

《高考英语阅读理解真题47(含答案解析)》

2021年全国乙卷

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During an interview for one of my books, my interviewer said something I still think about often. Annoyed by the level of distraction (干扰) in his open office, he said, “That’s why I have a membership at the coworking space across the street—so I can focus.” His comment struck me as strange. After all, coworking spaces also typically use an open office layout (布局). But I recently came across a study that shows why his approach works.

The researchers examined various levels of noise on participants as they completed tests of creative thinking. They were randomly divided into four groups and exposed to various noise levels in the background, from total silence to 50 decibels (分贝), 70 decibels, and 85 decibels. The differences between most of the groups were statistically insignificant; however, the participants in the 70 decibels group—those exposed to a level of noise similar to background chatter in a coffee shop—significantly outperformed the other groups. Since the effects were small, this may suggest that our creative thinking does not differ that much in response to total silence and 85 decibels of background noise.

But since the results at 70 decibels were significant, the study also suggests that the right level of background noise—not too loud and not total silence—may actually improve one’s creative thinking ability. The right level of background noise may interrupt our normal patterns of thinking just enough to allow our imaginations to wander, without making it impossible to focus. This kind of “distracted focus” appears to be the best state for working on creative tasks.

So why do so many of us hate our open offices? The problem may be that, in our offices, we can’t stop ourselves from getting drawn into others’ conversations while we’re trying to focus. Indeed, the researchers found that face-to-face interactions and conversations affect the creative process, and yet a coworking space or a coffee shop provides a certain level of noise while also providing freedom from interruptions.

32. Why does the interviewer prefer a coworking space?

A. It helps him concentrate.

B. It blocks out background noise.

C. It has a pleasant atmosphere.

D. It encourages face-to-face interactions.

33. Which level of background noise may promote creative thinking ability?

A. Total silence. B. 50 decibels.

C. 70 decibels. D. 85 decibels.

34. What makes an open office unwelcome to many people?

A. Personal privacy unprotected.

B. Limited working space.

C. Restrictions on group discussion.

D. Constant interruptions.

35. What can we infer about the author from the text?

A. He ' s a news reporter.

B. He ' s an office manager.

C. He ' s a professional designer.

D. He ' s a published writer.

答案解析：

32. A. It helps him concentrate.

解析：文章第一段提到面试官因为开放式办公室的干扰而感到烦恼，所以他加入了街对面的共享办公空间以集中注意力。这表明他更喜欢共享办公空间是因为它帮助他集中精力。

33. C. 70 decibels.

解析：第二段中提到，70分贝的背景噪音水平(类似于咖啡店的背景闲聊)的参与者显著优于其他组。这表明70分贝的背景噪音可能有助于提高创造性思维能力。

34. D. Constant interruptions.

解析：第四段提到，在开放式办公室中，我们无法阻止自己在试图集中注意力时被别人的对话吸引。研究人员发现面对面交流和对话会影响创造性过程，而在共享办公空间或咖啡店则提供了一定程度的噪音，同时也免于被打扰。这表明不断被打扰是许多人不喜欢开放式办公室的原因。

35. D. He ' s a published writer.

解析：文章开头提到，在为作者的一本书进行的采访中，面试官说了些什么，这表明作者是一位出版过的作家。其他选项没有足够的信息支持。

