

高考阅读理解主旨大意题——其它类说明文&议论文

A

As many accounts of cheating and lying crowd our newspaper pages and TV news, it seems that honesty is a rapidly disappearing value. Especially troubling are the reports that dishonesty is increasing among student populations around the world. These reports include stories such as the students who faced criminal charges for selling copies of a final exam in advance, and a student forced to leave school when he turned in a paper with the purchase receipt for it still inside the page.

Should we be alarmed by these accounts of falling standards of principles and morality? The assumption is that student dishonesty is more extensive now than it was 20, 50, 100 years ago. If so, what's behind it? If this is indeed the case, it's deeply troubling as today's students are tomorrow's leaders! It's possible that the desire to cheat is no greater than in the past. However, the importance of having a university degree may have increased the pressure to cheat. Undoubtedly, modern technology facilitates the means and opportunities to cheat. The demanding task of writing term papers has always been a source of frustration, if not the ultimate nightmare.

We all know the story of how Abraham Lincoln walked five miles to return a penny he had overcharged a customer. Like it, every society has stories stressing the absolute value of honesty. It is these stories that students need to remember when they want to cheat. Whether discovered or not, dishonesty has an undesirable effect on anyone who practices it. Equally important, the ill effects are not confined to the dishonest person alone. Without trust, ordered society would become a chaos. It's important that we do what we say we will do and pay when we say we will. Perhaps the most important lesson our schools can teach is that we must trust each other. When honesty disappears, the strong and lasting bonds of trust are destroyed and we all lose. The future of our society depends on mutual trust.

1. What's the writer's purpose in writing the text?

- A. To explain the definition of honesty.
- B. To expose the ill effects of dishonesty.
- C. To make an appeal to people for honesty.
- D. To reveal the severity of student cheating.

B

In early twentieth-century France, a new form of entertainment was becoming a hit—motion pictures (电影). People crowded into theatres for short, silent, black-and-white films that showed everyday happenings, such as a train pulling into a station. These images were dimly (微弱地) projected onto white sheets. Usually, there was no sound. Occasionally, men at pianos played music to match the scenes.

Moving images in theatres are no longer novel, but back at the beginning of the art form, surprises lurked (潜伏) around every corner. During the initial showings of basic silent movies, some people in the audience screamed in fear, reacting to what they saw as if it were happening in real life. Moviegoers were known to leap out of the way of trains on the screen. At that time, few people understood what motion pictures were, so audience members could easily be fooled.

Today, people crowd into theatres for the latest 3D movies. Even older movies, such as the

popular *Star Wars* series, are being re-released in 3D. Moviemakers are excited about the ability to involve the audience more directly in the story or film. In addition, theatres invest tens of thousands of dollars on high-quality audio systems so that everything from the safest whispers to the largest explosions sounds clear and realistic.

What will movies be like 100 years from now? Will audiences be able to smell scents in the films, taste the food that characters are eating, or even becoming part of the stories themselves? Only time will tell.

27. From the beginning, movies have always _____.
- A. had music
B. been in color
C. been popular
D. contained surprises
28. The author mentioned moviegoers leaping out of their seats to show _____.
- A. how foolish audiences were
B. how different old theatres were
C. how scary movies from the past were
D. how unfamiliar movies were to viewers then
29. What's the author's purpose in writing the text?
- A. To explain how realistic movies are today.
B. To tell something about future movie plans.
C. To introduce the history of movie technology.
D. To compare movie theatres over the last century.

C

Languages have been coming and going for thousands of years, but in recent times there has been less coming and a lot more going. When the world was still populated by hunter-gatherers, small tightly knit (联系) groups developed their own patterns of speech independent of each other. Some language experts believe that 10000 years ago, when the world had just five to ten million people, they spoke perhaps 1200 languages between them.

Soon afterwards, many of those people started settling down to become farmers, and their languages too became more settled and fewer in number. In recent centuries, trade, industrialization, the development of the nation-state and the spread of universal compulsory education, especially globalization and better communications in the past few decades, all have caused many languages to disappear, and dominant languages such as English, Spanish and Chinese are increasingly taking over.

At present, the world has about 6800 languages. The distribution of these languages is hugely uneven. The general rule is that mild zones have relatively few languages, often spoken by many people, while hot, wet zones have lots, often spoken by small numbers. Europe has only around 200 languages; the Americas about 1000; Africa 2400; and Asia and the Pacific perhaps 3200, of which Papua New Guinea alone accounts for well over 800. The median number (中位数) of speakers is a mere 6000, which means that half the world's languages are spoken by fewer people than that.

Already well over 400 of the total of 6,800 languages are close to extinction (消亡), with only a few elderly speakers left. Pick, at random, Busum in Cameroon (eight remaining speakers), Chiapaneco in Mexico (150), Lipan Apache in the United States (two or three) or Wadjigu in Australia (one, with a question-mark) none of these seems to have much chance of survival.

1. What is the main idea of the text?
- A. New languages will be created.

- B. People's lifestyles are reflected in fewer languages.
- C. Human development results in fewer languages.
- D. Geography determines language evolution.

D

Cities usually have a good reason for being where they are, like a nearby port or river. People settle in these places because they are easy to get to and naturally suited to communications and trade. New York City, for example, is near a large harbour at the mouth of the Hudson River. Over 300 years its population grew gradually from 800 people to 8 million. But not all cities develop slowly over a long period of time. Boom towns grow from nothing almost overnight. In 1896, Dawson, Canada, was unmapped wilderness (荒野). But gold was discovered there in 1897, and two years later, it was one of the largest cities in the West, with a population of 30,000.

Dawson did not have any of the natural conveniences of cities like London or Paris. People went there for gold. They travelled over snow-covered mountains and sailed hundreds of miles up icy rivers. The path to Dawson was covered with thirty feet of wet snow that could fall without warming. An avalanche (雪崩) once closed the path, killing 63 people. For many who made it to Dawson, however, the rewards were worth the difficult trip. Of the first 20,000 people who dug for gold, 4,000 got rich. About 100 of these stayed rich men for the rest of their lives.

But no matter how rich they were, Dawson was never comfortable. Necessities like food and wood were very expensive. But soon, the gold that Dawson depended on had all been found. The city was crowded with disappointed people with no interest in settling down, and when they heard there were new gold discoveries in Alaska, they left Dawson City as quickly as they had come. Today, people still come and go—to see where the Canadian gold rush happened. Tourism is now the chief industry of Dawson City — its present population is 762.

1. What attracted the early settlers to Dawson City?
 - A. Its business culture.
 - B. Its small population.
 - C. Its geographical position.
 - D. Its favourable climate.
2. What do we know about those who first dug for gold in Dawson?
 - A. Two-thirds of them stayed there.
 - B. One out of five people got rich.
 - C. Almost everyone gave up.
 - D. Half of them died.
3. What was the main reason for many people to leave Dawson?
 - A. They found the city too crowded.
 - B. They wanted to try their luck elsewhere.
 - C. They were unable to stand the winter.
 - D. They were short of food.
4. What is the text mainly about?
 - A. The rise and fall of a city.
 - B. The gold rush in Canada.
 - C. Journeys into the wilderness.
 - D. Tourism in Dawson.

E

Should we allow modern buildings to be built next to older buildings in a historic area of a city? In order to answer this question, we must first examine whether people really want to preserve the historic feel of an area. Not all historical buildings are attractive. However, there may be other reasons, for example, economic (经济的) reasons—why they should be preserved.

In my view, new architectural styles can exist perfectly well alongside an older style. Indeed, there are many examples in my own home town of Tours where modern designs have been placed very successfully next to old buildings. As long as the building in question is pleasing and does not

dominate (影响) its surroundings too much, it often improves the attractiveness of the area.

It is true that there are examples of new buildings which have spoilt (破坏) the area they are in, but the same can be said of some old buildings too. Yet people still speak against new buildings in historic areas. I think this is simply because people are naturally conservative(保守的) and do not like change.

Although we have to respect people's feelings as fellow users of the buildings, I believe that it is the duty of the architect and planner to move things forward. If we always reproduced what was there before, we would all still be living in caves. Thus, I would argue against copying previous architectural styles and choose something fresh and different, even though that might be the more risky choice.

1. What does the author say about historical buildings in the first paragraph?
 - A. Some of them are not attractive.
 - B. Most of them are too expensive to preserve.
 - C. They are more pleasing than modern buildings.
 - D. They have nothing to do with the historic feel of an area.
2. Which of the following is true according to the author ?
 - A. We should reproduce the same old buildings.
 - B. Buildings should not dominate their surroundings.
 - C. Some old buildings have spoilt the area they are in.
 - D. No one understands why people speak against new buildings.
3. By "move things forward" in the last paragraph, the author probably means "_____".
 - A. Destroy old buildings
 - B. Put things in a different place
 - C. Choose new architectural styles
 - D. Respect people's feelings for historical buildings
4. What is the main purpose of the passage?
 - A. To explain why people dislike change.
 - B. To warn that we could end up living in caves.
 - C. To admit how new buildings have ruined their surroundings.
 - D. To argue that modern buildings can be built in historic areas.

F

Steven Stein likes to follow garbage trucks. His strange habit makes sense when you consider that he's an environmental scientist who studies how to reduce litter, including things that fall off garbage trucks as they drive down the road. What is even more interesting is that one of Stein's jobs is defending an industry behind the plastic shopping bags.

Americans use more than 100 billion thin film plastic bags every year. So many end up in tree branches or along highways that a growing number of cities do not allow them at checkouts (收银台). The bags are prohibited in some 90 cities in California, including Los Angeles. Eyeing these headwinds, plastic-bag makers are hiring scientists like Stein to make the case that their products are not as bad for the planet as most people assume.

Among the bag makers' argument: many cities with bans still allow shoppers to purchase paper bags, which are easily recycled but require more energy to produce and transport. And while plastic bags may be ugly to look at, they represent a small percentage of all garbage on the ground today.

The industry has also taken aim at the product that has appeared as its replacement: reusable shopping bags. The stronger a reusable bag is, the longer its life and the more plastic-bag use it cancels out. However, longer-lasting reusable bags often require more energy to make. One study found that a cotton bag must be used at least 131 times to be better for the planet than plastic.

Environmentalists don't dispute (质疑) these points. They hope paper bags will be banned someday too and want shoppers to use the same reusable bags for years.

阅读这篇文章，并思考：1. 这篇文章是什么体裁？2. 这篇文章的语篇结构是怎么样的？