

四、閱讀測驗【請在下列各題中選出最適當的答案】

In today's workplace, gossip is as common as ever. Rumors, half-truths, and lies fly from desk to desk and from employee to employee. Thanks to modern technology, gossip can spread through an entire company within minutes. Though it's hard to stop completely, it needs to be kept in check. Otherwise, it can cause trouble for one's colleagues or even harm the company.

Office workers tend to gossip about two main areas. The first is a company's general goings-on, such as hiring and firing news, yearly bonuses, and so on. As one U.S. survey revealed, nearly two-thirds of office workers are involved in this type of gossip. Some experts believe that, in small doses, that's actually a good thing for it gives employees a sense of what management is planning as company news are passed on. And hearing something on the grapevine helps managers know better about the employees' reaction and morale level.

The second type of gossip concerns one's coworkers. An estimated 40% people love to talk about their colleagues' romantic interests, career goals, and private lives. Again, some analysts suggest that a small amount of such personal gossip helps build group relationships as it shows people's care about and attention on their colleagues. However, when spread with **malicious** intentions, it can hurt people's feelings, job performance, and even their health.

Gossip is often passed around in employees' break rooms and around desks. Instant messaging apps are also a major channel for gossiping. A recent study in England found that some 80% of employees use these convenient tools on their smartphones to chat about other employees behind their backs. E-mail, once a widely used method a decade ago, has become a much less welcome choice, as many companies keep records of e-mails and their internal messaging systems.

Most people strongly dislike being gossiped about. According to another large-scale questionnaire done in Europe, 60% of workers viewed gossip as the biggest office-related problem. Victims of gossip may even sue a company for not doing enough to stop this pain in the neck in workplace. Consequently, more and more companies now have policies that limit or forbid office gossip.

【4】21. Which of the following aspects of office gossip is **NOT** mentioned in this article?

- ① Types of office gossip
- ② Topics of office gossip
- ③ Positive influence of office gossip
- ④ A famous real case of office gossip

【3】22. Where or how is office gossip most commonly spread nowadays?

- ① At the stairways, at restrooms, through companies' intranet, or by e-mails.
- ② In employees' rest lounges, through instant messaging apps, or by e-mails.
- ③ In employees' break rooms, around desks, or through instant messaging apps.
- ④ At employees' cubicles, through companies' intranet, or through instant messaging apps.

【2】23. Which of following is true about the comparison between the two main kinds of office gossip?

- ① One focuses on the company's matters, and the other targets those hated workers.
- ② Both have their benefits when going moderately, according to some experts.
- ③ One involves a large portion of employees, while the other has a very small percentage of participants.
- ④ One is unwelcome to the management, and the other is hated by many employees.

【3】24. What would be the closest meaning of the word **malicious** (in the third paragraph)?

- ① pious
- ② decent
- ③ vicious
- ④ splendid

【1】25. How do more and more companies today deal with office gossip?

- ① They set up rules to avoid the negative impact of gossip.
- ② They change it by promoting more positive gossip.
- ③ They fire the employees who often spread gossip.
- ④ They pay victims of gossip to prevent possible lawsuits.

貳、非選擇題【翻譯題 2 題，占 50 分】

第一題：【中翻英】（請以英文回答）

根據最新的全球能源展望報告指出，石油消費在 2025 年之前會維持高成長，但之後將趨緩。到了 2040 年，全世界對石油的需求將達到最高點，接著逐年下降。造成此趨勢的原因有三：全電動車數量大幅增加、新一代汽油車燃油效率提高、天然氣成為要角逐漸取代石油與煤炭。預估 2050 年全球每天的石油消費將比現在減少 1,500 萬桶。【25 分】

第二題：【英翻中】（請以中文回答）

Lately the news media is replete with a plethora of stories about the "loss" or "death" of the American traditional farm, with all the accusations about how small family farms are being alarmingly put out of business by big corporate farms. Even more awful are the ungrounded tales of "industrialized farming" that is inherently cruel and merciless to animals and irresponsible and unfriendly to the environment. It is such irony, however, that big modern farms always get the "Evil Corporate" label but everyone is at peace with alleged sweatshop enterprises. What exactly do people think about everyone sporting a pair of Nike shoes, a Zara blouse or an iPhone? Hypocrisy at its best! 【25 分】