

2020年12月四级考试阅读仔细阅读（森林砍伐）

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Forests in countries like Brazil and the Congo get a lot of attention from environmentalists and it is easy to see why South America and sub-saharan Africa are experiencing deforestation on an enormous scale: every year almost 5 million hectares are lost. But forests are also changing in rich Western countries. They are growing larger, both in the sense that they occupy more land and that the trees in them are bigger. What is going on?

Forests are spreading in almost all Western countries, with the fastest growth in places that historically had rather few trees. In 1990 28% of Spain was forested; now the proportion is 37%. In both Greece and Italy, the growth was from 26% to 32% over the same period. Forests are gradually taking more land in America and Australia. Perhaps most astonishing is the trend in Ireland. Roughly 1% of that country was forested when it became independent in 1922. Now forests cover 11% of the land, and the government wants to push the proportion to 18% by the 2040s.

Two things are fertilising this growth. The first is the abandonment of farmland, especially in high, dry places where nothing grows terribly well. When farmers give up trying to earn a living from farming or herding, trees simply move in. The second is government Policy and subsidy. Throughout history, governments have protected and promoted forests for diverse reasons ranging

from the need for wooden warships to a desire to promote suburban house-building. Nowadays forests are increasingly welcome because they suck in carbon pollution from the air. The justifications change; the desire for more trees remains constant

The greening of the West does not delight everyone. Farmers complain that land is being taken out of use by generously subsidised tree plantations. Parts of Spain and Portugal suffer from terrible forest fires. Others simply dislike the appearance of forests planted in neat rows. They will have to get used to the trees, however. The growth of Western forests seems almost as unstoppable as deforestation elsewhere.

51. What is catching environmentalist' attention nowadays? 【定位在第一段第一、二句。】

A) Rich countries are stripping poor ones of their resources. 【没有提到富有的国家掠夺穷过的资源】

B) Forests are fast shrinking in many developing countries. 【回到原文第一段第一句话 Forests in countries like Brazil and the Congo get a lot of attention from environmentalists and it is easy to see why. 表示“发展中国家森林面积减少”这一现象已是受到环境学家关注的一个问题，并非正在受到关注的新问题。】

C) Forests are eating away the fertile farmland worldwide. 【根据题干回到原文第一段，从倒数第三句话往后看，即 But forests...What is going on? 其中，They are growing larger, both in the sense that they occupy more land...表明“目

前，森林的覆盖面在不断扩张，且占据了越来越多的土地”，occupy more land 对应选项中 eating away the fertile farmland。最后指出这一现象也引起了（环境学家的）思考，想要得知其中原因。题干中问的是 is catching，表示“发达国家森林面积扩大”这一现象目前正在引起环境学家的注意。

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D) Rich countries are doing little to address deforestation. 【和原文相反，原文是富有西方国家的森林面积越来越大。】

52. Which countries have the fastest forest growth? 【定位在第二段第一句】

A) Those that have newly achieved independence. 【没有提到名词国家独立】

B) Those that have the greatest demand for timber. 【没有提到名词木材需求】

C) Those that used to have the lowest forest coverage. 【places that historically had rather few trees, historically 和 used to 替换，few 和 lowest 替换】

D) Those that provide enormous government subsidies. 【没有提到名词政府补贴】

53. What has encourage forest growth historically? 【定位在第三段第一句，文章说有两个原因，一个是 the abandonment of farmland，一个是 government policy and subsidy】

A) The government's advocacy.

B) The use of wood for fuel.

C) The favourable climate.

D) The green movement.

54. What accounts for our increasing desire for forest? 【定位在第三段第六个句子 because 后面】

A) Their unique scenic beauty. 【没有提到名词美观】

B) Their use as fruit plantations. 【没有提到水果】

C) Their capability of improving air quality. 【they (指代 forests) suck in carbon pollution for the air. 吸收空气中的碳污染, 和提供空气质量替换】

D) Their stable supply of building materials. 【没有提到建筑材料】

55. What does the author conclude about the prospects of forestation? 【定位在最后一段, 从第一句话可以看出, 作者的态度是比较消极的】

A) Deserts in sub-Saharan Africa will diminish gradually. 【和原文相反】

B) It will play a more and more important role in people's lives. 【正面态度, 排除】

C) Forest destruction in the developing world will quickly slow down. 【和原文相反】

D) Developed and developing countries are moving in opposite directions. 【The growth of Western forests seems almost as unstoppable as deforestation elsewhere. (西方国家森林的增长似乎和其他地方的森林砍伐一样不可阻挡), 西方国家在增长, 其他国家在砍伐, 说明是相反方向发展。】