

## Section II Reading Comprehension

### Part A

#### Directions:

Read the following four texts. Answer the questions after each text by choosing A, B, C or D. Mark your answers on the ANSWER SHEET. (40 points)

#### Text 1

Reskilling is something that sounds like a buzzword but is actually a requirement if we plan to have a future where a lot of would-be workers do not get left behind. We know we are moving into a period where the jobs in demand will change rapidly, as will the requirements of the jobs that remain. Research by the WEF detailed in the Harvard Business Review, finds that on average 42 percent of the core skills within roles will change by 2022. That is a very short timeline, so we can only imagine what the changes will be further in the future.

The question of who should pay for reskilling is a thorny one for individual companies, the temptation is always to let go of workers whose skills are no longer demanded and replace them with those whose skills are. That does not always happen. AT&T is often given as the gold standard of a company who decided to do a massive reskilling program rather than go with a fire-and-hire strategy ultimately retraining 18,000 employees. Pre-pandemic, other companies including Amazon and Disney had also pledged to create their own plans. When the skills mismatch is in the broader economy though, the focus usually turns to government to handle. Efforts in Canada and elsewhere have been arguably languid at best, and have given us a situation where we frequently hear of employers begging for workers even at times and in regions where unemployment is high.

With the pandemic, unemployment is very high indeed. In February, at 3.5 per cent and 5.5 per cent respectively, unemployment rates in Canada and the United States were at generational lows and worker shortages were everywhere. As of March those rates had spiked up to 13.3 per cent and 13.7 percent, and although many worker shortages had disappeared, not all had done so. In the medical field, to take an obvious example, the pandemic meant that there were still clear shortages of doctors, nurses and other medical personnel.

Of course, it is not like you can take an unemployed waiter and train him to be a doctor in a few weeks, no matter who pays for it. But even if you cannot close that gap, maybe you can close others, according so would be to the benefit of all concerned. That seems to be the case in Sweden, where the pandemic kick-started a retraining program where business as well as government had a role.

Reskilling in this way would be challenging in a North American context. You can easily imagine a chorus of you can't do that "because teachers or nurses or whoever have special skills, and using any support staff who has been quickly trained is bound to end in disaster. Maybe. Or maybe it is something that can work well in Sweden, with its history of co-operation between business, labour and government, but not in North America where our history is very different. Then again, maybe it is asking to wartime, when extraordinary things take place, but it is business as usual after the fact. And yet, as in war the pandemic is teaching us that many things, including rapid reskilling, can be done if there is a will to do them. In any case Sweden work force is now more skilled, in more things, and more flexible than it was before.

Of course, reskilling programs whether for pandemic needs or the postpandemic world, are expensive and at a time when everyone budgets are lean this may not be the time to implement them. They again extending income support programs to get us through the next months is expensive too, to say nothing of the cost of having a swath of long-term unemployed in the POST-COVID years Given that perhaps we should think hard about whether the pandemic can jump-start us to a place where reskilling becomes much more than a buzzword.

21 .Research by the World Economic Forum suggests

- A.an increase in full-time employment
- B.an urgent demand for new job skills
- C. steady growth of opportunities
- D.a controversy about the core skills

解析：根据题目的定位词： World Economic Forum 可以定位到文章的第一段，根据该定位词我们将定位句锁定在 We know we are moving into a period where the jobs in demand will change rapidly, as will the requirements of the jobs that remain Research by the WEF detailed in the Harvard Business Review, finds that on average 42 percent of the core skills within oh roles will change by 2022. That is a very short timeline,根据定位信息，选项 A 是定位的同义替换。

22.AT&.T is cited to show

- A.an alternative to the fire-and-hire strategy
- B.an immediate need for government support
- C.thc importance of staff appraisal standards
- D.the characteristics of reskilling program

解析：根据题目题干信息 cited to .....,可以判断出本题是例证题，是相对较好拿分的题型，例证题找准观点句，正确选项是观点句的同义替换，观点句大部分在例子前面，也有一些在例子的后边。The question of who should pay for reskilling is a thorny one for individual companies, the temptation is always to let go of workers whose skills are no longer demand and replace them with those whose skills are.正确选项是这句话的同义替换，在例子的前面的观点句。

23.Efforts to resolve the skills mismatch in Canada

- A.have driven up labour costs
- B.have proved to be inconsistent
- C have met with fierce opposition
- D.have appeared to be insufficient

解析：根据定位词 efforts , Canada ,可以定位到第二段的末尾，Efforts in Canada and elsewhere have been arguably languid at best, and have given us a situation where we frequently hear of employers begging for workers even at times and In regions where unemployment is high. 根据 we frequently hear of employers begging for workers even at times 看的出非常急需工人，替换我们选项中的 insufficient.

24.We can learn from Paragraph 3 that there was

- A.a call for policy adjustment.
- B.a change in hiring practices.
- C.a lack of medical workers

D. a sign of economic recovery.

解析：根据题干信息得出，从第三段能够得出，从第三段的最后一句，

In the medical field, to take an obvious example, the pandemic meant that there were still clear shortages of doctors, nurses and other medical personnel. 文中医生替换 medical .

25. Scandinavian Airlines decided to

- A. Great job vacancies for the unemployed.
- B. Prepare their laid-off workers for other jobs.
- C. Retrain their cabin staff for better services
- D. finance their staff's college education.

解析：根据文章最后一段总结的出，本题属于文章的中心题目。

### Text 2

With the global population predicted to hit close to 10 billion by 2050, and forecasts that agricultural production in some regions will need to nearly double to keep pace, food security is increasingly making headlines. In the UK, it has become a big talking point recently too, for a rather particular reason: Brexit.

Brexit is seen by some as an opportunity to reverse a recent trend towards the UK importing food. The country produces only about 60 per cent of the food it eats, down from almost three-quarters in the late 1980s. A move back to self-sufficiency, the argument goes, would boost the farming industry, political sovereignty and even the nation's health. Sounds great—but how feasible is this vision?

According to a report on UK food production from the University of Leeds, UK, 85 percent of the country's total land area is associated with meat and dairy production. That supplies 80 percent of what is consumed, so even covering the whole country in livestock farms wouldn't allow us to cover all our meat and dairy needs.

There are many caveats to those figures, but they are still grave. To become much more self-sufficient, the UK would need to drastically reduce its consumption of animal foods, and probably also farm more intensively meaning fewer green fields and more factory-style production. But switching to a mainly plant-based diet wouldn't help. There is a good reason why the UK is dominated by animal husbandry: most of its terrain doesn't have the right soil or climate to grow crops on commercial basis. Just 25 percent of the country's land is suitable for crop-growing, most of which is already occupied by arable fields. Even if we converted all the suitable land to fields of fruit and veg--- which would involve taking out all the nature reserves and removing thousands of people from their homes—we would achieve only a 30 percent boost in crop production.

Just 23 per cent of the fruit and vegetables consumed in the UK are currently home-grown, so even with the most extreme measures we could meet only 30 percent of our fresh produce needs. That is before we look for the space to grow the grains, sugars, seeds and oils that provide us with the vast bulk of our current calorie intake.

26. Some people argue that food self-sufficiency in the UK would \_\_\_\_\_.

- [A] be hindered by its population growth
- [B] contribute to the nation's well-being
- [C] become a priority of the government

[D] post a challenge to its farming industry

答案: B.

解析: 找准定位信息词, self-sufficiency 及 UK. 同时把握问题的题眼 some people 即某些人的观点, 定位在二段第三句 A move back to self-sufficiency, the argument goes, would boost the farming industry, political sovereignty and even the nations health. 本句交代 self-sufficiency 能促进农业, 政治及国家医疗。综合信息符合 B 选项

27. The report by the University of Leeds showed that in the UK

[A] farmland has been inefficiently utilized

[B] factory style production needs reforming

[C] most land is used for meat and dairy production

[D] more green fields will be converted for farming

答案: C

解析: 找准定位信息 report 及 University of Leeds 可直接定位到第三段首句。According to a report on UK food production from the University of Leeds, UK, 85 percent of the country's total land area is associated with meat and dairy production. 根据本句大意, 选择既有原文重现又包含同义替换的选项即可。大部分的土地都被用作肉类和奶制品的生产。

28. Crop-growing in the UK is restricted due to \_\_\_\_\_.

[A] its farming technology

[B] its dietary tradition

[C] its natural conditions

[D] its commercial interests

答案: C 确定定位信息词 crop-growing 及问题中出现的一个考研高频词汇 restrict, 并问及原因 (due to), 定位在下一段本句话: There is a good reason why the UK is dominated by animal husbandry: most of its terrain doesn't have the right soil or climate to grow crops on commercial basis. Just 25 percent of the country's land is suitable for crop-growing, most of which is already occupied by arable fields. 句中谈及英国的土地和气候并不适宜庄稼生长, 且重点给出带有态度语气的提示性信息 just, 仅有 25% 的土地适宜, 综合体现其庄稼生长受限于自然条件。

29. It can be learned from the last paragraph that British people \_\_\_\_\_.

[A] rely largely on imports for fresh produce

[B] enjoy a steady rise in fruit consumption

[C] are seeking effective ways to cut calorie intake

[D] are trying to grow new varieties of grains

答案: A

解析: 本段首句 Just 23 per cent of the fruit and vegetables consumed in the UK are currently home-grown, so even with the most extreme measures we could meet only 30 percent of our fresh produce needs 谈到英国果蔬类品中自产的只有 23%, 即使实行强硬措施, 最多也只能满足民众 30% 的需求。可见英国人果蔬类产品的供应绝大多数依然是依赖于进口, 即 A 选项。

30. The author's attitude to food self-efficiency in the UK is \_\_\_\_\_.

- [A] defensive  
[B] doubtful  
[C] tolerant  
[D] optimistic

答案: B

解析: 本题问及作者对于英国食品自给自足的态度。全篇话题集中围绕英国由于自然条件等劣势无法满足本国粮食需求, 脱欧并非有效之计。较明显的位置如文章第二段 A move back to self-sufficiency, the argument goes, would boost the farming industry, political sovereignty and even the nations health. Sounds great — but how feasible is this vision? 作者用反问表强调, 体现了其对于英国想要实现粮食自足的充分怀疑和不信任。

### Text 3

When Microsoft bought task management app Wunderlist and mobile calendar Sunrise in 2015, it picked up two newcomers that were attracting considerable buzz in Silicon Valley. Microsoft's own Office dominates the market for "productivity" software, but the start-ups represented a new wave of technology designed from the ground up for the smartphone world.

Both apps, however, were later scrapped, after Microsoft said it had used their best features in its own products. Their teams of engineers stayed on, making them two of the many "acqui-hires" that the biggest companies have used to feed their insatiable hunger for tech talent.

To Microsoft's critics, the fates of Wunderlist and Sunrise are examples of a remorseless drive by Big Tech to chew up any innovative companies that lie in their path. "They bought the seedlings and closed them down," complained Paul Arnold, a partner at San Francisco-based Switch Ventures, putting paid to businesses that might one day turn into competitors. Microsoft declined to comment.

Like other start-up investors, Mr. Arnold's own business often depends on selling start-ups to larger tech companies, though he admits to mixed feelings about the result: "I think these things are good for me, if I put my selfish hat on. But are they good for the American economy? I don't know."

The US Federal Trade Commission says it wants to find the answer to that question. This week, it asked the five most valuable US tech companies for information about their many small acquisitions over the past decade. Although only a research project at this stage, the request has raised the prospect of regulators wading into early-stage tech markets that until now have been beyond their reach.

Given their combined market value of more than \$5.5tm, rifling through such small deals—many of them much less prominent than Wunderlist and Sunrise—might seem beside the point. Between them, the five companies (Apple, Microsoft, Google, Amazon and Facebook) have spent an average of only \$3.4bn a year on sub-\$1bn acquisitions over the past five years—a drop in the ocean compared with their massive financial reserves, and the more than \$130bn of venture capital that was invested in the US last year.

However, critics say that the big companies use such deals to buy their most threatening potential competitors before their businesses have a chance to gain momentum, in some cases as part of a "buy and kill" tactic to simply close them down.

31. What is true about Wunderlist and Sunrise after their acquisitions?

- A. Their market values declined.
- B. Their tech features improved.
- C. Their engineers were retained.
- D. Their products were re-priced.

答案: C

解析: 本题问及两家公司在被收购之后的命运, 定位到第二段有所涉及相关话题。Both apps, however, were later scrapped, after Microsoft said it had used their best features in its own products. Their teams of engineers stayed on, making them two of the many “acqui-hires” that the biggest companies have used to feed their insatiable hunger for tech talent. 收购之后, 原公司的工程师团队 stayed on. 即 C 选项 retain. 他们依然被留在公司。

32. Microsoft's critics believe that the big tech companies tend to \_\_\_\_

- A. ignore public options
- B. treat new tech talent unfairly
- C. exaggerate their product quality
- D. eliminate their potential competitors

答案: D

解析: 本题题干同序进入到文章第三段, 开头就直入主体, To Microsoft's critics, the fates of Wunderlist and Sunrise are examples of a remorseless drive by Big Tech to chew up any innovative companies that lie in their path. “They bought the seedlings and closed them down,” complained Paul Arnold, a partner at San Francisco-based Switch Ventures, putting paid to businesses that might one day turn into competitors. 批评者认为这两家公司的收购是大公司为了 chew up 扫清其发展路上潜在的竞争者。双引号作进一步解释补充, 引出 putting paid to businesses that might one day turn into competitors. 即为消灭其潜在竞争者而实施的商业战略。

33. Paul Arnold is concerned that small acquisitions might \_\_\_\_

- A. harm the national economy
- B. worsen market competition
- C. discourage start-up investors
- D. weaken big tech companies

答案: A

解析: 关键定位信息为人名 Paul Arnold, 定位在下一段中 “I think these things are good for me, if I put my selfish hat on. But are they good for the American economy? I don't know.” 个人角度来讲其会受益, 但对于美国国家整体经济的发展带来的后果, Arnold 表示无法言说。隐晦地表明其态度, 即大公司收购小公司对美国整体经济会造成不良后果。

34. The US Federal Trade Commission intend to \_\_\_\_

- A. examine small acquisitions
- B. limit Big Tech's expansion
- C. supervise start-ups operations
- D. encourage research collaboration

答案: A

解析: 按照题文同序进入到下一段, 确定句子核心主干。The US Federal Trade Commission says it wants to find the answer to that question. This week, it asked the five most valuable US tech companies for information about their many small acquisitions over the past decade. Although only a research project at this stage, the request has raised the prospect of regulators wading into early-stage tech markets that until now have been beyond their reach. 本周 US Federal Trade Commission ask...for information about their many small acquisitions. 得出答案对应为 A 选项。

35. For the five biggest tech companies, their small acquisitions have \_\_\_\_

- A. brought little financial pressure
- B. raised few management challenges
- C. set an example for future deals
- D. generate considerable profits

答案: A

解析: 根据题干关键信息 five biggest tech companies, 定位到倒数第二段 Between them, the five companies (Apple, Microsoft, Google, Amazon and Facebook) have spent an average of only \$3.4bn a year on sub-\$1bn acquisitions over the past five years---a drop in the ocean compared with their massive financial reserves, and the more than \$130bn of venture capital that was invested in the US last year. 本句提及其收购小型公司的资金相比于其巨大的财政储备很小

#### Text4

We' re fairly good at judging people based on first impressions thin slices of experience ranging from a glimpse of a photo to a five-minute interaction, and deliberation can be not only extraneous but intrusive. In one study of the ability she dubbed "thin slicing,"the late psychologist Nalini Ambady asked participants to watch silent 10-second video clips of professors and to rate the instructor's overall effectiveness. Their ratings correlated strongly with students' end-of-semester ratings. Another set of participants had to count backward from 1,000 by nines as they watched the clips, occupying their conscious working memory. Their ratings were just as accurate, demonstrating the intuitive nature of the social processing.

Critically, another group was asked to spend a minute writing down reasons for their judgment, before giving the rating. Accuracy dropped dramatically. Ambady suspected that deliberation focused them on vivid but misleading cues, such as certain gestures or utterances, rather than letting the complex interplay of subtle signals form a holistic impression. She found similar interference when participants watched 15-second clips of pairs of people and judged whether they were strangers, friends, or dating partners.

Other research shows we' re better at detecting deception and sexual orientation from thin slices when we rely on intuition instead of reflection. "It' s as if you' re driving a stick shift,"says Judith Hall, a psychologist at Northeastern University, "and if you start thinking about it too much, you can' t remember what you' re doing. But if you go on automatic pilot, you' re fine. Much of our social life is like that."

Thinking too much can also harm our ability to form preferences College students' ratings of strawberry jams and college courses aligned better with experts' opinions when the students weren' t asked to analyze their rationale. And people made car-buying decisions that were both objectively better and more personally satisfying when asked to focus on their feelings rather than on details hut only if the decision was complex-when they had a lot of information to process.

Intuition's special powers are unleashed only in certain circumstances. In one study, participants completed a battery of eight tasks, including four that tapped reflective thinking (discerning rules, comprehending vocabulary) and four that tapped intuition and creativity (generating new products or figures of speech). Then they rated the degree to which they had used intuition ("gut feelings," "hunches," "my heart"). Use of their gut hurt their performance on the first four tasks, as expected, and helped them on the rest. Sometimes the heart is smarter than the head.

36. Nalini Ambady's study deals with

- A. instructor students interaction
- B. the power of people's memory
- C. the reliability of first impressions
- D. People's ability to influence others

解析：根据题目定位词 Nalini Ambady's 锁定在文章的第一段，属于典型的细节定位，精确定位句就可以做出来的题目。选项 C 是对实验研究的概括与总结。

37. In Ambady's study rating accuracy dropped when participants,

- A. gave the rating in limited time
- B. focused on specific details
- C. wanted shorter video details.
- D. deception is difficult to detect.

解析：根据题目定位词 Ambady's study rating accuracy 定位到文章的第二段，Ambady suspected that deliberation focused them on vivid but misleading cues 我们的 B 选项是这句的同义替换，对于细节题只需要把握好定位，精确定位进行替换。

38. Judith Hall mentions driving to mention that

- A. memory can be selective
- B. reflection can be distracting
- C. social must be cultivated
- D. deception is difficult to detect

解析：根据题目中的 mention 词的出现，标志该题型是例证题，例证题解题方法主要还是要找到观点句句可以，大部分观点句在例子前面，也有在后边的情况。Other research shows we're better at detecting deception and sexual orientation from thin slices when we rely on intuition instead of reflection. 选项 B 是该句的同意替换。

39. When you are making complex decisions, it is advisable to

- A. follow your feelings
- B. list your preferences
- C. seek expert advice
- D. collect enough data

解析：根据题干，我们可以定位到第四段后边，when asked to focus on their feelings rather than on details but only if the decision was complex-when they had a lot of information to process. 定位句强调的是感觉，所以我们选项 A 是定位句的替换。

40. What can we learn from the last paragraph?



- A. Generating new products takes time.
- B. Intuition may affect reflective tasks.
- C. Vocabulary comprehension needs creativity.
- D. Objective thinking may boost intuitiveness.

解析： 根据题干要求，最后一段能够知道什么，阅读最后一段是在得出实验结果，所以，我们重点去读实验结果，tapped intuition and creativity (generating new products or figures of speech)选项 B 是该句的同义替换