

考研英语

2010-2025 英一

翻译练习本

Text 1

Paragraph 1:

Hunting for a job late last year, lawyer Gant Redmon stumbled across CareerBuilder, a job database on the Internet.

去年年底找工作时,甘特·雷德蒙律师偶然发现了一个名为Career Builder的互联网求职数据库

He searched for a job with no success but was attracted by the site's "personal search agent".

It's an interactive feature that lets visitors key in job criteria such as location, title, and salary, then E-mails them when a matching position is posted in the database.

Redmon chose the keywords legal, international property and Washington, D.C.

Three weeks later, he got his first notification of a job opening.

"I struck gold," says Redmon, who E-mailed his resume to the employer and won a position as

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2010

Text 1

Paragraph 1:

Of all the changes that have taken place in English-language newspapers during the past quarter-century, perhaps the most far-reaching has been the inexorable decline in the scope and seriousness of their arts coverage.

Paragraph 2:

It is difficult to the point of impossibility for the average reader under the age of forty to imagine a time when high-quality arts criticism could be found in most big-city newspapers.

Yet a considerable number of the most significant collections of criticism published in the 20th century consisted in large part of newspaper reviews.

To read such books today is to marvel at the fact that their learned contents were once deemed suitable for publication in general-circulation dailies.

Paragraph 3:

We are even farther removed from the unfocused newspaper reviews published in England between the turn of the 20th century and the eve of World War II, at a time when newsprint was dirt-cheap and stylish arts criticism was considered an ornament to the publications in which it appeared.

In those far-off days, it was taken for granted that the critics of major papers would write in detail and at length about the events they covered.

Theirs was a serious business, and even those reviewers who wore their learning lightly, like George Bernard Shaw and Ernest Newman, could be trusted to know what they were about.

These men believed in journalism as a calling, and were proud to be published in the daily press.

“So few authors have brains enough or literary gift enough to keep their own end up in journalism,” Newman wrote, “that I am tempted to define ‘journalism’ as ‘a term of contempt applied by writers who are not read to writers who are.’”

Paragraph 4:

Unfortunately, these critics are virtually forgotten.

Neville Cardus, who wrote for the *Manchester Guardian* from 1917 until shortly before his death in 1975, is now known solely as a writer of essays on the game of cricket.

During his lifetime, though, he was also one of England's foremost classical-music critics, and a stylist so widely admired that his *Autobiography* (1947) became a best-seller.

He was knighted in 1967, the first music critic to be so honored.

Yet only one of his books is now in print, and his vast body of writings on music is unknown save to specialists.

Paragraph 5:

Is there any chance that Cardus's criticism will enjoy a revival? The prospect seems remote. Journalistic tastes had changed long before his death, and postmodern readers have little use for the richly upholstered Vicwardian prose in which he specialized.

Moreover, the amateur tradition in music criticism has been in headlong retreat.

Text 2

Paragraph 1:

Over the past decade, thousands of patents have been granted for what are called business methods.

Amazon.com received one for its "one-click" online payment system.

Merrill Lynch got legal protection for an asset allocation strategy.

One inventor patented a technique for lifting a box.

Paragraph 2:

Now the nation's top patent court appears completely ready to scale back on business-method patents, which have been controversial ever since they were first authorized 10 years ago.

In a move that has intellectual-property lawyers abuzz, the U.S. Court of Appeals for the Federal Circuit said it would use a particular case to conduct a broad review of business-method patents.

In re Bilski, as the case is known, is "a very big deal," says Dennis D. Crouch of the University of Missouri School of Law.

It "has the potential to eliminate an entire class of patents."

Paragraph 3:

Curbs on business-method claims would be a dramatic about-face, because it was the Federal Circuit itself that introduced such patents with its 1998 decision in the so-called State Street Bank case, approving a patent on a way of pooling mutual-fund assets.

That ruling produced an explosion in business-method patent filings, initially by emerging Internet companies trying to stake out exclusive rights to specific types of online transactions.

Later, more established companies raced to add such patents to their files, if only as a defensive move against rivals that might beat them to the punch.

In 2005, IBM noted in a court filing that it had been issued more than 300 business-method patents, despite the fact that it questioned the legal basis for granting them.

Similarly, some Wall Street investment firms armed themselves with patents for financial products, even as they took positions in court cases opposing the practice.

Paragraph 4:

The *Bilski* case involves a claimed patent on a method for hedging risk in the energy market. The Federal Circuit issued an unusual order stating that the case would be heard by all 12 of the court's judges, rather than a typical panel of three, and that one issue it wants to evaluate is whether it should "reconsider" its *State Street Bank* ruling.

Paragraph 5:

The Federal Circuit's action comes in the wake of a series of recent decisions by the Supreme Court that has narrowed the scope of protections for patent holders.

Last April, for example, the justices signaled that too many patents were being upheld for "inventions" that are obvious.

The judges on the Federal Circuit are "reacting to the anti-patent trend at the Supreme Court," says Harold C. Wegner, a patent attorney and professor at George Washington University Law School.

Text 3

Paragraph 1:

In his book *The Tipping Point*, Malcolm Gladwell argues that "social epidemics" are driven in large part by the actions of a tiny minority of special individuals, often called influentials, who are unusually informed, persuasive, or well connected.

The idea is intuitively compelling, but it doesn't explain how ideas actually spread.

Paragraph 2:

The supposed importance of influentials derives from a plausible-sounding but largely untested theory called the "two-step flow of communication": Information flows from the media to the influentials and from them to everyone else.

Marketers have embraced the two-step flow because it suggests that if they can just find and influence the influentials, those select people will do most of the work for them.

The theory also seems to explain the sudden and unexpected popularity of certain looks, brands, or neighborhoods.

In many such cases, a cursory search for causes finds that some small group of people was wearing, promoting, or developing whatever it is before anyone else paid attention.

Anecdotal evidence of this kind fits nicely with the idea that only certain special people can drive trends.

Paragraph 3:

In their recent work, however, some researchers have come up with the finding that influentials have far less impact on social epidemics than is generally supposed.

In fact, they don't seem to be required at all.

Paragraph 4:

The researchers' argument stems from a simple observation about social influence: With the exception of a few celebrities like Oprah Winfrey—whose outsize presence is primarily a function of media, not interpersonal, influence—even the most influential members of a population simply don't interact with that many others.

Yet it is precisely these non-celebrity influentials who, according to the two-step-flow theory, are supposed to drive social epidemics, by influencing their friends and colleagues directly.

For a social epidemic to occur, however, each person so affected must then influence his or her own acquaintances, who must in turn influence theirs, and so on; and just how many others pay attention to each of *these people* has little to do with the initial influential.

If people in the network just two degrees removed from the initial influential prove resistant, for example, the cascade of change won't propagate very far or affect many people.

Paragraph 5:

Building on the basic truth about interpersonal influence, the researchers studied the dynamics of social influence by conducting thousands of computer simulations of populations, manipulating a number of variables relating to people's ability to influence others and their tendency to be influenced.

They found that the principal requirement for what is called "global cascades"—the widespread propagation of influence through networks—is the presence not of a few influentials but, rather, of a critical mass of easily influenced people.

Text 4

Paragraph 1:

Bankers have been blaming themselves for their troubles in public.

Behind the scenes, they have been taking aim at someone else the accounting standard-setters.

Their rules, moan the banks, have forced them to report enormous losses, and it's just not fair.

These rules say they must value some assets at the price a third party would pay, not the price managers and regulators would like them to fetch.

Paragraph 2:

Unfortunately, banks' lobbying now seems to be working.

The details may be unknowable, but the independence of standard-setters, essential to the proper functioning of capital markets, is being compromised.

And, unless banks carry toxic assets at prices that attract buyers, reviving the banking system will be difficult.

After a bruising encounter with Congress, America's financial Accounting Standards Board (FASB) rushed through rule changes.

These gave banks more freedom to use models to value illiquid assets and more flexibility in recognizing losses on long-term assets in their income statements.

Bob Herz, the FASB's chairman, cried out against those who question our motives.

Yet bank shares rose and the changes enhance what one lobby group politely calls the use of judgment by management.

Paragraph 3:

European ministers instantly demanded that the International Accounting Standards Board (IASB) do likewise.

The IASB says it does not want to act without overall planning, but the pressure to fold when it completes its reconstruction of rules later this year is strong.

Charlie McCreevy, a European commissioner, warned the IASB that it did not live in a political vacuum but in the real world and the Europe could yet develop different rules.

Paragraph 4:

It was banks that were on the wrong planet, with accounts that vastly overvalued assets.

Today they argue that market prices overstate losses, because they largely reflect the temporary illiquidity of markets, not the likely extent of bad debts.

The truth will not be known for years.

But banks' shares trade below their book value, suggesting that investors are skeptical.

And dead markets partly reflect the paralysis of banks which will not sell assets for fear of booking losses, yet are reluctant to buy all those supposed bargains.

Paragraph 5:

To get the system working again, losses must be recognized and dealt with.

America's new plan to buy up toxic assets will not work unless banks mark assets to levels which buyers find attractive.

Successful markets require independent and even combative standard-setters.

The FASB and IASB have been exactly that, cleaning up rules on stock options and pensions, for example, against hostility interests.

But by giving in to critics now they are inviting pressure to make more concessions.

翻译题:**Paragraph 1:**

One basic weakness in a conservation system based wholly on economic motives is that most members of the land community have no economic value.

Yet these creatures are members of the biotic community and, if its stability depends on its integrity, they are entitled to continuance.

Paragraph 2:

When one of these noneconomic categories is threatened and, if we happen to love it, we invent excuses to give it economic importance.

At the beginning of the century songbirds were supposed to be disappearing.

(46) Scientists jumped to the rescue with some distinctly shaky evidence to the effect that insects would eat us up if birds failed to control them.

The evidence had to be economic in order to be valid.

Paragraph 3:

It is painful to read these roundabout accounts today.

We have no land ethic yet, (47) but we have at least drawn nearer the point of admitting that birds should continue as a matter of intrinsic right, regardless of the presence or absence of economic advantage to us.

Paragraph 4:

A parallel situation exists in respect of predatory mammals and fish-eating birds.

(48) Time was when biologists somewhat overworked the evidence that these creatures preserve the health of game by killing the physically weak, or that they prey only on "worthless" species.

Here again, the evidence had to be economic in order to be valid.

It is only in recent years that we hear the more honest argument that predators are members of the community, and that no special interest has the right to exterminate them for the sake of a benefit, real or fancied, to itself.

Paragraph 5:

Some species of trees have been "read out of the party" by economics-minded foresters because they grow too slowly, or have too low a sale value to pay as timber crops.

(49) In Europe, where forestry is ecologically more advanced, the noncommercial tree species are recognized as members of the native forest community, to be preserved as such, within reason.

Moreover, some have been found to have a valuable function in building up soil fertility.

The interdependence of the forest and its constituent tree species, ground flora, and fauna is taken for granted.

Paragraph 6:

To sum up: a system of conservation based solely on economic self-interest is hopelessly lopsided.

(50) It tends to ignore, and thus eventually to eliminate, many elements in the land community that lack commercial value, but that are essential to its healthy functioning.

It assumes, falsely, that the economic parts of the biotic clock will function without the uneconomic parts.

2011**Text 1****Paragraph 1:**

The decision of the New York Philharmonic to hire Alan Gilbert as its next music director has been the talk of the classical-music world ever since the sudden announcement of his appointment in 2009.

For the most part, the response has been favorable, to say the least.

"Hooray! At last!" wrote Anthony Tommasini, a sober-sided classical-music critic.

Paragraph 2:

One of the reasons why the appointment came as such a surprise, however, is that Gilbert is comparatively little known.

Even Tommasini, who had advocated Gilbert's appointment in the Times, calls him "an unpretentious musician with no air of the formidable conductor about him."

As a description of the next music director of an orchestra that has hitherto been led by musicians like Gustav Mahler and Pierre Boulez, that seems likely to have struck at least some Times readers as faint praise.

Paragraph 3:

For my part, I have no idea whether Gilbert is a great conductor or even a good one.

To be sure, he performs an impressive variety of interesting compositions, but it is not necessary for me to visit Avery fisher Hall, or anywhere else, to hear interesting orchestral music.

All I have to do is to go to my CD shelf, or boot up my computer and download still more recorded music from iTunes.

Paragraph 4:

Devoted concertgoers who reply that recordings are no substitute for live performance are missing the point.

For the time, attention, and money of the art-loving public, classical instrumentalists must compete not only with opera houses, dance troupes, theater companies, and museums, but also with the recorded performances of the great classical musicians of the 20th century.

These recordings are cheap, available everywhere, and very often much higher in artistic quality than today's live performances; moreover, they can be "consumed" at a time and place of the listener's choosing.

The widespread availability of such recordings has thus brought about a crisis in the institution of the traditional classical concert.

Paragraph 5:

One possible response is for classical performers to program attractive new music that is not yet available on record.

Gilbert's own interest in new music has been widely noted: Alex Ross, a classical-music critic, has described him as a man who is capable of turning the Philharmonic into "a markedly different, more vibrant organization."

But what will be the nature of that difference? Merely expanding the orchestra's repertoire will not be enough.

If Gilbert and the Philharmonic are to succeed, they must first change the relationship between America's oldest orchestra and the new audience it hopes to attract.

Text 2**Paragraph 1:**

When Liam McGee departed as president of Bank of America in August, his explanation was surprisingly straight up.

Rather than cloaking his exit in the usual vague excuses, he came right out and said he was leaving "to pursue my goal of running a company." Broadcasting his ambition was "very much my decision," McGee says.

Within two weeks, he was talking for the first time with the board of Hartford financial Services Group, which named him CEO and chairman on September 29.

Paragraph 2:

McGee says leaving without a position lined up gave him time to reflect on what kind of company he wanted to run.

It also sent a clear message to the outside world about his aspirations.

And McGee isn't alone.

In recent weeks the No., executives at Avon and American Express quit with the explanation that they were looking for a CEO post.

As boards scrutinize succession plans in response to shareholder pressure, executives who don't get the nod also may wish to move on.

A turbulent business environment also has senior managers cautious of letting vague pronouncements cloud their reputations.

Paragraph 3:

As the first signs of recovery begin to take hold, deputy chiefs may be more willing to make the jump without a net.

In the third quarter, CEO turnover was down 23% from a year ago as nervous boards stuck with the leaders they had, according to Liberum Research.

As the economy picks up, opportunities will abound for aspiring leaders.

Paragraph 4:

The decision to quit a senior position to look for a better one is unconventional.

For years executives and headhunters have adhered to the rule that the most attractive CEO candidates are the ones who must be poached.

Says Korn/Ferry senior partner Dennis Carey: "I can't think of a single search I've done where a board has not instructed me to look at sitting CEOs first."

Paragraph 5:

Those who jumped without a job haven't always landed in top positions quickly.

Ellen Marram quit as chief of Tropicana a decade ago, saying she wanted to be a CEO.

It was a year before she became head of a tiny Internet-based commodities exchange.

Robert Willumstad left Citigroup in 2005 with ambitions to be a CEO.

He finally took that post at a major financial institution three years later.

Paragraph 6:

Many recruiters say the old disgrace is fading for top performers.

The financial crisis has made it more acceptable to be between jobs or to leave a bad one.

"The traditional rule was it's safer to stay where you are, but that's been fundamentally inverted," says one headhunter.

"The people who've been hurt the worst are those who've stayed too long."

Text 3

Paragraph 1:

The rough guide to marketing success used to be that you got what you paid for.

No longer.

While traditional "paid" media - such as television commercials and print advertisements - still play a major role, companies today can exploit many alternative forms of media.

Consumers passionate about a product may create "earned" media by willingly promoting it to friends, and a company may leverage "owned" media by sending e-mail alerts about products and sales to customers registered with its Website.

The way consumers now approach the process of making purchase decisions means that marketing's impact stems from a broad range of factors beyond conventional paid media.

Paragraph 2:

Paid and owned media are controlled by marketers promoting their own products.

For earned media, such marketers act as the initiator for users' responses.

But in some cases, one marketer's owned media become another marketer's paid media - for instance, when an e-commerce retailer sells ad space on its Web site.

We define such sold media as owned media whose traffic is so strong that other organizations place their content or e-commerce engines within that environment.

This trend, which we believe is still in its infancy, effectively began with retailers and travel providers such as airlines and hotels and will no doubt go further.

Johnson & Johnson, for example, has created BabyCenter, a stand-alone media property that promotes complementary and even competitive products.

Besides generating income, the presence of other marketers makes the site seem objective, gives companies opportunities to learn valuable information about the appeal of other companies' marketing, and may help expand user traffic for all companies concerned.

Paragraph 3:

The same dramatic technological changes that have provided marketers with more (and more diverse) communications choices have also increased the risk that passionate consumers will voice their opinions in quicker, more visible, and much more damaging ways.

Such hijacked media are the opposite of earned media: an asset or campaign becomes hostage to consumers, other stakeholders, or activists who make negative allegations about a brand or product.

Members of social networks, for instance, are learning that they can hijack media to apply pressure on the businesses that originally created them.

Paragraph 4:

If that happens, passionate consumers would try to persuade others to boycott products, putting the reputation of the target company at risk.

In such a case, the company's response may not be sufficiently quick or thoughtful, and the learning curve has been steep.

Toyota Motor, for example, alleviated some of the damage from its recall crisis earlier this year with a relatively quick and well-orchestrated social-media response campaign, which included efforts to engage with consumers directly on sites such as Twitter and the social-news site Digg.

Text 4

Paragraph 1:

It's no surprise that Jennifer Senior's insightful, provocative magazine cover story, "I love My Children, I Hate My Life," is arousing much chatter - nothing gets people talking like the suggestion that child rearing is anything less than a completely fulfilling, life-enriching experience.

Rather than concluding that children make parents either happy or miserable, Senior suggests we need to redefine happiness: instead of thinking of it as something that can be measured by moment-to-moment joy, we should consider being happy as a past-tense condition.

Even though the day-to-day experience of raising kids can be soul-crushingly hard, Senior writes that "the very things that in the moment dampen our moods can later be sources of intense gratification and delight."

Paragraph 2:

The magazine cover showing an attractive mother holding a cute baby is hardly the only Madonna-and-child image on newsstands this week.

There are also stories about newly adoptive - and newly single - mom Sandra Bullock, as well as the usual "Jennifer Aniston is pregnant" news.

Practically every week features at least one celebrity mom, or mom-to-be, smiling on the newsstands.

Paragraph 3:

In a society that so persistently celebrates procreation, is it any wonder that admitting you regret having children is equivalent to admitting you support kitten-killing? It doesn't seem quite fair, then, to compare the regrets of parents to the regrets of the childless.

Unhappy parents rarely are provoked to wonder if they shouldn't have had kids, but unhappy childless folks are bothered with the message that children are the single most important thing in the world: obviously their misery must be a direct result of the gaping baby-size holes in their lives.

Paragraph 4:

Of course, the image of parenthood that celebrity magazines like *Us Weekly* and *People* present is hugely unrealistic, especially when the parents are single mothers like Bullock.

According to several studies concluding that parents are less happy than childless couples, single parents are the least happy of all.

No shock there, considering how much work it is to raise a kid without a partner to lean on; yet to hear Sandra and Britney tell it, raising a kid on their "own" (read: with round-the-clock help) is a piece of cake.

Paragraph 5:

It's hard to imagine that many people are dumb enough to want children just because Reese and Angelina make it look so glamorous: most adults understand that a baby is not a haircut.

But it's interesting to wonder if the images we see every week of stress-free, happiness-enhancing parenthood aren't in some small, subconscious way contributing to our own dissatisfactions with the actual experience, in the same way that a small part of us hoped getting "the Rachel" might make us look just a little bit like Jennifer Aniston.

翻译题:

Paragraph 1:

With its theme that "Mind is the master weaver," creating our inner character and outer circumstances, the book *As a Man Thinketh* by James Allen is an in-depth exploration of the central idea of self-help writing.

Paragraph 2:

(46) Allen's contribution was to take an assumption we all share - that because we are not robots we therefore control our thoughts - and reveal its erroneous nature.

Because most of us believe that mind is separate from matter, we think that thoughts can be hidden and made powerless; this allows us to think one way and act another.

However, Allen believed that the unconscious mind generates as much action as the conscious mind, and (47) while we may be able to sustain the illusion of control through the conscious mind alone, in reality we are continually faced with a question: "Why cannot I make myself do this or achieve that?"

Paragraph 3:

Since desire and will are damaged by the presence of thoughts that do not accord with desire, Allen concluded: "We do not attract what we want, but what we are."

Achievement happens because you as a person embody the external achievement; you don't "get" success but become it.

There is no gap between mind and matter.

Paragraph 4:

Part of the fame of Allen's book is its contention that "Circumstances do not make a person, they reveal him." (48) This seems a justification for neglect of those in need, and a rationalization of exploitation, of the superiority of those at the top and the inferiority of those at the bottom.

Paragraph 5:

This, however, would be a knee-jerk reaction to a subtle argument.

Each set of circumstances, however bad, offers a unique opportunity for growth.

If circumstances always determined the life and prospects of people, then humanity would never have progressed.

In fact, (49) circumstances seem to be designed to bring out the best in us, and if we feel that we have been "wronged" then we are unlikely to begin a conscious effort to escape from our situation.

Nevertheless, as any biographer knows, a person's early life and its conditions are often the greatest gift to an individual.

The sobering aspect of Allen's book is that we have no one else to blame for our present condition except ourselves.

(50) The upside is the possibilities contained in knowing that everything is up to us; where before we were experts in the array of limitations, now we become authorities of what is possible.

2012**Text 1****Paragraph 1:**

Come on - Everybody's doing it.

That whispered message, half invitation and half forcing, is what most of us think of when we hear the words peer pressure.

It usually leads to no good - drinking, drugs and casual sex.

But in her new book *Join the Club*, Tina Rosenberg contends that peer pressure can also be a positive force through what she calls the social cure, in which organizations and officials use the power of group dynamics to help individuals improve their lives and possibly the world.

Paragraph 2:

Rosenberg, the recipient of a Pulitzer Prize, offers a host of examples of the social cure in action: In South Carolina, a state-sponsored antismoking program called *Rage Against the Haze* sets out to make cigarettes uncool.

In South Africa, an HIV-prevention initiative known as *loveLife* recruits young people to promote safe sex among their peers.

Paragraph 3:

The idea seems promising, and Rosenberg is a perceptive observer.

Her critique of the lameness of many public-health campaigns is spot-on: they fail to mobilize peer pressure for healthy habits, and they demonstrate a seriously flawed understanding of psychology.

"Dare to be different, please don't smoke!" pleads one billboard campaign aimed at reducing smoking among teenagers - teenagers, who desire nothing more than fitting in.

Rosenberg argues convincingly that public-health advocates ought to take a page from advertisers, so skilled at applying peer pressure.

Paragraph 4:

But on the general effectiveness of the social cure, Rosenberg is less persuasive.

Join the Club is filled with too much irrelevant detail and not enough exploration of the social and biological factors that make peer pressure so powerful.

The most glaring flaw of the social cure as it's presented here is that it doesn't work very well for very long.

Rage Against the Haze failed once state funding was cut.

Evidence that the loveLife program produces lasting changes is limited and mixed.

Paragraph 5:

There's no doubt that our peer groups exert enormous influence on our behavior.

An emerging body of research shows that positive health habits - as well as negative ones - spread through networks of friends via social communication.

This is a subtle form of peer pressure: we unconsciously imitate the behavior we see every day.

Paragraph 6:

Far less certain, however, is how successfully experts and bureaucrats can select our peer groups and steer their activities in virtuous directions.

It's like the teacher who breaks up the troublemakers in the back row by pairing them with better-behaved classmates.

The tactic never really works.

And that's the problem with a social cure engineered from the outside: in the real world, as in school, we insist on choosing our own friends.

Text 2

Paragraph 1:

A deal is a deal - except, apparently, when Entergy is involved.

The company, a major energy supplier in New England, provoked justified outrage in Vermont last week when it announced it was renegeing on a longstanding commitment to abide by the state's strict nuclear regulations.

Paragraph 2:

Instead, the company has done precisely what it had long promised it would not: challenge the constitutionality of Vermont's rules in the federal court, as part of a desperate effort to keep its Vermont Yankee nuclear power plant running.

It's a stunning move.

Paragraph 3:

The conflict has been surfacing since 2002, when the corporation bought Vermont's only nuclear power plant, an aging reactor in Vemon.

As a condition of receiving state approval for the sale, the company agreed to seek permission from state regulators to operate past 201,.

In 2006, the state went a step further, requiring that any extension of the plant's license be subject to the Vermont legislature's approval.

Then, too, the company went along.

Paragraph 4:

Either Entergy never really intended to live by those commitments, or it simply didn't foresee what would happen next.

A string of accidents, including the partial collapse of a cooling tower in 2007 and the discovery of an underground pipe system leakage, raised serious questions about both Vermont Yankee's safety and Entergy's management - especially after the company made misleading statements about the pipe.

Enraged by Entergy's behavior, the Vermont Senate voted 26 to 4 last year against allowing an extension.

Now the company is suddenly claiming that the 200, agreement is invalid because of the 2006 legislation, and that only the federal government has regulatory power over nuclear issues.

The legal issues in the case are obscure: whereas the Supreme Court has ruled that states do have some regulatory authority over nuclear power, legal scholars say that Vermont case will offer a precedent-setting test of how far those powers extend.

Certainly, there are valid concerns about the patchwork regulations that could result if every state sets its own rules.

But had Entergy kept its word, that debate would be beside the point.

Paragraph 5:

The company seems to have concluded that its reputation in Vermont is already so damaged that it has nothing left to lose by going to war with the state.

But there should be consequences.

Permission to run a nuclear plant is a public trust.

Entergy runs 11 other reactors in the United States, including Pilgrim Nuclear station in Plymouth.

Pledging to run Pilgrim safely, the company has applied for federal permission to keep it open for another 20 years.

But as the Nuclear Regulatory Commission (NRC) reviews the company's application, it should keep in mind what promises from Entergy are worth.

Text 3

Paragraph 1:

In the idealized version of how science is done, facts about the world are waiting to be observed and collected by objective researchers who use the scientific method to carry out their work.

But in the everyday practice of science, discovery frequently follows an ambiguous and complicated route.

We aim to be objective, but we cannot escape the context of our unique life experiences.

Prior knowledge and interests influence what we experience, what we think our experiences mean, and the subsequent actions we take.

Opportunities for misinterpretation, error, and self-deception abound.

Paragraph 2:

Consequently, discovery claims should be thought of as protoscience.

Similar to newly staked mining claims, they are full of potential.

But it takes collective scrutiny and acceptance to transform a discovery claim into a mature discovery.

This is the credibility process, through which the individual researcher's me, here, now becomes the community's anyone, anywhere, anytime.

Objective knowledge is the goal, not the starting point.

Paragraph 3:

Once a discovery claim becomes public, the discoverer receives intellectual credit.

But, unlike with mining claims, the community takes control of what happens next.

Within the complex social structure of the scientific community, researchers make discoveries; editors and reviewers act as gatekeepers by controlling the publication process; other scientists use the new finding to suit their own purposes; and finally, the public (including other scientists) receives the new discovery and possibly accompanying technology.

As a discovery claim works its way through the community, the interaction and confrontation between shared and competing beliefs about the science and the technology involved transforms an individual's discovery claim into the community's credible discovery.

Paragraph 4:

Two paradoxes exist throughout this credibility process.

first, scientific work tends to focus on some aspect of prevailing knowledge that is viewed as incomplete or incorrect.

Little reward accompanies duplication and confirmation of what is already known and believed.

The goal is new-search, not re-search.

Not surprisingly, newly published discovery claims and credible discoveries that appear to be important and convincing will always be open to challenge and potential modification or refutation by future researchers.

Second, novelty itself frequently provokes disbelief.

Nobel Laureate and physiologist Albert Szent-Gyorgyi once described discovery as "seeing what everybody has seen and thinking what nobody has thought." But thinking what nobody else has thought and telling others what they have missed may not change their views.

Sometimes years are required for truly novel discovery claims to be accepted and appreciated.

Paragraph 5:

In the end, credibility "happens" to a discovery claim - a process that corresponds to what philosopher Annette Baier has described as the commons of the mind.

"We reason together, challenge, revise, and complete each other's reasoning and each other's conceptions of reason."

Text4

Paragraph 1:

If the trade unionist Jimmy Hoffa were alive today, he would probably represent civil servants.

When Hoffa's Teamsters were in their prime in 1960, only one in ten American government workers belonged to a union; now 36% do.

In 2009 the number of unionists in America's public sector passed that of their fellow members in the private sector.

In Britain, more than half of public-sector workers but only about 15% of private-sector ones are unionized.

Paragraph 2:

There are three reasons for the public-sector unions' thriving.

First, they can shut things down without suffering much in the way of consequences.

Second, they are mostly bright and well-educated.

A quarter of America's public-sector workers have a university degree.

Third, they now dominate left-of-centre politics.

Some of their ties go back a long way.

Britain's Labor Party, as its name implies, has long been associated with trade unionism.

Its current leader, Ed Miliband, owes his position to votes from public-sector unions.

Paragraph 3:

At the state level their influence can be even more fearsome.

Mark Baldassare of the Public Policy Institute of California points out that much of the state's budget is patrolled by unions.

The teachers' unions keep an eye on schools, the CCPOA on prisons and a variety of labor groups on health care.

Paragraph 4:

In many rich countries average wages in the state sector are higher than in the private one.

But the real gains come in benefits and work practices.

Politicians have repeatedly "backloaded" public-sector pay deals, keeping the pay increases modest but adding to holidays and especially pensions that are already generous.

Paragraph 5:

Reform has been vigorously opposed, perhaps most notoriously in education, where charter schools, academies and merit pay all faced drawn-out battles.

Even though there is plenty of evidence that the quality of the teachers is the most important variable, teachers' unions have fought against getting rid of bad ones and promoting good ones.

Paragraph 6:

As the cost to everyone else has become clearer, politicians have begun to clamp down.

In Wisconsin the unions have rallied thousands of supporters against Scott Walker, the hardline Republican governor.

But many within the public sector suffer under the current system, too.

Paragraph 7:

John Donahue at Harvard's Kennedy School points out that the norms of culture in Western civil services suit those who want to stay put but is bad for high achievers.

The only American public-sector workers who earn well above \$250,000 a year are university sports coaches and the president of the United States.

Bankers' fat pay packets have attracted much criticism, but a public-sector system that does not reward high achievers may be a much bigger problem for America.

翻译题:**Paragraph 1:**

Since the days of Aristotle, a search for universal principles has characterized the scientific enterprise.

In some ways, this quest for commonalities defines science.

Newton's laws of motion and Darwinian evolution each bind a host of different phenomena into a single explicatory framework.

Paragraph 2:

(46) In physics, one approach takes this impulse for unification to its extreme, and seeks a theory of everything - a single generative equation for all we see.

It is becoming less clear, however, that such a theory would be a simplification, given the dimensions and universes that it might entail.

Nonetheless, unification of sorts remains a major goal.

Paragraph 3:

This tendency in the natural sciences has long been evident in the social sciences too.

(47) Here, Darwinism seems to offer justification, for if all humans share common origins, it seems reasonable to suppose that cultural diversity could also be traced to more constrained beginnings.

Just as the bewildering variety of human courtship rituals might all be considered forms of sexual selection, perhaps the world's languages, music, social and religious customs and even history are governed by universal features.

(48) To filter out what is unique from what is shared might enable us to understand how complex cultural behavior arose and what guides it in evolutionary or cognitive terms.

Paragraph 4:

That, at least, is the hope.

But a comparative study of linguistic traits published online today supplies a reality check.

Russell Gray at the University of Auckland and his colleagues consider the evolution of grammars in the light of two previous attempts to find universality in language.

Paragraph 5:

The most famous of these efforts was initiated by Noam Chomsky, who suggested that humans are born with an innate language-acquisition capacity that dictates a universal grammar.

A few generative rules are then sufficient to unfold the entire fundamental structure of a language, which is why children can learn it so quickly.

Paragraph 6:

(49) The second, by Joshua Greenberg, takes a more empirical approach to universality, identifying traits (particularly in word order) shared by many languages, which are considered to represent biases that result from cognitive constraints.

Paragraph 7:

Gray and his colleagues have put them to the test by examining four family trees that between them represent more than 2,000 languages.

(50) Chomsky's grammar should show patterns of language change that are independent of the family tree or the pathway tracked through it, whereas Greenbergian universality predicts strong co-dependencies between particular types of word-order relations.

Neither of these patterns is borne out by the analysis, suggesting that the structures of the languages are lineage-specific and not governed by universals.

2013**Text 1****Paragraph 1:**

In the 2006 film version of *The Devil Wears Prada*, Miranda Priestly, played by Meryl Streep, scolds her unattractive assistant for imagining that high fashion doesn't affect her.

Priestly explains how the deep blue color of the assistant's sweater descended over the years from fashion shows to department stores and to the bargain bin in which the poor girl doubtless found her garment.

Paragraph 2:

This top-down conception of the fashion business couldn't be more out of date or at odds with the feverish world described in *Overdressed*, Elizabeth Cline's three-year indictment of "fast fashion".

In the last decade or so, advances in technology have allowed mass-market labels such as Zara, H&M, and Uniqlo to react to trends more quickly and anticipate demand more precisely.

Quicker turnarounds mean less wasted inventory, more frequent releases, and more profit.

These labels encourage style-conscious consumers to see clothes as disposable - meant to last only a wash or two, although they don't advertise that - and to renew their wardrobe every few weeks.

By offering on-trend items at dirt-cheap prices, Cline argues, these brands have hijacked fashion cycles, shaking an industry long accustomed to a seasonal pace.

Paragraph 3:

The victims of this revolution, of course, are not limited to designers.

For H&M to offer a \$5.95 knit miniskirt in all its 2,300-plus stores around the world, it must rely on low-wage overseas labor, order in volumes that strain natural resources, and use massive amounts of harmful chemicals.

Paragraph 4:

Overdressed is the fashion world's answer to consumer-activist bestsellers like Michael Pollan's *The Omnivore's Dilemma*.

"Mass-produced clothing, like fast food, fills a hunger and need, yet is non-durable and wasteful," Cline argues.

Americans, she finds, buy roughly 20 billion garments a year - about 64 items per person - and no matter how much they give away, this excess leads to waste.

Paragraph 5:

Towards the end of *Overdressed*, Cline introduced her ideal, a Brooklyn woman named Sarah Kate Beaumont, who since 2008 has made all of her own clothes - and beautifully.

But as Cline is the first to note, it took Beaumont decades to perfect her craft; her example can't be knocked off.

Paragraph 6:

Though several fast-fashion companies have made efforts to curb their impact on labor and the environment - including H&M, with its green Conscious Collection line - Cline believes lasting change can only be effected by the customer.

She exhibits the idealism common to many advocates of sustainability, be it in food or in energy.

Vanity is a constant; people will only start shopping more sustainably when they can't afford not to.

Text 2

Paragraph 1:

An old saying has it that half of all advertising budgets are wasted - the trouble is, no one knows which half.

In the internet age, at least in theory, this fraction can be much reduced.

By watching what people search for, click on and say online, companies can aim "behavioural" ads at those most likely to buy.

Paragraph 2:

In the past couple of weeks a quarrel has illustrated the value to advertisers of such fine-grained information: Should advertisers assume that people are happy to be tracked and sent behavioural ads? Or should they have explicit permission?

Paragraph 3:

In December 2010 America's Federal Trade Commission (FTC) proposed adding a "do not track" (DNT) option to internet browsers, so that users could tell advertisers that they did not want to be followed.

Microsoft's Internet Explorer and Apple's Safari both offer DNT; Google's Chrome is due to do so this year.

In February the FTC and the Digital Advertising Alliance (DAA) agreed that the industry would get cracking on responding to DNT requests.

Paragraph 4:

On May 31st Microsoft set off the row.

It said that Internet Explorer 10, the version due to appear with Windows 8, would have DNT as a default.

Paragraph 5:

Advertisers are horrified.

Human nature being what it is, most people stick with default settings.

Few switch DNT on now, but if tracking is off it will stay off.

Bob Liodice, the chief executive of the Association of National Advertisers, says consumers will be worse off if the industry cannot collect information about their preferences.

People will not get fewer ads, he says. "They'll get less meaningful, less targeted ads."

Paragraph 6:

It is not yet clear how advertisers will respond.

Getting a DNT signal does not oblige anyone to stop tracking, although some companies have promised to do so.

Unable to tell whether someone really objects to behavioural ads or whether they are sticking with Microsoft's default, some may ignore a DNT signal and press on anyway.

Paragraph 7:

Also unclear is why Microsoft has gone it alone.

After all, it has an ad business too, which it says will comply with DNT requests, though it is still working out how.

If it is trying to upset Google, which relies almost wholly on advertising, it has chosen an indirect method: there is no guarantee that DNT by default will become the norm.

DNT does not seem an obviously huge selling point for windows 8 - though the firm has compared some of its other products favourably with Google's on that count before.

Brendon Lynch, Microsoft's chief privacy officer, blogged: "We believe consumers should have more control." Could it really be that simple?

Text 3

Paragraph 1:

Up until a few decades ago, our visions of the future were largely - though by no means uniformly - glowingly positive.

Science and technology would cure all the ills of humanity, leading to lives of fulfilment and opportunity for all.

Paragraph 2:

Now utopia has grown unfashionable, as we have gained a deeper appreciation of the range of threats facing us, from asteroid strike to epidemic flu and to climate change.

You might even be tempted to assume that humanity has little future to look forward to.

Paragraph 3:

But such gloominess is misplaced.

The fossil record shows that many species have endured for millions of years - so why shouldn't we? Take a broader look at our species' place in the universe, and it becomes clear that we have an excellent chance of surviving for tens, if not hundreds, of thousands of years.

Look up *Homo sapiens* in the "Red List" of threatened species of the International Union for the Conservation of Nature (IUCN) and you will read: "Listed as Least Concern as the species is very widely distributed, adaptable, currently increasing, and there are no major threats resulting in an overall population decline."

Paragraph 4:

So what does our deep future hold? A growing number of researchers and organisations are now thinking seriously about that question.

For example, the Long Now Foundation has as its flagship project a mechanical clock that is designed to still be marking time thousands of years hence.

Paragraph 5:

Perhaps willfully, it may be easier to think about such lengthy timescales than about the more immediate future.

The potential evolution of today's technology, and its social consequences, is dazzlingly complicated, and it's perhaps best left to science fiction writers and futurologists to explore the many possibilities we can envisage.

That's one reason why we have launched Arc, a new publication dedicated to the near future.

Paragraph 6:

But take a longer view and there is a surprising amount that we can say with considerable assurance.

As so often, the past holds the key to the future: we have now identified enough of the long-term patterns shaping the history of the planet, and our species, to make evidence-based forecasts about the situations in which our descendants will find themselves.

Paragraph 7:

This long perspective makes the pessimistic view of our prospects seem more likely to be a passing fad.

To be sure, the future is not all rosy.

But we are now knowledgeable enough to reduce many of the risks that threatened the existence of earlier humans, and to improve the lot of those to come.

Text 4

Paragraph 1:

On a five to three vote, the Supreme Court knocked out much of Arizona's immigration law Monday - a modest policy victory for the Obama Administration.

But on the more important matter of the Constitution, the decision was an 8-0 defeat for the Administration's effort to upset the balance of power between the federal government and the states.

Paragraph 2:

In *Arizona v. United States*, the majority overturned three of the four contested provisions of Arizona's controversial plan to have state and local police enforce federal immigration law.

The Constitutional principles that Washington alone has the power to "establish a uniform Rule of Naturalization" and that federal laws precede state laws are noncontroversial.

Arizona had attempted to fashion state policies that ran parallel to the existing federal ones.

Paragraph 3:

Justice Anthony Kennedy, joined by Chief Justice John Roberts and the Court's liberals, ruled that the state flew too close to the federal sun.

On the overturned provisions the majority held Congress had deliberately "occupied the field" and Arizona had thus intruded on the federal's privileged powers.

Paragraph 4:

However, the Justices said that Arizona police would be allowed to verify the legal status of people who come in contact with law enforcement.

That's because Congress has always envisioned joint federal-state immigration enforcement and explicitly encourages state officers to share information and cooperate with federal colleagues.

Paragraph 5:

Two of the three objecting Justices - Samuel Alito and Clarence Thomas - agreed with this Constitutional logic but disagreed about which Arizona rules conflicted with the federal statute.

The only major objection came from Justice Antonin Scalia, who offered an even more robust defense of state privileges going back to the Alien and Sedition Acts.

Paragraph 6:

The 8-0 objection to President Obama turns on what Justice Samuel Alito describes in his objection as "a shocking assertion of federal executive power".

The White House argued that Arizona's laws conflicted with its enforcement priorities, even if state laws complied with federal statutes to the letter.

In effect, the White House claimed that it could invalidate any otherwise legitimate state law that it disagrees with.

Paragraph 7:

Some powers do belong exclusively to the federal government, and control of citizenship and the borders is among them.

But if Congress wanted to prevent states from using their own resources to check immigration status, it could.

It never did so.

The Administration was in essence asserting that because it didn't want to carry out Congress's immigration wishes, no state should be allowed to do so either.

Every Justice rightly rejected this remarkable claim.

翻译题:**Paragraph 1:**

It is speculated that gardens arise from a basic human need in the individuals who made them: the need for creative expression.

There is no doubt that gardens evidence an irrepressible urge to create, express, fashion, and beautify and that self-expression is a basic human urge; (46) yet when one looks at the photographs of the gardens created by the homeless it strikes one that, for all their diversity of styles, these gardens speak of various other fundamental urges, beyond that of decoration and creative expression.

Paragraph 2:

One of these urges has to do with creating a state of peace in the midst of turbulence, a "still point of the turning world," to borrow a phrase from T. S. Eliot.

(47) A sacred place of peace, however crude it may be, is a distinctly human need, as opposed to shelter, which is a distinctly animal need.

This distinction is so much so that where the latter is lacking, as it is for these unlikely gardeners, the former becomes all the more urgent.

Composure is a state of mind made possible by the structuring of one's relation to one's environment.

(48) The gardens of the homeless, which are in effect homeless gardens, introduce form into an urban environment where it either didn't exist or was not discernible as such.

In so doing they give composure to a segment of the inarticulate environment in which they take their stand.

Paragraph 3:

Another urge or need that these gardens appear to respond to, or to arise from, is so intrinsic that we are barely ever conscious of its abiding claims on us.

When we are deprived of green, of plants, of trees, (49) most of us give in to a demoralization of spirit which we usually blame on some psychological conditions, until one day we find ourselves in a garden and feel the oppression vanish as if by magic.

In most of the homeless gardens of New York City the actual cultivation of plants is unfeasible, yet even so the compositions often seem to represent attempts to call forth the spirit of plant and animal life, if only symbolically, through a clumplike arrangement of materials, an introduction of colors, small pools of water, and a frequent presence of petals or leaves as well as of stuffed animals.

On display here are various fantasy elements whose reference, at some basic level, seems to be the natural world.

(50) It is this implicit or explicit reference to nature that fully justifies the use of the word garden, though in a "liberated" sense, to describe these synthetic constructions.

In them we can see biophilia - a yearning for contact with nonhuman life - assuming uncanny representational forms.

2014

Text 1

Paragraph 1:

In order to "change lives for the better" and reduce "dependency", George Osborne, Chancellor of the Exchequer, introduced the "upfront work search" scheme.

Only if the jobless arrive at the jobcentre with a CV, register for online job search, and start looking for work will they be eligible for benefit - and then they should report weekly rather than fortnightly.

What could be more reasonable?

Paragraph 2:

More apparent reasonableness followed.

There will now be a seven-day wait for the jobseeker's allowance.

"Those first few days should be spent looking for work, not looking to sign on," he claimed.

"We're doing these things because we know they help people stay off benefits and help those on benefits get into work faster." Help? Really? On first hearing, this was the socially concerned chancellor, trying to change lives for the better, complete with "reforms" to an obviously indulgent system that demands too little effort from the newly unemployed to find work, and subsidises laziness.

What motivated him, we were to understand, was his zeal for "fundamental fairness" - protecting the taxpayer, controlling spending and ensuring that only the most deserving claimants received their benefits.

Paragraph 3:

Losing a job is hurting: you don't skip down to the jobcentre with a song in your heart, delighted at the prospect of doubling your income from the generous state.

It is financially terrifying, psychologically embarrassing and you know that support is minimal and extraordinarily hard to get.

You are now not wanted; you are now excluded from the work environment that offers purpose and structure in your life.

Worse, the crucial income to feed yourself and your family and pay the bills has disappeared.

Ask anyone newly unemployed what they want and the answer is always: a job.

Paragraph 4:

But in Osborneland, your first instinct is to fall into dependency - permanent dependency if you can get it - supported by a state only too ready to indulge your falsehood.

It is as though 20 years of ever-tougher reforms of the job search and benefit administration system never happened.

The principle of British welfare is no longer that you can insure yourself against the risk of unemployment and receive unconditional payments if the disaster happens.

Even the very phrase "jobseeker's allowance" is about redefining the unemployed as a "jobseeker" who had no fundamental right to a benefit he or she has earned through making national insurance contributions.

Instead, the claimant receives a time-limited "allowance," conditional on actively seeking a job; no entitlement and no insurance, at £71.70 a week, one of the least generous in the EU.

Text 2

Paragraph 1:

All around the world, lawyers generate more hostility than the members of any other profession - with the possible exception of journalism.

But there are few places where clients have more grounds for complaint than America.

Paragraph 2:

During the decade before the economic crisis, spending on legal services in America grew twice as fast as inflation.

The best lawyers made skyscrapers-full of money, tempting ever more students to pile into law schools.

But most law graduates never get a big-firm job.

Many of them instead become the kind of nuisance-lawsuit filer that makes the tort system a costly nightmare.

Paragraph 3:

There are many reasons for this.

One is the excessive costs of a legal education.

There is just one path for a lawyer in most American states: a four-year undergraduate degree in some unrelated subject, then a three-year law degree at one of 200 law schools authorized by the American Bar Association and an expensive preparation for the bar exam.

This leaves today's average law-school graduate with \$100,000 of debt on top of undergraduate debts.

Law-school debt means that they have to work fearsomely hard.

Paragraph 4:

Reforming the system would help both lawyers and their customers.

Sensible ideas have been around for a long time, but the state-level bodies that govern the profession have been too conservative to implement them.

One idea is to allow people to study law as an undergraduate degree.

Another is to let students sit for the bar after only two years of law school.

If the bar exam is truly a stem enough test for a would- be lawyer, those who can sit it earlier should be allowed to do so.

Students who do not need the extra training could cut their debt mountain by a third.

Paragraph 5:

The other reason why costs are so high is the restrictive guild-like ownership structure of the business.

Except in the District of Columbia, non-lawyers may not own any share of a law firm.

This keeps fees high and innovation slow.

There is pressure for change from within the profession, but opponents of change among the regulators insist that keeping outsiders out of a law firm isolates lawyers from the pressure to make money rather than serve clients ethically.

Paragraph 6:

In fact, allowing non-lawyers to own shares in law firms would reduce costs and improve services to customers, by encouraging law firms to use technology and to employ professional managers to focus on improving firms' efficiency.

After all, other countries, such as Australia and Britain, have started liberalizing their legal professions.

America should follow.

Text 3

Paragraph 1:

The US\$3-million Fundamental Physics Prize is indeed an interesting experiment, as Alexander Polyakov said when he accepted this year's award in March.

And it is far from the only one of its type.

As a News Feature article in Nature discusses, a string of lucrative awards for researchers have joined the Nobel Prizes in recent years.

Many, like the Fundamental Physics Prize, are funded from the telephone-number-sized bank accounts of Internet entrepreneurs. These benefactors have succeeded in their chosen fields,

they say, and they want to use their wealth to draw attention to those who have succeeded in science.

Paragraph 2:

What's not to like? Quite a lot, according to a handful of scientists quoted in the News Feature.

You cannot buy class, as the old saying goes, and these upstart entrepreneurs cannot buy their prizes the prestige of the Nobels.

The new awards are an exercise in self-promotion for those behind them, say scientists.

They could distort the achievement-based system of peer-review-led research.

They could cement the status quo of peer-reviewed research.

They do not fund peer-reviewed research.

They perpetuate the myth of the lone genius.

Paragraph 3:

The goals of the prize-givers seem as scattered as the criticism.

Some want to shock, others to draw people into science, or to better reward those who have made their careers in research.

Paragraph 4:

As Nature has pointed out before, there are some legitimate concerns about how science prizes - both new and old - are distributed.

The Breakthrough Prize in Life Sciences, launched this year, takes an unrepresentative view of what the life sciences include.

But the Nobel Foundation's limit of three recipients per prize, each of whom must still be living, has long been outgrown by the collaborative nature of modern research - as will be demonstrated by the inevitable row over who is ignored when it comes to acknowledging the discovery of the Higgs boson.

The Nobels were, of course, themselves set up by a very rich individual who had decided what he wanted to do with his own money.

Time, rather than intention, has given them legitimacy.

Paragraph 5:

As much as some scientists may complain about the new awards, two things seem clear.

first, most researchers would accept such a prize if they were offered one.

Second, it is surely a good thing that the money and attention come to science rather than go elsewhere.

It is fair to criticize and question the mechanism- that is the culture of research, after all - but it is the prize-givers' money to do with as they please.

It is wise to take such gifts with gratitude and grace.

Text 4

Paragraph 1:

"The Heart of the Matter," the just-released report by the American Academy of Arts and Sciences (AAAS), deserves praise for affirming the importance of the humanities and social sciences to the prosperity and security of liberal democracy in America.

Regrettably, however, the report's failure to address the true nature of the crisis facing liberal education may cause more harm than good.

Paragraph 2:

In 2010, leading congressional Democrats and Republicans sent letters to the AAAS asking that it identify actions that could be taken by "federal, state and local governments, universities, foundations, educators, individual benefactors and others" to "maintain national excellence in humanities and social scientific scholarship and education." In response, the American Academy formed the Commission on the Humanities and Social Sciences.

Among the commission's 51 members are top-tier-university presidents, scholars, lawyers, judges, and business executives, as well as prominent figures from diplomacy, filmmaking, music and journalism.

Paragraph 3:

The goals identified in the report are generally admirable.

Because representative government presupposes an informed citizenry, the report supports full literacy; stresses the study of history and government, particularly American history and American government; and encourages the use of new digital technologies.

To encourage innovation and competition, the report calls for increased investment in research, the crafting of coherent curricula that improve students' ability to solve problems and communicate effectively in the 21st century, increased funding for teachers and the encouragement of scholars to bring their learning to bear on the great challenges of the day.

The report also advocates greater study of foreign languages, international affairs and the expansion of study abroad programs.

Paragraph 4:

Unfortunately, despite 2½ years in the making, "The Heart of the Matter" never gets to the heart of the matter: the illiberal nature of liberal education at our leading colleges and universities.

The commission ignores that for several decades America's colleges and universities have produced graduates who don't know the content and character of liberal education and are thus deprived of its benefits.

Sadly, the spirit of inquiry once at home on campus has been replaced by the use of the humanities and social sciences as vehicles for publicizing "progressive," or left- liberal propaganda.

Paragraph 5:

Today, professors routinely treat the progressive interpretation of history and progressive public policy as the proper subject of study while portraying conservative or classical liberal ideas - such as free markets and self-reliance - as falling outside the boundaries of routine, and sometimes legitimate, intellectual investigation.

Paragraph 6:

The AAAS displays great enthusiasm for liberal education.

Yet its report may well set back reform by obscuring the depth and breadth of the challenge that Congress asked it to illuminate.

翻译题:

Paragraph 1:

Music means different things to different people and sometimes even different things to the same person at different moments of his life.

It might be poetic, philosophical, sensual, or mathematical, but in any case it must, in my view, have something to do with the soul of the human being.

Hence it is metaphysical; but the means of expression is purely and exclusively physical: sound.

I believe it is precisely this permanent coexistence of metaphysical message through physical means that is the strength of music.

(46) It is also the reason why when we try to describe music with words, all we can do is articulate our reactions to it, and not grasp music itself.

Paragraph 2:

Beethoven's importance in music has been principally defined by the revolutionary nature of his compositions.

He freed music from hitherto prevailing conventions of harmony and structure.

Sometimes I feel in his late works a will to break all signs of continuity.

The music is abrupt and seemingly disconnected, as in the last piano sonata.

In musical expression, he did not feel restrained by the weight of convention.

(47) By all accounts he was a freethinking person, and a courageous one, and I find courage an essential quality for the understanding, let alone the performance, of his works.

Paragraph 3:

This courageous attitude in fact becomes a requirement for the performers of Beethoven's music.

His compositions demand the performer to show courage, for example in the use of dynamics.

(48) Beethoven's habit of increasing the volume with an extreme intensity and then abruptly following it with a sudden soft passage was only rarely used by composers before him.

Paragraph 4:

Beethoven was a deeply political man in the broadest sense of the word.

He was not interested in daily politics, but concerned with questions of moral behavior and the larger questions of right and wrong affecting the entire society.

(49) Especially significant was his view of freedom, which, for him, was associated with the rights and responsibilities of the individual: he advocated freedom of thought and of personal expression.

Paragraph 5:

Beethoven's music tends to move from chaos to order as if order were an imperative of human existence.

For him, order does not result from forgetting or ignoring the disorders that plague our existence; order is a necessary development, an improvement that may lead to the Greek ideal of spiritual elevation.

It is not by chance that the Funeral March is not the last movement of the Eroica Symphony, but the second, so that suffering does not have the last word.

(50) One could interpret much of the work of Beethoven by saying that suffering is inevitable, but the courage to fight it renders life worth living.

2015**Text 1****Paragraph 1:**

King Juan Carlos of Spain once insisted "kings don't abdicate, they die in their sleep." But embarrassing scandals and the popularity of the republican left in the recent Euro-elections have forced him to eat his words and stand down.

So, does the Spanish crisis suggest that monarchy is seeing its last days? Does that mean the writing is on the wall for all European royals, with their magnificent uniforms and majestic lifestyles?

Paragraph 2:

The Spanish case provides arguments both for and against monarchy.

When public opinion is particularly polarised, as it was following the end of the Franco regime, monarchs can rise above "mere" politics and "embody" a spirit of national unity.

Paragraph 3:

It is this apparent transcendence of politics that explains monarchs' continuing popularity as heads of state.

And so, the Middle East excepted, Europe is the most monarch-infested region in the world, with 10 kingdoms (not counting Vatican city and Andorra).

But unlike their absolutist counterparts in the Gulf and Asia, most royal families have survived because they allow voters to avoid the difficult search for a non-controversial but respected public figure.

Paragraph 4:

Even so, kings and queens undoubtedly have a downside.

Symbolic of national unity as they claim to be, their very history - and sometimes the way they behave today - embodies outdated and indefensible privileges and inequalities.

At a time when Thomas Piketty and other economists are warning of rising inequality and the increasing power of inherited wealth, it is bizarre that wealthy aristocratic families should still be the symbolic heart of modern democratic states.

Paragraph 5:

The most successful monarchies strive to abandon or hide their old aristocratic ways.

Princes and princesses have day-jobs and ride bicycles, not horses (or helicopters).

Even so, these are wealthy families who party with the international 1%, and media intrusiveness makes it increasingly difficult to maintain the right image.

Paragraph 6:

While Europe's monarchies will no doubt be smart enough to survive for some time to come, it is the British royals who have most to fear from the Spanish example.

Paragraph 7:

It is only the Queen who has preserved the monarchy's reputation with her rather ordinary (if well-heeled) granny style.

The danger will come with Charles, who has both an expensive taste of lifestyle and a pretty hierarchical view of the world.

He has failed to understand that monarchies have largely survived because they provide a service -as non-controversial and non-political heads of state.

Charles ought to know that as English history shows, it is kings, not republicans, who are the monarchy's worst enemies.

Text 2**Paragraph 1:**

Just how much does the Constitution protect your digital data? The Supreme Court will now consider whether police can search the contents of a mobile phone without a warrant if the phone is on or around a person during an arrest.

Paragraph 2:

California has asked the justices to refrain from a sweeping ruling, particularly one that upsets the old assumption that authorities may search through the possessions of suspects at the time of their arrest.

It is hard, the state argues, for judges to assess the implications of new and rapidly changing technologies.

Paragraph 3:

The court would be recklessly modest if it followed California's advice.

Enough of the implications are discernable, even obvious, so that the justices can and should provide updated guidelines to police, lawyers and defendants.

Paragraph 4:

They should start by discarding California's lame argument that exploring the contents of a smartphone - a vast storehouse of digital information - is similar to, say, going through a suspect's purse.

The court has ruled that police don't violate the Fourth Amendment when they go through the wallet or pocketbook of an arrestee without a warrant.

But exploring one's smartphone is more like entering his or her home.

A smartphone may contain an arrestee's reading history, financial history, medical history and comprehensive records of recent correspondence.

The development of "cloud computing", meanwhile, has made that exploration so much the easier.

Paragraph 5:

Americans should take steps to protect their digital privacy.

But keeping sensitive information on these devices is increasingly a requirement of normal life.

Citizens still have a right to expect private documents to remain private and protected by the Constitution's prohibition on unreasonable searches.

Paragraph 6:

As so often is the case, stating that principle doesn't ease the challenge of line- drawing.

In many cases, it would not be overly burdensome for authorities to obtain a warrant to search through phone contents.

They could still invalidate Fourth Amendment protections when facing severe, urgent circumstances, and they could take reasonable measures to ensure that phone data are not erased or altered while waiting for a warrant.

The court, though, may want to allow room for police to cite situations where they are entitled to more freedom.

Paragraph 7:

But the justices should not swallow California's argument whole.

New, disruptive technology sometimes demands novel applications of the Constitution's protections.

Orin Kerr, a law professor, compares the explosion and accessibility of digital information in the 21st century with the establishment of automobile use as a virtual necessity of life in the 20th: The justices had to specify novel rules for the new personal domain of the passenger car then; they must sort out how the Fourth Amendment applies to digital information now.

Text 3

Paragraph 1:

The journal *Science* is adding an extra round of statistical checks to its peer-review process, editor-in-chief Marcia McNutt announced today.

The policy follows similar efforts from other journals, after widespread concern that basic mistakes in data analysis are contributing to the irreproducibility of many published research findings.

Paragraph 2:

"Readers must have confidence in the conclusions published in our journal," writes McNutt in an editorial.

Working with the American Statistical Association, the journal has appointed seven experts to a statistics board of reviewing editors (SBoRE).

Manuscripts will be flagged up for additional scrutiny by the journal's internal editors, or by its existing Board of Reviewing Editors or by outside peer reviewers.

The SBoRE panel will then find external statisticians to review these manuscripts.

Paragraph 3:

Asked whether any particular papers had impelled the change, McNutt said: "The creation of the 'statistics board' was motivated by concerns broadly with the application of statistics and data analysis in scientific research and is part of Science's overall drive to increase reproducibility in the research we publish."

Paragraph 4:

Giovanni Parmigiani, a biostatistician at the Harvard School of Public Health, a member of the SBoRE group, says he expects the board to "play primarily an advisory role." He agreed to join because he "found the foresight behind the establishment of the SBoRE to be novel, unique and likely to have a lasting impact.

This impact will not only be through the publications in Science itself, but hopefully through a larger group of publishing places that may want to model their approach after Science."

Paragraph 5:

John Ioannidis, a physician who studies research methodology, says that the policy is "a most welcome step forward" and "long overdue".

"Most journals are weak in statistical review, and this damages the quality of what they publish. I think that, for the majority of scientific papers nowadays, statistical review is more essential than expert review," he says, but he noted that biomedical journals such as Annals of Internal Medicine, the Journal of the American Medical

Association and The Lancet pay strong attention to statistical review.

Paragraph 6:

Professional scientists are expected to know how to analyse data, but statistical errors are alarmingly common in published research, according to David Vaux, a cell biologist.

Researchers should improve their standards, he wrote in 2012, but journals should also take a tougher line, "engaging reviewers who are statistically literate and editors who can verify the process".

Vaux says that Science's idea to pass some papers to statisticians "has some merit, but a weakness is that it relies on the board of reviewing editors to identify 'the papers that need scrutiny' in the first place".

Text 4

Paragraph 1:

Two years ago, Rupert Murdoch's daughter, Elisabeth, spoke of the "unsettling dearth of integrity across so many of our institutions".

Integrity had collapsed, she argued, because of a collective acceptance that the only "sorting mechanism" in society should be profit and the market.

But "it's us, human beings, we the people who create the society we want, not profit."

Paragraph 2:

Driving her point home, she continued: "It's increasingly apparent that the absence of purpose, of a moral language within government, media or business could become one of the most dangerous goals for capitalism and freedom." This same absence of moral purpose was wounding companies such as News International, she thought, making it more likely that it would lose its way as it had with widespread illegal telephone hacking.

Paragraph 3:

As the hacking trial concludes - finding guilty one ex-editor of the News of the World, Andy Coulson, for conspiring to hack phones, and finding his predecessor, Rebekah Brooks, innocent of the same charge - the wider issue of dearth of integrity still stands.

Journalists are known to have hacked the phones of up to 5,500 people.

This is hacking on an industrial scale, as was acknowledged by Glenn Mulcaire, the man hired by the News of the World in 2001 to be the point person for phone hacking.

Others await trial. This long story still unfolds.

Paragraph 4:

In many respects, the dearth of moral purpose frames not only the fact of such widespread phone hacking but the terms on which the trial took place.

One of the astonishing revelations was how little Rebekah Brooks knew of what went on in her newsroom, how little she thought to ask and the fact that she never inquired how the stories arrived.

The core of her successful defence was that she knew nothing.

Paragraph 5:

In today's world, it has become normal that well-paid executives should not be accountable for what happens in the organisations that they run.

Perhaps we should not be so surprised.

For a generation, the collective doctrine has been that the sorting mechanism of society should be profit.

The words that have mattered are efficiency, flexibility, shareholder value, business-friendly, wealth generation, sales, impact and, in newspapers, circulation.

Words degraded to the margin have been justice, fairness, tolerance, proportionality and accountability.

Paragraph 6:

The purpose of editing the News of the World was not to promote reader understanding, to be fair in what was written or to betray any common humanity.

It was to ruin lives in the quest for circulation and impact.

Ms Brooks may or may not have had suspicions about how her journalists got their stories, but she asked no questions, gave no instructions - nor received traceable, recorded answers.

翻译题:**Paragraph 1:**

Within the span of a hundred years, in the seventeenth and early eighteenth centuries, a tide of emigration - one of the great folk wanderings of history - swept from Europe to America.

(46) This movement, driven by powerful and diverse motivations, built a nation out of a wilderness and, by its nature, shaped the character and destiny of an uncharted continent.

Paragraph 2:

(47) The United States is the product of two principal forces - the immigration of European peoples with their varied ideas, customs, and national characteristics and the impact of a new country which modified these traits.

Of necessity, colonial America was a projection of Europe.

Across the Atlantic came successive groups of Englishmen, Frenchmen, Germans, Scots, Irishmen, Dutchmen, Swedes, and many others who attempted to transplant their habits and traditions to the new world.

(48) But the force of geographic conditions peculiar to America, the interplay of the varied national groups upon one another, and the sheer difficulty of maintaining old-world ways in a raw, new continent caused significant changes.

These changes were gradual and at first scarcely visible.

But the result was a new social pattern which, although it resembled European society in many ways, had a character that was distinctly American.

Paragraph 3:

(49) The first shiploads of immigrants bound for the territory which is now the United States crossed the Atlantic more than a hundred years after the 15th-and- 16th-century explorations of North America.

In the meantime, thriving Spanish colonies had been established in Mexico, the West Indies, and South America.

These travelers to North America came in small, unmercifully overcrowded craft.

During their six- to twelve-week voyage, they survived on barely enough food allotted to them.

Many of the ships were lost in storms, many passengers died of disease, and infants rarely survived the journey.

Sometimes storms blew the vessels far off their course, and often calm brought unbearably long delay.

Paragraph 4:

To the anxious travelers the sight of the American shore brought almost inexpressible relief.

Said one recorder of events, "The air at twelve leagues' distance smelt as sweet as a new-blown garden." The colonists' first glimpse of the new land was a sight of dense woods.

(50) The virgin forest with its richness and variety of trees was a real treasure-house which extended from Maine all the way down to Georgia.

Here was abundant fuel and lumber.

Here was the raw material of houses and furniture, ships and potash, dyes and naval stores.

2016

Text 1

Paragraph 1:

France, which prides itself as the global innovator of fashion, has decided its fashion industry has lost an absolute right to define physical beauty for women.

Its lawmakers gave preliminary approval last week to a law that would make it a crime to employ ultra-thin models on runways.

The parliament also agreed to ban websites that "incite excessive thinness" by promoting extreme dieting.

Paragraph 2:

Such measures have a couple of uplifting motives.

They suggest beauty should not be defined by looks that end up impinging on health.

That's a start. And the ban on ultra-thin models seems to go beyond protecting models from starving themselves to death - as some have done.

It tells the fashion industry that it must take responsibility for the signal it sends women, especially teenage girls, about the social tape-measure they must use to determine their individual worth.

Paragraph 3:

The bans, if fully enforced, would suggest to women (and many men) that they should not let others be arbiters of their beauty.

And perhaps faintly, they hint that people should look to intangible qualities like character and intellect rather than dieting their way to size zero or wasp-waist physiques.

Paragraph 4:

The French measures, however, rely too much on severe punishment to change a culture that still regards beauty as skin-deep - and bone-showing.

Under the law, using a fashion model that does not meet a government-defined index of body mass could result in a \$85,000 fine and six months in prison.

Paragraph 5:

The fashion industry knows it has an inherent problem in focusing on material adornment and idealized body types.

In Denmark, the United States, and a few other countries, it is trying to set voluntary standards for models and fashion images that rely more on peer pressure for enforcement.

Paragraph 6:

In contrast to France's actions, Denmark's fashion industry agreed last month on rules and sanctions regarding the age, health, and other characteristics of models.

The newly revised Danish Fashion Ethical Charter clearly states: "We are aware of and take responsibility for the impact the fashion industry has on body ideals, especially on young people."

The charter's main tool of enforcement is to deny access for designers and modeling agencies to Copenhagen Fashion Week (CFW), which is run by the Danish Fashion Institute.

But in general it relies on a name-and- shame method of compliance.

Paragraph 7:

Relying on ethical persuasion rather than law to address the misuse of body ideals may be the best step.

Even better would be to help elevate notions of beauty beyond the material standards of a particular industry.

Text 2**Paragraph 1:**

For the first time in history more people live in towns than in the country.

In Britain this has had a curious result. While polls show Britons rate "the countryside" alongside the royal family, Shakespeare and the National Health Service (NHS) as what makes them proudest of their country, this has limited political support.

Paragraph 2:

A century ago Octavia Hill launched the National Trust not to rescue stylish houses but to save "the beauty of natural places for everyone forever."

It was specifically to provide city dwellers with spaces for leisure where they could experience "a refreshing air." Hill's pressure later led to the creation of national parks and green belts.

They don't make countryside any more, and every year concrete consumes more of it.

It needs constant guardianship.

Paragraph 3:

At the next election none of the big parties seem likely to endorse this sentiment.

The Conservatives' planning reform explicitly gives rural development priority over conservation, even authorising "off-plan" building where local people might object.

The concept of sustainable development has been defined as profitable.

Labour likewise wants to discontinue local planning where councils oppose development.

The Liberal Democrats are silent.

Only Ukip, sensing its chance, has sided with those pleading for a more considered approach to using green land.

Its Campaign to Protect Rural England struck terror into many local Conservative parties.

Paragraph 4:

The sensible place to build new houses, factories and offices is where people are, in cities and towns where infrastructure is in place.

The London agents Stirling Ackroyd recently identified enough sites for half a million houses in the London area alone, with no intrusion on green belt.

What is true of London is even truer of the provinces.

Paragraph 5:

The idea that "housing crisis" equals "concreted meadows" is pure lobby talk.

The issue is not the need for more houses but, as always, where to put them.

Under lobby pressure, George Osborne favours rural new-build against urban renovation and renewal.

He favours out-of-town shopping sites against high streets.

This is not a free market but a biased one.

Rural towns and villages have grown and will always grow.

They do so best where building sticks to their edges and respects their character.

We do not ruin urban conservation areas.

Why ruin rural ones?

Paragraph 6:

Development should be planned, not let rip.

After the Netherlands, Britain is Europe's most crowded country.

Half a century of town and country planning has enabled it to retain an enviable rural coherence, while still permitting low-density urban living.

There is no doubt of the alternative - the corrupted landscapes of southern Portugal, Spain or Ireland.

Avoiding this rather than promoting it should unite the left and right of the political spectrum.

Text 3

Paragraph 1:

"There is one and only one social responsibility of business," wrote Milton Friedman, a Nobel prize-winning economist, "That is, to use its resources and engage in activities designed to increase its profits." But even if you accept Friedman's premise and regard corporate social responsibility (CSR) policies as a waste of shareholders' money, things may not be absolutely clear-cut.

New research suggests that CSR may create monetary value for companies - at least when they are prosecuted for corruption.

Paragraph 2:

The largest firms in America and Britain together spend more than \$15 billion a year on CSR, according to an estimate by EPG, a consulting firm.

This could add value to their businesses in three ways.

First, consumers may take CSR spending as a "signal" that a company's products are of high quality.

Second, customers may be willing to buy a company's products as an indirect way to donate to the good causes it helps.

And third, through a more diffuse "halo effect," whereby its good deeds earn it greater consideration from consumers and others.

Paragraph 3:

Previous studies on CSR have had trouble differentiating these effects because consumers can be affected by all three.

A recent study attempts to separate them by looking at bribery prosecutions under America's Foreign Corrupt Practices Act (FCPA).

It argues that since prosecutors do not consume a company's products as part of their investigations, they could be influenced only by the halo effect.

Paragraph 4:

The study found that, among prosecuted firms, those with the most comprehensive CSR programmes tended to get more lenient penalties.

Their analysis ruled out the possibility that it was firms' political influence, rather than their CSR stand, that accounted for the leniency: Companies that contributed more to political campaigns did not receive lower fines.

Paragraph 5:

In all, the study concludes that whereas prosecutors should only evaluate a case based on its merits, they do seem to be influenced by a company's record in CSR.

"We estimate that either eliminating a substantial labour-rights concern, such as child labour, or increasing corporate giving by about 20% results in fines that generally are 40% lower than the typical punishment for bribing foreign officials," says one researcher.

Paragraph 6:

Researchers admit that their study does not answer the question of how much businesses ought to spend on CSR.

Nor does it reveal how much companies are banking on the halo effect, rather than the other possible benefits, when they decide their do-gooding policies.

But at least they have demonstrated that when companies get into trouble with the law, evidence of good character can win them a less costly punishment.

Text 4

Paragraph 1:

There will eventually come a day when The New York Times ceases to publish stories on newsprint.

Exactly when that day will be is a matter of debate. "Sometime in the future," the paper's publisher said back in 2010.

Paragraph 2:

Nostalgia for ink on paper and the rustle of pages aside, there's plenty of incentive to ditch print.

The infrastructure required to make a physical newspaper- printing presses, delivery trucks - isn't just expensive; it's excessive at a time when online-only competitors don't have the same set of financial constraints.

Readers are migrating away from print anyway.

And though print ad sales still dwarf their online and mobile counterparts, revenue from print is still declining.

Paragraph 3:

Overhead may be high and circulation lower, but rushing to eliminate its print edition would be a mistake, says BuzzFeed CEO Jonah Peretti.

Paragraph 4:

Peretti says the Times shouldn't waste time getting out of the print business, but only if they go about doing it the right way.

"Figuring out a way to accelerate that transition would make sense for them," he said, "but if you discontinue it, you're going to have your most loyal customers really upset with you."

Paragraph 5:

Sometimes that's worth making a change anyway.

Peretti gives the example of Netflix discontinuing its DVD-mailing service to focus on streaming.

"It was seen as a blunder," he said.

The move turned out to be foresighted.

And if Peretti were in charge at the Times? "I wouldn't pick a year to end print," he said.

"I would raise prices and make it into more of a legacy product."

Paragraph 6:

The most loyal customers would still get the product they favor, the idea goes, and they'd feel like they were helping sustain the quality of something they believe in.

"So if you're overpaying for print, you could feel like you were helping," Peretti said.

"Then increase it at a higher rate each year and essentially try to generate additional revenue." In other words, if you're going to make a print product, make it for the people who are already obsessed with it.

Which may be what the Times is doing already.

Getting the print edition seven days a week costs nearly \$500 a year - more than twice as much as a digital-only subscription.

Paragraph 7:

"It's a really hard thing to do and it's a tremendous luxury that BuzzFeed doesn't have a legacy business," Peretti remarked.

"But we're going to have questions like that where we have things we're doing that don't make sense when the market changes and the world changes.

In those situations, it's better to be more aggressive than less aggressive."

翻译题:

Paragraph 1:

Mental health is our birthright.

(46) We don't have to learn how to be mentally healthy it is built into us in the same way that our bodies know how to heal a cut or mend a broken bone. Mental health can't be learned, only reawakened.

It is like the immune system of the body, which under stress or through lack of nutrition or exercise can be weakened, but which never leaves us.

When we don't understand the value of mental health and we don't know how to gain access to it, mental health will remain hidden from us.

(47) Our mental health doesn't really go anywhere; like the sun behind a cloud, it can be temporarily hidden from view, but it is fully capable of being restored in an instant.

Paragraph 2:

Mental health is the seed that contains self-esteem - confidence in ourselves and an ability to trust in our common sense.

It allows us to have perspective on our lives - the ability to not take ourselves too seriously, to laugh at ourselves, to see the bigger picture, and to see that things will work out.

It's a form of innate or unlearned optimism.

(48) Mental health allows us to view others with sympathy if they are having troubles, with kindness if they are in pain, and with unconditional love no matter who they are.

Mental health is the source of creativity for solving problems, resolving conflict, making our surroundings more beautiful, managing our home life, or coming up with a creative business idea or invention to make our lives easier.

It gives us patience for ourselves and toward others as well as patience while driving, catching a fish, working on our car, or raising a child.

It allows us to see the beauty that surrounds us each moment in nature, in culture, in the flow of our daily lives.

Paragraph 3:

(49) Although mental health is the cure-all for living our lives, it is perfectly ordinary as you will see that it has been there to direct you through all your difficult decisions.

It has been available even in the most mundane of life situations to show you right & wrong, good & bad, friend & foe.

Mental health has commonly been called conscience, instinct, wisdom, common sense, or the inner voice.

We think of it simply as a healthy and helpful flow of intelligent thought.

(50) As you will come to see, knowing that mental health is always available and knowing to trust it allow us to slow down to the moment and live life happily.

2017**Text 1****Paragraph 1:**

First two hours, now three hours - this is how far in advance authorities are recommending people show up to catch a domestic flight, at least at some major U.S.

airports with increasingly massive security lines.

Paragraph 2:

Americans are willing to tolerate time-consuming security procedures in return for increased safety.

The crash of Egypt Air Flight 804, which terrorists may have downed over the Mediterranean Sea, provides another tragic reminder of why.

But demanding too much of air travelers or providing too little security in return undermines public support for the process.

And it should: Wasted time is a drag on Americans' economic and private lives, not to mention infuriating.

Paragraph 3:

Last year, the Transportation Security Administration (TSA) found in a secret check that undercover investigators were able to sneak weapons - both fake and real - past airport security nearly every time they tried.

Enhanced security measures since then, combined with a rise in airline travel due to the improving economy and low oil prices, have resulted in long waits at major airports such as Chicago's O'Hare International.

It is not yet clear how much more effective airline security has become -but the lines are obvious.

Paragraph 4:

Part of the issue is that the government did not anticipate the steep increase in airline travel, so the TSA is now rushing to get new screeners on the line.

Part of the issue is that airports have only so much room for screening lanes.

Another factor may be that more people are trying to overpack their carry-on bags to avoid checked- baggage fees, though the airlines strongly dispute this.

Paragraph 5:

There is one step the TSA could take that would not require remodeling airports or rushing to hire: Enroll more people in the PreCheck program.

PreCheck is supposed to be a win-win for travelers and the TSA.

Passengers who pass a background check are eligible to use expedited screening lanes.

This allows the TSA to focus on travelers who are higher risk, saving time for everyone involved.

The TSA wants to enroll 25 million people in PreCheck.

Paragraph 6:

It has not gotten anywhere close to that, and one big reason is sticker shock: Passengers must pay \$85 every five years to process their background checks.

Since the beginning, this price tag has been PreCheck's fatal flaw.

Upcoming reforms might bring the price to a more reasonable level.

But Congress should look into doing so directly, by helping to finance PreCheck enrollment or to cut costs in other ways.

Paragraph 7:

The TSA cannot continue diverting resources into underused PreCheck lanes while most of the traveling public suffers in unnecessary lines.

It is long past time to make the program work.

Text 2

Paragraph 1:

"The ancient Hawaiians were astronomers," wrote Queen Liliuokalani, Hawaii's last reigning monarch, in 1897.

Star watchers were among the most esteemed members of Hawaiian society.

Sadly, all is not well with astronomy in Hawaii today.

Protests have erupted over construction of the Thirty Meter Telescope (TMT), a giant observatory that promises to revolutionize humanity's view of the cosmos.

Paragraph 2:

At issue is the TMT's planned location on Mauna Kea, a dormant volcano worshiped by some Hawaiians as the piko, that connects the Hawaiian Islands to the heavens.

But Mauna Kea is also home to some of the world's most powerful telescopes.

Rested in the Pacific Ocean, Mauna Kea's peak rises above the bulk of our planet's dense atmosphere, where conditions allow telescopes to obtain images of unsurpassed clarity.

Paragraph 3:

Opposition to telescopes on Mauna Kea is nothing new.

A small but vocal group of Hawaiians and environmentalists have long viewed their presence as disrespect for sacred land and a painful reminder of the occupation of what was once a sovereign nation.

Paragraph 4:

Some blame for the current controversy belongs to astronomers.

In their eagerness to build bigger telescopes, they forgot that science is not the only way of understanding the world.

They did not always prioritize the protection of Mauna Kea's fragile ecosystems or its holiness to the island's inhabitants.

Hawaiian culture is not a relic of the past; it is a living culture undergoing a renaissance today.

Paragraph 5:

Yet science has a cultural history, too, with roots going back to the dawn of civilization.

The same curiosity to find what lies beyond the horizon that first brought early Polynesians to Hawaii's shores inspires astronomers today to explore the heavens.

Calls to disassemble all telescopes on Mauna Kea or to ban future development there ignore the reality that astronomy and Hawaiian culture both seek to answer big questions about who we are, where we come from and where we are going.

Perhaps that is why we explore the starry skies, as if answering a primal calling to know ourselves and our true ancestral homes.

Paragraph 6:

The astronomy community is making compromises to change its use of Mauna Kea.

The TMT site was chosen to minimize the telescope's visibility around the island and to avoid archaeological and environmental impact.

To limit the number of telescopes on Mauna Kea, old ones will be removed at the end of their lifetimes and their sites returned to a natural state.

There is no reason why everyone cannot be welcomed on Mauna Kea to embrace their cultural heritage and to study the stars.

Text 3

Paragraph 1:

Robert F. Kennedy once said that a country's GDP measures "everything except that which makes life worthwhile. "

With Britain voting to leave the European Union, and GDP already predicted to slow as a result, it is now a timely moment to assess what he was referring to.

Paragraph 2:

The question of GDP and its usefulness has annoyed policymakers for over half a century.

Many argue that it is a flawed concept.

It measures things that do not matter and misses things that do.

By most recent measures, the UK's GDP has been the envy of the Western world, with record low unemployment and high growth figures.

If everything was going so well, then why did over 17 million people vote for Brexit, despite the warnings about what it could do to their country's economic prospects?

Paragraph 3:

A recent annual study of countries and their ability to convert growth into well-being sheds some light on that question.

Across the 163 countries measured, the UK is one of the poorest performers in ensuring that economic growth is translated into meaningful improvements for its citizens.

Rather than just focusing on GDP, over 40 different sets of criteria from health, education and civil society engagement have been measured to get a more rounded assessment of how countries are performing.

Paragraph 4:

While all of these countries face their own challenges, there are a number of consistent themes.

Yes, there has been a budding economic recovery since the 2008 global crash, but in key indicators in areas such as health and education, major economies have continued to decline.

Yet this isn't the case with all countries.

Some relatively poor European countries have seen huge improvements across measures including civil society, income equality and the environment.

Paragraph 5:

This is a lesson that rich countries can learn: When GDP is no longer regarded as the sole measure of a country's success, the world looks very different.

Paragraph 6:

So, what Kennedy was referring to was that while GDP has been the most common method for measuring the economic activity of nations, as a measure, it is no longer enough.

It does not include important factors such as environmental quality or education outcomes - all things that contribute to a person's sense of well-being.

Paragraph 7:

The sharp hit to growth predicted around the world and in the UK could lead to a decline in the everyday services we depend on for our well-being and for growth.

But policymakers who refocus efforts on improving well-being rather than simply worrying about GDP figures could avoid the forecasted doom and may even see progress.

Text 4**Paragraph 1:**

In a rare unanimous ruling, the US Supreme Court has overturned the corruption conviction of a former Virginia governor, Robert McDonnell.

But it did so while holding its nose at the ethics of his conduct, which included accepting gifts such as a Rolex watch and a Ferrari automobile from a company seeking access to government.

Paragraph 2:

The high court's decision said the judge in Mr. McDonnell's trial failed to tell a jury that it must look only at his "official acts," or the former governor's decisions on "specific" and "unsettled" issues related to his duties.

Paragraph 3:

Merely helping a gift-giver gain access to other officials, unless done with clear intent to pressure those officials, is not corruption, the justices found.

Paragraph 4:

The court did suggest that accepting favors in return for opening doors is

"distasteful" and "nasty." But under anti-bribery laws, proof must be made of concrete benefits, such as approval of a contract or regulation.

Simply arranging a meeting, making a phone call, or hosting an event is not an "official act".

Paragraph 5:

The court's ruling is legally sound in defining a kind of favoritism that is not criminal.

Elected leaders must be allowed to help supporters deal with bureaucratic problems without fear of prosecution for bribery.

"The basic compact underlying representative government," wrote Chief Justice John Roberts for the court, "assumes that public officials will hear from their constituents and act on their concerns."

Paragraph 6:

But the ruling reinforces the need for citizens and their elected representatives, not the courts, to ensure equality of access to government.

Officials must not be allowed to play favorites in providing information or in arranging meetings simply because an individual or group provides a campaign donation or a personal gift.

This type of integrity requires well-enforced laws in government transparency, such as records of official meetings, rules on lobbying, and information about each elected leader's source of wealth.

Paragraph 7:

Favoritism in official access can fan public perceptions of corruption.

But it is not always corruption.

Rather officials must avoid double standards, or different types of access for average people and the wealthy.

If connections can be bought, a basic premise of democratic society - that all are equal in treatment by government - is undermined.

Good governance rests on an understanding of the inherent worth of each individual.

Paragraph 8:

The court's ruling is a step forward in the struggle against both corruption and official favoritism.

翻译题:

Paragraph 1:

The growth of the use of English as the world's primary language for international communication has obviously been continuing for several decades.

(46) But even as the number of English speakers expands, further there are signs that the global predominance of the language may fade within the foreseeable future.

Paragraph 2:

Complex international, economic, technological and cultural changes could start to diminish the leading position of English as the language of the world market, and UK interests which enjoy advantage from the breadth of English usage would consequently face new pressures.

Those realistic possibilities are highlighted in the study presented by David Graddol.

(47) His analysis should therefore end any self-contentedness among those who may believe that the global position of English is so stable that the young generations of the United Kingdom do not need additional language capabilities.

Paragraph 3:

David Graddol concludes that monoglot English graduates face a bleak economic future as qualified multilingual youngsters from other countries are proving to have a competitive advantage over their British counterparts in global companies and organisations.

Alongside that, (48) many countries are introducing English into the primary-school curriculum but British schoolchildren and students do not appear to be gaining greater encouragement to achieve fluency in other languages.

Paragraph 4:

If left to themselves, such trends will diminish the relative strength of the English language in international education markets as the demand for educational resources in languages, such as Spanish, Arabic or Mandarin grows and international business process outsourcing in other languages such as Japanese, French and German, spreads.

Paragraph 5:

(49) The changes identified by David Graddol all present clear and major challenges to the UK's providers of English language teaching to people of other countries and to broader education business sectors.

The English language teaching sector directly earns nearly £ 1.3 billion for the UK in invisible exports and our other education related exports earn up to £ 10 billion a year more.

As the international education market expands, the recent slowdown in the numbers of international students studying in the main English-speaking countries is likely to continue, especially if there are no effective strategic policies to prevent such slippage.

Paragraph 6:

The anticipation of possible shifts in demand provided by this study is significant:

(50) It gives a basis to all organisations which seek to promote the learning and use of English, a basis for planning to meet the possibilities of what could be a very different operating environment. That is a necessary and practical approach.

In this as in much else, those who wish to influence the future must prepare for it.

2018**Text 1****Paragraph 1:**

Among the annoying challenges facing the middle class is one that will probably go unmentioned in the next presidential campaign: What happens when the robots come for their jobs?

Paragraph 2:

Don't dismiss that possibility entirely.

About half of U.S. jobs are at high risk of being automated, according to a University of Oxford study, with the middle class disproportionately squeezed.

Lower-income jobs like gardening or day care don't appeal to robots.

But many middle-class occupations - trucking, financial advice, software engineering - have aroused their interest, or soon will.

The rich own the robots, so they will be fine.

Paragraph 3:

This isn't to be alarmist.

Optimists point out that technological upheaval has benefited workers in the past.

The Industrial Revolution didn't go so well for Luddites whose jobs were displaced by mechanized looms, but it eventually raised living standards and created more jobs than it destroyed.

Likewise, automation should eventually boost productivity, stimulate demand by driving down prices, and free workers from hard, boring work.

But in the medium term, middle-class workers may need a lot of help adjusting.

Paragraph 4:

The first step, as Erik Brynjolfsson and Andrew McAfee argue in *The Second Machine Age*, should be rethinking education and job training.

Curriculums - from grammar school to college - should evolve to focus less on memorizing facts and more on creativity and complex communication.

Vocational schools should do a better job of fostering problem-solving skills and helping students work alongside robots.

Online education can supplement the traditional kind.

It could make extra training and instruction affordable.

Professionals trying to acquire new skills will be able to do so without going into debt.

Paragraph 5:

The challenge of coping with automation underlines the need for the U.S. to revive its fading business dynamism: Starting new companies must be made easier.

In previous eras of drastic technological change, entrepreneurs smoothed the transition by dreaming up ways to combine labor and machines.

The best uses of 3D printers and virtual reality haven't been invented yet.

The U.S. needs the new companies that will invent them.

Paragraph 6:

Finally, because automation threatens to widen the gap between capital income and labor income, taxes and the safety net will have to be rethought.

Taxes on low-wage labor need to be cut, and wage subsidies such as the earned income tax credit should be expanded: This would boost incomes, encourage work, reward companies for job creation, and reduce inequality.

Paragraph 7:

Technology will improve society in ways big and small over the next few years, yet this will be little comfort to those who find their lives and careers upended by automation.

Destroying the machines that are coming for our jobs would be nuts.

But policies to help workers adapt will be indispensable.

Text 2

Paragraph 1:

A new survey by Harvard University finds more than two-thirds of young Americans disapprove of President Trump's use of Twitter.

The implication is that Millennials prefer news from the White House to be filtered through other sources, not a president's social media platform.

Paragraph 2:

Most Americans rely on social media to check daily headlines.

Yet as distrust has risen toward all media, people may be starting to beef up their media literacy skills.

Such a trend is badly needed. --

During the 2016 presidential campaign, nearly a quarter of web content shared by Twitter users in the politically critical state of Michigan was fake news, according to the University of Oxford.

And a survey conducted for BuzzFeed News found 44 percent of Facebook users rarely or never trust news from the media giant.

Paragraph 3:

Young people who are digital natives are indeed becoming more skillful at separating fact from fiction in cyberspace.

A Knight Foundation focus-group survey of young people between ages 14 and 24 found they use "distributed trust" to verify stories.

They cross-check sources and prefer news from different perspectives - especially those that are open about any bias.

"Many young people assume a great deal of personal responsibility for educating themselves and actively seeking out opposing viewpoints," the survey concluded.

Paragraph 4:

Such active research can have another effect.

A 2014 survey conducted in Australia, Britain, and the United States by the University of Wisconsin-Madison found that young people's reliance on social media led to greater political engagement.

Paragraph 5:

Social media allows users to experience news events more intimately and immediately while also permitting them to re-share news as a projection of their values and interests.

This forces users to be more conscious of their role in passing along information.

A survey by Barna research group found the top reason given by Americans for the fake news phenomenon is "reader error," more so than made-up stories or factual mistakes in reporting.

About a third say the problem of fake news lies in "misinterpretation or exaggeration of actual news" via social media.

In other words, the choice to share news on social media may be the heart of the issue.

"This indicates there is a real personal responsibility in counteracting this problem," says Roxanne Stone, editor in chief at Barna Group.

Paragraph 6:

So when young people are critical of an over-tweeting president, they reveal a mental discipline in thinking skills - and in their choices on when to share on social media.

Text 3

Paragraph 1:

Any fair-minded assessment of the dangers of the deal between Britain's National Health Service (NHS) and DeepMind must start by acknowledging that both sides mean well.

DeepMind is one of the leading artificial intelligence (AI) companies in the world.

The potential of this work applied to healthcare is very great, but it could also lead to further concentration of power in the tech giants.

It is against that background that the information commissioner, Elizabeth Denham, has issued her damning verdict against the Royal Free hospital trust under the NHS, which handed over to DeepMind the records of 1.6 million patients in 2015 on the basis of a vague agreement which took far too little account of the patients' rights and their expectations of privacy.

Paragraph 2:

DeepMind has almost apologized.

The NHS trust has mended its ways.

Further arrangements - and there may be many - between the NHS and DeepMind will be carefully scrutinised to ensure that all necessary permissions have been asked of patients and all unnecessary data has been cleaned.

There are lessons about informed patient consent to learn.

But privacy is not the only angle in this case and not even the most important.

Ms Denham chose to concentrate the blame on the NHS trust, since under existing law it "controlled" the data and DeepMind merely "processed" it.

But this distinction misses the point that it is processing and aggregation, not the mere possession of bits, that gives the data value.

Paragraph 3:

The great question is who should benefit from the analysis of all the data that our lives now generate.

Privacy law builds on the concept of damage to an individual from identifiable knowledge about them.

That misses the way the surveillance economy works.

The data of an individual there gains its value only when it is compared with the data of countless millions more.

Paragraph 4:

The use of privacy law to curb the tech giants in this instance feels slightly maladapted.

This practice does not address the real worry.

It is not enough to say that the algorithms DeepMind develops will benefit patients and save lives.

What matters is that they will belong to a private monopoly which developed them using public resources.

If software promises to save lives on the scale that drugs now can, big data may be expected to behave as a big pharma has done.

We are still at the beginning of this revolution and small choices now may turn out to have gigantic consequences later.

A long struggle will be needed to avoid a future of digital feudalism.

Ms Denham's report is a welcome start.

Text 4**Paragraph 1:**

The U.S. Postal Service (USPS) continues to bleed red ink.

It reported a net loss of \$5.6 billion for fiscal 2016, the 10th straight year its expenses have exceeded revenue.

Meanwhile, it has more than \$120 billion in unfunded liabilities, mostly for employee health and retirement costs.

There are many reasons this formerly stable federal institution finds itself at the brink of bankruptcy.

Fundamentally, the USPS is in a historic squeeze between technological change that has permanently decreased demand for its bread-and-butter product, first-class mail, and a regulatory structure that denies management the flexibility to adjust its operations to the new reality.

Paragraph 2:

And interest groups ranging from postal unions to greeting-card makers exert self-interested pressure on the USPS's ultimate overseer - Congress - insisting that whatever else happens to the Postal Service, aspects of the status quo they depend on get protected.

This is why repeated attempts at reform legislation have failed in recent years, leaving the Postal Service unable to pay its bills except by deferring vital modernization.

Paragraph 3:

Now comes word that everyone involved - Democrats, Republicans, the Postal Service, the unions and the system's heaviest users - has finally agreed on a plan to fix the system.

Legislation is moving through the House that would save USPS an estimated \$28.6 billion over five years, which could help pay for new vehicles, among other survival measures.

Most of the money would come from a penny-per-letter permanent rate increase and from shifting postal retirees into Medicare.

The latter step would largely offset the financial burden of annually pre-funding retiree health care, thus addressing a long-standing complaint by the USPS and its unions.

Paragraph 4:

If it clears the House, this measure would still have to get through the Senate - where someone is bound to point out that it amounts to the bare, bare minimum necessary to keep the Postal Service afloat, not comprehensive reform.

There's no change to collective bargaining at the USPS, a major omission considering that personnel accounts for 80 percent of the agency's costs.

Also missing is any discussion of eliminating Saturday letter delivery.

That common-sense change enjoys wide public support and would save the USPS \$2 billion per year.

But postal special-interest groups seem to have killed it, at least in the House.

The emerging consensus around the bill is a sign that legislators are getting frightened about a politically embarrassing short-term collapse at the USPS.

It is not, however, a sign that they're getting serious about transforming the postal system for the 21st century.

翻译题:

Paragraph 1:

Shakespeare's lifetime was coincident with a period of extraordinary activity and achievement in the drama.

(46) By the date of his birth Europe was witnessing the passing of the religious drama, and the creation of new forms under the incentive of classical tragedy and comedy.

These new forms were at first mainly written by scholars and performed by amateurs, but in England, as everywhere else in western Europe, the growth of a class of professional actors was threatening to make the drama popular, whether it should be new or old, classical or medieval, literary or farcical.

Court, school, organizations of amateurs, and the traveling actors were all rivals in supplying a widespread desire for dramatic entertainment; and (47) no boy who went to a grammar

school could be ignorant that the drama was a form of literature which gave glory to Greece and Rome and might yet bring honor to England.

Paragraph 2:

When Shakespeare was twelve years old the first public playhouse was built in London.

For a time literature showed no interest in this public stage.

Plays aiming at literary distinction were written for schools or court, or for the choir boys of St. Paul's and the royal chapel, who, however, gave plays in public as well as at court.

(48) But the professional companies prospered in their permanent theaters, and university men with literary ambitions were quick to turn to these theaters as offering a means of livelihood.

By the time that Shakespeare was twenty-five, Lyly, Peele, and Greene had made comedies that were at once popular and literary; Kyd had written a tragedy that crowded the pit; and Marlowe had brought poetry and genius to triumph on the common stage - where they had played no part since the death of Euripides.

(49) A native literary drama had been created, its alliance with the public playhouses established, and at least some of its great traditions had been begun.

Paragraph 3:

The development of the Elizabethan drama for the next twenty-five years is of exceptional interest to students of literary history, for in this brief period we may trace the beginning, growth, blossoming, and decay of many kinds of plays, and of many great careers.

We are amazed today at the mere number of plays produced, as well as by the number of dramatists writing at the same time for this London of two hundred thousand inhabitants.

(50) To realize how great was the dramatic activity, we must remember further that hosts of plays have been lost, and that probably there is no author of note whose entire work has survived.

2019**Text 1****Paragraph 1:**

Financial regulators in Britain have imposed a rather unusual rule on the bosses of big banks.

Starting next year, any guaranteed bonus of top executives could be delayed 10 years if their banks are under investigation for wrongdoing.

The main purpose of this "clawback" rule is to hold bankers accountable for harmful risk-taking and to restore public trust in financial institutions.

Yet officials also hope for a much larger benefit: more long-term decisionmaking, not only by banks but by all corporations, to build a stronger economy for future generations.

Paragraph 2:

"Short-termism" or the desire for quick profits, has worsened in publicly traded companies, says the Bank of England's top economist, Andrew Haldane.

He quotes a giant of classical economics, Alfred Marshall, in describing this financial impatience as acting like "children who pick the plums out of their pudding to eat them at once" rather than putting them aside to be eaten last.

Paragraph 3:

The average time for holding a stock in both the United States and Britain, he notes, has dropped from seven years to seven months in recent decades.

Transient investors, who demand high quarterly profits from companies, can hinder a firm's efforts to invest in long-term research or to build up customer loyalty.

This has been dubbed "quarterly capitalism."

Paragraph 4:

In addition, new digital technologies have allowed more rapid trading of equities, quicker use of information, and thus shorter attention spans in financial markets.

"There seems to be a predominance of short-term thinking at the expense of long-term investing," said Commissioner Daniel Gallagher of the US Securities and

Exchange Commission in a speech this week.

Paragraph 5:

In the US, the Sarbanes-Oxley Act of 2002 has pushed most public companies to defer performance bonuses for senior executives by about a year, slightly helping reduce "short-termism."

In its latest survey of CEO pay, The Wall Street Journal finds that "a substantial part" of executive pay is now tied to performance.

Paragraph 6:

Much more could be done to encourage "long-termism," such as changes in the tax code and quicker disclosure of stock acquisitions.

In France, shareholders who hold onto a company investment for at least two years can sometimes earn more voting rights in a company.

Paragraph 7:

Within companies, the right compensation design can provide incentives for executives to think beyond their own time at the company and on behalf of all stakeholders.

Britain's new rule is a reminder to bankers that society has an interest in their performance, not just for the short term but for the long term.

Text 2**Paragraph 1:**

Grade inflation - the gradual increase in average GPAs (grade-point averages) over the past few decades - is often considered a product of a consumer era in higher education, in which students are treated like customers to be pleased.

But another, related force - a policy often buried deep in course catalogs called "grade forgiveness" - is helping raise GPAs.

Paragraph 2:

Grade forgiveness allows students to retake a course in which they received a low grade, and the most recent grade or the highest grade is the only one that counts in calculating a student's overall GPA.

Paragraph 3:

The use of this little-known practice has accelerated in recent years, as colleges continue to do their utmost to keep students in school (and paying tuition) and improve their graduation rates.

When this practice first started decades ago, it was usually limited to freshmen, to give them a second chance to take a class in their first year if they struggled in their transition to college-level courses.

But now most colleges, save for many selective campuses, allow all undergraduates, and even graduate students, to get their low grades forgiven.

Paragraph 4:

College officials tend to emphasize that the goal of grade forgiveness is less about the grade itself and more about encouraging students to retake courses critical to their degree program and graduation without incurring a big penalty.

"Ultimately," said Jack Miner, Ohio State University's registrar, "we see students achieve more success because they retake a course and do better in subsequent courses or master the content that allows them to graduate on time."

Paragraph 5:

That said, there is a way in which grade forgiveness satisfies colleges' own needs as well.

For public institutions, state funds are sometimes tied partly to their success on metrics such as graduation rates and student retention - so better grades can, by boosting figures like those, mean more money.

And anything that raises GPAs will likely make students- who, at the end of the day, are paying the bill - feel they've gotten a better value for their tuition dollars, which is another big concern for colleges.

Paragraph 6:

Indeed, grade forgiveness is just another way that universities are responding to consumers' expectations for higher education.

Since students and parents expect a college degree to lead to a job, it is in the best interest of a school to turn out graduates who are as qualified as possible - or at least appear to be.

On this, students' and colleges' incentives seem to be aligned.

Text 3

Paragraph 1:

This year marks exactly two centuries since the publication of "Frankenstein; or, The Modern Prometheus," by Mary Shelley.

Even before the invention of the electric light bulb, the author produced a remarkable work of speculative fiction that would foreshadow many ethical questions to be raised by technologies yet to come.

Paragraph 2:

Today the rapid growth of artificial intelligence (AI) raises fundamental questions: "What is intelligence, identity, or consciousness? What makes humans humans? "

Paragraph 3:

What is being called artificial general intelligence, machines that would imitate the way humans think, continues to evade scientists.

Yet humans remain fascinated by the idea of robots that would look, move, and respond like humans, similar to those recently depicted on popular sci-fi TV series such as "Westworld" and "Humans."

Paragraph 4:

Just how people think is still far too complex to be understood, let alone reproduced, says David Eagleman, a Stanford University neuroscientist.

"We are just in a situation where there are no good theories explaining what consciousness actually is and how you could ever build a machine to get there."

Paragraph 5:

But that doesn't mean crucial ethical issues involving AI aren't at hand.

The coming use of autonomous vehicles, for example, poses thorny ethical questions.

Human drivers sometimes must make split-second decisions.

Their reactions may be a complex combination of instant reflexes, input from past driving experiences, and what their eyes and ears tell them in that moment.

AI "vision" today is not nearly as sophisticated as that of humans.

And to anticipate every imaginable driving situation is a difficult programming problem.

Paragraph 6:

Whenever decisions are based on masses of data, "you quickly get into a lot of ethical questions," notes Tan Kiat How, chief executive of a Singapore-based agency that is helping the government develop a voluntary code for the ethical use of AI.

Along with Singapore, other governments and mega-corporations are beginning to establish their own guidelines.

Britain is setting up a data ethics center.

India released its AI ethics strategy this spring.

Paragraph 7:

On June 7 Google pledged not to "design or deploy AI" that would cause "overall harm," or to develop AI-directed weapons or use AI for surveillance that would violate international norms.

It also pledged not to deploy AI whose use would violate international laws or human rights.

Paragraph 8:

While the statement is vague, it represents one starting point.

So does the idea that decisions made by AI systems should be explainable, transparent, and fair.

Paragraph 9:

To put it another way: How can we make sure that the thinking of intelligent machines reflects humanity's highest values?

Only then will they be useful servants and not Frankenstein's out-of-control monster.

Text 4

Paragraph 1:

States will be able to force more people to pay sales tax when they make online purchases under a Supreme Court decision Thursday that will leave shoppers with lighter wallets but is a big financial win for states.

Paragraph 2:

The Supreme Court's opinion Thursday overruled a pair of decades-old decisions that states said cost them billions of dollars in lost revenue annually.

The decisions made it more difficult for states to collect sales tax on certain online purchases.

Paragraph 3:

The cases the court overturned said that if a business was shipping a customer's purchase to a state where the business didn't have a physical presence such as a warehouse or office, the business didn't have to collect sales tax for the state.

Customers were generally responsible for paying the sales tax to the state themselves if they weren't charged it, but most didn't realize they owed it and few paid.

Paragraph 4:

Justice Anthony Kennedy wrote that the previous decisions were flawed.

"Each year the physical presence rule becomes further removed from economic reality and results in significant revenue losses to the States," he wrote in an opinion joined by four other justices.

Kennedy wrote that the rule "limited states' ability to seek long-term prosperity and has prevented market participants from competing on an even playing field."

Paragraph 5:

The ruling is a victory for big chains with a presence in many states, since they usually collect sales tax on online purchases already.

Now, rivals will be charging sales tax where they hadn't before.

Big chains have been collecting sales tax nationwide because they typically have physical stores in whatever state a purchase is being shipped to.

Amazon.com, with its network of warehouses, also collects sales tax in every state that charges it, though third-party sellers who use the site don't have to.

Paragraph 6:

Until now, many sellers that have a physical presence in only a single state or a few states have been able to avoid charging sales taxes when they ship to addresses outside those states.

Sellers that use eBay and Etsy, which provide platforms for smaller sellers, also haven't been collecting sales tax nationwide.

Under the ruling Thursday, states can pass laws requiring out-of-state sellers to collect the state's sales tax from customers and send it to the state.

Paragraph 7:

Retail trade groups praised the ruling, saying it levels the playing field for local and online businesses.

The losers, said retail analyst Neil Saunders, are online-only retailers, especially smaller ones.

Those retailers may face headaches complying with various state sales tax laws.

The Small Business & Entrepreneurship Council advocacy group said in a statement, "Small businesses and internet entrepreneurs are not well served at all by this decision."

翻译题:

Paragraph 1:

It was only after I started to write a weekly column about the medical journals, and began to read scientific papers from beginning to end, that I realised just how bad much of the medical literature frequently was.

I came to recognise various signs of a bad paper: the kind of paper that purports to show that people who eat more than one kilo of broccoli a week were 1.17 times more likely than those who eat less to suffer late in life from pernicious anaemia.

(46) There is a great deal of this kind of nonsense in the medical journals which, when taken up by broadcasters and the lay press, generates both health scares and short-lived dietary enthusiasms.

Paragraph 2:

Why is so much bad science published? A recent paper, titled "The Natural Selection of Bad Science", published on the Royal Society's open science website, attempts to answer this intriguing and important question.

It says that the problem is not merely that people do bad science, but that our current system of career advancement positively encourages it.

What is important is not truth, but publication, which has become almost an end in itself.

There has been a kind of inflationary process at work: (47) nowadays anyone applying for a research post has to have published twice the number of papers that would have been required for the same post only 10 years ago.

Never mind the quality, then, count the number.

Paragraph 3:

(48) Attempts have been made to curb this tendency, for example, by trying to incorporate some measure of quality as well as quantity into the assessment of an applicant's papers.

This is the famed citation index, that is to say the number of times a paper has been quoted elsewhere in the scientific literature, the assumption being that an important paper will be cited more often than one of small account.

(49) This would be reasonable if it were not for the fact that scientists can easily arrange to cite themselves in their future publications, or get associates to do so for them in return for similar favours.

Paragraph 4:

Boiling down an individual's output to simple metrics, such as number of publications or journal impacts, entails considerable savings in time, energy and ambiguity.

Unfortunately, the long-term costs of using simple quantitative metrics to assess researcher merit are likely to be quite great.

(50) If we are serious about ensuring that our science is both meaningful and reproducible, we must ensure that our institutions encourage that kind of science.

2020

Text 1

Paragraph 1:

A group of Labour MPs, among them Yvette Cooper, are bringing in the new year with a call to institute a UK "town of culture" award.

The proposal is that it should sit alongside the existing city of culture title, which was held by Hull in 2017, and has been awarded to Coventry for 2021.

Cooper and her colleagues argue that the success of the crown for Hull, where it brought in £20m of investment and an avalanche of arts, ought not to be confined to cities.

Britain's towns, it is true, are not prevented from applying, but they generally lack the resources to put together a bid to beat their bigger competitors.

A town of culture award could, it is argued, become an annual event, attracting funding and creating jobs.

Paragraph 2:

Some might see the proposal as a booby prize for the fact that Britain is no

longer able to apply for the much more prestigious title of European capital of culture, a sought-after award bagged by Glasgow in 1990 and Liverpool in 2008.

A cynic might speculate that the UK is on the verge of disappearing into an endless fever of self-celebration in its desperation to reinvent itself for the post-Brexit world: after town of culture, who knows what will follow-village of culture? Suburb of culture? Hamlet of culture?

Paragraph 3:

It is also wise to recall that such titles are not a cure-all.

A badly run "year of culture" washes in and washes out of a place like the tide, bringing prominence for a spell but leaving no lasting benefits to the community.

The really successful holders of such titles are those that do a great deal more than fill hotel bedrooms and bring in high-profile arts events and good press for a year.

They transform the aspirations of the people who live there; they nudge the self-image of the city into a bolder and more optimistic light.

It is hard to get right, and requires a remarkable degree of vision, as well as cooperation between city authorities, the private sector, community groups and cultural organizations.

But it can be done: Glasgow's year as European capital of culture can certainly be seen as one of a complex series of factors that have turned the city into the powerhouse of art, music and theatre that it remains today.

Paragraph 4:

A "town of culture" could be not just about the arts but about honoring a town's peculiarities —helping sustain its high street, supporting local facilities and above all celebrating its people.

Jeremy Wright, the culture secretary, should welcome this positive, hope-filled proposal, and turn it into action.

Text 2**Paragraph 1:**

Scientific publishing has long been a licence to print money.

Scientists need journals in which to publish their research, so they will supply the articles without monetary reward.

Other scientists perform the specialised work of peer review also for free, because it is a central element in the acquisition of status and the production of scientific knowledge.

Paragraph 2:

With the content of papers secured for free, the publisher needs only find a market for its journal.

Until this century, university libraries were not very price sensitive.

Scientific publishers routinely report profit margins approaching 40% on their operations at a time when the rest of the publishing industry is in an existential crisis.

Paragraph 3:

The Dutch giant Elsevier, which claims to publish 25% of the scientific papers produced in the world, made profits of more than £900m last year, while UK universities alone spent more than £210m in 2016 to enable researchers to access their own publicly funded research; both figures seem to rise unstoppably despite increasingly desperate efforts to change them.

Paragraph 4:

The most drastic, an thoroughly illegal, reaction has been the emergence of Sci-Hub, a kind of global photocopier for scientific papers, set up in 2012, which now claims to offer access to every paywalled article published since 2015.

The success of Sci-Hub, which relies on researchers passing on copies they have themselves legally accessed, shows the legal ecosystem has lost legitimacy among its users and must be transformed so that it works for all participants.

Paragraph 5:

In Britain the move towards open access publishing has been driven by funding bodies.

In some ways it has been very successful.

More than half of all British scientific research is now published under open access terms: either freely available from the moment of publication, or paywalled for a year or more so that the publishers can make a profit before being placed on general release.

Paragraph 6:

Yet the new system has not yet worked out any cheaper for the universities.

Publishers have responded to the demand that they make their product free to readers by charging their writers fees to cover the costs of prep ring an article.

These range from around \$500 to \$5,000, and apparently the work gets more expensive the more that publishers do it.

A report last year pointed out that the costs both of subscriptions and of these "article preparation costs" had been steadily rising at a rate above inflation.

Paragraph 7:

In some ways the scientific publishing model resembles the economy of the social internet: labour is provided free in exchange for the hope of status, while huge profits are made by a few big firms who run the market places.

In both cases, we need a rebalancing of power.

Text 3**Paragraph 1:**

Progressives often support diversity mandates as a path to equality and a way to level the playing field.

But all too often such policies are an insincere form of virtue-signaling that benefits only the most privileged and does little to help average people.

Paragraph 2:

A pair of bills sponsored by Massachusetts state Senator Jason Lewis and House Speaker Pro Tempore Patricia Haddad, to ensure "gender parity" on boards and commissions, provide a case in point.

Paragraph 3:

Haddad and Lewis are concerned that more than half the state-government boards are less than 40 percent female.

In order to ensure that elite women have more such opportunities, they have proposed imposing government quotas.

If the bills become law, state boards and commissions will be required to set aside 50 percent of board seats for women by 2022.

Paragraph 4:

The bills are similar to a measure recently adopted in California, which last year became the first state to require gender quotas for private companies.

In signing the measure, California Governor Jerry Brown admitted that the law, which expressly classifies people on the basis of sex, is probably unconstitutional.

Paragraph 5:

The US Supreme Court frowns on sex-based classifications unless they are designed to address an "important" policy interest. Because the California law applies to all boards, even where there is no history of prior discrimination, courts are likely to rule that the law violates the constitutional guarantee of "equal protection".

Paragraph 6:

But are such government mandates even necessary? Female participation on corporate boards may not currently mirror the percentage of women in the general population, but so what?

Paragraph 7:

The number of women on corporate boards has been steadily increasing without government interference.

According to a study by Catalyst, between 2010 and 2015 the share of women on the boards of global corporations increased by 54 percent.

Paragraph 8:

Requiring companies to make gender the primary qualification for board membership will inevitably lead to less experienced private sector boards.

That is exactly what happened when Norway adopted a nationwide corporate gender quota.

Paragraph 9:

Writing in The New Republic, Alice Lee notes that increasing the number of opportunities for board membership without increasing the pool of qualified women to serve on such boards has led to a "golden skirt" phenomenon, where the same elite women scoop up multiple seats on a variety of boards.

Paragraph 10:

Next time somebody pushes corporate quotas as a way to promote gender equity, remember that such policies are largely self-serving measures that make their sponsors feel good but do little to help average women.

Text 4**Paragraph 1:**

Last Thursday, the French Senate passed a digital services tax, which would impose an entirely new tax on large multinationals that provide digital services to consumers or users in France.

Digital services include everything from providing a platform for selling goods and services online to targeting advertising based on user data, and the tax applies to gross revenue from such services.

Many French politicians and media outlets have referred to this as a "GAFA tax," meaning that it is designed to apply primarily to companies such as Google, Apple, Facebook and Amazon—in other words, multinational tech companies based in the United States.

Paragraph 2:

The digital services tax now awaits the signature of President Emmanuel Macron, who has expressed support for the measure, and it could go into effect within the next few weeks.

But it has already sparked significant controversy, with the United States trade representative opening an investigation into whether the tax discriminates against

American companies, which in turn could lead to trade sanctions against France.

Paragraph 3:

The French tax is not just a unilateral move by one country in need of revenue.

Instead, the digital services tax is part of a much larger trend, with countries over the past few years proposing or putting in place an alphabet soup of new international tax provisions.

They have included Britain's DPT. (diverted profits tax), Australia's MAAL (multinational anti-avoidance law), and India's SEP (significant economic presence) test, to name but a few.

At the same time, the European Union, Spain, Britain and several other countries have all seriously contemplated digital services taxes.

Paragraph 4:

These unilateral developments differ in their specifics, but they are all designed to tax multinationals on income and revenue that countries believe they should have a right to tax, even if international tax rules do not grant them that right.

In other words, they all share a view that the international tax system has failed to keep up with the current economy.

Paragraph 5:

In response to these many unilateral measures, the Organization for Economic Cooperation and Development (OECD) is currently working with 131 countries to reach a consensus by the end of 2020 on an international solution.

Both France and the United States are involved in the organization's work, but France's digital services tax and the American response raise questions about what the future holds for the international tax system.

Paragraph 6:

France's planned tax is a clear warning: Unless a broad consensus can be reached on reforming the international tax system, other nations are likely to follow suit, and American companies will face a cascade of different taxes from dozens of nations that will prove burdensome and costly.

翻译题:

Paragraph 1:

Following the explosion of creativity in Florence during the 14th century known as the Renaissance, the modern world saw a departure from what it had once known.

It turned from God and the authority of the Roman Catholic Church and instead favoured a more humanistic approach to being.

Renaissance ideas had spread throughout Europe well into the 17th century, with the arts and sciences flourishing extraordinarily among those with a more logical disposition.

(46) with the Church's teachings and ways of thinking eclipsed by the Renaissance, the gap between the Medieval and modern periods had been bridged leading to new and unexplored intellectual territories.

Paragraph 2:

During the Renaissance, the great minds of Nicolaus Copernicus, Johannes Kepler and Galileo Galilei demonstrated the power of scientific study and discovery.

(47) Before each of their revelations, many thinkers at the time had sustained more ancient ways of thinking, including the geo-centric view that the Earth was at the centre of our universe.

Copernicus theorized in 1543 that all of the planets that we knew of revolved not around the Earth, but the Sun, a system that was later upheld by Galileo at his own expense.

Offering up such a theory during a time of high tension between scientific and religious minds was branded as heresy and any such heretics that continued to spread these lies were to be punished by imprisonment or even death.

Paragraph 3:

(48) Despite attempts by the Church to suppress this new generation of logicians and rationalists, more explanations for how the universe functioned were being made at a rate that the people could no longer ignore.

It was with these great revelations that a new kind of philosophy founded in reason was born.

Paragraph 4:

The Church's long standing dogma was losing the great battle for truth to rationalists and scientists.

This very fact embodied the new ways of thinking that swept through Europe during most of 17th century.

(49) As many took on the duty of trying to integrate reasoning and scientific philosophies into the world, the Renaissance was over and it was time for a new era - the Age of Reason.

Paragraph 5:

The 17th and 18th centuries were times of radical change and curiosity, Scientific method, reductionism and the questioning of Church ideals was to be encouraged, as were ideas of liberty, tolerance and progress.

(50) Such actions to seek knowledge and to understand what information we already knew were captured by the Latin phrase 'sapere aude' or 'dare to know', after Immanuel Kant used it in his essay *An Answer to the Question: What is Enlightenment?*.

It was the purpose and responsibility of great minds to go forth and seek out the truth, which they believed to be founded in knowledge.

2021**Text 1****Paragraph 1:**

How can the train operators possibly justify yet another increase to rail passenger fares? It has become a grimly reliable annual ritual: every January the cost of travelling by train rises, imposing a significant extra burden on those who have no option but to use the rail network to get to work or otherwise.

This year's rise, an average of 2.7 percent, may be a fraction lower than last year's, but it is still well above the official Consumer Price Index (CPI) measure of inflation.

Paragraph 2:

Successive governments have permitted such increases on the grounds that the cost of investing in and running the rail network should be borne by those who use it, rather than the general taxpayer.

Why, the argument goes, should a car-driving pensioner from Lincolnshire have to subsidise the daily commute of a stockbroker from Surrey?

Equally, there is a sense that the travails of commuters in the South East, many of whom will face among the biggest rises, have received too much attention compared to those who must endure the relatively poor infrastructure of the Midlands and the North.

Paragraph 3:

However, over the past 12 months, those commuters have also experienced some of the worst rail strikes in years.

It is all very well train operators trumpeting the improvements they are making to the network, but passengers should be able to expect a basic level of service for the substantial sums they are now paying to travel.

The responsibility for the latest wave of strikes rests on the unions.

However, there is a strong case that those who have been worst affected by industrial action should receive compensation for the disruption they have suffered.

Paragraph 4:

The Government has pledged to change the law to introduce a minimum service requirement so that, even when strikes occur, services can continue to operate.

This should form part of a wider package of measures to address the long-running problems on Britain's railways.

Yes, more investment is needed, but passengers will not be willing to pay more indefinitely if they must also endure cramped, unreliable services, punctuated by regular chaos when timetables are changed, or planned maintenance is managed incompetently.

The threat of nationalisation may have been seen off for now, but it will return with a vengeance if the justified anger of passengers is not addressed in short order.

Text 2

Paragraph 1:

Last year marked the third year in a row of when Indonesia's bleak rate of deforestation has slowed in pace.

One reason for the turnaround may be the country's antipoverty program.

Paragraph 2:

In 2007, Indonesia started phasing in a program that gives money to its poorest residents under certain conditions, such as requiring people to keep kids in school or get regular medical care.

Called conditional cash transfers or CCTs, these social assistance programs are designed to reduce inequality and break the cycle of poverty.

They're already used in dozens of countries worldwide.

In Indonesia, the program has provided enough food and medicine to substantially reduce severe growth problems among children.

Paragraph 3:

But CCT programs don't generally consider effects on the environment.

In fact, poverty alleviation and environmental protection are often viewed as conflicting goals, says Paul Ferraro, an economist at Johns Hopkins University.

Paragraph 4:

That's because economic growth can be correlated with environmental degradation, while protecting the environment is sometimes correlated with greater poverty.

However, those correlations don't prove cause and effect.

The only previous study analyzing causality, based on an area in Mexico that had instituted CCTs, supported the traditional view.

There, as people got more money, some of them may have more cleared land for cattle to raise for meat, Ferraro says.

Paragraph 5:

Such programs do not have to negatively affect the environment, though.

Ferraro wanted to see if Indonesia's poverty-alleviation program was affecting deforestation.

Indonesia has the third- largest area of tropical forest in the world and one of the highest deforestation rates.

Paragraph 6:

Ferraro analyzed satellite data showing annual forest loss from 2008 to 2012—including during Indonesia’s phase-in of the antipoverty program—in 7,468 forested villages across 15 provinces and multiple islands.

The duo separated the effects of the CCT program on forest loss from other factors, like weather and macroeconomic changes, which were also affecting forest loss.

With that, “we see that the program is associated with a 30 percent reduction in deforestation,” Ferraro says.

Paragraph 7:

That’s likely because the rural poor are using the money as makeshift insurance policies against inclement weather, Ferraro says.

Typically, if rains are delayed, people may clear land to plant more rice to supplement their harvests.

With the CCTs, individuals instead can use the money to supplement their harvests.

Paragraph 8:

Whether this research translates elsewhere is anybody’s guess.

Ferraro suggests the results may transfer to other parts of Asia, due to commonalities such as the importance of growing rice and market access.

And regardless of transferability, the study shows that what’s good for people may also be good for the environment.

Even if this program didn’t reduce poverty.

Ferraro says, “the value of the avoided deforestation just for carbon dioxide emissions alone is more than the program costs.”

Text 3**Paragraph 1:**

As a historian, who’s always searching for the text or the image that makes us re-evaluate the past.

I’ve become preoccupied with looking for photographs that show our Victorian ancestors smiling (what better way to shatter the image of 19th-century prudery?).

I’ve found quite a few, and—since I started posting them on Twitter—they have been causing quite a stir.

People have been surprised to see evidence that Victorians had fun and could, and did, laugh.

They are noting that the Victorians suddenly seem to become more human as the hundred-or-so years that separate us fade away through our common experience of laughter.

Of course, I need to concede that my collection of “Smiling Victorians” makes up only a tiny percentage of the vast catalogue of photographic portraiture created between 1840 and 1900, the majority of which show sitters posing miserably and stiffly in front of painted backdrops, or staring absently into the middle distance.

How do we explain this trend?

Paragraph 2:

During the 1840s and 1850s, in the early days of photography, exposure times were notoriously long: the daguerreotype photographic method (producing an image on a silvered copper plate) could take several minutes to complete, resulting in blurred images as sitters shifted position or adjusted their limbs.

The thought of holding a fixed grin as the camera performed its magical duties was too much to contemplate, and so a non-committal blank stare became the norm.

Paragraph 3:

But exposure times were much quicker by the 1880s, and the introduction of the Box Brownie and other portable cameras meant that, though slow by today’s digital standards, the exposure was almost instantaneous.

Spontaneous smiles were relatively easy to capture by the 1890s, so we must look elsewhere for an explanation of why Victorians still hesitated to smile.

Paragraph 4:

One explanation might be the loss of dignity displayed through a cheesy grin.

“Nature gave us lips to conceal our teeth,” ran one popular Victorian maxim, alluding to the fact that before the birth of proper dentistry, mouths were often in a shocking state of hygiene.

A flashing set of healthy and clean, regular “pearly whites” was a rare sight in Victorian society, the preserve of the super-rich (and even then, dental hygiene was not guaranteed).

Paragraph 5:

A toothy grin (especially when there were gaps or blackened gnashers) lacked class: drunks, tramps, prostitutes and buffoonish music hall performers might gurn and grin with a smile as wide as Lewis Carroll’s gum-exposing Cheshire Cat, but it was not a becoming look for properly bred persons.

Even Mark Twain, a man who enjoyed a hearty laugh, said that when it came to photographic portraits there could be “nothing more damning than a silly, foolish smile fixed forever”.

Text 4

Paragraph 1:

From the early days of broadband, advocates for consumers and web-based companies worried that the cable and phone companies selling broadband connections had the power and incentive to favor their own or their partners' websites and services over those of their rivals.

That's why there has been such a strong demand for rules that would prevent broadband providers from picking winners and losers online, preserving the freedom and innovation that have been the lifeblood of the internet.

Paragraph 2:

Yet that demand has been almost impossible to fill — in part because of pushback from broadband providers, anti-regulatory conservatives and the courts.

A federal appeals court weighed in again Tuesday, but instead of providing a badly needed resolution, it only prolonged the fight.

At issue before the U.S. Court of Appeals for the District of Columbia Circuit was the latest take of the Federal Communications Commission on net neutrality, adopted on a party-line vote in 2017.

The Republican-penned order not only eliminated the strict net neutrality rules the FCC had adopted when it had a Democratic majority in 2015, but rejected the commission's authority to require broadband providers to do much of anything.

The order also declared that state and local governments couldn't regulate broadband providers either.

Paragraph 3:

The commission argued that other agencies would protect against anti-competitive behavior, such as a broadband-providing conglomerate like AT&T favoring its own video-streaming service at the expense of Netflix and Apple TV.

Yet the FCC also ended the investigations of broadband providers that imposed data caps on their rivals' streaming services but not their own.

Paragraph 4:

On Tuesday, the appeals court unanimously upheld the 2017 order deregulating broadband providers, citing a Supreme Court ruling from 2005 that upheld a similarly deregulatory move.

But Judge Patricia Millett rightly argued in a concurring opinion that "the result is unhinged from the realities of modern broadband service," and said Congress or the Supreme Court could intervene to "avoid trapping Internet regulation in technological anachronism."

Paragraph 5:

In the meantime, the court threw out the FCC's attempt to block all state rules on net neutrality, while preserving the commission's power to pre-empt individual state laws that undermine its order.

That means more battles like the one now going on between the Justice Department and California, which enacted a tough net neutrality law in the wake of the FCC's abdication.

Paragraph 6:

The endless legal battles and back-and-forth at the FCC cry out for Congress to act.

It needs to give the commission explicit authority once and for all to bar broadband providers from meddling in the traffic on their network and to create clear rules protecting openness and innovation online.

翻译题:

Paragraph 1:

World War II was the watershed event for higher education in modern western societies.

(46) Those societies came out of the war with levels of enrollment that had been roughly constant at 3% ~ 5% of the relevant age groups during the decades before the war.

But after the war, great social and political changes arising out of the successful war against Fascism created a growing demand in European and American economies for increasing numbers of graduates with more than a secondary school education.

(47) And the demand that rose in those societies for entry to higher education extended to groups and social classes that had not thought of attending to a university before the war.

These demands resulted in a very rapid expansion of the systems of higher education, beginning in the 1960s and developing very rapidly though unevenly in the 1970s and 1980s.

Paragraph 2:

The growth of higher education manifests itself in at least three quite different ways, and these in turn have given rise to different sets of problems.

There was first the rate of growth: (48) in many countries of Western Europe the numbers of students in higher education doubled within five-year periods during the decade of the 1960s and doubled again in seven, eight, or 10 years by the middle of the 1970s.

Second, growth obviously affected the absolute size both of systems and individual institutions.

And third, growth was reflected in changes in the proportion of the relevant age group enrolled in institutions of higher education.

Paragraph 3:

Each of these manifestations of growth carried its own peculiar problems in its wake.

For example, a high growth rate placed great strains on the existing structures of governance, of administration, and above all of socialization.

When a very large proportion of all the members of an institution are new recruits, they threaten to overwhelm the processes whereby recruits to a more slowly growing system are inducted into its value system and learn its norms and forms.

When a faculty or department grows from, say, five to 20 members within three or four years, (49) and when the new staff are predominantly young men and women fresh from postgraduate study, they largely define the norms of academic life in that faculty and its standards.

And if the postgraduate student population also grows rapidly and there is loss of a close apprenticeship relationship between faculty members and students, the student culture becomes the chief socializing force for new postgraduate students, with consequences for the intellectual and academic life of the institution—this was seen in America as well as in France, Italy, West Germany, and Japan.

(50) High growth rates increased the chances for academic innovation; they also weakened the forms and processes by which teachers and students are admitted into a community of scholars during periods of stability or slow growth.

In the 1960s and 1970s, European universities saw marked changes in their governance arrangements, with the empowerment of junior faculty and to some degree of students as well.

They also saw higher levels of student discontent, reflecting the weakening of traditional forms of academic communities.

2022**Text 1****Paragraph 1:**

People often complain that plastics are too durable.

Water bottles, shopping bags, and other trash litter the planet, from Mount Everest to the Mariana Trench, because plastics are everywhere and don't break down easily.

But some plastic materials change over time.

They crack and frizzle. They “weep” out additives. They melt into sludge.

All of which creates huge headaches for institutions, such as museums, trying to preserve culturally important objects.

The variety of plastic objects at risk is dizzying: early radios, avant-garde sculptures, celluloid animation stills from Disney films, the first artificial heart.

Paragraph 2:

Certain artifacts are especially vulnerable because some pioneers in plastic art didn't always know how to mix ingredients properly, says Thea van Oosten, a polymer chemist who, until retiring a few years ago, worked for decades at the Cultural Heritage Agency of the Netherlands.

“It’s like baking a cake: If you don’t have exact amounts, it goes wrong.” she says.

“The object you make is already a time bomb.”

Paragraph 3:

And sometimes, it's not the artist's fault.

In the 1960s, the Italian artist Picro Gilardi began to create hundreds of bright, colorful foam pieces.

Those pieces included small beds of roses and other items as well as a few dozen “nature carpets”—large rectangles decorated with foam pumpkins, cabbages, and watermelons.

He wanted viewers to walk around on the carpets—which meant they had to be durable.

Paragraph 4:

Unfortunately, the polyurethane foam he used is inherently unstable.

It's especially vulnerable to light damage, and by the mid-1990s, Gilardi’s pumpkins, roses, and other figures were splitting and crumbling.

Paragraph 5:

Museums locked some of them away in the dark.

So van Oosten and her colleagues worked to preserve Gilardi's sculptures.

They infused some with stabilizing and consolidating chemicals. Van Oosten calls those chemicals "sunscreens" because their goal was to prevent further light damage and rebuild worn polymer fibers.

She is proud that several sculptures have even gone on display again, albeit sometimes beneath protective cases.

Paragraph 6:

Despite success stories like van Oosten's, preservation of plastics will likely get harder.

Old objects continue to deteriorate.

Worse, biodegradable plastics designed to disintegrate, are increasingly common.

Paragraph 7:

And more is at stake here than individual objects.

Joana Lia Ferreira, an assistant professor of conservation and restoration at the nova School of Science and Technology, notes that archaeologists first defined the great material ages of human history Stone Age, Iron Age, and so on after examining artifacts in museums.

We now live in an age of plastic, she says, "and what we decide to collect today, what we decide to preserve.... will have a strong impact on how in the future we'll be seen."

Text 2

Paragraph 1:

As the latest crop of students pen their undergraduate application form and weigh up their options, it may be worth considering just how the point, purpose and value of a degree has changed and what Generation Z need to consider as they start the third stage of their educational journey.

Paragraph 2:

Millennials were told that if you did well in school, got a decent degree, you would be set up for life.

But that promise has been found wanting.

As degrees became universal, they became devalued.

Education was no longer a secure route of social mobility.

Today, 28 percent of graduates in the UK are in non-graduate roles, a percentage which is double the average among OECD countries.

Paragraph 3:

This is not to say that there is no point in getting a degree, but rather stress that a degree is not for everyone, that the switch from classroom to lecture hall is not an inevitable one and that other options are available.

Paragraph 4:

Thankfully, there are signs that this is already happening, with Generation Z seeking to learn from their millennial predecessors, even if parents and teachers tend to be still set in the degree mindset.

Employers have long seen the advantages of hiring school leavers who often prove themselves to be more committed and loyal employees than graduates.

Many too are seeing the advantages of scrapping a degree requirement for certain roles.

Paragraph 5:

For those for whom a degree is the desired route, consider that this may well be the first of many.

In this age of generalists, it pays to have specific knowledge or skills.

Postgraduates now earn 40 percent more than graduates.

When more and more of us have a degree, it makes sense to have two.

Paragraph 6:

It is unlikely that Generation Z will be done with education at 18 or 21; they will need to be constantly up - skilling throughout their career to stay employable.

It has been estimated that this generation, due to the pressures of technology, the wish for personal fulfillment and desire for diversity, will work for 17 different employers over the course of their working life and have five different careers.

Education, and not just knowledge gained on campus, will be a core part of Generation Z's career trajectory.

Paragraph 7:

Older generations often talk about their degree in the present and personal tense: 'I am a geographer.' or 'I am a classist.'

Their sons or daughters would never say such a thing; it's as if they already know that their degree won't define them in the same way.

Text 3

Paragraph 1:

Enlightening, challenging, stimulating, fun. These were some of the words that Nature readers used to describe their experience of art-science collaborations in a series of articles on partnerships between artists and researchers.

Nearly 40% of the roughly 350 people who responded to an accompanying poll said, they had collaborated with artists, and almost all said they would consider doing so in future.

Paragraph 2:

Such an encouraging results is not surprising.

Scientists are increasingly seeking out visual artists to help them communicate their work to new audiences.

“Artists help scientists reach a broader audience and make emotional connections that enhance learning.” One respondent said.

Paragraph 3:

One example of how artists and scientists have together rocked the scenes came last month when the Sydney Symphony Orchestra performed a reworked version of Antonio Vivaldi’s The Four Seasons.

They reimagined the 300-year-old score by injecting the latest climate prediction data for each season provided by Monash University's Climate Change Communication Research Hub.

The performance was a creative call to action ahead of November's United Nations Climate Change Conference in Glasgow, UK.

Paragraph 4:

But a genuine partnership must be a two-way street.

Fewer artist than scientists responded to the Nature poll, however, several respondents noted that artists do not simply assist scientists with their communication requirements.

Nor should their work be considered only as an object of study.

The alliances are most valuable when scientists and artists have a shared stake in a project, are able to jointly design it and can critique each other’s work.

Such an approach can both prompt new research as well as result in powerful art.

Paragraph 5:

More than half a century ago, the Massachusetts Institute of Technology opened its Center for Advanced Visual Studies(CAVS) to explore the role of technology in culture.

The founders deliberately focused their projects around light-hance the “visual studies” in the name.

Light was a something that both artists and scientists had an interest in and therefore could form the basis of collaboration.

As science and technology progressed, and divided into more sub-disciplines, the centre was simultaneously looking to a time when leading researchers could also be artists, writers and poets, and vice versa.

Paragraph 6:

Nature's poll findings suggest that this trend is as strong as ever, but, to make a collaboration work both sides need to invest time and embrace surprise and challenge.

The reach of art-science tie-ups needs to go beyond the necessary purpose of research communication, and participants.

Artists and scientists alike are immersed in discovery and invention, and challenge and critique are core to both, too.

Text 4

Paragraph 1:

The personal grievance provisions of New Zealand's Employment Relations Act 2000(ERA) prevent an employer from firing an employee without good cause.

Instead, dismissals must be justified.

Employers must both show cause and act in a procedurally fair way.

Paragraph 2:

Personal grievance procedures were designed to guard the jobs of ordinary workers from "unjustified dismissals" The premise was that the common law of contract lacked sufficient safeguards for workers against arbitrary conduct by management.

Long gone are the days when a boss could simply give an employee contractual notice.

Paragraph 4:

But these provisions create difficulties for businesses when applied to highly paid managers and executives.

Paragraph 5:

As countless boards and business owners will attest, constraining firms from firing poorly performing, high-earning managers is a handbrake on boosting productivity and overall performance.

The difference between C - grade and A-grade managers may very well be the difference between business success or failure.

Between preserving the jobs of ordinary workers or losing them.

Yet mediocrity is no longer enough to justify a dismissal.

Consequently-and paradoxically - laws introduced to protect the jobs o ordinary workers may be placing those jobs at risk.

Paragraph 6:

If not placing jobs at risk, to the extent employment protection laws constrain business owners from dismissing under-performing managers, those laws act as a constraint on firm productivity and therefore on workers' wages.

Indeed, in "An International Perspective on New Zealand's Productivity Paradox" (2014), the Productivity Commission singled out the low quality of managerial capabilities as a cause of the country's poor productivity growth record.

Paragraph 7:

Nor are highly paid managers themselves immune from the harm caused by the ERA's unjustified dismissal procedures.

Because employment protection laws make it costlier to fire an employee, employers are more cautious about hiring new staff.

This makes it harder for the marginal manager to gain employment.

And firms pay staff less because firms carry the burden of the employment arrangement going wrong.

Paragraph 8:

Society also suffers from excessive employment protections.

Stringent job dismissal regulations adversely affect productivity growth and hamper both prosperity and overall well-being.

Paragraph 9:

Across the Tasman Sea, Australia deals with the unjustified dismissal paradox by excluding employees earning above a specified "high-income threshold" from the protection of its unfair dismissal laws.

In New Zealand, a 206 private members' Bill tried to permit firms and high-income employees to contract out of the unjustified dismissal regime.

However, the mechanisms proposed were unwieldy and the Bill was voted down following the change in government later that year.

翻译题:

The Man Who Broke Napoleon's Codes - Mark Urban

Paragraph 1:

Between 1807 and 1814 the Iberian Peninsula (comprising Spain and Portugal) was the scene of a titanic and merciless struggle.

It took place on many different planes: between Napoleon's French army and the angry inhabitants; between the British, ever keen to exacerbate the emperor's difficulties, and the marshals sent from Paris to try to keep them in check; between new forces of science and meritocracy and old ones of conservatism and birth.

(46) It was also, and this is unknown even to many people well read about the period, a battle between those who made codes and those who broke them.

Paragraph 2:

I first discovered the Napoleonic cryptographic battle a few years ago when I was reading Sir Charles Oman's epic History of the Peninsular War.

In volume V he had attached an appendix, The Scovell Ciphers.

(47) It listed many documents in code that had been captured from the French army of Spain, and whose secrets had been revealed by the work of one George Scovell, an officer in British headquarters.

Oman rated Scovell's significance highly, but at the same time, the general nature of his History meant that (48) he could not analyze carefully what this obscure officer may or may not have contributed to that great struggle between nations or indeed tell us anything much about the man himself.

I was keen to read more, but was surprised to find that Oman's appendix, published in 1914, was the only considered thing that had been written about this secret war.

Paragraph 3:

I became convinced that this story was every bit as exciting and significant as that of Enigma and the breaking of German codes in the Second World War.

The question was, could it be told?

Paragraph 4:

Studying Scovell's papers at the Public Record Office, London, I found that he had left an extensive journal and copious notes about his work in the Peninsula.

What was more, many original French dispatches had been preserved in this collection, which I realized was priceless.

(49) There may have been many spies and intelligence officers during the Napoleonic Wars, but it is usually extremely difficult to find the material they actually provided or worked on.

Paragraph 5:

Furthermore, Scovell's story involved much more than just intelligence work.

His status in Lord Wellington's headquarters and the recognition given to him for his work were all bound up with the class politics of the army at the time.

His tale of self-improvement and hard work would make a fascinating biography in its own right, but represents something more than that.

(50)Just as the code breaking has its wider relevance in the struggle for Spain, so his attempts to make his way up the promotion ladder speak volumes about British society.

Paragraph 6:

The story of Wellington himself also gripped me.

Half a century ago his campaigns were considered a central part of the British historical mythology and spoon-fed to schoolboys.

More recently this has not been the case, which is a great shame.

A generation has grown up.

2023**Text 1****Paragraph 1:**

The weather in Texas may have cooled since the recent extreme heat, but the temperature will be high at the State Board of Education meeting in Austin this month as officials debate how climate change is taught in Texas schools.

Paragraph 2:

Pat Hardy, who sympathises with the views of the energy sector, is resisting proposed changes to science standards for pre-teen pupils.

“There are as many scientists working against all the panic of global climate change as there are those who are pushing it,” she claims.

“Texas is an energy state and we need to recognise that. You need to remember where your bread is buttered.”

Paragraph 3:

Most scientists and experts sharply dispute Hardy’s views.

Board members like her “casually dismiss the career work of scholars and scientists as just another misguided opinion,” says Dan Quinn, senior communications strategist at the Texas Freedom Network, a non-profit group that monitors public education.

Paragraph 4:

Such debates reflect fierce discussions across the US, as researchers, policymakers, teachers and students step up demands for a greater focus on teaching about the facts of climate change in schools.

Paragraph 5:

A study last year by the National Center for Science Education, a non-profit group of scientists and teachers, looking at how state public schools across the country address climate change in science classes, gave barely half of US states a grade B+ or higher.

Among the 10 worst performers were some of the most populous states, including Texas, which was given the lowest grade (F) and has a disproportionate influence because its textbooks are widely sold elsewhere.

Paragraph 6:

Glenn Branch, the center’s deputy director, cautions that setting state-level science standards is only one limited benchmark in a country that decentralises decisions to local school boards.

Even if a state is considered a high performer in its science standards, “that does not mean it will be taught”, he says.

Paragraph 7:

Another issue is that, while climate change is well integrated into some subjects and at some ages — such as earth and space sciences in high schools — it is not as well represented in curricula for younger children and in subjects that are more widely taught, such as biology and chemistry.

It is also less prominent in many social studies courses.

Paragraph 8:

Branch points out that, even if a growing number of official guidelines and textbooks reflect scientific consensus on climate change, unofficial educational materials that convey more slanted perspectives are being distributed to teachers.

They include materials sponsored by libertarian think-tanks and energy industry associations.

Text 2**Paragraph 1:**

Communities throughout New England have been attempting to regulate short-term rentals since sites like Airbnb took off in the 2010s.

Now, with record-high home prices and historically low inventory, there's an increased urgency in such regulation, particularly among those who worry that developers will come in and buy up swaths of housing to flip for a fortune on the short-term rental market.

Paragraph 2:

In New Hampshire, where the rental vacancy rate has dropped below 1 percent, housing advocates fear unchecked short-term rentals will put further pressure on an already strained market.

The State Legislature recently voted against a bill that would've made it illegal for towns to create legislation restricting short-term rentals.

Paragraph 3:

“We are at a crisis level on the supply of rental housing,” said Nick Taylor, executive director of the Workforce Housing Coalition of the Greater Seacoast.

Without enough affordable housing in southern New Hampshire towns, “employers are having a hard time attracting employees, and workers are having a hard time finding a place to live,” Taylor said.

Paragraph 4:

However, short-term rentals also provide housing for tourists, pointed out Ryan Castle, CEO of a local association of realtors.

“A lot of workers are servicing the tourist industry, and the tourism industry is serviced by those people coming in short term,” Castle said, “and so it’s a cyclical effect.”

Paragraph 5:

Short-term rentals themselves are not the crux of the issue, said Keren Horn, an expert on affordable housing policy.

“I think individuals being able to rent out their second home is a good thing. If it’s their vacation home anyway, and it’s just empty, why can’t you make money off it?” Horn said.

Issues arise, however, when developers attempt to create large-scale short-term rental facilities — de facto hotels — to bypass taxes and regulations.

“I think the question is, shouldn’t a developer who’s really building a hotel, but disguising it as not a hotel, be treated and taxed and regulated like a hotel?” Horn said.

Paragraph 6:

At the end of 2018, Governor Charlie Baker of Massachusetts signed a bill to rein in those potential investor-buyers.

The bill requires every rental host to register with the state, mandates they carry insurance, and opens the potential for local taxes on top of a new state levy.

Boston took things even further, requiring renters to register with the city’s Inspectional Services Department.

Paragraph 7:

Horn said similar registration requirements could benefit struggling cities and towns, but “if we want to make a change in the housing market, the main one is we have to build a lot more.”

Text 3

Paragraph 1:

If you’re heading for your nearest branch of Waterstones, the biggest book retailer in the UK, in search of the Duchess of Sussex’s new children’s book *The Bench*, you might have to be prepared to hunt around a bit; the same may be true of *The President’s Daughter*, the new thriller by Bill Clinton and James Patterson.

Both of these books are published next week by Penguin Random House (PRH), a company currently involved in a stand-off with Waterstones.

Paragraph 2:

The problem began late last year, when PRH confirmed that it had introduced a credit limit with Waterstones “at a very significant level”.

The trade magazine *The Bookseller* reported that Waterstones branch managers were being told to remove PRH books from prominent areas such as tables, display spaces and windows, and were “quietly retiring them to their relevant sections”.

Paragraph 3:

PRH declined to comment on the issue, but a spokesperson for Waterstones told me: “Waterstones are currently operating with reduced credit terms from PRH, the only publisher in the UK to place any limitations on our ability to trade.

We are not boycotting PRH titles but we are doing our utmost to ensure that availability for customers remains good despite the lower overall levels of stock.”

“We are hopeful with our shops now open again that normality will return and that we will be allowed to buy appropriately. Certainly, our shops are exceptionally busy. The sales for our May Books of the Month surpassed any month since 2018.”

Paragraph 4:

In the meantime, PRH authors have been the losers.

Big-name PRH authors may suffer a bit, but it’s those mid-list authors, who normally rely on Waterstones staff’s passion for promoting books by lesser-known writers, who will be praying for an end to the dispute.

Paragraph 5:

It comes at a time when authors are already worried about the consequences of the proposed merger between PRH and another big publisher, Simon & Schuster — the reduction in the number of unaligned UK publishers is likely to lead to fewer bidding wars, lower advances, and more conformity in terms of what is published.

Paragraph 6:

“This is all part of a wider change towards concentration of power,” says literary agent Andrew Lownie.

“The publishing industry talks about diversity in terms of authors and staff but it also needs a plurality of ways of delivering intellectual contact, choice and different voices.

After all, many of the most interesting books in recent years have come from small publishers.”

Paragraph 7:

We shall see whether that plurality is a casualty of the current need among publishers to be big enough to take on all-comers.

Text 4

Paragraph 1:

Scientific papers are the recordkeepers of progress in research.

Each year researchers publish millions of papers in more than 30,000 journals.

The scientific community measures the quality of those papers in a number of ways, including the perceived quality of the journal (as reflected by the title's impact factor) and the number of citations a specific paper accumulates.

The careers of scientists and the reputation of their institutions depend on the number and prestige of the papers they produce, but even more so on the citations attracted by these papers.

Paragraph 2:

Citation cartels, where journals, authors, and institutions conspire to inflate citation numbers, have existed for a long time.

In 2016, researchers developed an algorithm to recognize suspicious citation patterns, including groups of authors that disproportionately cite one another and groups of journals that cite each other frequently to increase the impact factors of their publications.

Recently, another expression of this predatory behavior has emerged: so-called support service consultancies that provide language and other editorial support to individual authors and to journals sometimes advise contributors to add a number of citations to their articles.

Paragraph 3:

The advent of electronic publishing and authors' need to find outlets for their papers resulted in thousands of new journals.

The birth of predatory journals wasn't far behind.

These journals can act as milk cows where every single article in an issue may cite a specific paper or a series of papers.

In some instances, there is absolutely no relationship between the content of the article and the citations.

The peculiar part is that the journal that the editor is supposedly working for is not profiting at all — it is just providing citations to other journals.

Such practices can lead an article to accrue more than 150 citations in the same year that it was published.

Paragraph 4:

How insidious is this type of citation manipulation? In one example, an individual — acting as author, editor, and consultant — was able to use at least 15 journals as citation providers to articles published by five scientists at three universities.

The problem is rampant in Scopus, a citation database, which includes a high number of the new "international" journals.

In fact, a listing in Scopus seems to be a criterion to be targeted in this type of citation manipulation.

Paragraph 5:

Scopus itself has all the data necessary to detect this malpractice.

Red flags include a large number of citations to an article within the first year.

And for authors who wish to steer clear of citation cartel activities: when an editor, a reviewer, or a support service asks you to add inappropriate references, do not oblige and do report the request to the journal.

翻译题:

Paragraph 1:

There has been some exploration around the use of AI in digital marketing.

For example, AI can be used to analyse what type of advertising content or copy would be appropriate to 'speak' to a specific target customer group by revealing information about trends and preferences through the analysis of big data.

(46) AI can also be used to identify the lifestyle choices of customers regarding their hobbies, favourite celebrities, music choices, and fashions to provide unique content in marketing messages put out through social media.

At the same time AI can also be used to generate content for social media posts and chat sites.

AI can also provide a bridge between the need of the brand to communicate emotionally with the customer and identifying their rapidly changing needs.

Paragraph 2:

The main disadvantage of using AI to respond to customers is that there are concerns about trusting personal interactions to machines, which could lead not only to the subsequent loss of interpersonal connections, but also to a decrease in marketing personnel.

Paragraph 3:

(47) Some believe that AI is negatively impacting on the marketer's role by reducing creativity and removing jobs, but they are aware that it is a way of reducing costs and creating new information.

By allowing AI to develop content some brand marketers may find that they are losing control over the brand narrative.

(48) Algorithms that are used to simulate human interactions are creating many of these concerns, especially as no-one is quite sure what the outcomes of using AI to interact with customers will be.

Paragraph 4:

For AI to be successful, data needs to be accessible, but the use of personal data is becoming more regulated and the automated sharing of data is becoming more difficult.

(49) If customers are not willing to share data, AI will be starved of essential information and will not be able to function effectively or employ machine learning to improve its marketing content and communication.

Therefore, unless customers are prepared to sign release agreements, the use of AI may become somewhat restricted in the future.

Not only can AI help to create the marketing content, but it can also provide a non-intrusive way of delivering the content to the target customers.

Data can be gathered on where the customer can be engaged, such as location, devices used, website interactions, and sites visited, to display marketing messages in appropriate forms, including emails, social media posts, pop-up advertisements, and banners at an appropriate frequency.

(50) The non-intrusive delivery of the marketing messages in a way that is sensitive to the needs of the target customer is one of the critical challenges to the digital marketer.

Paragraph 5:

Understanding humans may be complicated, but we reveal a considerable amount about what appeals to us through our browsing history.

2024**Text 1****Paragraph 1:**

Nearly 2,000 years ago, as the Romans began to pull out of Scotland, they left behind a curious treasure: 10 tons of nails, nearly a million of the things.

The nail hoard was discovered in 1960 in a four-metre-deep pit covered by two metres of gravel.

Paragraph 2:

Why had the Romans buried a million nails? The likely explanation is that the withdrawal was rushed, and they didn't want the local Caledonians getting their hands on 10 tons of weapon-grade iron.

The Romans buried the nails so deep that they would not be discovered for almost two millennia.

Paragraph 3:

Later civilisations would value the skilled blacksmith's labour in a nail even more than the raw material.

As Roma Agrawal explains in her new delightful book *Nuts and Bolts*, early 17th-century Virginians would sometimes burn down their homes if they were planning to relocate.

This was an attempt to recover the valuable nails, which could be reused after sifting the ashes.

The idea that one might burn down an entire house just to reclaim the nails underlines how scarce, costly and valuable the simple-seeming technology was.

Paragraph 4:

The price of nails fell by 90% between the late 1700s and mid-1900s, as economist Daniel Sichel points out in a research paper.

According to Sichel, although the falling price of nails was driven partly by cheaper iron and cheaper energy, most of the credit goes to nail manufacturers who simply found more efficient ways to turn steel into nails.

Paragraph 5:

Nails themselves have changed over the years, but Sichel studied them because they haven't changed much.

Roman lamps and Roman chariots are very different from LED strips and sports cars, but Roman nails are still clearly nails.

It would be absurd to try to track the changing price of sports cars since 1695, but to ask the same question of nails makes perfect sense.

Paragraph 6:

I make no apology for being obsessed by a particular feature of these objects: their price.

I am an economist, after all.

After writing two books about the history of inventions, one thing I've learnt is that while it is the enchantingly sophisticated technologies that get all the hype, it's the cheap technologies that change the world.

Paragraph 7:

The Gutenberg printing press transformed civilisation not by changing the nature of writing but by changing its cost — and it would have achieved little without a parallel collapse in the price of surfaces to write on, thanks to an often-overlooked technology called paper.

Solar panels had few niche uses until they became cheap; now they are transforming the global energy system.

Text 2**Paragraph 1:**

Parenting tips obtained from hunter-gatherers in Africa may be the key to bringing up more contented children, researchers have suggested.

The idea is based on studies of communities such as the Kung of Botswana, where each child is cared for by many adults.

Kung children as young as four will help to look after younger ones and “baby-wearing”, in which infants are carried in slings, is considered the norm.

Paragraph 2:

According to Dr Nikhil Chaudhary, an evolutionary anthropologist at Cambridge University, these practices, known as alloparenting, could lead to less anxiety for children and parents.

Paragraph 3:

Dr Annie Swanepoel, a child psychiatrist, believes that there are ways to incorporate them into western life.

In Germany, one scheme has paired an old people's home with a nursery.

The residents help to look after the children, an arrangement akin to alloparenting.

Another measure could be encouraging friendships between children in different school years, to mirror the unsupervised mixed-age playgroups in hunter-gatherer communities.

Paragraph 4:

In a paper published in the Journal of Child Psychology and Psychiatry, researchers said that the western nuclear family was a recent invention which broke with evolutionary history.

This abrupt shift to an “intensive mothering narrative”, which suggests that mothers should manage childcare alone, was likely to have been harmful.

“Such narratives can lead to maternal exhaustion and have dangerous consequences,” they wrote.

Paragraph 5:

By contrast, in hunter-gatherer societies adults other than the parents can provide almost half of a child’s care.

One previous study looked at the Efé people of the Democratic Republic of Congo.

It found that infants had an average of 14 alloparents a day by the time they were 18 weeks old, and were passed between caregivers eight times an hour.

Paragraph 6:

Chaudhary said that parents now have less childcare support from family and social networks than during most of humans’ evolutionary history, but introducing additional caregivers could reduce stress and maternal depression, which could have a “knock-on” benefit to a child’s wellbeing.

An infant born to a hunter-gatherer society could have more than ten caregivers — this contrasts starkly to nursery settings in the UK where regulations call for a ratio of one carer to four children aged two to three.

Paragraph 7:

While hunter-gatherer children learnt from observation and imitation in mixed-age playgroups, researchers said that western “instructive teaching”, where pupils are asked to sit still, may contribute to conditions such as attention deficit hyperactivity disorder.

Chaudhary said that Britain should explore the possibility that older siblings helping their parents “might also enhance their own social development.”

Text 3**Paragraph 1:**

A Polish digital artist who uses classical painting styles to create dreamy fantasy landscapes, Greg Rutkowski has made illustrations for games such as Dungeons & Dragons and Magic: The Gathering.

And he’s become a sudden hit in the new world of text-to-image AI generation.

Paragraph 2:

His distinctive style is now one of the most commonly used prompts in the new open-source AI art generator Stable Diffusion.

The tool, along with other popular image-generation AI models, allows anyone to create impressive images based on text prompts.

For example, type in “Wizard with sword and a glowing orb of magic fire fights a fierce dragon Greg Rutkowski,” and the system will produce something that looks not a million miles away from works in Rutkowski’s style.

Paragraph 3:

But these open-source programs are built by scraping images from the internet, often without permission and proper attribution to artists.

As a result, they are raising tricky questions about ethics and copyright.

And artists like Rutkowski have had enough.

Paragraph 4:

According to the website Lexica, which tracks over 10 million images and prompts generated by Stable Diffusion, Rutkowski’s name has been used as a prompt around 93,000 times.

Rutkowski was initially surprised but thought it might be a good way to reach new audiences.

Then he tried searching for his name to see if a piece he had worked on had been published.

The online search brought back work that had his name attached to it but wasn’t his.

Paragraph 5:

“It’s been just a month.

What about in a year? I probably won’t be able to find my work out there because the internet will be flooded with AI art,” Rutkowski says. “That’s concerning.”

Paragraph 6:

Other artists besides Rutkowski have been surprised by the apparent popularity of their work in text-to-image generators — and some are now fighting back.

Karla Ortiz, an illustrator based in San Francisco who found her work in Stable Diffusion’s data set, has been raising awareness about the issues around AI art and copyright.

Paragraph 7:

Artists say they risk losing income as people start using AI-generated images based on copyrighted material for commercial purposes.

But it’s also a lot more personal, Ortiz says, arguing that because art is so closely linked to a person, it could raise data protection and privacy problems.

Paragraph 8:

“There is a coalition growing within artist industries to figure out how to tackle or mitigate this,” says Ortiz.

The group is in its early days of mobilization, which could involve pushing for new policies or regulation.

One suggestion is that AI models could be trained on images in the public domain, and AI companies could forge partnerships with museums and artists, Ortiz says.

Text 4**Paragraph 1:**

The miracle of the Chesapeake Bay lies not in its depths, but in the complexity of its natural construction, the interaction of fresh and saline waters, and the mix of land and water.

Paragraph 2:

The shallows provide homes for hundreds of species while storing floodwaters, filtering pollutants from water, and protecting nearby communities from potentially destructive storm surges.

Paragraph 3:

All this was put at great risk late last month, when the U.S.

Supreme Court issued a ruling in an Idaho case that provides the U.S.

Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) far less authority to regulate wetlands and waterways.

Specifically, a 5-4 majority decided that wetlands protected by the EPA under its Clean Water Act authority must have a “continuous surface connection” to bodies of water.

This narrowing of the regulatory scope was a victory for builders, mining operators and other commercial interests often at odds with environmental rules.

And it carries “significant repercussions for water quality and flood control throughout the United States,” as Justice Brett Kavanaugh observed.

Paragraph 4:

In Maryland, the good news is that there are many state laws in place that provide wetlands protections.

But that’s a very shortsighted view, particularly when it comes to the Chesapeake Bay.

The reality is that water, and the pollutants that so often come with it, don’t respect state boundaries.

The Chesapeake draws from a 64,000-square-mile watershed that extends into Virginia, Pennsylvania, New York, West Virginia, the District of Columbia and Delaware.

Will those jurisdictions extend the same protections now denied under Sackett v. EPA? Perhaps some, but all? That seems unlikely.

Paragraph 5:

It is too easy, and misleading, to see such court rulings as merely standing up for the rights of land owners when the consequences can be so dire for their neighbors.

And it's a reminder that the EPA's involvement in the Chesapeake Bay Program has long been crucial as the means to transcend the influence of deep-pocketed special interests in neighboring states.

Pennsylvania farmers, to use one telling example, aren't thinking about next year's blue crab harvest in Maryland when they decide whether to spread animal waste on their fields, yet the runoff into nearby creeks can have enormous impact downstream.

Paragraph 6:

And so we would call on state lawmakers from Richmond to Albany to consider reviewing their own wetlands protections and see for themselves the enormous stakes involved.

We can offer them a visit to Blackwater National Wildlife Refuge in Dorchester County where bald eagles fly over tidal marshes so shallow you could not paddle a boat across them but teeming with aquatic life.

It's worth the scenic drive.

翻译题:

Paragraph 1:

“Elephants never forget” — or so they say — and that piece of folklore seems to have some foundation.

Paragraph 2:

The African savanna elephant, also known as the African bush elephant, is distributed across 37 African countries.

They move between a variety of habitats, including forests, grasslands, woodlands, wetlands and agricultural land.

(46) They sometimes travel more than sixty miles to find food or water, and are very good at working out where other elephants are — even when they are out of sight.

Using tracking devices, researchers have shown that they have “remarkable spatial acuity.” When finding their way to waterholes, they headed off in exactly the right direction, on one occasion from a distance of roughly thirty miles.

What is more, they almost always seem to choose the nearest waterhole.

(47) The researchers are convinced that the elephants always know precisely where they are in relation to all the resources they need, and can therefore take shortcuts, as well as following familiar routes.

Paragraph 3:

Although the cues used by African elephants for long-distance navigation are not yet understood, smell may well play a part.

Paragraph 4:

Elephants are very choosy eaters, but until recently little was known about how they selected their food.

(48) One possibility was that they merely used their eyes and tried out the plants they found, but that would probably result in a lot of wasted time and energy, not least because their eyesight is actually not very good.

Paragraph 5:

(49) The volatile chemicals produced by plants can be carried a long way, and they are very characteristic. Each plant or tree has its own particular odor signature.

What is more, they can be detected even when they are not actually visible.

New research suggests that smell is a crucial factor in guiding elephants — and probably other herbivores — to the best food resources.

Paragraph 6:

The researchers first established what kinds of plant the elephants preferred either to eat or avoid when foraging freely.

They then set up a “food station” experiment, in which they gave the elephants a series of choices based only on smell.

(50) The experiment showed that elephants may well use smell to identify patches of trees that are good to eat, and secondly to assess the quality of the trees within each patch.

Free-ranging elephants presumably also use this information to locate their preferred food.

Paragraph 7:

Their well-developed hippocampal structures may enable elephants, like rats and people, to construct cognitive maps.

2025**Text 1****Paragraph 1:**

The grammar school boy from Stratford-upon-Avon has landed a scholarly punch after groundbreaking research showed that Shakespeare does benefit children’s literacy and emotional development.

But only if you act him out.

Paragraph 2:

A study found that a “rehearsal room” approach to teaching Shakespeare broadened children’s vocabulary and the complexity of their writing as well as their emotional literacy.

“The research shows that the way actors work makes a big difference to the way children use language and also how they think about themselves,” Jacqui O’Hanlon of the Royal Shakespeare Company (RSC), which commissioned the study, said.

Paragraph 3:

The randomised control trial involved hundreds of year 5 pupils — aged nine and ten — at 45 state primary schools that had not been “previously exposed to RSC pedagogy.” They were split into target and control groups and asked to write, for example, a message in a bottle as Ferdinand following the shipwreck in *The Tempest*.

The target group were given a 30-minute drama-based activity to accompany the passage.

Paragraph 4:

The peer-reviewed results showed that the target group of pupils drew on a wider vocabulary, used words “classed as more sophisticated or rarer”, and wrote at greater length.

They also “appear to be more comfortable writing in role...while [control] pupils imagine how they themselves would react to being shipwrecked, [target] children put themselves in the shoes of a literary character and express that character’s emotion”.

The Time to Act study, which is published by the RSC this week, also found that while control pupils relied on “desert island clichés” such as palm trees, target pupils were “more expansive [giving] a broader picture of the sky, the sea and the atmospheric conditions”.

Paragraph 5:

O’Hanlon said she had been most surprised by the “emotional literacy that was evident in the [target] children’s writing” and that they were “more resilient in their writing, more hopeful”.

She added “The emotional understanding was very evident and it is probably related to the [rehearsal room process] where you are used to trying to imagine your way through.

They were comfortable in describing different emotional states and part of what you do in drama is put yourself in different shoes.” The study showed the importance of embedding arts in education, she said.

Paragraph 6:

But could the results be replicated with any old dramatist? O’Hanlon said more research would be needed but suggested that Shakespeare’s use of 20,000 words, compared with the everyday 2,000 words, gave a “massive expansion of language into children’s lives”, which was combined with children “using their whole bodies to bring words to life”.

Text 2

Paragraph 1:

I was shocked to learn recently that some scientists want to scale back their research in an effort to decrease carbon emissions.

The crisis is here, they said, and we need to cut back on our energy-intensive modelling.

At the very least, we need to make our energy use far more sustainable.

Paragraph 2:

It is unarguable that our laboratories, scientific instruments, rockets and satellites — the tools we scientists need to measure the planet’s pulse — demand significant amounts of energy both in their construction and operation.

And it is equally true that science’s unrelenting appetite for information has caused a mushrooming of energy-intensive data centres around the world.

According to the International Energy Agency, these buildings now consume about 1 percent of the world’s electricity.

Paragraph 3:

However, this is a price we must pay for understanding the world.

How can we inform decision makers about the best ways to bring down carbon emissions if we can’t track the amount of carbon dioxide in the atmosphere, where it’s coming from and who’s producing it? The carbon emissions from technological research are well spent: ultimately this research will safeguard the future of our planet.

Paragraph 4:

It can be hard for scientists to make the case because our work is complex, often takes place behind closed doors and does not always lend itself to easy interpretation or explanation.

But demonstrating the efficacy of science will be crucial if we are to solve humanity’s greatest challenges.

It is all too easy to feel paralysed in the face of daunting problems such as climate change and to do nothing.

But then I think of a friend's daughter who turned her fears into action: she became a wind energy engineer and now thrives on delivering renewable energy, limiting emissions.

Paragraph 5:

Recognising the hope that science and engineering can bring was the impetus behind the creation of the Millennium Technology Prize, which is now entering its 20th year as a celebration of human ingenuity.

One of the past winners, Professor Martin Green from the University of New South Wales, Australia, is the inventor of the Passivated Emitter and Rear Cell technology which is now found in most of the world's solar panels.

Thanks to his invention, we have a real chance to decrease the world's carbon emissions.

Paragraph 6:

Every day, scientists, technologists and engineers are discovering new ways to exploit renewable energy sources and develop techniques not just to use power more intelligently but to power our intelligence.

A great example of this is Europe's largest supercomputer, LUMI in Finland, which is astonishingly carbon-negative.

Established in an old paper mill, it is powered by a nearby river and its remote heat warms the people who live in the surrounding town of Kajaani.

Paragraph 7:

If the world is to meet its net-zero ambitions, we must think hard about how we can deliver sustainable computing and deliver more LUMIs.

Text 3

Paragraph 1:

Ever since taking on Netflix Inc. at its own game, old Hollywood has struggled to turn a profit in streaming, with the likes of Disney+, Peacock and Paramount+ losing billions of dollars each year, sparking concerns that the services will never be as profitable as cable once was.

But the age of streaming has been a boon for some unintended winners: pirates that use software to rip a film or television show in seconds from legitimate online video platforms and host the titles on their own, illegitimate services, which rake in about \$, billion annually from ads and subscriptions.

Paragraph 2:

With no video production costs, illegal streaming sites have achieved profit margins approaching 90%, according to the Motion Picture Association (MPA), a trade group representing Hollywood studios that's working to crack down on the thousands of illegal platforms that have cropped up in recent years.

Paragraph 3:

Initially the rise of legitimate online businesses such as Netflix actually helped curb digital piracy, which had largely been based on file uploads.

But now piracy involving illegal streaming services as well as file-sharing costs the US economy about \$30 billion in lost revenue a year and some 250,000 jobs, estimates the US Chamber of Commerce's Global Innovation Policy Center.

The global impact is about \$71 billion annually.

Paragraph 4:

"The people who are stealing our movies and our television shows and operating piracy sites are not mom and pop operations," says Charlie Rivkin, chief executive officer of the MPA.

"This is organized crime." Rivkin joined the MPA in 2017 after the organization failed five years earlier to build consensus between Hollywood and Silicon Valley to win passage of legislation in Congress aimed at stopping online piracy.

In 2017 the association formed the Alliance for Creativity and Entertainment (ACE), an enforcement task force of about 100 detectives circling the globe to help local authorities arrest streaming pirates.

Paragraph 5:

ACE says it's helped shrink the number of illegal streaming services in North America to 126, from more than 1,400 in 2018, aided in part by the MPA's support for a 2020 federal law that made large-scale streaming of copyright material a serious crime.

Paragraph 6:

Consulting firm Parks Associates predicts that legitimate US streaming services' cumulative loss from piracy since 202, will reach \$113 billion in the next two years.

"While there is some optimism that emerging countermeasures and best practices may see piracy begin to plateau by 2027, there is no consensus among stakeholders as to when it may begin to decline," says analyst Steve Hawley.

Text 4

Paragraph 1:

Visit any antiques store and you'll encounter artifacts from the past: photographs, letters, a brochure detailing the Sinclair dinosaur exhibit from the 1964-1965 World's Fair, the ephemera of history.

Yet these objects aren't truly ephemeral, because they're still here, decades, even centuries later.

Why? Because they're tangible.

Paragraph 2:

Have you pondered the life cycle of intangible formats, digital information, given that those who produce these artifacts seldom make provision for their long-term preservation? For millennia, we've known what we've known due to artifacts that have survived, often despite their original creators' neglect.

The thing itself is the medium that delivers the information.

At the time of creation, no attempts were made at intentional preservation, yet analog materials have a chance of surviving and serving as the historical record that biographers, historians, and novelists rely on.

Libraries and archives have traditionally shouldered the responsibility of organization, preservation, and access to information.

Thus, librarians digitize the tangible so that researchers the world over can quickly search and access their holdings.

The result is an embarrassment of historical riches, which brings its own needle-and-haystack problems.

Paragraph 3:

Librarians' selfless devotion can act against us when users point to universality of access by holding up a cellphone and saying, "it's all in here" as evidence that libraries are less vital for researchers today.

Yet how was that universality of access made possible and, perhaps more importantly, how is it maintained? Who curates what is preserved? When it comes to born-digital information, the terrifying answer can be: if not librarians and archivists, then no one.

Digital information requires a great deal more care than analog.

Paragraph 4:

Even when a digital object is preserved, it may only be the carrier that's saved, not the information itself.

As technology advances and a format becomes obsolete, the object is useless.

Have you ever stared helplessly at a ZIP disk, thinking: how do I get the files off this? Without constant migration of digital assets, a nightmare about the foreseeable future is what keeps historians up at night: a historical record that abruptly stops when digital replace analog.

Paragraph 5:

As a librarian whose day job revolves around special collections and digital assets, I share the night terrors of historians, and I'd be lying if I said a comprehensive preservation solution currently exists.

Yet researchers can take some comfort in the fact that there are a multitude of librarians devoted to discovering, organizing, and preserving digital information for researchers current and future.

Librarians are uniquely positioned to understand how end users seek and use information.

Thus we play an integral role in identifying, preserving, and providing accessibility to digital artifacts so that, while future researchers may find the digital realm a challenging place to ply their trade, they won't find it an impossible one.

翻译题:

Paragraph 1:

Innovation and research have relied on public participation in science for centuries.

It was a musician who discovered the planet Uranus in the 18th century by making his own telescope with mirrors composed of copper and tin.

(46) Recent decades have seen science move into a convention where engagement in the subject can only be done through institutions, such as a university.

Citizen science provides an opportunity for greater public engagement and the democratisation of science.

Paragraph 2:

In the information era, large data sets, small teams and financial restrictions have slowed scientific process.

(47) But by utilising the natural curiosity of the general public it is possible to overcome many of these challenges by engaging non-scientists directly in the research process.

Anyone can be a citizen scientist, regardless of age, nationality or academic experience.

You don't even need any formal training, just an inquisitive mind and the enthusiasm to join one of the thousands of citizen science projects to generate new knowledge and the means to understand a genuine scientific outcome.

Paragraph 3:

(48) Scientists have employed a variety of ways to engage the general public in their research, such as making data analysis into an online game or sample collection into a smartphone application.

They've implored citizens to help with bug counting and categorising cancer cells, and even identifying distant galaxies.

Paragraph 4:

This form of accessible science means that great minds are able to join the race to create and develop projects with the potential to change the world.

A citizen science-based approach can extend the field of vision and include different ideas and different brains to problem-solve and create, making innovation faster and more effective.

Paragraph 5:

The rise of citizen science has grown alongside the rise of do-it-yourself biology laboratories around the world.

(49) These groups of people are part of a rapidly expanding biotechnological social movement of citizen scientists and professional scientists seeking to take discovery out of institutions and put it into the hands of anyone with the enthusiasm.

Paragraph 6:

There are around 40 official do-it-yourself biology centres across the globe in locations including Paris, London, Sydney, and Tel Aviv.

(50) They pool resources, collaborate, think outside the box, and find solutions and ways around obstacles to explore science for the sake of science without the traditional boundaries of working inside a formal setting.

So is it time to take the Petri dish out of the laboratory and into the garage?

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