

2014 年南昌大学 812 翻译与写作考研试题（回忆版）

本试题由 kaoyan.com 网友大麦轻松熊提供

一、英译汉（2 小题 40 分）

1. Amongst a multiplicity of other topics, we took occasion to talk of a different characters of the several nations of Europe; when one of the gentlemen, cocking his hat, and assuming such an air of importance as if he had possessed all the merit of the English nation in his own person, declared that the Dutch were a parcel of avaricious wretches; the French a set of flattering sycophants; that the Germans were drunken sots, and beastly gluttons; and the Spaniards proud, haughty, and surly tyrants; but that in bravery, generosity, clemency, and in every other virtue, the English excelled all the world.

在诸多话题中，我们乘机谈到了欧洲一些国家的不同特征；其中一位绅士，将帽子一歪，摆出一副郑重其事的架势，好像自己拥有英国人民所有的优点一般，声称荷兰人是一群贪婪的可怜人；法国人是一群奉承谄媚者；德国人是一群饕餮烂醉之徒；西班牙人是一群傲慢专横之流。然而，说到勇敢，慷慨，宽厚，或其它美德，英国人在世界上是可圈可点的。

——节选自 On National Prejudices 论国家偏见
by Oliver Goldsmith 作者：奥利弗哥德史密斯

2. 记不清了。

二、汉译英（1 小题，40 分）

大致是讲述幸福的真谛的文章。开头好像是心理学家说要感到幸福必须具备两个条件：享有休闲娱乐的时间以及拥有令人满意的工作。然后提及作者的祖母，一生养育 14 个孩子，靠洗衣为生，好像并不具备幸福的条件，可她依然感觉幸福，因为有一个亲朋密友的圈子和温暖的家庭，所以说幸福并不是什么特定条件限定下什么的的不记得了。

三、写作（两部分，共 70 分）

Section A 要求阅读下面这篇长文，然后写出高质量的 150 字内的 summary，30 分。

Marry. Buy a house. Work hard and save. It's the life generations took for granted. But, says a leading historian, a seismic change is under way...
The death of the middle classes

By DOMINIC SANDBROOK

David Cameron was in Cornwall this week, enjoying his fourth holiday of the year. Photographed in a beachside cafe, the Prime Minister and his

wife looked the very picture of a typical middle-class couple, enjoying a very English seaside holiday.

The reality, of course, is rather different.

Mr. Cameron may famously have claimed that he and his wife are members of the ‘sharp-elbowed middle classes’, but given that the Prime Minister, the son of a millionaire stockbroker, traces his descent from William IV, while his wife is the daughter of a landed baronet, they inhabit a very different world from most middle-class families.

Photographed in a beachside cafe, the Prime Minister and his wife looked the very picture of a typical middle-class couple, enjoying a very English seaside holiday. The reality, of course, is rather different

Behind Mr. Cameron’s Cornish photo opportunity there was, in fact, a dark irony.

The picture was meant to send a clear message to ordinary voters: ‘We are just like you.’

But for millions of people, the middle-class idyll represented by that picture is becoming a distant mirage. Today, many people are starting to realise they will probably never enjoy the comforts their parents took for granted.

For middle-class Britain is not just being squeezed. Thanks to rising food prices, non-existent savings rates, disappearing pensions, surging energy costs, the disappearance of jobs and the grim decline of social mobility, there is a good case that it is beginning to vanish entirely. People have, of course, been writing obituaries for the British middle classes for years. There was a notable example in this week’s Spectator, which warned that ‘the lifestyle that the average earner had half a century ago — a reasonably sized house, dependable healthcare, a decent education for the children and a reliable pension — is becoming the preserve of the rich’.

That diagnosis will, I suspect, have many readers nodding in recognition.

Ever since the start of the financial crisis, ordinary families have been forced to pull in their belts ever tighter, forfeiting many of the pleasures that once made up the texture of their daily lives. Government statistics show that since the crash, the average earner has seen his income drop by 10 per cent in real terms.

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Not until 2020 will many people have returned to the level of income and comfort they enjoyed before the financial crisis began.

No wonder, then, that families’ real buying power has fallen back to the levels of the mid-Nineties, while household spending has declined

for five years in a row — the biggest blow to our living standards since figures were first collected in the Fifties.

In the meantime, energy prices have soared, with bills expected to rise by at least 10 per cent this winter.

Petrol prices, too, are set to rise by at least 5p a litre in the next few weeks, thanks to the conflict in the Middle East.

And only last month, Tesco's chief executive, Philip Clarke, told shoppers that thanks to rising demand from China and India, the days of cheap food prices are over.

'There was a time when we could go to South Africa to buy fruit and be the only retailer there,' he said. 'Not any more.'

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For Britain's hard-pressed middle and working classes, all this constitutes the financial equivalent of a cardiac arrest. And you merely have to look outside your front door to see the consequences.

Ever since the recession began, discount superstores such as Aldi and Lidl — based on the principle of piling them high and selling them cheap — have become increasingly fashionable with middle-class shoppers. Four years ago, even Waitrose, that temple to middle-class consumerism, introduced an Essentials range in a desperate attempt to retain the loyalty of hard-pressed shoppers.

Thanks partly to green taxes and soaring fuel costs, millions of families have had to give up on their dreams of a sun-kissed Mediterranean holiday.

One recent survey found that two out of three British families were planning to stay here for their summer holidays, while five million people are expected to take a British holiday this Bank Holiday weekend. Ten, even 20 years ago, all this would have seemed extraordinary. Before the crash, we were told middle-class values had become universal.

When New Labour came to power in 1997, in the midst of one of the biggest booms in modern economic history, their deputy leader John Prescott proclaimed: 'We're all middle class now.'

For millions of ordinary Britons, however, many of the things that were once seen as unmistakable badges of middle-class status, from foreign holidays and decent schools to a reliable pension, a job for life and a home of your own, have begun to slip out of their reach.

Perhaps I will be forgiven a personal anecdote. I grew up in a middle-class household and, through a combination of parental support and sheer good luck, won a scholarship to a private school in the Midlands. In my day, the fees — then £6,000 a year — seemed expensive enough. But how times have changed! If I wanted to send my son to the same school today,

I would be committing myself to a whopping £150,000 over five years. It's an astronomical sum to be forking out on top of taxes, a mortgage, food bills and energy costs.

Little wonder, then, that while my contemporaries were the sons and daughters of provincial doctors, solicitors and accountants, many of my old school's current pupils come from rich households in Germany and the Far East, their parents having decided to give them the polish of a traditional British education.

After becoming Tory leader in 1975, Margaret Thatcher declared in her election manifesto: 'To most people, ownership means, first and foremost, a home of their own.' Those words ring hollow today

In its way this tells a wider story. Here, as in so many other areas, globalisation has been hard on the British middle classes, who find themselves priced out of the institutions to which so many once aspired. Housing presents a similar picture. When my parents came of age in the late Sixties, the general expectation was that young middle-class couples would buy their own home as soon as they got married, a place on the property ladder being synonymous with a stake in society.

This was not, of course, merely a middle-class dream. As Margaret Thatcher tirelessly told interviewers after becoming Tory leader in 1975, supposedly middle-class ambitions were often shared by millions of working-class people, too.

When she came to power in 1979, she appealed overwhelmingly to young married couples and skilled workers — known in the sociological jargon as the C2s — who were keen to buy their own council houses.

By the end of the decade, young couples will need a £110,000 deposit to buy a home in the capital, while first-time buyers elsewhere will need £60,000

'To most people, ownership means, first and foremost, a home of their own,' declared her election manifesto.

Those words ring hollow today. Thanks to the overwhelming concentration of jobs and services in the South-East, and the influx of the super-rich and thousands of workers from abroad, thousands of young people in London and the Home Counties find it impossible to get on the property ladder.

Only a few months ago, a report found that by the end of the decade, young couples will need a £110,000 deposit to buy a home in the capital, while first-time buyers elsewhere will need to stump up £60,000. Finding the money, however, is becoming harder and harder.

Middle-class men and women once expected to have a job for life. Half a century ago, it was perfectly normal to join a firm after leaving school or college and to stay there until the award of the inevitable carriage clock at the age of 65.

Today, for middle and working-class workers alike, the reality is very different.

‘On both sides of the Atlantic, automation and outsourcing have destroyed administrative and, particularly, blue-collar industrial jobs,’ the Economist magazine recently reported.

For a chilling glimpse of Britain’s possible future, look at the city of Detroit. Once, it was the capital of the world’s car industry, with a happy and settled population and all the trappings of middle-class prosperity, including an opera house, several theatres and a symphony orchestra.

Today, with much of the American car industry in ruins, it is a bankrupt, deserted, drug-addled war zone.

That could be the prospect for many industrial British cities, too, as jobs disappear abroad and the middle classes flee to the countryside. Unless you are one of the tiny minority of the very rich — like most of the Cabinet, two-thirds of whom are millionaires — the future looks bleak.

Thanks partly to green taxes, soaring fuel costs and heavy bills, millions of families have had to give up on their dreams of a sun-kissed Mediterranean holiday

Once a nation of savers, we have lost the habit. Almost 15 million Britons make no effort to save at all, while eight million have saved precisely nothing for their old age.

But you can understand why so few of us are bothering to put money by.

Interest rates are virtually non-existent, which means that savings are steadily being eaten away by inflation.

Meanwhile, annuity returns are often pitiful. Indeed, it emerged last week that some providers, calculating that pensioners are reluctant to shop around, are deliberately paying 30 per cent below the rest of the market — a shameful indictment of Britain’s big insurers.

No wonder, then, that many people prefer to borrow and spend, hoping blindly that tomorrow will take care of itself.

But the reality for Britain’s middle classes is that tomorrow could be very tough indeed.

——这篇文章节选自 2013 年 8 月 23 日的 Daily Mail

Section B 有 2 小题共 40 分

1. 解释上文中 “the grim decline of social mobility” 的意思 (within 20 words)

2. (大致意思) 以 the city of Detroit 变化为例, 分析这种现象, 如何看待和应对, 写一篇 200 字内的作文。

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