

英语二阅读真题同源过关练习 17

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要求：A. 做题 B. 找到出题处 C. 挑五个句子翻译 D. 将文中单词认真背完

It is the prerogative of curious people to attempt to make sense of the world around us. What is different today than it was before? In what direction are things moving and what is driving that change? It is all too easy to finger technology as that driving force, perhaps because it is the most visible of all the forces that do shape our society -- ideas, leaders, institutions, laws, **the economy**, happenstance.

Today, writing in *The American Conservative*, **Alan Jacobs has a delightful little rant of a piece**, taking issue with claims such as "Technology is shifting our way of seeing the world" or "The internet really has changed the world completely." Jacobs writes: Pray tell, what is "the world"? Seriously, I want to know what people mean by this. If "the world" has been changed completely, why does the silver maple outside my window still stand as it has for decades? Why is the gazpacho at Emilio's as good as it was when I first tasted it, twenty-five years ago? Why does the prose of Sir Thomas Browne still delight me as it did when I first encountered it at age nineteen? Why do I still love my wife? If you answer, "Well, that's not what they mean by 'the world,'" I counter, "Then what do they mean? Because all those things I just mentioned are in the only world that I know." And if it's "technology" that is changing everything, which technology is that? Drugs that treat AIDS? Unmanned bomber drones? Sous vide machines?

Oh, it's none of those? It's "the internet"? That seems like an abstraction about as vague as "the world," given that "the internet" allows people to find out how those AIDS drugs work, to purchase sous vide machines, and to manipulate drones remotely. This isn't to say that technology changes *nothing*, a caricature so foolhardy it cannot be taken seriously. But homing in on *what* changes as technology advances, weeding out what doesn't, and describing -- accurately -- how technology interacts with all the other forces that shape society, that's a project requiring a level of precision impossible to achieve with terms as broad as "the world" and "the Internet."

Jacobs's prescription, which I wholeheartedly agree with, is to bear down on the specific examples, to examine -- closely, rigorously -- actual cases of technology use (and let's construe that to mean more

than consumer electronics, because, as Alexis has written here, *it's technology all the way down*) and to try to understand, writ small, what a given technology enables and what it prevents.

With *case study after case study*, we can fill in a picture of what the world (without quotes this time) looks like.

1. The reason why technology is often regarded as the impetus is that

- A. it is easy to define what technology is
- B. technology is the most important component of the whole society
- C. it is difficult to give other elements precise definitions
- D. technology is the most obvious power to revolutionize the community

2. It is implied in the paragraph 2 that

- A. Given viewpoints held by some people are inaccurate
- B. the concept of 'world' in some people's eyes has changed a lot
- C. some people have the wrong interpretation of the word 'technology'
- D. technology has transformed our thinking and the world

3. We can learn from the paragraph 3 that

- A. A term covering a wide range leads to inaccuracy
- B. The Internet is the most important technology we have invented
- C. The word 'Internet' is too obscure to be used to define the world
- D. Technology to a great extent proves nothing and settles nothing

4. The author's attitude to Jacobs's argument can be described as

A. indifferent B. biased C. supportive D. opposed

5. The passage mainly centers on

A. technology and life

B. technology and the world

C. technology and success

D. technology and entertainment

答案: DAACB

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Jacobs's prescription, which I whole-heartedly agree with, is to bear down on the specific examples, 第四题答案出处 to examine — closely, rigorously — actual cases of technology use (and let's construe that to mean more than consumer electronics, because, as Alexis has written here, it's technology all the way down) and to try to understand, writ small, what a given technology enables and what it prevents.

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全文翻译：

感知我们周围的世界是充满好奇心的人们的权利。现在的世界和以前有什么不同？事物是朝着什么方向变化以及什么推动了这种变化。科技是最容易想到的驱动力量，可能是因为它塑造我们社会的所有力量中最显而易见的，它塑造了我们的观念，领导人，机构，法律，经济，机遇。

现在在 *The American Conservative* 写作的 Alan Jacobs，写了一篇令人高兴的小咆哮文章，里面提到了“科技改变我们看世界的方法”或者“互联网彻底地改变了这个世界”类似这样的说法。Jacobs 写道：请你告诉我，什么是“世界”？说实话，我很想知道世界在人们口中的意思。如果“世界”已经彻底改变了，那为什么我窗外的银色枫树还是和几十年前一样挺立？为什么 Emilio 的冷汤和二十五年前我第一次品尝的时候一样好喝。为什么 Thomas Browne 先生的散文还是和我十九岁第一次读到时一样让我喜悦？为什么我还爱我的妻子？如果你回答，“其实，那不是他们所指的”世界“，”我答道：“那他们的世界是什么？因为所有我提到的东西都只存在我知道的那个世界。”而且如果说“技术”改变了每一个事物，那到底是哪种技术？治疗 AIDS 的药？无人轰炸机？Sous vide 炖锅？

哦，都不是？是“互联网”？考虑到“互联网”可以让人们知道 AIDS 药物是如何治疗的，如何买到 sous vide 炖锅和远程操控无人轰炸机，“互联网”像是个和“世界”一样模糊的抽象词。不是说科技没有改变事物，不需要将鲁莽的讽刺漫画太当一回事。但是指出科技进步时什么发生了变化，什么没有变化，然后准确地表达科技是如何和其它改变社会的力量相互作用的，这种大课题需要的是一定程度的精确度，这种精确度无法用“世界”和“互联网”这种宽泛的词汇来达到。

我满心同意 Jacobs's 的对策，在具体例子上下工夫，紧密严格地审视科技应用的实际案例（让我们把它们串连起来去引出比电子产品更多的含义，因为就如 Alexis 写的科技一路向前）并且有节制地试着去理解什么是科技本来就能做到的和就不就不。在一个又一个的案例学习后，我们能构造出世界（这次不带引号）是什么样子的。