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## Why? Is it positive or negative?

- 1. Introduction
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预测题目

1. It is more important for a building to serve a purpose than to look beautiful. Architects shouldn't worry about producing building as a work of art. Do you agree or disagree with this? (课上讲解练习)

个人立场: disagree

反方立场论点:

Indeed, the functionality of a building should be given as the priority in consideration of the living demand of the general public.

个人立场论点一:

However, it does not mean that the appearance of a building can be ignored when it comes to the importance in the image of a city.

个人立场论点二:

In addition, the outlook of a building greatly affects social economy.

2. Some people say that what children watch influences their behavior. Others believe that the amount of time they spend on television influences their behavior most. Discuss both views and give your own opinion.

个人立场: although the amount of time does affect youngsters, it is the content of the programs that has a more marked influence on them.

主体段落一: on the one hand, the consequences of watching TV for long periods of time can be negative. Firstly, the addict to watching TV is potentially harmful to their physical behavior. The longer children are exposed to TV programs, the more likely it is for them to become addicted to watching television. When children become over-reliant on television for entertainment, they might neglect engagement in outdoor activities. This may result in a sedentary lifestyle that is highly harmful to their physical health. More importantly, excessive TV watching is not beneficial to children's social behavior. If they spend a huge amount of time in front of the screen, they would feel discouraged from having real interactions with people around them. As a result, they may find it hard to share feelings and views, exchange ideas as well as build social

bond.

主体段落二: on the other hand, the content of TV programs would cause adverse impacts on children. Their worldview would be affected to a great extent. For children, TV programs are one of the main sources of information at present, which means that what they watch might influence how they see the world. For example, some TV shows present glamorized depictions of indecent behaviors like drug abuse and violence in order to increase the viewing rate, which might lead children who lack the ability to distinguish right from wrong to imitate such unhealthy habits and misconduct. Moreover, TV programs would influence children's consuming behavior. When exposed to plenty of commercial promotions in TV programs like what jewelries actresses wear, the young, who are immature and impressionable, are more likely to buy those goods to show their fashion taste.

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 first-time 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

Monopoly: 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 bank suppose.

Animal crossing: 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. As well as making money, businesses also have a responsibility towards society. To what extent do you agree or disagree?

Indeed, for businesses, it is justifiable that profitability is given as the priority. If a company is unable to pay its bills or meet the changing needs of customers, any concerns about social responsibilities become irrelevant. In other words, a company can only make a positive contribution to society if it is in good financial health. Therefore, it must guarantee its work productivity first.

However, Large and small businesses are no different from individuals and have the same obligation to be ethical. Every business, conducting themselves in a just manner, will contribute greatly to the betterment of society. A local grocery shop that pays its workers a living wage, charges fair prices, keeps accurate books, and sells quality food taken in the aggregate with stores around the country, produces innumerable benefits for both staff and patrons. Large companies are no exception. If Apple pays employees well and builds quality products while adhering to environmental and economic regulations, they make the world a better place. After all, companies have the influential power on changing the life of the general public.

Moreover, a socially-responsible company can gain long-term economic benefits.

If an organization doesn't look toward waste reduction, clean water programs, or other environmentally-friendly opportunities, they are missing out on the entire market group of consumers who prefer to buy from socially responsible and sustainable companies that align with their values. This translates to lost revenue.

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?

个人立场: 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.

个人立场论点二: In addition, while seemingly powerless, individuals can actually 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. These 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. But they also need individual support and appreciation to combat environmental problems.

19. For school children, their teachers have more influence on their intelligence and social development than their parents. To what extent do you agree or disagree? 个人立场: both teachers and parents can influence the growth of children, but their roles are different.

第一方立场论点: In terms of the intellectual development of school children, teachers play the major role. While not all teachers can inspire their students, they are trained to impart their knowledge of their subject areas in challenging and imaginative ways. For example, some students owe their lifelong love of a subject to dedicated teachers who taught this discipline in secondary school. Of course, at home, parents may also reinforce this passion by encouraging study habits during the formative years of their children. Such support is vital for academic achievement.

第二方立场论点: From the perspective of social development, parents are mainly responsible for guiding their children. Firstly, they spend far more time with their children than any individual teacher is able to do. They can therefore monitor the activities of children outside school hours, at weekends and during holidays. Secondly, parents are able to provide role models in a whole range of situations. These might include showing respect towards elders, choice of friends, or proper behavior in public when eating out in restaurants.

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.

# 21. Some people say that too much money has been spent on the protection of wild animals and birds. Do you agree or disagree?

个人立场: agree: we should not devote too much attention to animal protection.

第一个理由: in consideration of the proper use of public money, the investment in animal protection should not be too huge. Undeniably, almost all the countries are facing a great number of problems affecting human survival like food shortage, the spread of pandemics and unemployment, and all these problems need a great amount of money. If they are not given as the priority, citizens, as taxpayers, will not survive. Although animal protection is significant for sustainability, it cannot directly affect the

normal life of humans temporarily. Therefore, more resources should be diverted to the issues aiming to save people's lives, for example, the medical research on treating life-threatening diseases.

第二个理由: In addition, animal protection cannot be solved only by money. The government can simply protect wildlife by continuing campaigns to raise public awareness of the protection of wildlife habitats or imposing stricter punishments on activities that may harm wild animals. Any individual who hunts wildlife for food or for pleasure should be given a heavy fine, and this may discourage them from threatening the life of wild animals.