

BÀI TẬP ĐỌC TRẮC NGHIỆM ĐIỀN TỪ VÀO CHỖ TRÓNG

Exercise 1: Choose the word or phrase that best fits the blank space in the following space.

All men should study, we have to study to (1)_____ our knowledge and develop our intelligence.

An uneducated man can only utilize his (2)_____ strength to work and live. An educated man, (3)_____ this strength, still has the faculty of his intelligent brain and good reflection. This intelligence and thought enable him to help his physical strength to act more quickly (4)_____ cleverly.

In a same profession or work, the educated man differs (5)_____ the uneducated man considerably. Therefore, intellectual workers have to study, this is a matter of course, but (6)_____ workers must also (7)_____ an education.

In civilized countries, compulsory education has been applied. (8)_____ must spend seven or eight years to study. From ploughmen to laborers in these (9)_____, no one is (10)_____ to read a book or a paper fluently.

1.	A. wide	B. widely	C. widen	D. broad
2.	A. body	B. bodily	C. power	D. brain
3.	A. with	B. without	C. no	D. none
4.	A. and	B. but	C. yet	D. or
5.	A. than	B. with	C. from	D. apart
6.	A. simple	B. easy	C. hard	D. manual
7.	A. learn	B. study	C. acquire	D. know
8.	A. Man	B. One	C. Human	D. Mankind
9.	A. parts	B. regions	C. fields	D. nations
10.	A. able	B. unable	C. not	D. never

Exercise 2: Choose the word or phrase that best fits the blank space in the following space.

Everyone wants to reduce pollution. But the pollution (1)_____ is as complicated as it is serious. It is complicated (2)_____ much pollution is caused by things that benefit people. For example, (3)_____ from automobiles causes a large percentage of air pollution. But the automobile (4)_____ transportation for millions of people. Factories (5)_____ much of material that pollutes the air and water, but factories give employment to a large number of people.

Thus, to end (6)_____ greatly reduce pollution immediately, people would have to (32)_____ using many things that (7)_____ them. Most of the people do not want to do that, of course. But pollution can be (8)_____ reduced in several ways. Scientists and engineers can work to find ways to lessen the amount of pollution that such things as automobiles and factories cause. Governments can pass and enforce laws that (9)_____ businesses and (10)_____ to stop, or to cut down on certain polluting activities.

1.	A. work	B. problem	C. accident	D. event
2.	A. because	B. so	C. that	D. while
3.	A. exhaust	B. fire	C. gas	D. liquid
4.	A. carries	B. takes	C. affords	D. provides
5.	A. offer	B. bring	C. discharge	D. cause
6.	A. to	B. or	C. so	D. that
7.	A. benefit	B. harm	C. motivate	D. encourage
8.	A. little	B. gradually	C. so	D. that
9.	A. require	B. forbid	C. prevent	D. request
10.	A. commercials	B. surroundings	C. individuals	D. traffic

Exercise 3: Choose the word or phrase that best fits the blank space in the following space.

We are using up the world's petroleum. We use (1)_____ in our cars and to heat our building in winter.

Farmers use petrochemicals to (2)_____ the soil rich. They use them to kill insects (3)_____ eat plants. These chemicals go (4)_____ rivers and lakes and kill the fish there. Thousands of pollutants also go into the air and pollute it. Winds carry this (5)_____ air to other countries and other continents.

Poor farmers use the same land over and (6)_____. The land needs a rest so it will be better next year. However, the farmers must have food this year. Poor people cut down forests (7)_____ firewood. In some areas when the trees are gone, the land (8)_____ desert. Poor people can't save the environment for the (9)_____.

This is not a problem for one country or one area of the world. It is a problem for all- humans. The people and the nations of the world must work together to (10)_____ the world's resources.

1. A. it	B. them	C. that	D. those
2. A. enrich	B. change	C. make	D. let
3. A. eat	B. eaten	C. eating	D. ate
4. A. to	B. toward	C. at	D. into
5. A. pollute	B. polluting	C. polluted	D. pollution
6. A. over	B. again	C. repeated	D. repeating
7. A. of	B. for	C. with	D. at
8. A. gets	B. changes	C. turns	D. becomes
9. A. future	B. time	C. times	D. period
10. A. recycle	B. preserve	C. keep	D. use

Exercise 4: Choose the word or phrase that best fits the blank space in the following space.

Every ten minutes, one kind of animal, plant or insect dies (1)_____ for ever. If nothing is done about it, one million species that are alive today will have become (2)_____ twenty years from now.

The seas are in (3)_____. They are being filled with poison: industrial and nuclear (4)_____, chemical fertilisers and pesticides, sewage. The Mediterranean is already nearly dead; the North Sea is following. If nothing done about it, one day soon nothing will be able to live in the seas.

The tropical rain forests, which are the (5)_____ of half the earth's living things(including many rare animals and plants), are being destroyed. If nothing is done about it, they will have nearly disappeared in twenty years. The (6)_____ on the world's climate – and on our agriculture and food supplies – will be disastrous.

Fortunately, somebody is trying to do something about it. In 1961, the World Wildlife Fund was (7)_____ - a small group of people who wanted to raise money to save animals and plants from extinction.

Today, the World Wildlife Fund is a large international organisation. It has raised over 35 million pounds for conservation projects, and has created or given (8)_____ five continents. It has helped 30 mammals and birds – including the tiger – to (9)_____. Perhaps this is not much, but it is a start. If more people give more money – and if more governments wake up to what is happening – perhaps the World Wildlife Fund will be able to help us to avoid the disaster that (10)_____ the natural world, and all of us will be with it.

1. A. off	B. on	C. out	D. over
2. A. extinguished	B. extinct	C. distinct	D. invalid
3. A. danger	B. death	C. debt	D. despair
4. A. waste	B. rubbish	C. essence	D. mixture

5. A. container	B. origin	C. house	D. home
6. A. result	B. impression	C. effect	D. motivation
7. A. founded	B. found	C. funded	D. fixed
8. A. defence	B. support	C. preservation	D. rescue
9. A. continue	B. endure	C. prolong	D. survive
10. A. occurs	B. pollutes	C. threatens	D. suffers

Exercise 5: Choose the word or phrase that best fits the blank space in the following space.

Television is one of man's most important (1) _____ of communication. It brings (2) _____ and sounds from around the world into millions of homes. A person with a television set can sit in his house and watch the President (3) _____ a speech or visit a foreign country. He can see a war being fought and watch statesmen try to (4) _____ peace. (5) _____ television, home viewers can see and learn about people, places and things in faraway lands. TV even takes its viewers out of this world. It brings them (6) _____ of America's astronauts as the astronauts explore outer space.

(7) _____ all these things, television brings its viewers a steady stream of programs that are (8) _____ to entertain. In fact, TV provides many more (9) _____ programmes than any other kind. The programmes include action-packed dramas, light comedies, sporting (10) _____, and motion pictures.

1. A. procedure	B. means	C. manner	D. technology
2. A. pictures	B. images	C. visages	D. portraits
3. A. compose	B. type	C. computerize	D. make
4. A. bring about	B. make out	C. bring round	D. move around
5. A. In	B. Because of	C. At	D. Through
6. A. covering	B. views	C. coverage	D. looks
7. A. In addition to	B. As to	C. Beside	D. By
8. A. designed	B. patterned	C. monitored	D. built up
9. A. excitement	B. distraction	C. fun	D. entertainment
10. A. happenings	B. events	C. occurrences	D. meetings

Exercise 6: Choose the word or phrase that best fits the blank space in the following space.

TRAFFIC LIGHTS

The first traffic signal was invented by a railway signaling engineer. It was installed (1) _____ the Houses of Parliament in 1868. It (2) _____ like any railway signal of the time, and was operated by gas. (3) _____, it exploded and killed a policeman, and the accident discouraged further development until cars became common.

(4) _____ traffic lights are an American invention. Red – green systems were installed in Cleveland in 1914. Three - color signals, operated (5) _____ hand from a tower in the (6) _____ of the street, were installed in New York in 1918. The first lights of this type to (7) _____ in Britain were in London, on the junction between St. James's Street and Piccadilly, in 1925. Automatic signals were installed (8) _____ year later.

In the past, traffic lights were special. In New York, some lights had a statue on top. In Los Angeles the lights did not just change silently, but would ring bells to (9) _____ the sleeping motorists of the 1930s. These are gone and have been (10) _____ by standard models which are universally adopted.

1. A. outside	B. out	C. out of	D. outdoors
2. A. resembled	B. looked	C. showed	D. seemed
3. A. However	B. Therefore	C. Although	D. Despite
4. A. New	B. Recent	C. Modern	D. Late
5. A. by	B. with	C. through	D. in

6. A. middle	B. heart	C. focus	D. halfway
7. A. show	B. appear	C. happen	D. become
8. A. a	B. in the	C. in a	D. the
9. A. rise	B. raise	C. wake	D. get up
10. A. reproduced	B. replaced	C. removed	D. remained

Exercise 7: Choose the word or phrase that best fits the blank space in the following space.

The overall outlook for the hotel and tourism industry in Vietnam is very (1)_____. Tourism is viewed as an important economic (2)_____ in the future development of this country, and it is easy to see why Vietnam, among the countries in South East Asia, has become increasingly popular as a new (3)_____ destination. The sublime beauty of the country's natural settings is very (4)_____. The sights, the sounds and the tastes of Vietnam leave a lasting memory for many foreign (5)_____. Its key destination such as Da Lat, Phan Thiet, Hoi An or Nha Trang are offering, indeed, great tourism (6)_____.

Combine this with the friendly nature of the Vietnamese people and the current political (7)_____, and we are set for solid growth pattern for the years to come. It is therefore not a surprise that foreign (8)_____ to Vietnam have steadily increased during the past few years.

Also important is the increasing demand from the domestic market. It is projected that 17 million domestic (9)_____ will make a short trip in 2005 within the country for leisure and (10)_____.

1. A. famous	B. good	C. positive	D. proud
2. A. force	B. goal	C. growth	D. task
3. A. tour	B. tourist	C. tourism	D. touring
4. A. impress	B. impressive	C. impressing	D. impression
5. A. friends	B. foreigners	C. visitors	D. people
6. A. industry	B. value	C. growth	D. worth
7. A. stable	B. stability	C. unstable	D. instability
8. A. arrive	B. arriving	C. arrival	D. arrivals
9. A. tourists	B. people	C. guides	D. interpreters
10. A. relax	B. relaxation	C. relaxed	D. relaxing

Exercise 8: Choose the word or phrase that best fits the blank space in the following space.

CARNIVOROUS PLANTS

All plants rely on nutrients taken from the soil in order to survive. However, in areas where the soil does not contain enough (1)_____ nutrients, some plants have adapted to (2)_____ their diets from another source: living organisms. Though they are few in number, carnivorous plants are (3)_____ fascinating beings that "eat" anything from one-celled organisms to insects in order to survive. They are commonly found in marshlands. Carnivorous plants feature one of several types of "traps" to ensnare prey, which they consume to make up for nutrients that may be missing from the soil. While there are over 400 species of carnivorous plants in the world today, some are more (4)_____ than others.

The most well-known of these plants are the snap traps, which include the Venus flytrap. Snap traps are easily identified by their leaves, which are separated into two lobes that have the ability to fold together. Inside the lobes, the surface is covered with tiny hairs that are (5)_____ to movement. When the plant's prey brushes against the hairs, it triggers a closing mechanism that rapidly brings the two lobes together, trapping the prey (6)_____ inside. The response of the traps is phenomenal (7)_____ speed: the time between triggering the hairs and snapping shut is less than a second. As the prey struggles inside the trap, it only triggers more hairs, causing the leaves to tighten their (8)_____. The plant then secrets liquid chemicals from special glands into the trap to dissolve the prey and absorb all of its nutrients. Besides the Venus flytrap, only one other type of snap trap exists today, (9)_____ to as the waterwheel plant. The two share a common ancestor and differ only in a

few ways. For instance, the waterwheel is an aquatic plant, while the flytrap is exclusively terrestrial. In addition, the flytrap feeds primarily on arthropods like spiders, while the waterwheel lives (10) _____ simple invertebrates, like certain types of plankton.

1. A. critical	B. vital	C. crucial	D. indispensable
2. A. modify	B. enlarge	C. augment	D. supplement
3. A. nonetheless	B. though	C. contradictorily	D. yet
4. A. prevalent	B. current	C. domineering	D. prevailing
5. A. vulnerable	B. liable	C. prone	D. sensitive
6. A. closely	B. securely	C. irreplaceably	D. steadily
7. A. in accordance with		B. in preference to	
C. in regard to		D. on merits of	
8. A. fist	B. hold	C. seizure	D. grip
9. A. denoted	B. referred	C. indicated	D. implicated
10. A. off	B. onto	C. though	D. with

Exercise 9: Choose the word or phrase that best fits the blank space in the following space.

Nearly 200 of the 1500 native plant species in Hawaii are at risk of going extinct in the near future because they have been (1) _____ to such low numbers. Approximately 90 percent of Hawaii's plants are found nowhere else in the world but they are (2) _____ by alien invasive species such as feral goats, pigs, rodents and (3) _____ plants.

The Hawaii Rare Plant Restoration Group is striving to (4) _____ the extinction of the 182 rare Hawaiian plants with fewer than 50 individuals remaining in the (5) _____. Since 1990, (6) _____ a result of their 'Plant Extinction Prevention Program', sixteen species have been brought into (7) _____ and three species have been reintroduced. Invasive weeds have been removed in key areas and fencing put up in order to (8) _____ plants in the wild.

In the future, the Hawaii Rare Plant Restoration Program aims (9) _____ collecting genetic material from the remaining plants in the wild for storage as a safety net for the future. They also aim to manage wild populations and where possible reintroduce species into (10) _____.

1. A. disappeared	B. reduced	C. increased	D. developed
2. A. guarded	B. invested	C. conserved	D. threatened
3. A. national	B. native	C. international	D. non-native
4. A. prevent	B. encourage	C. stimulate	D. influence
5. A. wild	B. atmosphere	C. hole	D. sky
6. A. so	B. due	C. as	D. but
7. A. contamination	B. production	C. cultivation	D. generation
8. A. derive	B. vary	C. remain	D. protect
9. A. at	B. for	C. with	D. on
10. A. shelters	B. reserves	C. gardens	D. halls

Exercise 10: Choose the word or phrase that best fits the blank space in the following space.

Health is something we tend to (1) _____ when we have it. When our body is doing well, we are hardly (1) _____ of it. But illness can come, even (2) _____ we are young. In fact, childhood has been a very susceptible time. Many diseases attack children in particular, and people know very little (4) _____ to cure them once they struck. The result was that many children died. About a century ago, (5) _____, scientists found out about germs, and then everything changed. The (6) _____ of many diseases was found, and cures were developed. As this medical discovery spread, the world became (7) _____ safer for children. The result is that (8) _____ a hundred years ago, the average man lived for 35 years, nowadays, in many areas of the world, people can (9) _____ to live for 75 years. And what do we expect by the year 2050? Undoubtedly, medical

science will continue to (10) _____. Some people will be able to avoid medical problems that are unavoidable today.

1. A. forget	B. ignore	C. give up	D. throw away
2. A. awake	B. keen	C. aware	D. concerned
3. A. if	B. so	C. when	D. while
4. A. how	B. what	C. which	D. when
5. A. therefore	B. however	C. although	D. moreover
6. A. reason	B. origin	C. source	D. cause
7. A. more	B. much	C. very	D. quite
8. A. where	B. when	C. why	D. whereas
9. A. desire	B. hope	C. want	D. expect
10. A. speed up	B. advance	C. accelerate	D. run

BÀI TẬP TRẮC NGHIỆM ĐỌC HIẾU

Exercise 1: Read the following passage and mark the letter A, B, C or D to indicate the correct answer to each of the questions.

Hundreds of thousands of persons each year fall to prey some types of cancer, but new methods of radiation therapy have enabled doctors to save more lives than ever before. Medical researchers have developed several experimental forms of this time-honored cancer treatment that seem effective in fighting the disease.

One promising approach involves exposing cancer cells to radiation by implanting source directly into the malignant tissue. This process greatly increases the dosage and thus the effectiveness of treatment. Another technique utilizes drugs to make cancer cells more susceptible to the effects of radiation and to make normal cells resistant. Certain drugs are able to neutralize the genetic framework of cancer cells, thus making them easily affected by radiation. Both techniques have seen some positive results in the treatment of inoperable brain tumors.

These and other methods have helped to raise the recovery rate for cancer victims from 30 per cent 40 years ago to around 50 per cent today. This is encouraging news for those who fall prey to one of the world's leading killers.

1. What is the author's main purpose in the passage?
 - A. To provide statistical information on cancer.
 - B. To argue for new methods of cancer treatment.
 - C. To illustrate new techniques of radiation therapy
 - D. To give the result of recent cancer research.
2. According to the passage, which of the following is true about radiation therapy?
 - A. There is only one effective form of this therapy
 - B. It saves millions of lives each year.
 - C. It is an accepted method of cancer treatment.
 - D. It causes the incidence of cancer to rise dramatically.
3. The word "malignant" most closely means _____.
 - A. disease
 - B. experimental
 - C. treated
 - D. poisonous
4. According to the passage, radiation therapy is most effective when _____.
 - A. drugs are used to relax the cancer patient
 - B. the cancer is directly exposed to the radioactive material
 - C. it is used on as many patients as possible
 - D. the cancer cells are resistant to treatment
5. It can be inferred from the passage that _____.
 - A. improvements in cancer treatment during the last half century have been relatively ineffective
 - B. the number of deaths caused by cancer has decreased substantially

- C. fewer people are susceptible to the effects of cancer
- D. scientists are close to eliminating cancer entirely

Exercise 2: Read the following passage and mark the letter A, B, C or D to indicate the correct answer to each of the questions.

European concern for wildlife was outlined by Dr. Peter Baum, an expert on the environment and nature resources division of the council, when he spoke at a conference arranged by the administrators of a British national park. The park is one of the few areas in Europe to hold the council's diploma for nature reserves of the highest quality, and Dr. Baum had come to present it to the park once again. He was afraid that public opinion was turning against national parks, and that those set up in the 1960s and 1970s could not be set up today. But Dr. Baum clearly remained a strong supporter of the view that natural environments needed to be allowed to survive in peace in their own right.

No area could be expected to survive both as a true nature reserve and as a tourist attraction, he went on. The short view that reserves had to serve immediate human demands for outdoor recreation should be replaced by full acceptance of their importance as places to preserve nature for the future.

"We forget that they are the guarantee of life systems, on which any built-up area ultimately depends," Dr. Baum went on. "We could manage without most industrial products, but we could not manage without nature. However, our natural environment areas, which are the original parts of our countryside, have shrunk to become mere islands in a spoiled and highly land mass".

1. Recent studies by the Council of Europe show that _____.
 - A. it is only in Britain that wildlife needs more protection
 - B. all species of wildlife in Europe are in danger of dying out
 - C. the public is not in favor of national parks as before
 - D. certain species of reptiles and butterflies in Europe need protecting
2. Dr. Baum, a representative of the Council, visited one particular British national park because _____.
 - A. he was presenting the park with a diploma for its achievement
 - B. he was concerned about how the park was being run
 - C. it was the only national park of its kind in Europe
 - D. it was the only park which had ever received a diploma from the Council
3. Although it is difficult nowadays to convince the public of the importance of nature reserves, Dr Baum felt that _____.
 - A. people would support moves to create more environment areas
 - B. people would carry on supporting those natural parks in existence
 - C. existing natural parks would need to be more independent to survive
 - D. certain areas of countryside should be left undisturbed by man
4. In Dr. Baum's opinion, a true nature reserve _____.
 - A. could never survive in a modern age
 - B. should provide buildings for human activities
 - C. should be regarded as a place where nature is protected
 - D. could provide special areas for tourists to enjoy
5. Although we all depend on the resources of nature for our survival _____.
 - A. industrial products are replacing all out natural resources
 - B. it is only on islands that nature survives
 - C. we have forgotten what our original countryside looks like
 - D. we have allowed areas of countryside to be split by industrial development

Exercise 3: Read the following passage and mark the letter A, B, C or D to indicate the correct answer to each of the questions.

Let children learn to judge their own work. A child learning to talk does not learn by being corrected all the time: if corrected too much, he will stop talking. He notices a thousand times a day

the difference between the language he uses and the language those around him use. Bit by bit, he makes the necessary changes to make his language like other people's. in the same way, children, learning to do all the other things they learn to do without being taught to walk, run, climb, whistle, ride a bicycle- compare their own performance, with those of more skilled people, and slowly make the needed changes. But in school we never give a child a chance to find out his mistakes for himself, let alone correct them. We do it all for him, we act as if we thought that he would never notice a mistake unless it was pointed out to him, or correct it unless he was made to. Soon he becomes dependent on the teacher. Let him do it himself. Let him work out, with help of other children if he wants it, what this word says, what the answer is to that problem, whether this is a good way of saying or doing this or not.

If it is a matter of right answers, as it may be in mathematics or science, give him the answer book. Let him correct his own papers. Why should we teachers waste time on such routine work? Our job should help the child when he tells us that he can't find the way to get the right answer. Let's end all this nonsense of grades, exams, and marks. Let us throw them all out, and let the children learn what all educated persons must some day learn, how to measure their own understanding, how to know what they know or do not know.

Let them get on with this job in the way that seems most sensible to them, with our help as school teachers if they ask for it. The idea that there is a body of knowledge to be learnt at school and used for the rest of one's life is nonsense in a world as complicated and rapidly changing as ours. Anxious parents and teachers say, "But suppose they fail to learn something essential, something they will go out into the world and learn it."

1. What does the author think is the best way for children to learn thing?
 - A. By copying what other people do
 - B. By making mistakes and having them corrected
 - C. By listening to explanations from skilled people
 - D. By asking a great many questions
2. What does author think teachers do which they should not do?
 - A. They give children correct answers
 - B. They point out children's mistakes to them
 - C. They allow children to mark their own work
 - D. They encourage children to copy from one another
3. The passage suggests that learning to speak and learning to ride a bicycle are _____.
 - A. not really important skill
 - B. more important than other skills
 - C. basically, different from learning adult skill
 - D. basically the same as learning other skills
4. Exams, grades and marks should be abolished because children's progress should only be estimated by _____.

A. educated persons	B. the children themselves
C. teachers	D. parents
5. The author fears that children will grow up into adults who are _____.

A. too independent	B. too critical of themselves
C. unable to think for themselves	D. unable to use basic skills

Exercise 4: Read the following passage and mark the letter A, B, C or D to indicate the correct answer to each of the questions.

The planet Earth is 4,600 million years old. It is difficult for us to think about such an enormous length of time because it has little meaning for us. We can, however, simplify the idea to make it more understandable. We can compare the planet Earth to a person of forty-six years of age.

Nothing is known about the first seven years of this person's life. Very little information exists about the middle period either. It was only at the age of forty-two that the Earth began to flower.

Dinosaurs and great reptiles did not appear until one year ago, when the planet was forty-five. Mammals only arrived eight months ago. In the middle of last week, man-like apes became apelike men and began to communicate with each other. Last weekend, the Ice Age covered the Earth.

Modern man has only been around for four hours. During the last hour, man discovered agriculture. The Industrial Revolution and rise of large cities began just sixty seconds ago.

During that short time, modern man has made a rubbish tip of the Earth. In one minute, he has increased his numbers to terrible proportions, and has caused the death of hundreds of species of animals. He has robbed and destroyed the planet in his search for fuels. Now he stands like a violent, spoilt child, delighted at the speed of his rise to power, on the edge of the final mass destruction and of killing all the life which exists in the solar system.

1. The passage tells us that _____.
 - A. a great deal is known about how the Earth was created
 - B. life on Earth began relatively recently
 - C. more is known about the first part of the Earth's life than the middle part
 - D. scientists are well-informed about the middle part of the Earth's life
2. We are informed by the author that _____.
 - A. the dinosaurs appeared during the middle period
 - B. mammals and great reptiles both appeared at the same time
 - C. there were more than forty-five kinds of great reptiles
 - D. ape-like men appeared before the last Ice Age
3. The author is mainly interested in _____.
 - A. the time when man first evolved from apes
 - B. what has happened since the Industrial Revolution
 - C. the effects of farming
 - D. the period before the last Ice Age
4. It would appear that the main danger ahead is that _____.
 - A. man will destroy everything on Earth
 - B. man will use up all the fuels
 - C. there will be a population explosion
 - D. more species of animal may die out
5. The author's general view of man seems to be that _____.
 - A. he has no right to be so destructive
 - B. he has been the most successful animal
 - C. he will be able to control the environment
 - D. he has learned a lot from past mistakes

Exercise 5: Read the following passage and mark the letter A, B, C or D to indicate the correct answer to each of the questions.

One of the most difficult questions to answer is how much a job is worth. We naturally expect that a doctor's salary will be higher than a bus conductor's wages. But the question becomes much more difficult to answer when we compare, say, a miner with an engineer, or an unskilled man working on an oil-rig in the North Sea with a teacher in a secondary school. What the doctor, the engineer and teacher have is many years of training in order to obtain the necessary qualifications for their professions. We feel instinctively that these skills and these years, when they were studying instead of earning money, should be rewarded. At the same time we recognize that the work of the miner and the oil-rig laborer is both hard and dangerous, and that they must be highly paid for the risks they take.

Another factor we must take into consideration is how socially useful a man's work is, regardless of the talents he may bring to it. Most people would agree that looking after the sick or teaching children is more important than, say, selling secondhand cars or improving the taste of toothpaste by