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2019考研英语真题 节选自: Editorial Board Using Forests to Fight Climate Change

Bloomberg Opinion

篇章分析I

Using Forests to Fight Climate Change



Forests give us shade, quiet and one of the harder challenges in the fight against climate change. Even as we humans count on forests to soak up a good share of the carbon dioxide we produce, we are threatening their ability to do so. The climate change we are hastening could one day leave us with forests that emit more carbon than they absorb.





Thankfully, there is a way out of this trap, but it involves striking a subtle balance. Helping forests flourish as valuable "carbon sinks" long into the future may require reducing their capacity to absorb carbon now, California is leading the way, as it does on so many climate efforts, in figuring out the details.





The state's proposed Forest Carbon Plan aims to double efforts to thin out young trees and clear brush in parts of the forest. This temporarily lowers carbon-carrying capacity. But the remaining trees draw a greater share of the available moisture, so they grow and thrive, restoring the forest's capacity to pull carbon from the air. Healthy trees are also better able to fend off insects. The landscape is rendered less easily burnable. Even in the event of a fire, fewer trees are consumed.





The need for such planning is increasingly urgent. Already, since 2010, drought and insects have killed over 100 million trees in California, most of them in 2016 alone, and wildfires have burned hundreds of thousands of acres.





California plans to treat 35,000 acres of forest a year by 2020, and 60,00 by 2030 -- financed from the proceeds of the state's emissions-permit auctions. That's only a small share of the total acreage that could benefit, about half a million acres in all, so it will be vital to prioritize areas at greatest risk of fire or drought.





The strategy also aims to ensure that carbon in woody material removed from the forests is locked away in the form of solid lumber or burned as biofuel in vehicles that would otherwise run on fossil fuels. New research on transportation biofuels is already under way.





State governments are well accustomed to managing forests, but traditionally they've focused on wildlife, watersheds and opportunities for recreation. Only recently have they come to see the vital part forests will have to play in storing carbon. California's plan, which is expected to be finalized by the governor next year, should serve as a model.





I. By saying "one of the harder challenges," the author implies

that _____.

A. global climate change may get out of control

B. people may misunderstand global warming

C. extreme weather conditions may arise

D. forests may become a potential threat





2. To maintain forests as valuable "carbon sinks," we may need to

____•

A. preserve the diversity of species in them

B. accelerate the growth of young trees

C. strike a balance among different plants

D. lower their present carbon- absorbing capacity





- 3. California's Forest Carbon Plan endeavors to
- A. cultivate more drought-resistant trees
- B. reduce the density of some of its forests
- C. find more effective ways to kill insects
- D. restore its forests quickly after wildfires





- 4. What is essential to California's plan according to Paragraph 5?
- A. To handle the areas in serious danger first
- B. To carry it out before the year of 2020
- C.To perfect the emissions-permit auctions.
- D. To obtain enough financial support





5. The author's attitude to California's plan can best be described as

•

A. Ambiguous

B. Tolerant

C. Supportive

D. cautious



2019考研英语真题

节选自:

Huffpost

Opinion

Let's Stop Pretending Quitting Straws Will Solve Plastic

Pollution

篇章分析2

Let's Stop Pretending Quitting Straws Will Solve Plastic Pollution



Arnold Schwarzenegger, Dia Mirza and Adrian Grenier have a message for you: It's easy to beat plastic. They're part of a bunch of celebrities starring in a new video for World Environment Day encouraging you, the consumer, to swap out your single-use plastic staples like straws and cutlery to combat the plastics crisis.





The key messages that have been put together for World Environment Day do include a call for governments to enact legislation to curb single-use plastics. But the overarching message is directed at individuals.





My concern with leaving it up to the individual, however, is our limited sense of what needs to be achieved. On their own, taking our own bags to the grocery store or quitting plastic straws, for example, will accomplish little and require very little of us. They could even be detrimental, satisfying a need to have "done our bit" without ever progressing onto bigger, bolder, more effective actions a kind of "moral licensing" that allays our concerns and stops us doing more and asking more of those in charge.



While the conversation around our environment and our responsibility toward it remains centered on shopping bags and straws, we're ignoring the balance of power that implies that as "consumers" we must shop sustainably, rather than as "citizens" hold our governments and industries to account to push for real systemic change.





It's important to acknowledge that the environment isn't everyone's priority - or even most people's. We shouldn't expect it to be. In her latest book, Why Good People Do Bad Environmental Things, Wellesley College professor Elizabeth R. DeSombre argues that the best way to collectively change the behavior of large numbers of people is for the change to be structural.





This might mean implementing policy such as a plastic tax that adds a cost to environmentally problematic action, or banning single-use plastics altogether. India has just announced it will "eliminate all single-use plastic in the country by 2022." There are also incentive-based ways of making better environmental choices easier, such as ensuring recycling is at least as easy as trash disposal.





DeSombre isn't saying people should stop caring about the environment. It's just that individual actions are too slow, she says, for that to be the only, or even primary, approach to changing widespread behavior.

None of this is about writing off the individual, It's just about putting things into perspective. We don't have time to wait. We need progressive policies that shape collective action (and rein in polluting businesses), alongside engaged citizens pushing for change.





- I. Some celebrities star in a new video to ______
- A. demand new laws on the use of plastics
- B. urge consumers to cut the use of plastics
- C. invite public opinion on the plastics crisis
- D. disclose the causes of the plastics crisis





- 2. The author is concerned that moral licensing" may _____.
- A. mislead us into doing worthless things
- B. prevent us from making further efforts
- C. weaken our sense of accomplishment
- D. suppress our desire for success





- 3. By pointing out our identity as "citizens", the author indicates that
- A. our focus should be shifted to community welfare
- B. our relationship with local industries is improving
- C. We have been actively exercising our civil rights
- D. We should press our government to lead the combat





4. DeSombre argues that the best way for a collective change should

be _____.

A. a win-win arrangement

B. a self-driven mechanism

C. a cost-effective approach

D. a top-down process





- 5. The author concludes that individual efforts _____
- A. can be too aggressive
- B. can be too inconsistent
- C. are far from sufficient
- D. are far from rational

