

Passage One

Questions 46 to 50 are based on the following passage.

Any veteran nicotine addict will testify that fancy packaging plays no role in the decision to keep smoking. So, it is argued, stripping cartons of their branding will trigger no mass movement to quit'

But that isn' t why the government-under pressure from cancer charities, health workers and the Labour party -- has agreed to legislate for standardised packaging. The theory is that smoking should be stripped of any appeal to discourage new generations from starting in the first place. Plain packing would be another step in the reclassification of cigarettes from inviting consumer products to narcotics (麻醉剂) .

Naturally, the tobacco industry is violently opposed. No business likes to admit that it sells addictive poison as a lifestyle choice. That is why government has historically intervened, banning advertising, imposing health warnings and punitive(惩罚性的)duties. This approach has led over time to a fall in smoking with numbers having roughly halved since the 1970s. Evidence from Australia suggests plain packaging

pushes society further along that road. Since tobacco is one of the biggest cause of premature death in the UK, a measure that tames the habit even by a fraction is worth trying.

So why has it taken so long? The Department of Health declared its intention to consider the move in November 2010 and consulted through 2012. But the plan was suspended in July 2013. Its campaign director, had previously acted for Philip Morris International. (The prime minister denied there was a connection between his new adviser's outside interests and the change in legislative programme.) In November 2013, after an unnecessary round of additional consultation, health minister Jane Ellison said the government was minded to proceed after all. Now we are told Members of Parliament (MPs) will have a free vote before parliament is dissolved in March.

Parliament has in fact already authorized the government to tame the tobacco trade. MPs voted overwhelmingly in favour of Labour amendments to the children and families bill last February that included the power to regulate for plain packaging. With sufficient will in Downing Street this would have been done already. But strength of will is the missing ingredient where Mr. Cameron and public health are

concerned. His attitude to state intervention has looked confused ever since his bizarre 2006 lament(叹息) that chocolate orange placed seductively at super market checkouts fueled obesity.

The government has moved reluctantly into a sensible public health policy ,but with such obvious over-cautiousness that any political credit due belongs to the opposition .Without sustained external pressure it seems certain Mr. Cameron would still be hooked on the interests of big tobacco companies .

46. What do chain smokers think of cigarette packaging?

- A) Fancy packaging can help to engage new smokers.
- B) It has little to do with the quality or taste of cigarettes.
- C) Plain packaging discourages non-smokers from taking up smoking.
- D) It has little impact on their decision whether or not to quit smoking.

47. What has the UK government agreed to do concerning tobacco packaging?

- A) Pass a law to standardize cigarette packaging.
- B) Rid cigarette cartons of all advertisements.
- C) Subsidise companies to adopt plain packaging.
- D) Reclassify cigarettes according to packaging.

48. What has happened in Australia where plain packing is implemented?

- A) Premature death rates resulting from smoking have declined.
- B) The number of smokers has dropped more sharply than in the UK.
- C) The sales of tobacco substitutes have increased considerably.
- D) Cigarette sales have been falling far more quickly than in the UK.

49. Why has it taken so long for the UK government to consider plain packaging?

- A) Prime Minister Cameron has been reluctant to take action.
- B) There is strong opposition from veteran nicotine addicts.

C) Many Members of Parliament are addicted to smoking.

D) Pressure from tobacco manufacturers remains strong.

50. What did Cameron say about chocolate oranges at supermarket checkouts?

A) They fueled a lot of controversy. C) They made more British people obese.

B) They attracted a lot of smokers. D) They had certain ingredients missing.

答案：DABAC

Passage Two

Questions 51 to 55 are based on the following passage.

What a waste of money! In return for an average of £44,000 of debt, students get an average of only 14 hours of lecture and tutorial time a week in Britain. Annual fees have risen from £1,000 to £9,000 in the last decade, but contact time at university has barely risen at all. And graduating doesn't even provide any guarantee of a decent job: six in ten graduates today are in non-graduate jobs.

No wonder it has become fashionable to denounce many universities as little more than elaborate *con-tricks* (骗术). There's a lot for students to complain about: the repayment threshold for paying back loans will be frozen for five years, meaning that lower-paid graduates have to start repaying their loans; and maintenance grants have been replaced by loans, meaning that students from poorer backgrounds face higher debt than those with wealthier parents.

Yet it still pays to go to university. If going to university doesn't work out, students pay very little - if any - of their tuition fees back: you only start repaying when you are earning £21,000 a year. Almost half of graduates - those who go on to earn less - will have a portion of their debt written off. It's not just the lectures and tutorials that are important. Education is the sum of what students teach each other in between lectures and seminars. Students do not merely benefit while at university; studies show they go on to be healthier and happier than non-graduates, and also far more likely to vote.

Whatever your talents, it is extraordinarily difficult to get a leading job in most fields without having been to university.

52. What does the author say about the employment situation of British university graduates?

A) Few of them are satisfied with the jobs they are offered.

B) It usually takes a long time for them to find a decent job.

C) Graduates from elite universities usually can get decent jobs.

D) Most of them take jobs which don't require a college degree.

53. What is said to be an advantage of going to university?

A) Learning how to take risks in an ever-changing world.

B) Meeting people who will be helpful to you in the future.

C) Having opportunities of playing a leading role in society.

D) Gaining up-to-date knowledge in science and technology.

55. What can we infer from the last paragraph?

A) It is natural for students to make complaints about university education.

B) Few students are willing to bear the burden of debt incurred at university.

C) University education is becoming attractive to students who can afford it.

D) The prestige of the university influence employer' s recruitment decisions.

答案： ADCBD