

2009年MBA英语阅读理解（精读精解）03MBA考试PDF转换  
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[https://www.100test.com/kao\\_ti2020/530/2021\\_2022\\_2009\\_E5\\_B9\\_B4MBA\\_c70\\_530401.htm](https://www.100test.com/kao_ti2020/530/2021_2022_2009_E5_B9_B4MBA_c70_530401.htm) The annual review of American company board practices by Korn/Ferry, a firm of headhunters, is a useful indicator of the health of corporate governance. This year's review, published on November 12th, shows that the Sarbanes-Oxley act, passed in 2002 to try to prevent a repeat of corporate collapses such as Enron's and WorldCom's, has had an impact on the boardroom--albeit at an average implementation cost that Korn/Ferry estimates at \$5.1m per firm. Two years ago, only 41% of American firms said they regularly held meetings of directors without their chief executive present. This year the figure was 93%. But some things have been surprisingly unaffected by the backlash against corporate scandals. For example, despite a growing feeling that former chief executives should not sit on their company's board, the percentage of American firms where they do has actually edged up, from 23% in 2003 to 25% in 2004. Also, disappointingly few firms have split the jobs of chairman and chief executive. Another survey of American boards published this week, by A.T. Kearney, a firm of consultants, found that in 2002 14% of the boards of S and P 500 firms with staggered boards has fallen only slightly--from 63% in 2001 to 60% in 2003, according to the Investor Responsibility Research Centre. And many of those firms that have been forced by shareholders to abolish the system are doing so only slowly. Merck, a pharmaceutical company in trouble over the possible side-effects of

its arthritis drug Vioxx, is allowing its directors to run their full term before introducing a system in which they are all re-elected (or otherwise) annually. Other companies' staggered boards are entrenched in their corporate charters, which cannot be amended by a shareholders' vote. Anyone who expected the scandals of 2001 to bring about rapid change in the balance of power between managers and owners was, at best, naive.

1. The Sarbanes-Oxley act is most probably about\_\_\_\_\_. [A] corporate scandal [B] corporate management [C] corporate cost [D] corporate governance

2. The word "backlash" (Line 3, Paragraph 2) most probably means\_\_\_\_\_. [A] a violent force [B] a strong impetus [C] a firm measure [D] a strong negative reaction

3. According to the text, separating the roles between chairman and chief executive is\_\_\_\_\_. [A] a common practice in American companies [B] what many European companies do [C] a must to keep the health of a company [D] not a popular idea among American entrepreneurs

4. We learn from the text that a "staggered" board\_\_\_\_\_. [A] is adverse to the increment of firm value [B] gives its board members too much power [C] has been abolished by most American companies [D] can be voted down by shareholders

5. Toward the board practice of American companies, the writer's attitude can be said to be\_\_\_\_\_. [A] biased [B] pessimistic [C] objective [D] critical

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