

大学英语四级模拟试卷第11组（阅读4）PDF转换可能丢失图片或格式，建议阅读原文

https://www.100test.com/kao_ti2020/162/2021_2022__E5_A4_A7_E5_AD_A6_E8_8B_B1_E8_c83_162558.htm Passage Four

Questions 36 to 40 are based on the following passage. Americans believe no one stands still. If you are not moving ahead, you are falling behind. This attitude results in a nation of people committed to researching, experimenting and exploring. Time is one of the two elements that Americans save carefully, the other being labor. “ We are slaves to nothing but the clock, ” it has been said. Time is treated as if it were something almost tangible. We budget it, save it, waste it, steal it, kill it, cut it, account for it. we also charge for it. It is a precious commodity. Many people have a rather acute sense of the shortness of each lifetime. Once the sands have run out of a person ’ s hourglass, they cannot be replaced. We want every minute to count. A foreigner ’ s first impression of the U. S. is likely to be that everyone is in a rush—often under pressure. City people appear always to be hurry to get where they are going, restlessly seeking attention in a store, elbowing others as they try to complete their errands. Racing through daytime meals is part of the pace of life in this country. Working time is considered precious. Others in public eating places are waiting for you to finish so they too can be served and get back to work within the time allowed. Each person hurries to make room for the next person. If you don ’ t, waiter will hurry you. You also find drivers will be abrupt and that people will push past you. You will miss smiles, brief conversations, small courtesies with

strangers. Don't take it personally. This is because people value time highly, and they resent someone else "wasting" it beyond a certain courtesy point. This view of time affects the importance we attach to patience. In the American system of values, patience is not a high priority. Many of us have what might be called "a short fuse." We begin to move restlessly about if we feel time is slipping away without some return—be this in terms of pleasure, work value, or rest. Those coming from lands where time is looked upon differently may find this matter of pace to be one of their most difficult adjustments in both business and day life. Many newcomers to the States will miss the opening courtesies of a business call, for example. They will miss the ritual socializing that goes with a welcoming cup of tea or coffee that may be traditional in their own country. They may miss leisurely business chats in a café or coffee house. Normally, Americans do not assess their visitors in such relaxed surroundings over prolonged small talk. Much less do they take them out for dinner, or around on the golf course while they develop a sense of trust and rapport. Rapport to most of us is less important than performance. We seek out evidence of past performance rather than evaluate a business colleague through social courtesies. Since we generally assess and probe professionally rather than socially, we start talking business very quickly. Most Americans live according to time segments laid out in engagement calendars. We often give a person two or three (or more) segments of our calendar, but in business world we almost always have other appointments following hard on the heels of whatever we are doing. Time is therefore always ticking in our inner

ear. As a result we work hard at the task of saving time. We produce a steady flow of labor-saving devices. we communicate rapidly through telexes phone calls or memos rather than through personal contacts, which though pleasant, take longer-especially given our traffic-filled streets. We therefore save most personal visiting for after work hours or for social weekend gatherings.36. “ If you are not moving ahead, you are falling behind. ” (Para.1,Line1)means _____.A) if you are moving, you are falling downB) you would fall behind if you move aheadC) you are moving ahead or you are falling behindD) you are not moving, you are disappear37. The second paragraph implies_____.A) everyone ' s life has his regrets 100Test 下载频道开通 , 各类考试题目直接下载。详细请访问 www.100test.com