

西北工业大学
2004 年硕士研究生入学考试试题

试题名称: 英语水平测试 (含英语修辞及写作技巧)

试题编号: 335

说明: 所有试题一律写在答题纸上

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ENGLISH PROFICIENCY & COMPOSITION TEST

FOR ENGLISH-MAJOR GRADUATE ADMISSION

2004

Part I. Vocabulary (15)

Directions: Choose the one word or phrase that best keeps the meaning for the underlined word or phrase in the sentence or the phrase that best complete the sentence.

1. Our gear ready, we set up forth at dusk.

A. went forward	B. started out
C. set fire	D. wandered about
2. The thief set upon victim quickly.

A. stole	B. apologized
C. accused	D. attacked
3. The police told the suspected thief to empty his pocket.

A. turn up	B. turn in
C. turn out	D. turn down
4. The crowds of people had to be refused admission to the theater.

A. turned out from	B. turned away from
C. turned back from	D. turned over
5. This popular sports car is now being produced at the rate of a thousand a week.

A. turned down	B. turned out
C. turned in	D. turned up
6. His landlady evicted him for not paying his rent.

A. turned him away	B. turned him out
C. turned him aside	D. turned him down
7. These invoices need to be examined thoroughly because the total value doesn't agree with the figure in the covering letter.

A. looked on	B. looked for
C. looked in	D. looked over
8. We wondered how he was progressing in his new job.

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41. The passage supports which of the following statements about employees buying shares in their own companies?
- A. At three different companies, approximately nine out of ten of the workers were eligible to buy shares in their companies.
 - B. Approximately 90 % of the eligible workers at three different companies chose to buy shares in their companies.
 - C. The opportunity to buy shares was discouraged by at least some labor unions.
 - D. Companies that demonstrated the highest productivity were the first to allow their employees the opportunity to buy shares.
 - E. Eligibility to buy shares was contingent on employees' agreeing to increased work loads.
42. Which of the following statements is most consistent with the principle described in Para. 3.
- A. A democratic government that decides it is inappropriate to own particular industry has in no way abdicated its responsibilities as guardian of the public interest.
 - B. The ideal way for a government to protect employee interests is to force companies to maintain their share of a competitive market without government subsidies.
 - C. The failure to harness the power of self-interest is an important reason that state-owned industries perform poorly.
 - D. Governments that want to implement privatization programs must try to eliminate all resistance to free-market system.
 - E. The individual shareholder will reap only a minute share of the gains from whatever sacrifices he or she makes to achieve these gains.
43. Which of the following can be inferred from the passage about the privatization process in the United Kingdom?
- A. It depends to a potentially dangerous degree on individual ownership of shares.
 - B. It conforms in its most general outlines to Thomas Paine's prescription for business ownership.
 - C. It was originally conceived to include some giving away of free shares.

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- D. It has been successful, even though privatization has failed in other countries.
- E. It is taking place more slowly than some economists suggest is necessary.
44. The quotation in paragraph 3 is most probably used to _____.
- A. counter a position that the author of the passage believes is incorrect
- B. state a solution to a problem described in the previous sentence
- C. show how opponents of the viewpoint of the author of the passage have supported their arguments
- D. point out a paradox contained in a controversial viewpoint
- E. present a historical maxim to challenge the principle introduced in the third paragraph

Passage 3

Japanese firms have achieved the highest levels of manufacturing efficiency in the world automobile industry. Some observers of Japan have assumed that Japanese firms use the same manufacturing equipment and techniques as United States firms but have benefited from the unique characteristics of Japanese employees and the Japanese culture. However, if this were true, then one would expect Japanese auto plants in the United States to perform no better than factories run by United States companies. This is not the case, Japanese-run automobile plants located in the United States and staffed by local workers have demonstrated higher levels of productivity when compared with factories owned by United States companies.

Other observers link high Japanese productivity to higher levels of capital investment 'per worker. But a historical perspective leads to a different conclusion. When the two top Japanese automobile makers matched and then doubled United States productivity levels in the mid-sixties, capital investment per-employee was comparable to that of United States firms. Furthermore, by the late seventies, the amount of fixed assets required to produce one vehicle was roughly equivalent in Japan and in the United States. Since capital investment was not higher in Japan, it had to be other factors that led to higher productivity.

A more fruitful explanation may lie with Japanese production techniques. Japanese automobile producers did not simply implement conventional processes more effectively; they

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made critical changes in United States procedures: For instance, the mass-production philosophy of United States automakers encouraged the production of huge lots of cars in order to utilize fully expensive; component-specific equipment and to occupy fully workers who have been trained to execute one operation efficiently. Japanese automakers chose to make small-lot production feasible by introducing several departures from United States practices, including the use of flexible equipment that could be altered easily to do several different production tasks and the training of workers in multiple jobs. Automakers could schedule the production of different components or models on single machines, thereby eliminating the need to store the buffer stocks of extra components result when specialized equipment workers are kept constantly active.

45. The primary purpose of the passage is to
 - A. present the major steps of a process
 - B. clarify an ambiguity
 - C. chronicle a dispute
 - D. correct misconceptions
 - E. defend an accepted approach
46. The author suggests that if the observers of Japan mentioned in line 4 were correct, which of the following would be the case?
 - A. The equipment used in Japanese automobile plants would be different from the equipment used in United States plants.
 - B. Japanese workers would be trained to do several different production jobs.
 - C. Culture would not have an influence on the productivity levels of workers.
 - D. The workers in Japanese-run plants would have higher productivity levels regardless of where they were located.
 - E. The production levels of Japanese-run plants located in the United States would be equal to those of plants run by United States companies.
47. Which of the following statements concerning the productivity levels of automakers can be inferred from the passage?

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- A. Prior to the 1960's, the productivity levels of the top Japanese automakers were exceeded by those of United States automakers.
- B. The culture of a country has a large effect on the productivity levels of its automakers.
- C. During the late 1970's and early 1980's, productivity levels were comparable in Japan and the United States.
- D. The greater the number of cars that are produced in a single lot, the higher a plant's productivity level.
- E. The amount of capital investment made by automobile manufacturers in their factories determines the level of productivity.
48. According to the passage, which of the following statements is true of Japanese automobile workers?
- A. Their productivity levels did not equal those of United States automobile workers until the late seventies.
- B. Their high efficiency levels are a direct result of cultural influences.
- C. They operate component-specific machinery.
- D. They are trained to do more than one job.
- E. They produce larger lots of cars than do workers in United States factories.
49. Which of the following best describes the organization of the first paragraph?
- A. A thesis is presented and supporting examples are provided.
- B. Opposing views are presented, classified, and then reconciled.
- C. A fact is stated, and an explanation is advanced and then refuted.
- D. A theory is proposed, considered, and then amended.
- E. An opinion is presented, qualified, and then reaffirmed.
50. It can be inferred from the passage that one problem associated with the production of huge lots of cars is which of the following?
- A. The need to manufacture flexible machinery and equipment
- B. The need to store extra components not required for immediate use
- C. The need for expensive training programs for workers, which emphasize the development of facility in several production jobs.
- D. The need to alter conventional mass production processes

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- E. The need to increase the investment per vehicle in order to achieve high productivity levels
51. Which of the following statements is supported by information stated in the passage?
- A. Japanese and United States automakers differ in their approach to production processes.
 - B. Japanese automakers have perfected the use of single-function equipment.
 - C. Japanese automakers invest more capital per employee than do United States automakers.
 - D. United States-owned factories abroad have higher production levels than do Japanese owned plants in the United States.
 - E. Japanese automakers have benefited from the cultural heritage of their workers.
52. With which of the following predictive statement regarding Japanese automakers would the author most likely agree?
- A. The efficiency levels of the Japanese automakers will decline if they become less flexible in their approach to production.
 - B. Japanese automakers productivity levels double during the late 1990's.
 - C. United States auto makes will originate net production processes before Japanese automakers do.
 - D. Japanese automakers will hire fewer workers than will United States automakers because each worker is required to perform several jobs.
 - E. Japanese automakers will spend less on equipment repairs than will United States automakers because Japanese equipment can be easily altered.

Passage 4

In the two decades between 1910 and 1930, over ten percent to the population of the United States left the South, where the preponderance of Black population had been located, and migrated to northern states, with the largest number moving, it is claimed, between 1916 and 1918. It has been frequently assumed, but not proved, that the majority of the migrants in what has come to be called the Great Migration came from rural areas and were motivated by two concurrent factors: the collapse of the cotton industry following the boll weevil infestation, which began in 1898, and increased demand in the North for labor following the cessation of

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European immigration caused by the outbreak of the First World War in 1914. This assumption has led to the conclusion that the migrants' subsequent lack of economic mobility in the North is tied to rural background, a background that implies unfamiliarity with urban living and a lack of industrial skills.

But the question of who actually left the South has never been rigorously investigated. Although numerous investigations document an exodus from rural southern areas to southern cities prior to the Great Migration, no one has considered whether the same migrants then moved on to northern cities. In 1910 over 600,000 Black workers or ten percent of the Black work force, reported themselves to be engaged in "manufacturing and mechanical pursuits," the federal census category roughly encompassing the entire industrial sector. The Great Migration could easily have been made up entirely of this group and their families. It is perhaps surprising to argue that an employed population could be enticed to move, but an explanation lies in the labor conditions then prevalent in the South.

About thirty-five percent of the urban Black population in the South was engaged in skilled trades. Some were from the old artisan class of slavery--blacksmiths, masons, carpenters—which had had a monopoly of certain trades, but they were gradually being pushed out by competition, mechanization, and obsolescence. The remaining 65%, more recently urbanized, worked in newly developed industries—tobacco, lumber, coal and iron manufacture, and railroads. Wages in the South, however, were low, and Black workers were aware, through labor recruiters and the Black press, that they could earn more even as unskilled workers in the North than they could as artisan in the South. After the boll weevil infestation, urban Black workers, who were driven to undercut the wages formerly paid for industrial jobs. Thus, a move north would be seen as advantageous to a group that was already urbanized and steadily employed, and the easy conclusion tying their subsequent economic problems in the North to their rural background comes into question.

53. The author indicates explicitly that which of the following records has been a source of information in her investigation?

A. United States Immigration Service reports from 1914 to 1930

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- B. Payrolls of southern manufacturing firms between 1910 and 1930
- C. The volume of cotton exports between 1898 and 1910
- D. The federal census of 1910
- E. Advertisements of labor recruiters appearing in southern newspaper after 1910
54. In the passage, the author anticipates which of the following as a possible objection to her argument?
- A. It is uncertain how many people actually migrated during the Great Migration.
- B. The eventual economic status of the Great Migration migrants has not been adequately traced.
- C. It is not likely that people with steady jobs would have reason to move to another area of the country.
- D. It is not true that the term "manufacturing and mechanical pursuits" actually encompasses the entire industrial sector.
- E. Of the Black workers living in southern cities, only those in a small number of trades were threatened by obsolescence.
55. According to the passage, which of the following is true of wages in southern cities in 1910?
- A. They were being pushed lower as a result of increased competition.
- B. They had begun to rise so that southern industry could attract rural workers.
- C. They had increased for skilled workers but decreased in small southern cities.
- D. They had increased in large southern cities but decreased in small southern cities.
- E. They had increased in newly developed industries but decreased in the older trades.
6. The author sites each of the following as possible influences in a Black worker's decision to migrate north in the Great Migration EXCEPT
- A. wage levels in northern cities
- B. labor recruiters
- C. competition from rural workers
- D. voting rights in northern states

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E. the Black press

57. It can be inferred from the passage that the "easy conclusion" mentioned in the last sentence based on which of the following assumptions?

A. People who migrate from rural areas to large cities usually do so for economic reasons.

B. Most people who leave rural areas to take jobs in cities return to rural areas as soon as it is financially possible for them to do so.

C. People with rural background are less likely to succeed economically in cities than are those with urban background.

D. Most people who were once skilled workers are not willing to work as unskilled workers.

E. People who migrate from their birthplace to other regions of country seldom undertake a second migration.

58. The primary purpose of the passage is to _____.

A. support an alternative to an accepted methodology

B. present evidence that resolve a contradiction

C. introduce a recently discovered source of information

D. challenge a widely accepted explanation

E. argue that a discarded theory deserves new attention

59. According to information in the passage, which of the following is a correct sequence of groups of workers, from highest paid to lowest paid, in the period between 1910 and 1930?

A. Artisans in the North; artisan in the South; unskilled workers in the North; unskilled workers in the South

B. Artisans in the North and South; unskilled workers in the North; unskilled workers in the South

C. Artisans in the North; unskilled workers in the North; artisans in the South

D. Artisans in the North and South; unskilled urban workers in the North; unskilled rural workers in the South

E. Artisans in the North, unskilled urban workers in the South; unskilled rural workers in the North

60. The material in the passage would be most relevant to a long discussion of which of the

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following topics?

- A. The reasons for the subsequent economic difficulties of those who participated in the Great Migration
- B. The effect of migration on the regional economies of the United States following the First World War
- C. The transition from a rural to an urban existence for those who migrated in the Great Migration
- D. The transformation of the agricultural South following the boll weevil infestation
- E. The disappearance of mechanization in the early twentieth century

Part III. Translation (40)

Section A

Direction: Put the following passage into English and write it on your Answer Sheet.

人类对大自然的主要侵害一直是: 破坏了天然植被却没有用一种能保持土壤肥力的耕作制度来取代它。从事耕作的人类向着四面八方开垦新的土地, 而森林和草地又很容易遭到人类各种活动的破坏。

植物的根有助于固定和保护最为重要的土壤, 并防止它流失。枯死凋落的植物和动物的遗骸可以确保土壤肥力的正常恢复。如果使土壤层处于良好状态, 它就能象海绵一样起到调节该地区的水的循环的作用。绿色植物也在地球上起着更为重要的维持生命的功能。绿叶在白天吸收二氧化碳, 因为在被称为光合作用的过程中, 二氧化碳是植物制造营养物质 (如绿色细胞中的糖和淀粉) 所需的原料之一。同时, 绿叶也能释放氧气。生命世界呼吸时所放出的二氧化碳就这样被利用并转化成各种有价值的植物产品。这一过程还能保持大气层中良好的气体平衡。

随着耕作遍布欧、亚、非三大洲, 这种生物世界的自然平衡就在许多方面被改变了。耕作者需要保持农作物得到的阳光和雨水最多, 受来自其他植物的竞争最少。因此, 他们就尽可能彻底地清除了耕地上原先生长的草木。

被称为“刀耕火种”的方法, 在农业历史上很早就有了。在东印度群岛的婆罗州上, 当今仍然过着原始生活的达雅克人仍然在为我们提供这样一种耕作方式的实例: 他们用来清除长满热带雨林的土地的方法就很像五、六千年前新石器时期的欧洲人曾用过的方法——把树皮砍掉, 让树慢慢地枯死; 其他的植物也被砍倒, 待它们干枯之后就把它剥掉。这样就在那些枯死的已经遮不了什么阳光的树木间留下一块块光秃秃的空地。人

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- A. getting through B. getting on
C. getting at D. getting over
9. You must really apply yourself to some serious work.
A. get to B. get down
C. get through D. get at
10. He undertook so much work that he couldn't really do it efficiently.
A. took on B. took over
C. took in D. took after
11. They were very annoyed when they learned that the train had been cancelled without notice.
A. put off B. put away
C. put out D. put down
12. Don't let the fact that I didn't enjoy the play deter you from seeing it.
A. put you away B. put you off
C. put you up D. put up with you
13. One man particularly was conspicuous at the meeting.
A. stood up to B. stood aside
C. stood out D. stood by
14. Although he was unconscious when we found him, he soon recovered consciousness.
A. came about B. came round
C. came off D. came across
15. The union and the company have come to terms on a new contract.
A. brought to an end B. called on
C. reached an agreement on D. terminated
16. I don't think I'll take part in your expedition; please count me out.
A. admit me B. include me
C. rule me out D. assassinate me
17. What a stupid fellow his! I can't make him out at all.

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Ideally a floor area of not less than 6000 sq. ft. is required, generally in the form of a square or rectangle the sides of which have a ratio of less than two to one. Employees are grouped together in clusters, in accordance with a plan that takes into account work flow and desirable relationships across traditional organizational barriers. Such groups are identified and separated by movable screens. An acceptable general noise level is achieved by careful acoustic control to provide aural privacy and mask intrusive noise.

Part IV. Writing (50)

Section A

Directions: Combine several short sentences into one or two longer (no more than two sentences) and more effective idea.

1. Owning a word processor is very helpful for writers. All the editing can be done before the finished work is printed out. The writer can combine or delete paragraphs and sentences. He or she can correct errors in spelling, punctuation, and grammar.
2. The shrimp boats pulled away from the dock. Their nets created a design against the pink shy of morning. I was watching from the upstairs window.

Section B

Directions: Underline the topic sentence in the following short paragraph, and state or analyze the functions of the other sentences.

Warmed up a bit, I took a walk along the main aisle, dodging busy adults who took no notice of me. I loved to look at each company's display. Always showing their biggest and best produce, they showed my eyes a kaleidoscope of color and a beautiful array of shapes and sizes. Boxes were lined up neatly on a slant, containing bright yellow and orange citrus alternating between various shades of red and green apples. A row of lettuce and other salad vegetables along the top included every tint of green imaginable. Intermittent cases of smaller fruit --- deep purple grapes, grass green avocados, hairy little kiwis --- made the large fruit look even larger. The display was seasonally framed by bunches of Indiana corn hanging all around and bordered at the bottom by earthen colored squash bulging out the tops of bushel baskets. Indeed the marketplace was a scene to awaken the senses.

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Section C

Directions: Discuss the following questions and write out your responses within 300 words.

If you are female, are you getting mixed messages from men who say they want liberated women but really want traditional women? If you are male, are you getting mixed messages from women? How does your experiences illustrate male or female adherence to a double standard?

- A. claim
B. understand
C. Move away
D. respect
18. When he accidentally stepped on its tail, the little dog cried out on pain.
A. gulped
B. flipped
C. yelped
D. purred
19. A balance of international payment refers to the net result of the business which a nation carries on with other nations in a given period.
A. transpires
B. transforms
C. transacts
D. translates
20. The local school shouldn't deprive poor children of the opportunity to participate in sports.
A. deny
B. retract
C. improvise
D. dilute
21. If he had _____ his work, he could have finished it in time.
A. applied his minds to
B. devoted to
C. applied his mind to
D. pride himself on
22. You should turn the gas down or else the vegetables will _____.
A. boil down
B. your heart
C. blow over
D. boil over
23. If she had _____ what her mother told her, she wouldn't be in trouble now.
A. attached on
B. attributed to
C. attended on
D. attended to
24. Thomas Edison _____ his success as an inventor to 10% inspiration and 90% perspiration.
A. contributed
B. attributed
C. attended
D. entitled
25. Jim always _____ his classmates in a debate.
A. backs out
B. agrees on
C. backs up
D. agrees to

Sex-defined protective laws have often been based on stereotypical assumptions concerning women's needs and abilities and employers have frequently used them as legal excuses for discriminating against women. After the Second World War, for example, businesses and government sought to persuade women to vacate jobs in factories; thus making room in the labor force for returning veterans. The revival or passage of state laws limiting the

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daily or weekly work hours of women conveniently accomplished this. Employers had only to declare that overtime hours were a necessary condition of employment or promotion in their factory, and women could be quite legally fired, refused jobs, or kept at low wage levels, all in the name of "protecting" their health. By validating such laws when they are challenged by lawsuits, the courts have colluded over the years in establishing different, less advantageous employment terms for women than for men, thus reducing women's competitiveness on the job market. At the same time even the most well-intentioned lawmakers, courts, and employers have often been blind to the real needs of women. The lawmakers and the courts continue to permit employers to offer employee health insurance plans that cover all known human medical disabilities except those relating to pregnancy and childbirth.

Finally, labor laws protecting only special groups are often ineffective at protecting the workers who are actually in the workplace. Some chemicals, for example, pose reproductive risks for women of childbearing years; manufacturers using the chemicals comply with laws protecting women against these hazards by refusing to hire them. Thus the sex-defined legislation protects the hypothetical female worker, but has no effect whatever on the safety of any actual employee. The health risks to male employees in such industries cannot be negligible, since chemicals toxic enough to cause birth defects in fetuses or sterility in women are presumably harmful to the human metabolism. Protective laws aimed at changing production materials or techniques in order to reduce such hazards would benefit all employees without discriminating against any.

In sum, protective labor laws for women are discriminatory and do not meet their intended purpose. Legislators should recognize that women are in the work force to stay and that their needs—good health care, a decent wage, and a safe workplace—are the needs of all workers. Laws that ignore these facts violate women's rights for equal protection in employment.

31. According to the author, which of the following resulted from the passage or revival of state laws limiting the work hours of women workers

- A. Women workers were compelled to leave their jobs in factories
- B. Many employers had difficulty in providing jobs for returning veterans.
- C. Many employers found it hard to attract women workers.
- D. The health of most women factory workers improved.

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试题名称: 英语水平测试 (含英语修辞及写作技巧)

说明: 所有试题一律写在答题纸上

试题编号: 335

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- E. Employment practices that addressed the real needs of women workers became common.
32. The author places the word "protecting" in quotation marks in line 26 most likely in order to suggest that
- A. she is quoting the actual wording of the laws in question.
 - B. the protective nature of the laws in question should not be overlooked.
 - C. protecting the health of workers is important to those who support protective labor laws.
 - D. the laws in question were really used to the detriment of women workers, despite being overtly protective in intent.
 - E. the health of workers is not in need of protective, even in jobs where many hours of over-time work are required.
33. The passage suggests that which of the following is a shortcoming of protective labor laws that single out a particular group of workers for protection?
- A. Such laws are often too weak to be effective at protecting the group in question.
 - B. Such laws are usually drafted by legislators who do not have the best interests of workers at heart.
 - C. Such laws exert no pressure on employers to eliminate hazards in the workplace.
 - D. Compliance with such laws is often costly for employers and provokes lawsuits by employees claiming discrimination.
 - E. Employer comp
34. According to the first paragraph of the passage, the author considers which of the following to be most helpful in determining the value of special protective labor legislation for women?
- A. A comparative study of patterns of work-related illnesses in states that had such laws and in states that did not.
 - B. An estimate of how many women workers are in favor of such laws.
 - C. An analysis of the cost to employers of complying with such laws.
 - D. A consideration of what intentions the advocates of such laws really had concerning women workers.

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- E. An examination of the actual effects that such laws have had in the past on women workers.
35. The main point of the passage is that special protective labor laws for women workers are
- A. unnecessary because most workers well protected by existing labor laws.
 - B. harmful to the economic interests of women workers while offering them little or no actual protection.
 - C. not worth preserving even though they do represent a hard-won legacy of the labor movement.
 - D. controversial because male workers receive less protection than they require.
 - E. inadequate in that they often do not prevent employers from exposing women workers to many health hazards.
36. The author implies that which of the following is characteristic of many employee health insurance plans?
- A. They cover all the common medical conditions affecting men, but only some of those affecting women.
 - B. They lack the special provisions for women workers that proposed special labor laws for women would provide.
 - C. They pay the medical costs ' associated with pregnancy and childbirth only for the spouses of male employees, not for female employees.
 - D. They meet minimum legal requirements, but do not adequately safeguard the health of either male or female employees.
 - E. They have recently been improved as a result of the passage of new labor laws' but continue to exclude coverage of certain uncommon medical conditions affecting women.
37. According to the passage, special labor laws protecting women workers tend generally to have which of the following effects?
- A. They tend to modify the stereotypes employees often hold concerning women.
 - B. They increase the advantage to employers of hiring men instead of women, making it less likely that women will be hired.

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- C. They decrease the likelihood that employer will offer more protection to women workers than that which is absolutely required by law.
- D. They increase the tendency of employers to deny health insurance and disability plans to women workers.
- E. They have little impact of any kind on women workers' since typically very few women are employed in those classes of jobs covered by the laws.

Passage 2

While there is no blueprint for transforming a largely government-controlled economy into a free one, the experience of the United Kingdom since 1979 clearly shows one approach that works: privatization, in which state owned industries are sold to private companies. By 1979, the total borrowings and losses of state-owned industries were running at about £3 billion a year. By selling many of these industries, the government has decreased these borrowings and losses, gained over £34 billion from the sales, and now receives tax revenues from the newly privatized companies. Along with a dramatically improved overall economy, the government has been able to repay 12.5 percent of the net national debt over a two-year period.

In fact, privatization has not only rescued individual industries and a whole economy headed for disaster, but has also raised the level of performance in every area. At British Airways and British Gas, for example, productivity per employee has risen by 20 percent. At associated British Ports, labor disruptions common in the 1970's and early 1980's have now virtually disappeared. At British Telecom, there is no longer a waiting list as there always was before privatization to have a telephone installed.

Part of this improved productivity has come about because the employees of privatized industries were given the opportunity to buy shares in their own companies. They responded enthusiastically to the offer of shares; at British Aerospace, 89 percent of the eligible work force bought shares; at Associated British Ports, 90 percent; and at British Telecom, 92 percent. When people have a personal stake in something, they think about it, care about it, work to

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make it prosper. At the National Freight Consortium, the new employee owners grew so concerned about their company's profits that during wage negotiations they actually pressed their union to lower its wage demands. Some economists have suggested that giving away free shares would provide a needed acceleration of the privatization process. Yet they miss Thomas Paine's point that "what we obtain too cheap we esteem too lightly." In order for the far ranging benefits of individual ownership to be achieved by owners, companies, and countries, employees and other individuals must make their own decisions to buy, and they must commit some of their own resources to the choice.

38. According to the passage, all of the following were benefits of privatizing state-owned industries in the United Kingdom EXCEPT:
- A. Privatized industries paid taxes to the government.
 - B. The government gained revenue from selling state-owned industries.
 - C. The government repaid some of its national debt.
 - D. Profits from industries that were still state-owned increased.
 - E. Total borrowings and losses of state-owned industries decreased.
39. According to the passage, which of the following resulted in increased productivity in companies that have been privatized?
- A. A large number of employees chose to purchase shares in their companies.
 - B. Free shares were widely distributed to individual shareholders.
 - C. The government ceased to regulate major industries.
 - D. Unions conducted wage negotiations for employees.
 - E. Employee-owners agreed to have their wages lowered.
40. It can be inferred from the passage that the author considers labor disruptions to be
- A. an inevitable problem in a weak national economy
 - B. a positive sign of employee concern about a company
 - C. a predictor of employee reactions to a company's offer to sell shares to them
 - D. a phenomenon found more often in state-owned industries than in private companies
 - E. a deterrence to high performance levels in an industry