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Part A: Reading Skills — Working with Argumentative Writings

The purpose of narrative, descriptive and expository writings is first to tell readers something they do not know. So, while reading these passages, readers are more interested in knowing what is happening, what something looks like, or how something happens. But the purpose of argumentative writing is to get readers to accept or even adopt your views about the subject.

Argumentative writing is also different from face-to-face talking, in which people can present their views and reasons one by one if they want to prove a point to someone or persuade someone to change his or her opinion. When questioned or challenged by the listener, they can even add what they have not planned to say or change what they have originally planned to say. In argumentative writing, however, they have to present all the possible reasons and defend themselves from whatever questions and challenges their readers might launch at them. What is more, if they choose to present an argument between two opposing opinions, they alone are responsible for describing both opinions.

Practice

Study each of the following passages and do the tasks that follow:

1

Thirty years ago, most teenagers had bicycles, but now bicycles are comparatively rare, and even those boys and girls who have them do not use them as often. On the contrary, motor scooters¹ are much more common. At first sight, this may seem a sign of progress but in fact the change is not necessarily for the better.

It is easy to see why young people prefer scooters. In the first place, they are much faster and do not require much physical effort; secondly, you can take a passenger with you on the pillion² seat behind; above all, they give young people a feeling of independence, because they can travel further and impress their friends. However, the disadvantages are equally obvious. To begin with, scooters are more

¹ **scooter:** 小摩托车; 轻骑

² **pillion:** 摩托车后座

¹ make allowance
for: 考虑到; 照顾

expensive to buy and to maintain, and consequently those under 16 are not allowed to have them. Apart from that, greater freedom brings danger because speed encourages young people to take risks and as a result scooters are involved in more accidents than bicycles, and the accidents are generally more serious.

Bicycles are safer and easier to control. Years ago, teenagers had more experience with them because they had learned to ride as young children, and consequently knew what they were capable of. Nevertheless, the fact is that bicycles are not very safe, either, in cities these days because there are more cars and drivers are not used to them and do not make allowances for¹ them.

To sum up, those who are old enough to ride scooters naturally prefer them, but they should realise that they are the most dangerous form of transport on the road. Those who are too young or cannot afford to buy a scooter probably find bicycles slow and uncomfortable and riding a bicycle requires more experience with traffic than before. On balance, the change has been for the worse, especially for the 13- and 14-year-olds, but the only safe solution would be to have special lanes for cyclists.

Complete the following table according to the text:

	For	Against	Author's View
Scooters			
Bicycles			

“It is much better to go to a foreign country by yourself than on a package tour¹.” At first sight, most people would agree with this statement. Travelling abroad by yourself has an immediate appeal² because it suggests freedom to go where you like and choose what you want to do. In contrast, package tours suggest less expensive holidays in the sun where people try to make you have a good time even when you do not feel like it. To make matters worse, you are not only taken everywhere by a guide who organises everything, but you are told what time to get up and how long you can spend over lunch. Nevertheless, most people who go abroad go on package tours. Why do they do this?

To begin with, we must take into account the age and interests of the people who are travelling. Young people are not so interested in comfort. Apart from that, they enjoy the challenge of finding their own way, meeting people in the country and learning the language. Older people, on the contrary, have more luggage, and prefer to have an experienced person with them who speaks the local language and resolves all their problems. Instead of making friends among the local population, they tend to look for companionship³ among people of the same background on the coach. The principal advantage of package tours for people who go to the Mediterranean⁴ islands is cost and speed. However, people who go on them are not very interested in the place; all they want to do is to get as much sun and entertainment as possible in the time available. The reason why such holidays are inexpensive is that there are so many of them.

Personally, I would like to learn what other countries are really like, and get to know the people, but I would rather travel with a friend than go by myself, especially if I did not know the language. It is not much fun being alone in a foreign country with no one to talk to. However, if I went to a big country a long way away, like the USA or Mexico, at least the first time, it would be helpful to have a guide, and so I would probably go on a package tour, although even then I would prefer to have a friend with me, rather than go alone.

Answer the following questions:

1. In the first paragraph, what reasons does the author give to support and oppose a) travelling abroad alone and b) going on package tours? List them respectively.

¹ **package tour:**
(由旅行社代办的)包价旅游

² **appeal:** 吸引力

³ **companionship:**
友谊;伙伴关系

⁴ **Mediterranean:**
地中海的

	Support	Oppose
Travelling abroad alone		
Going on package tours		

2. In the second paragraph, what advantages of package tours does the author give for older people and for the young?

a) For older people:

b) For young people:

3. About travelling abroad, is the author more in favor of being alone than joining package tours? Does the author suggest any other alternatives?

Reading Selection One

Before the First Reading-----

Most women in China, like men, have their own jobs and earn regular income to support their families. Some people say that this is great progress, considering that not long ago they were mostly dependent on men. But other people, when looking at the problem of unemployment, argue that women should return to their kitchen and let men do their work and get their pay. What do you think of it? In the following passage, the author gives a report of

the opinions of many Chinese people who answered this question.

Keep the following questions in your mind while you read:

1. Why should women return to their kitchen?
2. How have women been liberated from housework?
3. Who are against this view?
4. Why are they against it?

Should Women Return to Their Kitchen?

Though some people have suggested that women should return to housework in order to leave more and better jobs for men, the idea has been rejected by both women and men in public opinion polls.

Lately some union officials have suggested that too many women are employed in types of work more suitable for men and that women should step aside to make way for unemployed or underemployed young men. They argue that women—especially women in their child-bearing years—actually delay economic development and result in lower productivity, poor quality and inefficiency¹.

Women first began moving out of the house and into the workforce after the idea was put forward during the May 4th Movement in 1919, the first democratic² mass movement in the history of modern China. But the idea was not realized until the 1950s, when millions of Chinese women began to go to work.

In 1949 women made up only 7.5 percent of all workers in state-owned enterprises³. The percentage rose to 21 percent in 1965 and 36 percent in 1983. In addition, one-third of China's scientists are women and women have begun to take leadership roles in a number of fields.

But some have begun to suggest that there are too many women in the workforce today. To solve the problem, some have suggested that some working women, not all, stay at home, while their husbands or brothers were given double wages. They argue that under these circumstances, families would retain⁴ their same level of income, and women could run the house and raise children much better.

The suggestion has been flatly rejected⁵ by 9 out of 10 people polled. In Nanchang, Jiangxi Province, 100 persons were questioned last summer. Out of 50 women, 46 said they were unwilling to leave their jobs, no matter what the situation might be. The other four said they would like to return home if their jobs could be taken by their sons or daughters. Of 50 men polled, only six said they

¹ **inefficiency:** 低效率

² **democratic:** 民主的

³ **enterprise:** 企业

⁴ **retain:** 保留

⁵ **reject:** 反对

¹ **federation:** 联合会

² **ideology:** 思想意识

³ **inferior:** 下等的; 下级的

⁴ **aggressive:** 敢做敢为的

⁵ **status:** 地位

⁶ **pregnant:** 怀孕的

would like to see their wives resign their jobs, if it meant higher wages for themselves.

This proves, said Bi Bingsheng of the city's Women's Federation¹, that most people reject the idea of women returning home. "This idea reflects the wrong ideology² that women are inferior³ to men and incapable of performing work that requires high intelligence or an aggressive⁴ manner. Women's liberation depends, in the final analysis, on economic status⁵," said Bi.

However, the status of women is not only reflected in the employment rate, said union official Xing. She published her own opinion poll last year, indicating that 64 percent of the women workers at the Beijing Da Hua Shirt Factory favour her "phased employment" theory. The theory suggests that a woman worker take leave from her job when she is seven months pregnant⁶ and stay off the job until her baby reaches the age of 3. Xing suggests that women on leave receive 75 percent of their normal salary and be allowed to return to work after the three-year period. "This will benefit children, women, their families and our society," said Xing.

Some of those polled, both women and men, felt the idea is a good one. It definitely seems to be more acceptable than the suggestion that women return to the home forever.

It seems that the vast majority are in favour of women playing a major role in modernization. However, "the debate is necessary", said Zheng Zhaohong, a staff member of the All-China Women's Federation. It urges us to solve our social problems, especially the time-consuming housework that takes up most of our spare time, she said. But housekeeping problems should not be solved at the cost of women's jobs. Instead, "housework should be reduced by developing the service trades and modernizing kitchen equipment", said Zheng.

After the First Reading-----

Select the answer that best completes each statement:

- _____ like the idea of women returning to their kitchen.
A. The majority of people
B. Few people
C. Only men
- _____ if some women return to their kitchen, the working conditions in their factory will be improved.

- A. According to one view
 - B. Everybody agrees that
 - C. It is certainly true that
3. Chinese women did not have a real rise in social status _____.
 - A. until the 1950s
 - B. because they gave their jobs to men
 - C. so all of them had to stay at home
 4. Women may do better _____.
 - A. than their husbands or brothers
 - B. in leadership roles
 - C. in running the house
 5. People _____ did not want women to give up both jobs and income completely.
 - A. who were unwilling to leave their jobs
 - B. in favor of women returning home
 - C. who suggested the idea of women returning home
 6. The suggestion might have been based on the view that _____.
 - A. women want to go home themselves
 - B. women should enjoy high economic status
 - C. women are inferior to men
 7. _____, it may be better for some of them to do so for several years.
 - A. If women should not stay at home forever
 - B. Since women do not want to leave their work
 - C. Although some women may lose their jobs
 8. Housekeeping problems can be solved _____.
 - A. when service trades are developed
 - B. when kitchen equipment is modernized
 - C. both A and B

During Further Readings-----

I . Choose the reasons people use in support of their view that women should return to their kitchen:

1. ____ Men do better in certain positions that are now taken by women.
2. ____ Many young men are unemployed or underemployed.
3. ____ Women love their children better than their work.
4. ____ Women do not work efficiently.

5. ____ Most women stayed at home before 1949, and they were happy.
6. ____ Women often bear children.
7. ____ One-third of China's scientists are women.
8. ____ There are too many women in the workforce.

II. List the points quoted by the author against the view of women returning to housework:

III. What solutions would the author have for the following situations?

1. When women bear children, they cannot work normally.

2. Housework is time consuming, yet it has to be done.

IV. Give an oral reply to this question: What opinion does the author have? (Notice that most of the views appear in quotations or are simply the results of opinion polls.)

Reading Selection Two

Now, Dad Feels as Stressed as Mom

By Tara Parker-pope

Father's Day brings this offering of a dubious milestone: Husbands are now just as stressed out as their harried wives.

For decades, the debate about balancing work and family life has been framed as an issue for women. Many studies have shown that motherhood is more taxing than fatherhood; mothers typically reported higher levels of unhappiness than women without children or men in general. Over the years, this disparity has helped fuel the gender wars, in policy debates and at home, often over a pile of dirty laundry.

Men, the truism went, did not do their share of the grocery shopping or diaper changing. They let women pull the double shift.

But several studies show that fathers are now struggling just as much—and sometimes

even more—than mothers in trying to fulfill their responsibilities at home and in the office. Just last week, Boston College released a study called “The New Dad” suggesting that new fathers face a subtle bias in the workplace, which fails to recognize their stepped-up family responsibilities and presumes that they will be largely unaffected by children.

Fathers also seem more unhappy than mothers with the juggling act: In dual-earner couples, 59 percent of fathers report some level of “work-life conflict,” compared with about 45 percent of women, according to a 2008 report from the Families and Work Institute in New York.

The research highlights the singular challenges of fathers. Men are typically the primary breadwinner, but they also increasingly report a desire to spend more time with their children. To do so, they must first navigate a workplace that is often reluctant to give them time off for family reasons. And they must negotiate with a wife who may not always recognize their contributions at home.

“Men are facing the same clash of social ideals that women have faced since the 1970s—how do you be a good parent and a good worker?” said Joan C. Williams, the director of the Center for WorkLife Law at the Hastings College of the Law at the University of California. “This is a pretty sensitive indicator of the rise of the new ideal of the good father as a nurturing father, not just a provider father.”

When it comes to taking time off for children, men seem to be second-class citizens. Several studies show that men, compared with their female colleagues, are less likely to take advantage of benefits like flexible schedules and family leave. The Boston College study found that when men needed to take their offspring to the doctor or pick them up from child care, they tended to do so in a “stealth” fashion rather than ask for a formal flexible work arrangement.

The reluctance to ask for help may not stem from a bias in the office. Instead, men may just be wandering into strange, frightening territory.

“The conflict is newer to men, and it feels bigger than the same amount of conflict might feel to a woman,” notes Ellen Galinsky, president of the Families and Work Institute. “Women have been doing it for a longer time, and they have more role models.”

It doesn’t help that work eats up more time. In 1970, about two-thirds of married couples had a spouse at home (usually the wife). But today, only 40 percent of families have a stay-at-home spouse to handle domestic demands during the workday. Couples now work a combined average of 63 hours a week, up from just 52.5 in 1970, according to a 2009 report on workplace flexibility from the Georgetown University Law Center.

Men may be stressed out, but try telling that to their wives. Although men do more

vacuuming and dishwashing than their fathers did, they still lag behind women when it comes to housework. When both husband and wife work outside the home, the woman spends about 28 hours a week on housework. Her husband can claim only about 16 hours, according to the National Survey of Families and Households from the University of Wisconsin. And men and women themselves paint very different pictures of their domestic duties. In the 2008 Families and Work report, 49 percent of men said they provided most or an equal amount of child care. But only 31 percent of women gave their husbands that much credit. The perception gap continued for cooking and housecleaning—more than 50 percent of men say they do most or half the work; 70 percent of wives say they do all of it.

If women are right, how bad could men's work-life conflict be? "You will get complaints about men exaggerating their conflict," Dr. Galinsky conceded.

Then again, some contributions may be unrecognized by the other partner. For instance, a father may prepare school lunches half the time, so he thinks he's sharing that chore. But he doesn't factor in the time his wife spent shopping for the ingredients, planning healthy, appetizing menus and emptying and cleaning the lunchboxes every day.

"Women remain psychologically responsible, and that's a burden," said Dr. Galinsky. "That psychological responsibility adds to the sense of feeling like you're doing more, even though it may be somewhat invisible."

For his part, a father may spend time fixing a tricycle, playing video games or putting away outdoor toys—time that his wife doesn't count when she's mentally keeping tabs.

"Women consistently underestimate how much their husbands do," said Stephanie Coontz, a marriage historian and author of "A Strange Stirring: The Feminine Mystique and American Women at the Dawn of the 1960s," to be published next year.

"Women don't necessarily give his contribution the same value as theirs," she added. "They don't always recognize that what he does with the kids is a form of care, too."

Comprehension-----

I. Make a choice that best completes each sentence or that best answers each question:

1. According to the passage, it was the _____ that led to gender wars in political debates and family quarrels.
 - A. unhappiness of married women with babies
 - B. pull between work and family life of women
 - C. inequality between men and women
 - D. a pile of dirty laundry
2. "The New Dad" reveals that _____.

- A. fathers fail to fulfill their responsibilities at home and in the office
 - B. fathers are unaffected by their family responsibilities in their workplace
 - C. fathers are affected by their family responsibilities in their workplace
 - D. fathers' family responsibilities are largely ignored in their workplace
3. Men's work-life conflict is different from women's because their family role is _____.
 A. appreciated in their workplace
 B. underappreciated both in the workplace and at home
 C. neither appreciated in the workplace nor at home
 D. both appreciated in the workplace and at home
4. Which of the following is true according to the passage?
 A. Mothers are more experienced in being good parents and workers.
 B. Corporates offer different benefits for men and women.
 C. Nurturing fathers take more time off for their family than provider fathers.
 D. Unlike mothers, fathers can never get family leave or a flexible work schedule to take care of the family.
5. Which of the following is not true according to the passage?
 A. More and more women join the workforce and it puts more family responsibilities on men's side.
 B. Women don't believe that men have work-life conflict.
 C. When men feel stressed out, they hope to gain understanding from their wives by telling them their problems.
 D. Men and women have different understanding on how much housework they have done respectively.
6. By saying "Women remain psychologically responsible", the author implies that _____.
 A. women are mentally stronger than men
 B. women suffer from mental problems more easily than men
 C. women have much more family responsibilities than men
 D. women tend to be mentally tied to family responsibilities
7. Which might not be a form of child care according to women?
 A. Changing diapers.
 B. Playing games with children.
 C. Doing grocery shopping.
 D. Cleaning lunchboxes.

II . Choose the answer that best explains each of the following sentences:

1. *"Father's Day brings this offering of a dubious milestone: Husbands are now just as*

stressed out as their harried wives.”

- A. Father's Day offers us a gift: husbands are as stressed out as their wives. And we are not certain whether this means we have stepped into such a significant stage.
 - B. With Father's Day comes the recognition that both fathers and mothers have stress, which makes us doubt the value of Father's Day.
 - C. On Father's Day people get to know that fathers are as stressed out as their wives. Yet some people doubt the truth of it.
 - D. With Father's Day comes the old issue whether husbands are as stressed out as their wives. But we are not certain whether the settlement of it has any significance.
2. *“They let women pull the double shift.”*
- A. They let women do shopping and diaper changing.
 - B. They let women work day and night.
 - C. They let women take responsibilities both at home and in the office.
 - D. They let women work two shifts in the office and at home.
3. *“The research highlights the singular challenges of fathers.”*
- A. The research points out a single challenge faced by fathers.
 - B. The research brings attention to the unique challenges faced by fathers.
 - C. The research brings attention to the only challenge faced by fathers.
 - D. The research makes the challenges faced by fathers unique.
4. *“Instead, men may just be wandering into strange, frightening territory.”*
- A. Whenever men wander into their houses, they feel their houses are stranger and more frightening because of the conflict.
 - B. This conflict men are facing is not only new to them, but also really tough to deal with.
 - C. Men feel the conflict they are facing now is like crossing the border into another country, difficult and dangerous.
 - D. Men feel they are doing something strange and frightening when they are arguing with their wives about the conflict.
5. *“It doesn't help that work eats up more time.”*
- A. It is useless for fathers to get more work to do.
 - B. It is useless for mothers to spend more time working.
 - C. Work is taking up more and more of every family's time, which makes fathers even more stressed.
 - D. It makes fathers even more worried than before because work takes up more time for fathers.

6. *"Men may be stressed out, but try telling that to their wives."*
- A. Men may be stressed out, so they try to tell that to their wives.
 - B. Men may be stressed out, so they try not to tell that to their wives.
 - C. Men may be stressed out, but they don't even bother telling their wives that because they think their wives won't understand them.
 - D. Men may be stressed out, but they don't even try to tell that to their wives because they don't want their wives to know.
7. *"And men and women themselves paint very different pictures of their domestic duties."*
- A. Men and women have different opinions about how they should divide housework between them.
 - B. Men and women have different opinions on housework.
 - C. Men and women have different understanding on family obligations.
 - D. Men and women don't share the same opinion on how much housework they do respectively at home.
8. *"... time that his wife doesn't count when she's mentally keeping tabs."*
- A. when the wife is thinking about what the husband has done for the children, she fails to acknowledge the time her husband spends with the children.
 - B. when the wife is calculating how much the husband has done for the children, she doesn't think it important for husbands to do these things for children.
 - C. the wife feels that her husband constantly fails to take care of their children, so there's no point in counting.
 - D. the wife doesn't think it important whether her husband could spend time with their children.

III. Use context clues to explain the meaning of the following words. The number in the brackets indicates the line where the word appears:

- 1. harried (2): _____
- 2. disparity (6): _____
- 3. shift (9): _____
- 4. bias (13): _____
- 5. primary (19): _____
- 6. offspring (32): _____
- 7. stealth (33): _____
- 8. picture (50): _____
- 9. invisible (63): _____

Part B: Vocabulary Skills

Vocabulary Study

I. The following words and expressions are for your reference:

Boston /'bɒstən/ *n.* 波士顿 [城市名]

breadwinner /'bredwɪnə/ *n.* 养家糊口的人, 负担家庭生计者

California /kælɪ'fɔ:njə/ *n.* 加利福尼亚 [美国州名]

child care *n.* 托儿所

chore /tʃɔ:/ *n.* 杂务; 令人讨厌的工作

diaper /daɪəpə/ *n.* (婴儿的) 尿布

Ellen Galinsky /'elɪn ɡælɪnskɪ/ *n.* 埃伦·盖林斯基 [人名]

fatherhood /'fɑ:ðəhʊd/ *n.* 父亲的身份(或资格、责任等)

gender /'dʒendə/ *n.* 性; 性别

Georgetown /'dʒɔ:dʒtaʊn/ *n.* 乔治敦区 [美国首都华盛顿西部一住宅区]

indicator /'ɪndɪkətə/ *n.* 指示物; 信号

ingredient /ɪn'ɡri:diənt/ *n.* (制作食品的) 原料

Joan C. Williams /dʒəʊn si: 'wɪljəmz/ *n.* 琼·威廉姆斯 [人名]

laundry /'ləʊndri/ *n.* 待洗的衣服

lunchbox /'lʌntʃbɒks/ *n.* 午餐饭盒

milestone /'maɪlstəʊn/ *n.* 里程碑; 历史上的重要事件

motherhood /'mʌðəhʊd/ *n.* 母亲的身份(或资格、责任等); 母性

mystique /mɪ'sti:k/ *n.* 神秘感; 神秘气氛

offering /'ɒfərɪŋ/ *n.* 提供, 给予; 贡献, 奉献

offspring /'ɒfsprɪŋ/ *n.* 子女

provider /prə'vaɪdə/ *n.* 供应者; 供应物

role model *n.* 角色模型; 行为榜样

spouse /spaʊz/ *n.* 配偶

stealth /stelθ/ *n.* 暗中行动, 偷偷摸摸

Stephanie Coontz /'stefəni ku:ntz/ *n.* 斯蒂芬妮·昆兹 [人名]

stepped-up *adj.* 比以前速度快的

tricycle /'traɪsɪkl/ *n.* (儿童常骑的) 三轮脚踏车

truism /'tru:ɪzm/ *n.* 不言自明的说法

vacuuming /'vækjuəmɪŋ/ *n.* 吸尘, 用吸尘器打扫

video game 电视游戏; 电脑游戏

Wisconsin /wɪs'kɒnsɪn/ *n.* 威斯康辛 [美国州名]

II. Make a close study of the following words and expressions:

appetizing /'æptɪtaɪzɪŋ/ *a.* stimulating one's appetite: *What's the appetizing smell from the kitchen?*

bias /'baɪəs/ *n.* a tendency to be in favor of or against something or someone: *He has a definite bias against the plan.*

challenge /'tʃælɪndʒ/ *n.* an invitation to compete in a fight, game, etc.: *He refused his brother's challenge to swim across the river.* | *v.* to call (someone) to compete against one, esp. in a fight, game etc.: *She was challenged to a game of tennis.*

clash /klæʃ/ *n.* a violent confrontation: *The project was cancelled because of a clash of interests*

between them. | *v.* to come into opposition: *Police have clashed with the students again today.*

concede /kən'si:d/ *v.* 1. to admit as true, just, or proper, often unwillingly: *The party conceded defeat as soon as the election was over.* 2. to give something to someone unwillingly after trying to keep it: *After the First World War, Germany conceded a lot of valuable land to her neighbors.*

conflict /'kɒnflɪkt/ *n.* 1. disagreement; argument; quarrel: *There have been a number of conflicts between the two political parties.* 2. (a) war, battle; struggle: *There is a possibility of a violent conflict between the two countries.*

count /kaʊnt/ v. 1. to determine the total number of (a collection of items): *The students are counting the votes.* 2. be significant: *It is not how much you read but what you read counts.*

credit /ˈkredɪt/ n. 1. public acknowledgement or praise: *We should give him some credit for all the effort he's put in.* 2. a system of buying goods or services and paying for them later: *Nowadays there are more and more stores that sell goods on credit.* 3. the quality of being likely to repay debts 信用: *He has a good credit, you can trust him.* 4. a measure of work completed by a student, esp. at a university: *This course should give him enough credits to finish the degree.*

disparity /dɪsˈpærɪti/ n. a difference between two or more things, esp. an unfair one: *There is still a great disparity between the rates of pay for men and women.*

domestic /dəˈmestɪk/ a. 1. of the house, home, or family: *Husbands and wives share money and the domestic chores in most families nowadays.* 2. (of an animal) not wild: *The cat is a domestic animal in many countries.* 3. of one's own country, not foreign: *The government has to improve its domestic policies.*

dual /dju(:)əl/ a. double: *He has a dual interest in the school because he is a teacher and his son is a student in the school.*

dubious /djuːbiəs/ a. 1. causing doubt: *This suggestion seems highly dubious to me.* 2. feeling doubt, undecided: *I'm still dubious about the idea of lending my dictionary to him.*

exaggerate /ɪɡˈzædʒəreɪt/ v. to make something seem larger, better, worse, etc.: *The machine is useful, but I'm sure Tom is exaggerating when he calls it the greatest invention of this century.*

factor /ˈfæktə/ v. include (or exclude) something as a relevant element when making a decision: *You will see a different picture when you factor in*

the time and effort they have put in the program. |n. one of several things that influence or cause a situation: *His attitude is an important factor in his rapid success.*

flexible /ˈfleksəbl/ a. that can change or be changed to suit any new situation: *We can save money if we are flexible about where our room is located.*

frame /freɪm/ v. to form (words, sentences, ideas, etc.); express: *It is of vital importance for news reporters to frame their questions clearly.*

fuel /fjuəl/ v. 1. to make a situation worse or make someone's feelings stronger: *The attempts to stop the strike only fuelled the workers' resentment.* 2. to put oil, petrol etc. in a vehicle: *It's amazing that aircrafts sometimes fuel while in the air.*

gap /ɡæp/ n. 1. 裂缝, 间隙: *The door was locked but the dog went through a gap in the fence.* 2. a big difference between two situations, amounts, groups of people etc.: *The government should narrow the widening gap between the rich and the poor.*

handle /ˈhændl/ v. to deal with: *He is very good at handling difficult situations and people.*

harry /ˈhæri/ v. to keep asking someone for something in a way that is upsetting or annoying: *The government is being harried by a new lobby.*

highlight /ˈhaɪlaɪt/ v. to make a problem or subject easy to notice so that people pay attention to it: *At the beginning of the semester, students were given a test to highlight their strengths and weaknesses.* |n. the most important, interesting, or enjoyable part of something: *That weekend in Paris was certainly the highlight of the trip.*

invisible /ɪnˈvɪzəbl/ a. that cannot be seen, hidden from sight: *Surrounded by trees, the house is invisible from the road.*

issue /ˈɪʃuː/ n. 1. a subject or problem that people discuss: *People should let the government know*

their viewpoints on this issue. 2. a magazine or newspaper printed for a particular day, week, or month (报刊的)期,号: *The article had appeared in the previous day's issue.* | v. 1. to officially make a statement, give an order, warning etc.: *The party issued a statement denying everything.*

juggle /'dʒʌɡl/ v. 1. try to fit two or more jobs, activities etc. into one's life: *He is good at juggling the needs of his family with the demands of the job.* 2. 变戏法,玩杂耍: *It's difficult for adults to learn to juggle and to walk the tight-rope.*

lag /læɡ/ v. to move or develop more slowly than others: *Jessica always lags behind when we go for a walk.*

navigate /'nævɪɡeɪt/ v. 1. 小心翼翼地安全穿越(危险或难以通过的地区): *His parents were a bit worried about his ability to navigate through the forest.* 2. 导航: *In the past, people used to navigate by the stars.*

negotiate /nɪ'ɡəʊʃieɪt/ v. to discuss something in order to reach an agreement, esp. in business and politics: *The management and the workers were negotiating to bring an end to the strike.*

nurture /'nɜ:tʃə/ v. 1. to give care and food to: *Parents must know the best way to nurture and raise their children to adulthood.* 2. to help a plan, idea, feeling etc. to develop 蕴育(计划、想法、感情等): *The idea has been nurtured since the post-war years.*

perception /pə'sepʃən/ n. the natural ability to understand or notice something quickly 洞察力,理解力: *Susan shows unusual perception for a girl of her age.*

presume /prɪ'zju:m/ v. to take (something) as true without direct proof, suppose: *From the way they talked, we presumed them to be friends.*

primary /'praɪməri/ a. 1. most important, main: *The primary reason for Peter's success was his*

diligence. 2. (of education or a school) for children between five and eleven years old 小学的: *a primary school teacher/student*

release /rɪ'li:z/ v. 1. to let news or official information be known and printed: *Many details about the trade figures were released.* 2. to let someone go free: *He was released after ten years of imprisonment.* | n. 1. 释放: *He went home after the release from prison.* 2. a film, recording, or other product made available to the public (获准发行的)新电影;新唱片: *I'd like to buy the band's latest release.*

singular /'sɪŋɡjʊlə/ a. very great or very noticeable: *The refugees had the singular good fortune not to die of hunger.*

stem (from) /stem/ v. to originate in or be caused by: *Her interest in plants stems from her childhood in the country.*

stressed /strest/ a. so worried and tired that one cannot relax: *The young man looked stressed out ever since he took this new job.*

subtle /'sʌtl/ a. delicate, hardly noticeable, and usu. pleasant: *Although there are subtle differences between the two paintings, they are similar on the whole.*

tab /tæb/ n. 带子,标签: *Her mother sewed tabs with her name on in all her school clothes.* | keep tabs / a tab on: to watch closely: *The police have been keeping tabs on him after his release.*

taxing /'tæksɪŋ/ a. needing a lot of effort: *They faced taxing but enjoyable tasks. / They quitted because they found the work too taxing.*

territory /'terɪtəri/ n. (an area of) land, esp. ruled by one government 领土,版图: *We crossed the river and travelled through unknown territory.*

wander /'wɒndə/ v. to move around (an area) without a fixed course, aim, or purpose: *It's dangerous for the child to wander around the street late at night.*

Vocabulary Practice

I. Fill in the blanks with appropriate words and expressions from Reading Selection

Two:

Well, the good news is the bad news: maintaining a _____ between family and work commitments used to be an _____ for women, but Dads are starting to feel just as _____ out as moms when _____ comes to balancing work and home life. _____ to a recent study, a combination of economic and social factors have brought us _____ a brave new parenting landscape, one in which women and men make _____ an equal percentage of the workforce and are increasingly _____ the child rearing duties at home.

The result? Dads are having a hard _____ period. They have to first of all _____ a workplace where their roles at home are _____. They are also less _____ to advocate for themselves—rather than ask formally for a _____ schedule or time _____ to take care of sick children, fathers tried to take care of their families “in ‘ _____ ’ fashion.” Meanwhile, they also have to _____ with their wives who may _____ their work at home even though dads are taking _____ more responsibilities now.

II. Make a sentence with each set of the words and expressions given below:

1. lag behind, schedule, start

2. computer, repair, when it comes to

3. research, bias, highlight

4. taxing, responsibility, fulfill

5. vacation, take advantage of, likely

III. Use appropriate forms of words or phrases from the list to complete the following sentences:

paint different pictures give...credit chore disparity stem from
when it comes to lag behind subtle keep tabs (on) gender

1. In the space marked “ _____ ”, put an “M” for male or “F” for female.

2. The driver and the passenger _____ about the traffic accident.

3. Does your husband do his daily share of the household _____?

4. The children always _____ when we are out for a walk.
5. The police has been _____ him since he was released from prison.
6. The teacher should at least _____ him _____ for all the efforts he's put in.
7. His interest in plants _____ his childhood in the countryside.
8. _____ space exploration, he knows nothing.
9. The two pictures are similar, but there are _____ differences between them.
10. The _____ of the accounts of the two witnesses puzzled all the people present.

IV. Put the following into English:

1. 耗尽积蓄: _____
2. 有更多的榜样: _____
3. 履行家庭和工作上的职责: _____
4. 特有的挑战: _____
5. 批准员工休事假: _____
6. 在空间探索方面落后于其他国家: _____
7. 一堆脏衣物: _____
8. 去托儿所接孩子: _____
9. 尽自己的那份责任: _____

Vocabulary Expansion

I. Study the following prefixes and stems and the meaning of the words given below:

1. **tri-**: *three; three times*

tricycle	triangle	triple
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2. **dec(a)-**: *ten; having ten*

decade	decameter	decagon
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3. **un-**: *the absence of a quality or state; not*

unreal	unequal	unfortunate
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4. **-hood**: *condition or quality*

fatherhood	neighbourhood	childhood
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5. **-ism**: *beliefs; political or religious movement*

socialism	heroism	Buddhism
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6. **pre-**: *before*

prehistory	prediction	precaution
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II . Find in column B the definition for each word in column A:

A	B
1. ____ manhood	a. to plan or arrange things before the time when it actually happens
2. ____ decahedron	b. something of the same type that has happened or existed before
3. ____ fatalism	c. the belief that one should live according to one's ideals
4. ____ prearrange	d. the state or period of being a man rather than a child
5. ____ idealism	e. the belief that all events are predetermined and therefore inevitable
6. ____ precedent	f. an athletic contest consisting of three different events, typically swimming, cycling, and long-distance running
7. ____ triathlon	g. a solid figure with ten plane faces
8. ____ decathlon	h. a competition including ten different events
9. ____ unaccomplished	i. not accomplished or carried out
10. ____ unaffected	j. feeling or showing no effects or changes

III . Choose the expression that best completes each of the following sentences:

- Tom looks so _____ out since he started the new job.
A. pressured B. stressed C. tensed D. strained
- He showed a _____ lack of tact in dealing with tough situations.
A. singular B. single C. signal D. sign
- His sudden departure at this critical moment created a political _____.
A. empty B. vacant C. vacuum D. blank
- We paid a price for the house that was well above the market _____.
A. benefit B. value C. worth D. profit
- If you want a part of the pay, you will have to do your _____ of the work.
A. share B. responsibility C. task D. duty
- Mr. White is extremely _____ to criticism from others.
A. sensible B. sensory C. senseless D. sensitive
- The two political parties have been in _____ since the election.
A. struggle B. argument C. clash D. conflict
- Will the local policy be _____ by the appointment of a new chairman?
A. impacted B. affected C. effected D. infected
- If you make a promise, you should _____ it.
A. finish B. fulfill C. complete D. accomplish
- Every morning I get up early and do the _____ before I go to work.
A. chore B. task C. duty D. work

Part C: Guided Writing and Translation

A. Guided Writing

How to Start an Essay: Making an Outline

Good planning is essential to good writing. Before you set out to write, it is advisable for you to make an outline. Although outlining, which is one of the pre-writing steps, takes time and energy, it is a worthy investment. It can not only help you to choose the materials, but also help you to arrange them in a clear, logical manner. There are two common types of outline: the topic outline and the sentence outline. In the topic outline, a word or a phrase indicates an item. The sentence outline is so called because all the items are in the form of complete sentences. In both types of outline, the materials should be arranged according to various degrees of importance. The following topical outline about outlining itself is worthy of careful study.

1. The need for an outline
 - A. Definite values of an outline to the writer
 - a) Helping the writer find the best order
 - b) Helping the writer give correct proportion
 - B. Definite values of an outline to the reader
 - a) Helping the reader get an overall picture
 - b) Guiding the reader in his reading
 - c) Helping the reader evaluate the ideas of the author
 - C. Need for outline depending on:
 - a) The different working habits of writers
 - b) The different nature of subjects
2. Types of outline
 - A. The topic outline
 - B. The sentence outline
3. The writer's use of outlines
 - A. Freedom to give emphasis
 - B. Freedom to shift proportion
 - C. Freedom to include examples

Exercises

I . Evaluate the following outline by answering the questions that follow it: