balance, which is a main element of job satisfaction, is mostly considered by individuals.

- 8. Some people believe the aim of university education is to help graduates get better jobs, while others believe there are much wider benefits of university education for both individuals and society. Discuss both views and give your own opinion
- 个人立场: the purpose of university education is far beyond job prospects
- 第一方论点: On the one hand, tertiary education is one essential step to help individuals to achieve job prospects. the professional world of white collared and highly respected professions like engineers, scientists and surgeons can only be pursued after completing university courses. Take Finance for example, the young can learn how to evaluate a market plan, how to balance costs as well as how to predict market crisis. So, it can be perceived as a means of better employability.
- 第二方论点: On the other hand, universities also benefit the nation by creating educated societies. the young have built independent thinking through university education, who can contribute towards social innovation by their expertise. many scientific inventions are developed in university laboratories which have been widely applied in various fields ranging from agriculture to space research, which can boost national economy

9. Some people say arts, such as music and painting, cannot directly improve the quality of people's life, so the government should spend money on other areas. Do you agree or disagree?

概念解释:

Quality of life: the general well-being of individuals and societies, which includes everything from physical health, family, education, employment, wealthy, safety, security to freedom and the environment.

个人立场: disagree

论点一: art can positively contribute to a harmonious society. the visual arts are a way that we express ourselves and reflect on the human condition. we can deliver a

message on how we feel and what we think through creating a piece of artwork, and then share it with others. This two-way exchange opens a gateway to communicate with each other which other methods could not otherwise. In this life, arts act as a key role in building social bond which is crucial for social stability.

论点二: the development of art industry can promote education which is an essential part of social progress. undeniably, knowledge can take many forms, and one of them is art. Art exhibitions no doubt are a very effective tool of the learning process, which can provide students more opportunities to be exposed to a wide range of subjects, including the inventions made by ancestors, the diversity of culture shown in artworks, the geographical conditions of a country as well as how the environment is like in jungle. The knowledge they gain from attending an exhibition might inspire their motivation in study and then in further innovations. Thus, the government should fund arts.

10. Many students are taught to push themselves to try and be better than other students, rather than work together for everyone's benefits. Do the advantages outweigh the disadvantages?

概念解释:

Competition: competition arises whenever at least two parties strive for a common goal which cannot be shared: where one's gain is the other's loss.

Cooperation: an act or instance of working or acting together for a common purpose or benefit: joint action.

个人立场: The disadvantages of instilling competitiveness in students are more than the advantages. The 'everyone-gets-a-trophy' mentality needs to be nurtured.

反方论点:

One advantage of competition: it can help children learn to face failure. Children should not always be protected in their comfort zone and never have the experience of failure. Through competition, children will learn failure is not a bad thing but a normal matter although they might feel uncomfortable but it is a wonderful opportunity for

them to learn how to improve their skills, to realize others' strengths and their own weaknesses. As a result, they can become capable adult that do not crumble the firsttime things get tough.

论点一:

The first disadvantage of competition: children would become self-centered. In a competitive culture, a child is told that he or she must triumph over others. The more someone competes, the more he or she needs to compete to feel good about himself or herself. Competition leads children to envy winners, and also to dismiss losers. So, in order to win a game, one will never share his or her opinions and thoughts with others, becoming less humble. Cooperation, on the other hand, is extremely successful at helping children communicate effectively, to trust in others and to accept those who are different from themselves.

论点二:

The second disadvantage of competition: it is not beneficial to the cultivation of communication skills. Choosing to be competitive means choosing to be isolated from a social environment to some extent, which means that children will lose the opportunity to learn how to coordinate with others to complete a common task, how to present their own opinions to others, how to remove misunderstanding and bias properly as well as how to build mutual trust. These skills are essential for individual career path. Therefore, competitive activities should not be encouraged in schools.

11. In some cities, there are few controls over the design and construction of new homes and office buildings, so people can build in whatever style they like. Do you think the advantages of this approach outweigh the disadvantages?

概念解释:

Human rights: include the right to life and liberty, freedom from slavery and torture, freedom of opinion and expression, the right to work and education, and many more. Everyone is entitled to these rights, without discrimination.

Freedom: the choice to live your life doing what you want, to live where you want, to

eat by choice and to learn what your heart desires.

Control: the possession, directly or indirectly, of the power to direct or cause the direction of the management or policies of a person.

Obligation: a course of action that someone is required to take, whether legal or moral. Obligations are constraints, which limit freedom. Obligation exists when there is a choice to do what is morally good and what is morally unacceptable.

个人立场: the disadvantages of less control on the style of buildings are more than the advantages.

反方论点: One advantage of less control over the buildings' style: it can raise the sense of happiness of residents. if residents are given the choice to live their own life by designing their houses based on their own demand and interests, they will feel much satisfied because their freedom is respected. The architectural style of a house is a way for one to express his or her feelings and attitudes. Undeniably, a city with diverse types of houses that involve different minds might look incredibly attractive, and residents will devote more effort in creating a better place to live in.

个人论点一: One disadvantage of less control: it is not beneficial to a harmonious society. how to design a building depends on various factors, one important of which is the economic level of house owners. When people are allowed to build homes based on their own needs and interests, they might see the appearance of their house as a way to show off their wealth in the form of size and design. This, as a result, might cause rivalry between neighbors living in the same community. So, the government should place a universal standard.

个人论点二: Another disadvantage of less control: it might not positively contribute to a desirable living environment. individuals tend to give what they like as the priority over whether what they choose will affect others and the whole society or not. For example, sustainability is often ignored by the general public, like whether the construction materials they use will trigger a big threat to nature and whether it will cause the depletion of natural resources, but it should and must be an integral part of design excellence which is vital to the protection of the whole world we

live in. Thus, the government must exert their control over how buildings should be like.

12. Some people think that international sporting events are the ideal opportunity to show the world of the qualities of the hosting nation. Others believe that these events are mainly a large unjustifiable expense. Discuss both views and give your own opinion.

个人立场:: sports events, if economically administered correctly, can reap massive benefits.

第一方立场论点: On the one hand, hosting sports event is a way to show the image of a city to the world. It is a large-scale event that can grasp the world's media attention, which enables the city to receive enormous amounts of publicity. As a result, the stadiums and the cultural heritages are exposed to all, which can then appeal to more people and thereby boost tourism and convey national culture.

第二方立场论点: On the other hand, the expense of hosting sports events can dwarf the benefits. the events are funded by the public sector who raise money from taxpayers, and the early investment is huge in amount because stadiums, Olympic parks and infrastructure are expensive to construct which need large capital expenditure. Therefore, having realized that the events cannot benefit the general public at all, many taxpayers think that it is not worthwhile.

13. Some people think traditional games can be much better in helping children develop a wide range of skills than modern games. To what extent do you agree or disagree?

概念解释:

Traditional games: the games do not include commercial products such as board games, but do include games which require props such as marbles.

<u>Hide-and-go-seek</u>: a popular game in which any number of players conceal themselves in the environment, to be found by one or more seekers.

<u>Freeze dance:</u> play music and let everyone dance as crazily as they can. When it stops they have to freeze. Anyone moving after the music stops is out.

Modern games: board games; PC games

<u>Monopoly</u>: in the game, players roll dice to move around the game board, buying and trading properties, and developing them with houses and hotels. Players collect rent from their opponents, with the goal being to drive them into bankruptcy.

<u>Animal crossing</u>: taking place in real time, the player can explore the island, gathering and crafting items, catching insects and fish, and developing the island into a community of animals.

个人立场: disagree

反方立场论点: To some extent, traditional games can cultivate children's social language skills. The rules for many traditional games are not in the written form, which means that when children play a game with their peers, they need to work on conversational turn taking, like presenting how to play a game and verbally expressing 'my turn' and 'your turn'. If there is one kid who cannot follow the rules, other children need to explain what to do and what rules one cannot break. Such language skills are not frequently practiced in modern games.

个人立场论点一: However, modern games mostly focus on the development of the skills to solve the problems that take place in real time. For example, in the board game, players roll dice to move around the game board, buying and trading properties, and developing them with houses and hotels. Players collect rent from their opponents, with the goal being to drive them into bankruptcy. This real-life game show children money lessons from the early game, including the importance of beginning investing, not pulling all your eggs in one basket and planning for the unexpected by always having a rainy-day fund. As those are the issues that happen in modern society, traditional games do not pay attention to them.

个人立场论点二: In addition, more modern games put much emphasis on the development of social skills. in modern society where social activities are becoming fewer than before, video games are a good way for children to always be connected

with their fellows. For example, in a PC game called 'animal crossing', players will be asked to accomplish certain tasks for new animal villagers moving into their town in order to develop a relationship with them, like taking a package to a neighbor or catching a butterfly for them. From the game, younger children can learn how import it is to be helpful to those around you and how to communicate with others.

14. Lectures were used to be a way to teach large number of students, but with the technology available for education, there is no longer justification for lectures. To what extent do you agree or disagree?

背景: as our education becomes increasingly digitized, more students are wondering what purpose lectures serve, especially when notes and slides are uploaded to student portals and lecture recordings are available on YouTube.

概念解释:

Lecture: an oral presentation intended to present information or teach people about a particular subject by a university or college teacher; a way used to convey critical information, history, background and theories; a one-way method of communication that does not involve significant audience participation but relies on passive learning.

Online education: an educational experience that has no physical boundary, which allows for students to take part in classes and interact with peers from any location.

个人立场: while digital technology has brought tremendous convenience in the field of education, lectures are still essential.

反方立场论点: **To some extent, traditional lectures are not engaging.** lecturing is teacher-centered, which is only a one-way method of communication that does not involve significant audience participation but relies on passive learning. In other words, lecturers do not bring students into the conversation to ask questions, debate ideas, or share personal experience. Instead, what students can only do on a lecture is to take notes and listen to what teachers tell, which is almost like online education. Therefore, many students do not believe lecturers as a necessary form of study.

个人立场论点一: However, lectures can involve students in learning experience. In fact, before attending a lecture, students are always required to do some reading and research. It means that lectures become a way to supplement what students can decipher on their own and to highlight how to think critically about the material. Meanwhile, lecturers will use more improvised examples which are neither outlined on the slides nor covered in course materials on lectures to illustrate basic principles and to inspire students' thinking. Therefore, without the necessity of attending lectures, many students may skip the experience of independent study.

个人立场论点二: In addition, lectures can ensure learning efficiency. not all the students have the discipline to spend their time regularly to stay on top of their class while skipping lectures. If not required to attend lectures, the students who are poor in self-control may hang out with their friends or watch online videos to pass time instead of following online study. In the face of this, students must seize the opportunity of being guided by leading professors who can lead your way with key terms, definitions and solutions, which will save your time when it comes to revision and assignments.

15. Scientists believe computers will become more intelligent than human beings. Some people think the development will be negative. To what extent do you agree or disagree?

个人立场: this development can bring tremendous benefits to humans.

主体段落一: Indeed, the advancement of computer technology would cause job destruction. when computers can enable a variety of problem to be solved efficiently and accurately, a great number of jobs would be displaced particularly in the service sector and the manufacturing industry, leading to the rise of unemployment rate. Thus, what people fear is the speed of job loss through computerization.

主体段落二: However, the fast development of computers can positively contribute to job creation. Although the intelligent computerized system will eliminate jobs, it will create a demand for new job positions. For computers to function properly, humans will be needed to check work, improve it and manage it.

It is predicted that the new positions will require additional skills for managing the interface between technology and humans. Therefore, computers can promote human progress.

主体段落三: Moreover, computerization can help human beings to cope with substantial social problems. For example, an Israeli company called 'Prospera' has developed a system that uses a machine learning system that can identify signs of insect damage in plant images as well as analyze plant nutrition data, weather forecasts, and other data to predict if a particular plant is at risk of becoming sick, which can positively contribute to agriculture. Therefore, it is worthwhile to enhance computer technology.

16. Some people think personal happiness is directly related to economic success, while others believe this depends on other factors.Discuss both sides and give your own opinion.

个人立场: financial stability is one main factor of happiness but not the determinant. 第一方立场论点: On the one hand, those who claim that happiness is mainly related to earnings argue that it affords individuals a higher standard of living. A person with a considerable amount of salary is able to buy a nice house, provide for their family, and purchase luxuries ranging from good food and frequent holidays to expensive vehicles and fashionable clothing. Such purchases add up to a generally content, comfortable and enjoyable lifestyle, which can help individuals to avoid negative emotions caused by heavy living pressure like anxiety. Therefore, there is a legitimate argument to be made for the pursuit of happiness being the pursuit of money. 第二方立场论点: On the other hand, the majority of individuals, wealthy and otherwise, would state that happiness is more a consequence of quality time with family. A comfortable home filled with luxuries is enjoyable but the most sustained happiness comes from social relationships. Someone who has lost interpersonal bonds with their family and their relatives is more likely to suffer negative emotions like frustration and despair when falling in hardship if he or she does not get any mental support from their friends and family. Additionally, good health is a more powerful precondition for happiness since no amount of wealth can buy relief from chronic suffering.

17. some people want the government to spend money on researching life on other planets. Others, however, think it is a waste of public funds and there are too many problems on our own planet to be fixed first. Discuss both views and give your own opinion.

个人立场: it is worthwhile

第一方立场论点: On the one hand, the state funds should be distributed to the aspects aiming to deal with substantial living problems facing human beings. poverty, disease, violence, environmental pollution, and more are constantly plaguing humanity, and even our best efforts far cannot address all of everybody's needs. Governments should prioritize humanitarian needs. Why study the resources on other planets when air pollution existing on Earth is still becoming severe? Thus, if individual suffering is not solved, it is not wise for the government to fund the research on other planets.

第二方立场论点: On the other hand, investing in exploring other planets is investing in the betterment of humanity. The result of space exploration is not only fantastic scientific discoveries, but also many useful inventions which have impacted our daily lives in more ways than most people imagine, from helping to improve artificial limbs to using lasers developed for monitoring gases in the atmosphere for heart surgery. Thus, we should not be shortsighted when evaluating the importance of doing space research.

18. individuals can do nothing to improve the environment; only governments and large companies can make a difference. To what extent do you agree or disagree?

<u>个人立场</u>: While governments must no doubt create eco-friendly policy and do their part to bring about change, we, as individuals, have a crucial role to play as well. 个人立场论点一: In any ecosystem, all the parts are connected. The food we eat, the type of transport we choose, the way we consume and how much we consume as individuals all have a direct impact on the environment. Our individual habits might seem insignificant from our perspective, but at the macro level they add up in a big way. <u>个人立场论点二: In addition, while seemingly powerless, individuals can actually</u> do a lot to make a difference. We can drive hybrid cars, conserve on electricity and water, buy local organic food and support environmentally-friendly brands. Theses are sustainable practices that can create a ripple effect.

反方立场论点: However, this is not to say that governments should not also carry their weight. By encouraging 'green' business and creating incentives for good resource management and responsible consumption, they can help lead the way. Consider, for example, how US President Obama's words and plans about a 'green economy' have led to signs of renewed economic optimism in America. Governments can set the tone for change and do a lot to harness individual good will and momentum.

19. Some people believe today that everyone has a right to access to the Internet and that governments should provide this access for free. Other people believe that access to the internet is not a right and should be paid for like other services.Discuss both these views and give your opinion.

个人立场: I believe that Internet access should be paid for.

第一方立场论点: Free universal access to the Internet can ensure fairness in the acquisition of information and knowledge. Undeniably, modern society is now built on a system that relies on everyone having access to the Internet, from purchasing essential items to receiving education. However, while it is seen as a basic necessity in many countries, the truth is that the costs for accessing it are still too high for the impoverished, leading to a division of inequality in society. Therefore, free access to the Internet can enable anyone to share the same platform for gaining knowledge and opportunities for life improvement.

第二方立场论点: However, free access to the internet will impose a heavy burden on the government. Storing all the information and passing it to consumers through the World Wide Web also entails costs. This raises the question whether the Internet should be handled differently. Providing Internet access to everyone would mean a significant cost for the governments, especially at times of economic crisis. Therefore, this is not a reasonable solution.

20. These days, an increasing number of people from many cities know little about their neighbors and do not have a sense of community. What do you think are the causes and what solutions can you suggest?

原因一: In today's technology-dependent era, people are mostly busy with their own work. Major streets in the cities are filled with busy people walking fast to reach their office or business place. They are even busy talking to their office colleagues and family members over the phone. After they return home late evening, they watch television, use computer and the Internet, or spend time with family members. As a result, they scarcely have any time to socialize with neighbors. In some scenarios, people do not even know who live next door in city areas.

原因二: Moreover, the constant rise of crime rate in the urban community makes individual become unnecessarily cautious and suspicious about other people, especially with the people they meet for the very first time. As they are fear of being harmed, they can hardly trust their neighbors. As a result, city dwellers tend to become isolated as they are afraid to mingle because of undeveloped acquaintance. Unlike rural areas, city areas are highly populated and it is not unlikely that several thousands of people live in a block. Thus, maintaining social relationship with all of them seems quite impossible.

措施段落: To solve this pressing problem, the governments can build more parks, social gathering places, community centers and children's playground in the community, which could be a good measure to create more opportunities for people to socialize and know each other. As a result, people living in the community would develop a sense of friendship. Meanwhile, media can also make a difference. If they expose positive news and events among community members, like helping neighbors to evacuate from a disaster, it can eliminate the fear people have about unknown people.