

考研专项突破系列——英语作文

恩波考研 logo

考研全国第一品牌

考研英语作文核心必备

★大小作文解题思路剖析★

★图表作文写作技巧揭秘★

★经典万能作文模板赏析★

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第一章 考研英语写作综述

写作(1) ----小作文(应用文)(10分)

该部分由 A、B 两节组成, 考查考生的书面表达能力。总分 30 分。

A 节: 考生根据所给情景写出约 100 词(标点符号不计算在内)的应用性短文, 包括私人和公务信函、备忘录、摘要、报告等。考生在答题卡 2 上作答。总分 10 分。

“年年岁岁事相似, 岁岁年年人不同”。每一年阅卷完毕, 都是我们这些阅卷老师最感慨的时候。同学们在考研写作上吃的明亏暗亏实在是太令人扼腕痛惜了。有些同学是高高兴兴出的考场, 以为胜券在握; 知道分数后就可能是哭哭啼啼了; 尤其是如果知道了所谓的“文套”“范文”“模板”“万能作文”等“妙招”实际上起到了什么作用, 那才真的是令人痛苦, 叫人痛哭啊。这些套路、这些书籍、这些做法, 看起来很美, 说起来头头是道, 但集中轰炸让阅卷人集体审美疲劳。

近年的情况尤甚! 一些地区、一些学校的同学热烈追捧某些模板, 导致的情况就是集中出现大面积低分。因为一些模板甚至几年间都如约而至导致了过于强烈的审美疲劳, 以至于今年有几省招办甚至提出: 同学们不容易, 就算是抄模板, 也不能给零分! 这些模板在阅卷场内已是臭名昭著, 但是并不为同学们所知; 我已经对其分门别类存档, 将来会和 2010 考生分享, 只是已经没有任何办法帮到已经考过的同学了。

可以预见的是, 2010 年注定还会有大量同学集中追捧某些模板, 想一想, 真可怕!

05 年—08 年的作文分都为两个部分, 一个小作文(10 分), 一个大作文(20 分)。

05 年小作文考的是一封辞职信, 说两个月前你得到了一份编辑工作, 但是现在你发现这份工作和你预期的不一样, 你决定辞职, 写一封信给老板, 说明理由, 并且道歉。05 年全国的绝大部分讲考研英语的老师们都押过求职信, 都认为考的可能性较大, 结果恰恰相反。

06 年小作文谈希望工程的爱心问题, 要求学生给有关部门写信, 申请资助一个失学儿童。

07 年小作文考的是图书馆写的要求改善服务的建议信。

08 年小作文考的是道歉+建议, 具体内容是误拿友人 CD 需要归还。

复合考察是应用文的趋势。可以预见, 2010 年的应用文肯定会继续当前复合考察的趋势, 而且会加以深化。单纯分类复习已经无法满足要求。

写作(2) ----大作文(20分)

B 节: 考生根据提示信息写出一篇 160-200 词的短文(标点符号不计算在内)。提示信息的形式有主题句、写作提纲、规定情景、图、表等。考生在答题卡 2 上作答。总分 20 分。

05 年大作文依然是图画作文, 漫画题目为养老“足球赛”, 画的四角均有一个足球门, 守门的分别是老人的四个子女——大儿子、二儿子、三儿子和小女儿。画的中间是一个老人, 蜷缩成一团, 呈球型, 代表球。作文要求与以往的图画作文相似: 先描述图画, 再谈看法。这篇文章主要批判有些子女不赡养父母, 将父母像踢足球一样踢来踢去。

命题背景: 因为 2000 年后中国也进入老年化社会, 有很多社会问题很难解决, 04 年至 05 年, 中国的社会保障, 医疗改革都做得不好。但是中国的考研命题者绝对不能说是社会做的不好, 这样命题者会冒政治风险, 他只能换一个角度, 要求我们的人民要求我们的大学主要讲孝道, 要讲道德。

05 年考生平均分: 应用文——5.7 分; 看图作文——10.8 分

06 年的作文命题继续以学生生活经常涉及的话题为中心, 两篇作文题目都是如此。大作文谈学生的追星现象: 一个青年人盲目追星, 脸上写着 BECKHAM, 另一个也比较年轻的人花 300 元要求剪一个“小贝”头。

命题背景: 因为 2006 年由湖南卫视发起的“超级女生”席卷全国。还有许许多多的其它的选秀活动。全国上下青少年盲目的偶像崇拜、盲目的追求个性张扬之风特别浓。

06 年考生作文平均分: 应用文——5.2 分; 看图作文——10 分

07 年的图画作文画的是罚点球。射手把守门员想得很高大, 甚至把球门都填满了, 怕自己踢不进去。而守门员把自己想得太小, 球门则显得很大, 很难守住。双方都缺乏自信, 过大地估计了困难。这个漫画所反应的主题可以是:

(1) 缺乏自信心问题。

(2) 人生态度悲观与乐观这个话题。

(3) 人生的挑战与勇气话题。

07年图画寓意比较深，需要考生有比较好的针对性训练。往年作文因跑题而得0分的考生大概占4%，今年这样的考生明显增多，是最近十年写作跑题最严重的一年！大作文跑题，几乎意味着考研的失败！有的考生因为没有受过很好的“破题”指导或是考试紧张没看懂还可以理解，我特别不理解的是若干同学们信任的机构在网站上所写的文章（可上网查询）在实战中根本达不到要求，虽然作者能说出这样那样的道理，但是我们认为：高分方为真功夫，成绩才是硬道理！毫无疑问，就是这些作文因为脱离阅卷老师认可的主流观点，在阅卷过程中非常有可能被判作跑题而得到最低分。

07年考生平均分：应用文——4.9；看图作文——8.1

08年图画作文考察的是两个残疾人各有一条腿，两人联合起来就可以走遍千山万水。

08年审题难度略有下降，但是因为缺乏系统的“破题”训练，跑题并非罕见。一些同学写到关爱残疾人，献爱心，政府应该关注弱势群体，甚至写到“全世界的残疾人，联合起来！”，非常遗憾，由此可见，好的“破题”训练是作文根本，否则会导致全盘皆输。

从具体字词讲，很多同学都倒在了“合作”“拐杖”等单词上。或者是拼写不对，或者是选择错误，结果都是直接影响了阅卷人对文章的第一印象。其实只要牢记考研写作的原则“一个中心，两个基本点”，这些都是完全可以避免的；靠的不是所谓水平，而是针对性的措施。反过来讲，很多同学背熟并寄予很大希望的“harmonious society”，因为几乎所有卷面都出现，不起反作用就很不错了。

从分值上看，今年的分数应该偏高一些。但这绝非每一个同学的分数都高，完全靠自己的语言或完全靠模板的同学，做法和分数都令人遗憾。因为评分体系的关系，主观题尤其写作最容易快速提分。但是要明了一点：各省几十个阅卷人的想法、感受、作为，直接并完全决定了最后落实在卷面的分数，其他都不是决定性因素。

最后要说明的是：考研靠押题不是最为明智的选择，重视英语应试能力和

应试技巧的培养，用最短的时间把自己得分的潜力都发掘出来才是最重要的。

2010年，就业压力有增无减，欧美标准的新劳动法又迫使大量外资出逃；实事求是地说，找到一份理想的工作是最佳选择，考研则是找不到好工作时的最佳备选。很多同学都因为担心没有足够时间准备考研而把全部赌注都压在了找工作上。万一失败，就是两手空空。其实考研备考并不需要很多精力，关键是方法和步骤。

第二章：作文板块的解题思路

作文部分占总分30%，考试时建议用1个小时，小作文15-20分钟。大作文40-45分钟。

(一)小作文：

除了格式，更重要的是表达，要在15分钟左右写好一篇应用文，这既需要根据大纲迅速组织语言的能力又需要英语基本功。常见的应用文辅导课上都会专门讲解练习，如求职信和辞职信、订购或退货信、投诉信、感谢信、申请信、通知、备忘等的写法。

自己训练时，应尽量限时完成，争取15-18分钟左右写完一篇小作文。

具体步骤如下：

1. 审题 1-2 分钟
2. 列出要点 2 分钟
3. 打全文的草稿 10 分钟左右
4. 誊抄文章 3 分钟左右

(二)大作文：

大作文占20分，要求的字数已经减少到160-200个词汇，难度因此略有降低。历年题型有命题作文、图表作文、图画作文（“看图说话”）。

命题作文（1991至1996），图表作文（1997和1999），图画作文（1998，2000至2006）。这里面，图画作文难度最大。

不少同学有这样的感受，拿到一个图画，面对题目要求时，觉得有话可说，可就是不知如何表达。这几年的“看图说话”作文难度不大，只要稍加训练，

思路就很可能很清楚, 不至于言之无物。用英语写作, 对中国人来说, 除了一些记得很熟的句子, 多数都要经过汉译英的过程。

考生在应试时应注意:

1. 合理安排时间。审题 2 至 5 分钟。根据给出的提纲, 列出较详细的大纲。打草稿 25 分钟左右, 修改誊抄 10 分钟。

2. 卷面必须整洁。统计表明, 两个水平一样的考生, 卷面整洁的会比卷面较差的至少要高一两分, 而这是评分细则里明确允许的。阅卷老师印象分经常占不小的比例。这就要求同学们平时写作的时候也要养成打草稿的习惯。

第三章: 考研英语图表作文写作技巧

研究生入学考试英语写作部分占总分的 20 分, 是考研英语成绩决定高低胜负的重要题型。每年阅卷都会发现考生的写作水平参差不齐, 分数在 0 到 20 分之间散布, 较多考生集中在中档的 10 分左右。仔细审阅可看出中档分数作文从扣题、思想、逻辑、措词、语法、修辞、拼写各个环节会出现各种各样的问题。总的印象 (global impression) 表现为结构逻辑混乱, 语言错误较多, 用词用语汉语化, 不能表现出考生的最佳水平。如何在考试最后的 40 分钟合理控制时间, 从容完成较高水平的创作?

一、选出典型的数据—纵横对位

面对图表应当首先结合主题, 观察图表数据变化, 如果表格、柱形和曲线都比较复杂, 则需先确定典型数据, 如最高点、最低点以及骤升骤降的时间变化范围, 在表格和坐标图中精确地纵横对位, 想象如何使用 demonstrate a dramatic change, increase dramatically, decline sharply, go up steadily, remain on the decline 这样的图表术语描述数据变化。

二、把握变化—联系背景原因

想象这种变化和主题的必然联系, 拓展思维确定出原因一二三来。如北京市民人均收入增加一定和近几年经济飞速发展、就业生存方式多样化和全面建设小康社会的国策相关联; 沙尘暴次数猛增反映出中国西北土壤沙漠化、森林砍伐现象严重和城市房地产开发毁坏绿地植被的多元因素。

三、建议或未来发展趋势

针对第二段分析的原因提出合理建议,基本思路可遵循以下两点:政府指定法律法规扭转(推进)现有局面;个人树立某种意识主动参与解决问题。最后展望一下人类解决问题后的美好明天,一篇议论文的格局已了然于胸。

第四章: 经典作文素材赏析

一、精彩英语短文赏析(英汉对照)

- 1) Do you often go online chatting with strangers? Everyday, millions of people, especially the young, are online chatting with friends or with strangers. 你经常上网闲聊吗? 每天有数百万人, 尤其年轻人, 在网上与网友或陌生人聊天。
- 2) The successful launch and return of the manned spacecraft Shenzhou IV is deemed both a symbol of national prestige and a sign of advanced science and technology, which will definitely contribute to the economic growth of our country. 载人航天飞机神州五号的成功发射及返回既是国家荣誉的一个象征, 也是先进的科技能力的标志, 这对我国的经济发展无疑会产生促进作用。
- 3) We all know that China is still a developing country and its education still lags behind that of developed countries. Many young Chinese are denied chances of receiving higher education because of insufficient educational facilities. 我们都知道, 中国还是一个发展中的国家, 其教育水平仍然落后于发达国家。不少中国年青人由于教育设施的匮乏而得不到接受高等教育的机会。
- 4) They say that pride comes before a fall. In the case of both Napoleon and Hitler, they won many victories, which led them to believe that anything was possible and that nothing could stand in their way. But Russia's icy defender proved them wrong. 人道是骄兵必败。就拿拿破仑和希特勒来说吧, 他们所想披靡, 便以为自己战无不胜, 不可阻挡。但俄罗斯的冰雪战士证明他们错了。
- 5) Well begun is half done, as the saying goes. It is extremely important for a job applicant to make sufficient preparations while seeking employment. From my standpoint, whether or not one has prepared adequately clearly makes a difference in (affects) his chance of success. I have a friend who is earning around 100 thousand dollars a year in a computer software company. He told

me that, from his own experience, those who can decide whether an applicant could be employed prefer people who are well prepared. 常言道, 好的开端是成功的一半。在求职时, 求职者事先做好充分的准备是非常重要的。我认为, 事先作不做准备常常会影响求职者的成功机会。我有一个朋友在一家计算机软件公司供职, 年薪十万美元左右。他根据自己的经历告诉我说, 那些对未来雇员具有录用决定权的人喜欢有充分准备的人。

- 6) I consider it worthwhile trying to summarize our experience in learning English. Here I would like to make three relevant points. First, extensive reading should be taken as a priority in the learning process, because it is through reading that we get the most language input. Next, learning by heart as many well-written essays as possible is also very important. With an enormous store of excellent essays in our heads, we will find it much easier to express ourselves in English. Finally, it is critical that we should put what we have learnt into practice. By doing more reading, writing, listening and speaking, we will be able to accomplish the task of perfecting our English. 我认为总结一下学习英语的经验是值得试一试的。这里, 我想谈谈三个相关的问题。首先, 大量阅读应被视作学习过程中的重点, 因为我们是通过阅读获取最大量语言输入的。其次, 尽可能多背熟一些好文章也十分重要。大脑中储存了大量很好的文章, 我们在用英语表达自己思想的时候, 就会觉得容易多了。最后, 我们应把所学到的东西用到实践中去, 这是至关重要的。通过多读、多写、多听、多说, 我们就能完成提高英语水平的任务。
- 7) Is America going to decline like other great powers (nations) in history? The author thinks not, arguing that the type of society created in America is quite unlike any that has gone before it. Read what he has to say and see whether you agree. 美国是否会如同历史上其他强国一样走向衰亡? 作者持否定态度, 认为美国创建的社会模式不同于任何已出现的社会模式。读一读他的观点, 看看你是否同意。
- 8) More than a decade ago, the mobile phone was a luxury for only a few, but now it is very common. The rapid spread of the mobile phone is perhaps one of the great miracles of our time. 十几年前, 手机只是少数人才能使用的奢侈品, 但现在手机已很普遍。手机的快速普及也许是我们时代的伟大奇迹之一。
- 9) Some people seem easy to understand: their character appears obvious on first meeting. Appearances, however, can be deceptive. For thirty years now I have

been studying my fellowmen. I don't know very much about them. I shrug my shoulders when people tell me that their first impressions of a person are always right. I think they must have small insight or great vanity. For my own part I find that the longer I know people, the more they puzzle me. 有些人似乎容易了解: 他们的个性在初次交往时就表露无遗。然而, 外表可能具有欺骗性。三十年来, 我一直在研究我的人类同胞, 但至今了解不多。每当有人跟我说他对一个人的首次印象向来不错的时候, 我就耸耸肩。我想这种人不是无知, 就是自大。就我而言, 我觉得, 认识一个人的时间越长, 就越觉得困惑。(be ignorant or self-righteous ; self-centered; self-confident; self-discipline; self-educated; self-employed; self-esteem; selfish)

- 10) As the pace of life in today's world grows ever faster, we seem forever on the go. With so much to do and so little time to do it in, how are we to cope? Dr. Smith sets about untangling the problem and comes up with an answer. 随着当今世界生活节奏日益加快, 我们似乎一直在不停奔忙。事情那么多, 时间却那么少, 我们该怎么办? 史密斯博士着手解决这一问题, 并提出了解决方法。
- 11) In America many people have a romantic idea of life in the countryside. Many living in towns dream of starting up their own farm, of living off the land. Few get round to putting their dreams into practice. This is perhaps just as well, as the life of a farmer is far from easy, as Jim Doherty discovered when he set out to combine being a writer with running a farm. Nevertheless, as he explains, he has no regrets and remains enthusiastic about his decision to change his way of life. 在美国, 不少人对乡村生活怀有浪漫的情感, 许多居住在城镇的人梦想着自己办个农场, 梦想着靠土地为生。很少有人真去把梦想变为现实。或许这也没有什么不好, 因为, 正如吉姆多而第当初开始其写作和农场经营双重生涯时所体验到的那样, 农耕生活远非轻松自在。但他写到, 自己并不后悔, 对自己作出的改变生活方式的决定仍然热情不减。
- 12) Professor Huntington's paper greatly inspired me. According to him, in a plural society, there will inevitably be different opinions. The key is to deal with them in such a way that they can play a constructive rather than destructive role. He argues that in a plural society we must stress/attach importance to interpersonal relationships, cooperation, and look at issues from the perspective of other people. If some groups regard themselves as superior and treat other ethnic groups or religions with disrespect, the

whole society may be paralyzed. I am convinced that if we put into practice the ideas mentioned above, then there is the possibility of creating a new civilization. Huntington 教授的论文使我深受启发。他认为, 在一个多元化(plural)社会里, 不同意见是不可避免的。关键在于怎样正确对待不同意见, 使之发挥建设性、而非破坏性的作用。他还说, 在一个多元化社会里, 我们必须注重人际关系, 强调合作, 多从他人视角考虑问题。如果某些群体自视高人一筹, 不尊重其他种族或宗教, 那么整个社会有可能陷入瘫痪。我相信, 要是我们把上述想法付诸实践, 那我们就有可能创造出一种新的文明。

- 13) Making a living as a door-to-door salesman demands a thick skin, both to protect against the weather and against constantly having the door shut in your face. Bill Porter puts up with all this and much, much more. 干挨家挨户上门推销这一营生得脸皮厚, 这是因为干这一行不仅要经受风吹日晒, 还要承受一次又一次的闭门羹。比尔·波特忍受着这一切, 以及别的种种折磨。
- 14) When children take up ways of making a living that differ greatly from their parents, differences in outlook can easily arise. This is what Alfred found. Brought up in the family of a building worker, education led him to develop different interests and ambitions from his father. Here he writes about how this affected their relationship. 当子女的谋生方式与父母大相径庭时, 很容易产生观念上的差异。这正是 Alfred 的发现。他在一个建筑工人的家庭里长大, 他所受的教育使他产生了不同于父亲的兴趣和抱负。他在本文中叙述了这一差异如何影响着他们的父子关系。

二、万能作文模板赏析

1) <—>

What should we do to live longer and healthier? Here are some tips from doctors.

First, balance your activities with the proper amount of rest. Some of the leading experts in the field of aging now believe that regular exercise along with the proper amount of rest may actually add years to the life span.

Second, get plenty of exercise. People who are physically fit look good and feel good. A good exercise regimen (养生法) will lengthen your life,

improve your appearance, build self-confidence and help delay the aging process.

Third, eat healthy foods, get proper sleep and learn to relax. They are all valuable in maintaining a healthy body and mind.

And lastly, learn to laugh. Laughter is one of the best things for your mental and physical state. You can develop a good outlook and a good sense of humor by associating with and surrounding yourself with pleasant people.

2) <二>

Great changes have taken place in Chinese family life in the past twenty years. In my parents' words, the difference between their childhood and mine is as vast as that between heaven and earth.

When my parents were young, there was no TV, no computers nor any other electronic appliances in their home. Their food was simple and their clothing plain. What is unbelievable to young people today is that they seldom dined out in a restaurant, or traveled to a scenic spot for a holiday.

In contrast to family life one generation ago, each family in China today has at least one TV set and many have been equipped with telephones, computers, even cars. While the senior members of a family watch films on TV at home, the younger members like to play computer games or talk to their friends who may live thousands of miles from them.

The changes in Chinese family life mirror the economic development of our country. Without the prosperity of the whole country, our family life would probably be just the same as before. Times have changed, and changed, most would surely agree with me, for the better.

3) <三>

Some people think they work because they have to make a living. They say they envy people who don't have to work. They dream about a life of all play and no work, a life of endless vacations and holidays. They look forward eagerly to their retirement, when they can enjoy the fruits of a lifetime's work without any toiling or sweating.

But is it true that money is the only, or the main motivating power that drives us to work? If one takes a look at the people around him, one may have second thoughts. In many well-to-do families, the wife still hangs on to her job. Many retired people take on volunteer work, and even children enjoy the feeling of being helpful by doing what they can. To them at least, work has a different meaning. It satisfies another human need, different yet no less basic. It is the need for human dignity, the need to be respected, the need to know that one is helping to make the world a better place to live in.

Deep in our hearts, we all have this desire, though many of us may not be aware of it.

4) <四>

Dear Deanna,

I deeply regret any misunderstanding that may have been caused by the way I acted at dinner last night. I simply got carried away and had no right to disturb such a pleasant evening.

I hope that you can forgive me. Your friendship means a great deal to me.

Sincerely,

Carmon

5) <五>

Dear Mr. Jackson,

I have to disturb you with this letter, but I am sure you would want to know that your dog Rusty has been wandering onto my property and creating some problems. Flowers have been dug up, my son Michael has been scared, and on a couple of occasions, the trash can has been overturned. I would greatly appreciate your doing whatever you can to keep Rusty from getting into our yard.

Thanks for your cooperation.

Sincerely,

George

Bush

6) <六>

Dear Mr. Weidner,

I am writing to let you know how much I appreciate your helping my son Robert last Thursday when he sprained his ankle. It meant a great deal to him to have someone extend comfort and care at such a distressing time.

Robert's ankle is healing well, and he should be his normal, active self again in about a week. He joins the rest of my family in thanking you for your kindness.

Very

truly yours,

Philip

Canoff

- 7) Work offers more than financial security. It provides people with self-confidence; they have a feeling of satisfaction when they have produced a challenging piece of work and are able to say, "I made that." Psychologists claim that work gives people an identity; through participation in work, they get a sense of self and individualism.
- 8) It is clear that true friendship must be sincere and unconditional. It should be based on mutual understanding, not on mutual benefit. Also, true friendship can always give us a feeling of security, and warmth, and encourage us to make progress while false friendship will take advantage of us when we are crowned with success, or desert us when we are in deep waters. Therefore, true friendship is to make people help each other and learn from each other.
- 9) It is often believed, however, that competition and cooperation are in

opposition to each other. Some people stress competition, without which, in their eyes, there is no responsibility, no drive, and ultimately, no progress. Others advocate cooperation whatever they do. They are of the opinion that the dependence of people on one another has increased, without which the society we live in cannot keep going smoothly.

- 10) In the first place, with the rapid increase in population, the lack of housing is becoming more evident than ever before. Many old houses have been knocked down to make room for new apartment buildings, which complicates the housing problem for the time being. In the second place, despite the ever-increasing high-rise buildings, the provision of living space still falls far short of demands. Because the society is advancing, city dwellers long for spacious living. They look forward to decent dwelling places which can protect human dignity. All these factors result in the stress of housing problem.
- 11) Science and technology also play an important role in our socialist construction. We may say that our socialist construction is just like a skyscraper, while science and technology are its base. Without the base, the skyscraper can't be built up. Therefore, we should try our best to contribute to the development of science and technology so as to provide a more solid base to build our country.
- 12) Generation gap, one of the most controversial issues throughout the world, has attracted a lot of attention from both the social scientists and the general public. On the one hand, the older generation can't agree with what their children say and do. On the other hand, the young people always complain that their parents are behind the times.
- 13) Sports and games are good for our health. To begin with, they can make us strong, prevent us from getting too fat, and keep us healthy. Especially they can be of great value to people who work with their brains most of the day, for sports and games give people valuable practice in exercising the body. What's more, they make our life richer and more colorful. All work and no play makes Jack a dull boy, just as the saying goes. So persons of all ages enjoy watching and taking part in various kinds of sports—track and field, swimming, skating, volleyball, basketball, football, etc. Finally, sports and games are also very useful in character training. They demand not only

physical skill and strength but also courage, enthusiasm, discipline and usually teamwork. For boys and girls, what is learned on the playground often has a deep effect on their character. As a consequence, people should take part in physical activities regularly.

14) Television presents a vivid world in front of us. To begin with, TV can keep us informed of what is happening throughout the world. For example, it can provide us with the up-to-date information about the recent developments in science and technology. In addition, TV brings us various forms of entertainment. For instance, with a TV set at home, we may watch sports competitions, concerts, etc. and we may even visit a great many tourist attractions in different countries. No wonder a lot of people choose, above all, to watch TV in their spare time.

15) Different people, however, think of stress differently. Some believe that stress is not the bad thing it is often supposed to be. They are of the opinion that a certain amount of stress is vital to provide motivation and give purpose to life. Others argue that stress contributes to one's mental decline and hence endangers his health. According to them, relaxation, the opposite of stress, is essential for a healthy mind and body.

16) As for playing video games, different people have different opinions. Some persons think there should be a ban on video games. They argue that playing video games not only does harm to people's physical health, especially to their eyes, but also occupies their spare time and consumes their energy, rendering them unable to accomplish their tasks efficiently. Others assume that if we ban video games, some of the young people will feel dull about their lives. In their opinions, young people at present age are over occupied by their studies. After completing their intense work, they should be entitled to enjoy themselves, of course, including playing video games.

17) Like everything else, studying abroad has its advantages and disadvantages. There are two advantages for young people to study abroad. Firstly, they can acquire advanced science and technology in developed countries, and then introduce them into China when they come back. Secondly, financial support from western institutions of higher learning can be considered as a shortcut to train Chinese professionals since China, as a developing country, is not

rich enough to support a large number of students studying abroad. So going abroad is both an economical and an efficient way to train qualified personnel for China.

- 18) But every coin has its two sides. Apart from advantages, studying abroad has also its disadvantages. The major problem it has caused is the brain drain. Admittedly, there are advanced research environment and better living conditions in developed countries, and students from developing countries can not resist the temptation of earning more salary in the west. More often than not, the proportion of students returning to homeland remains less. As a result, the country suffers a great loss of talents.
- 19) As the saying goes, one doesn't know what happiness is until one loses it; one doesn't know what health is until he falls ill. In such competitive times, health is often neglected because of the tense rhythm of modern society. Some persons assume that they are in pretty sound health and they don't have to spend time or energy to prevent themselves from health problems. But whether you sense it or not, such bad habits as working overtime, drinking excessively and burning midnight oil, will catch up with you someday.
- 20) There may be different suggestions for keeping fit. Usually three points are going in common. First, live a regular life and keep a balanced diet. Second, arrange some time for outside exercises, for sports and fresh air will surely do you good. And last, hold an active and optimistic attitude toward daily life and keep your moods bright. All in all, a normal life is unimaginable without the guarantee of health. It is my wish that everyone leads a healthy life.
- 21) With the government's new policy of opening and reform established in 1978, China's economy has been booming over the past two decades. The GDP growth rate was about 8 percent every year. The rapid development of China's economy not only promotes China to one of the most powerful countries in the world, but also benefits Chinese people enormously. And this prominent success is appreciated all over the world.
- 22) The 21st century is a time of advanced scientific and technological knowledge and of talent competition. Since the youth are the pillar of the country,

they have to shoulder the heavy burden or the duties of the time. What's more, the rise and fall of the nation heavily depends on them. Since they play such an important role in the new century, what are the criteria for a good youth ?

23) A good youth in the new century must possess the following qualifications. First, a good youth must have good health. Good health is the best treasure a person can ever possess. In every walk of life, health is the foundation upon which our success depends. Second, a good youth should cultivate good and noble characters. Only those with morality, noble character, perseverance and a sense of responsibility can be expected to dedicate themselves to the country. Third, a good youth must have profound, most updated knowledge and be very competent in the world of competition.

24) Dear Wang,

Things have been pretty busy for me here. As you can imagine, national examinations for entrance to Master's programs present a real challenge. I've been preparing for 4 test courses, which take up a great deal of time and energy.

Of all the test courses involved, English is the toughest for me. And I did encounter several obstacles in the course of preparation.

The first difficulty is that I simply couldn't remember all those new words. It frustrated me a lot, indeed. But I persisted. I would put the new words down in a note pad and go over them every few days. Also, I tried to remember them through phrases or sentences. Gradually, I found that I could recall the meaning more quickly and accurately than before.

Another problem that used to let me down was writing. Whenever I was confronted with a writing task, I just didn't know what to say and where to start. Then I attended a training program and an instructor taught us how to write. He was a terrific instructor. He taught us how to construct a well-organized essay, and gave us some good essays to read aloud and remember. And of course, I did a lot of writing exercises assigned by the instructor. Now I've become quite confident in terms of writing.

Well, I've also met with some other problems, but you know, I'm not one who

will give up easily.

The pleasing thing is that my English is improving and I'm gaining a lot of confidence. I feel greatly rewarded for all my previous efforts.

Well, I've to sign off now. I've been working overtime lately. When I get another breather, I'll write more.

Your friend,

Li Ming