**刷题·完形填空**

For most of human history rich people had the most leisure On the other hand, the poor have typically worked persistently. Hans-Joachim Voth, an economic historian, says that in 19th century you could tell how poor somebody was by how l they worked.

Today things are 2 . Overall working hours have 3 over the past century. But the rich have begun to work longer hours than the poor.

There are a number of 4 . One is that higher wages makes leisure more expensive: if people take time 5 they give up more money. Since the 1980s the 6 of those at the top have risen strongly, while those below the median have stood still or fallen. Thus rising 7 encourages the rich to work more and the poor to work less.

The 8 of work and leisure in the rich world has also changed. Back in 1899 Thorstein Veblen offered his 9 on things. He argued that leisure was a "badge of honor". Rich people could get others to do the 10 , repetitive work. Yet Veblen's leisure class was not 11 . Rather they engaged in "exploit": 12 and creative activities such as writing, charity and 13 .

Veblen's theory needs 14 .Work in advanced economies has become more 15 and intellectual. There are fewer really dull jobs, like lift-operating, and more 16 ones, like fashion design. That means more people than ever can enjoy "exploit" at the 17 . Work has come to offer the sort of pleasures that rich people used to 18 in their leisure time. On the other hand, leisure is 19 a sign of social power. Instead it 20 uselessness and unemployment.

1. A. long B. much C. well D. often

2. A. identical B. similar C. different D. satisfying

3. A. risen B. weakened C. granted D. fallen

4. A. explanations B. requirements C. workouts D. consequences

5. A. over B. off C. after D. on

6. A pensions B. tuitions C. salaries D. qualifications

7. A. comparison B. comprehension C. inflation D. inequality

8. A. status B. guidance C. genre D. allocation

9. A. doubt B. opposition C. take D. support

10. A. innovative B. dirty C. decent D. plausible

11. A. idle B. industrious C. reliable D. pessimistic

12. A. boring B. simple C. misleading D. challenging

13. A. typing B. debating C. documenting D. jogging

14. A. understanding B. assisting C. updating D. repairing

15. A. labor-intensive B. data-intensive C. capital-intensive D. knowledge-intensive

16. A. glamorous B. monotonous C. damaging D. risky

17. A. home B. school C. office D. station

18. A abolish B. eliminate C. propose D. seek

19. A. more or less B. no longer C. no doubt D. no more

20. A. symbolizes B. determines C. triggers D. protests

【解读】

文章讲述的是富人和穷人对闲暇时间的控制的转换，在过去富人有更多的闲暇时间去掌控，而穷人很少，而如今，越来越多的有钱更享受工作时间，而闲暇时间多的人成了“无用”与“无所事事”的代名词。

1. 【答案】A解析：上文提及富人有闲而穷人却终日劳作，由此推断出：一个人的贫富与他们是否需要长时间工作有着密切的关联。因此，句中对贫富的状态进行判断的依据是工作时长,故选A项,how long意为“多长时间”。B项代人，how much“多少”强调工作的数量;C项代人，how well“多好”强调完成工作的质量。D项代人，how often“多久一次”强调工作的频率。三者都不能对应上文提及的富人和穷人工作时长不同。

2.【答案】C解析：上文提及19世纪时,富人有闲而穷人却终日劳作。下文则提及富人开始“比穷人工作更长时间”work longer hours than the poor。很明显今天的情况与过去的不一样,故选C项different“不同的”。A项identical“完全相同的”和B项similar相似的代人，与原文意思相反。文中指出了两者的不同，但并未就此进行评价，故排除D项satisfying令人满意的。

3.【答案】D解析：下句中的转折词But提示本句中overall working hours的变化趋势与下句提及的the rich have begun to work longer是相反的。故选D项fallen“下降”。A项risen"上升”与work longer表意一致，故排除。B项weakened“变弱”一般指力量上的减弱,不指数量。C项granted“允许”与本句主题无关。

4.【答案】A解析：闲暇的时间更昂贵的上一段提及“富人开始更长时间工作”的观点。空格后说到“其一，是更高的工资使得闲暇时间更昂贵,” 这是对“富人工作更长时间”的解释,故选表原因的A项explanations“解释”。

5.【答案】B解析：上文提及higher wages make leisure more expensive，高工资使得人们会由于休闲而失去挣钱的机会。因此，此处能导致人们放弃挣钱机会的前提条件是人们想要休闲。故选B项，take time off意为“休息、休假”。

6.【答案】C解析：本句是对上文higher wages make leisure more expensive的补充说明。此处 have risen strongly与上文higher wages呼应，故选C项salary“薪金”。

7.【答案】D解析：此处需要一个名词对上旬所说现象进行总结。上句提及“顶层的 迅猛增长”，而“中层以下的则停滞不前或有所下降”。这是一种不平等”,故选D项inequality不平等"。

8.【答案】A解析：下文提及“闲暇是一种荣誉勋章(a badge of honor)”和“闲暇是一种社会权力的标记(a sign of social power)”，其中honor、social power和uselessness and unemployment均为休闲在不同时期所能体现出的不同的“地位”。故选A项status地位。

9.【答案】C解析：下句的He argued that...提示，此处是托斯丁.韦布伦给出的个人见解。选项中能与offer连用且表示某一种看法的只有C项，sb.'s take on...意为“某人对某事的看法”。

10.【答案】B解析：此处需要一个形容词与repetitive并列，表示富人不愿去做的工作类型。选项中能与repetitive"重复性的"平行的应为具有消极语义的B项dirty"肮脏的"。

11.【答案】A解析：下句的Rather they engaged in “exploit”提示富人们还是忙于某些事情的。因此，not后的形容词应为“忙于某事”的反义表达故选A项idle懒惰的。

12【答案】D解析：空格与creative并列，属于富人们所致力于的开拓类型的工作。因此，本题客案应选与“开拓性”相关的D项challenging“具有挑战性的”。

13.【答案】B解析：此处需要一个与writing和charity并列的名词，选项中能与此两者相关的只有B项debating"辩论”。

14.【答案】C解析：上一段讲到托斯丁·韦布伦1899年提出“休闲是一种荣誉勋章”的观点，本段表达的是“工作给人们带来快乐”,这是对韦布伦观点的一种否定。选项中能与need连用表达这种“否定”的只有C项updating更新”。

15.【答案】D解析：空格与intellectual并列，表达发达经济体中工作的主要属性。intellectual强调的是强调的是智力的重要性，与此呼应的是D项knowledge-intense知识密集型的。

16.【答案】A解析：本句fewer dull jobs和more jobs中的fewer和more提示，此处是对dull jobs和 jobs进行对比。结合空格后举的例子fashion design时尚设计、可知应选与dull语义相反的A项glamorous有吸引力的。

17.【答案】C解析：上句提及“无趣的工作越来越少",由此推断出现在的工作更加有趣和具有新意。结合下句提及的“工作能提供乐趣”，可推断此处提及人们享受“开拓”的地点应为办公室,故选C项office。

18.【答案】D解析：上句提及，现在人们可以在工作中享受“开拓"(enjoy“exploit”), 即exploit是一种能使人获得快乐的活动。而过去，富人们engaged in“exploit”。故推断，过去富人们在休闲时所进行的探索活动是为了得到快乐。因此选具有“努力获得”语义的D项seek寻求。

19.【答案】B解析：本部分强调工作的重要性(work offer people pleasure)。相应地，休闲的积极意义已被取代。因此，下文提及休闲的意义时,应在具有积极语义的a sign of social power“社会权力的象征”前应加上表否定的短语，故选B项no longer“不再”。

20.【答案】A解析：由Instead可看出本句与前句是对比关系。前一句提到“休闲 一种社会权力的象征”。本句提及“相反，它 无用和失业”。“社会权力”与“无用、失业”相对，因此此处需要一个动词来代替is a sign of,故选A项symbolize“象征”。