

## 《高考英语阅读理解真题79(含答案解析)》

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What is life? Like most great questions, this one is easy to ask but difficult to answer. The reason is simple: we know of just one type of life and it ' s challenging to do science with a sample size of one. The field of artificial life-called ALife for short — is the systematic attempt to spell out life ' s fundamental principles. Many of these practitioners, so-called ALifers, think that somehow making life is the surest way to really understand what life is.

So far no one has convincingly made artificial life. This track record makes ALife a ripe target for criticism, such as declarations of the field ' s doubtful scientific value. Alan Smith, a complexity scientist, is tired of such complaints. Asking about “ the point ” of ALife might be, well, missing the point entirely, he says. “ The existence of a living system is not about the use of anything. ” Alan says. “ Some people ask me, ‘ So what ' s the worth of artificial life? ’ Do you ever think, ‘ What is the worth of your grandmother? ’ ”

As much as many ALifers hate emphasizing their research ' s applications, the attempts to create artificial life could have practical payoffs. Artificial intelligence may be considered ALife ' s cousin in that researchers in both fields are enamored by a concept called open-ended evolution (演化). This is the capacity for a system to create essentially endless complexity, to be a sort of “ novelty generator ” . The only system known to exhibit this is Earth ' s biosphere. If the field of ALife manages to reproduce life ' s endless “ creativity ” in some virtual model, those same principles could give rise to truly inventive machines.

Compared with the developments of AI, advances in ALife are harder to recognize. One reason is that ALife is a field in which the central concept — life itself — is undefined. The lack of agreement among ALifers doesn ' t help either. The result is a diverse line of projects that each advance along their unique paths. For better or worse, ALife mirrors the very subject it studies. Its muddled (混乱) progression is a striking parallel (平行线) to the evolutionary struggles that have shaped Earth biosphere.

Undefined and uncontrolled, ALife drives its followers to repurpose old ideas and generated novelty. It may be, of course, that these characteristics aren ' t in any way surprising or singular. They may apply universally to all acts of evolution. Ultimately ALife may be nothing special. But even this dismissal suggests something : perhaps, just like life itself throughout the universe, the rise of ALife will prove unavoidable.

31. Regarding Alan Smith ' s defence of ALife, the author is .

A. supportive B. puzzled C. unconcerned D. doubtful

32. What does the word “ enamored ” underlined in Paragraph 3 most probably mean?

A. Shocked. B. Protected. C. Attracted. D. Challenged.

33. What can we learn from this passage?

A. ALife holds the key to human future. B. ALife and AI share a common feature.

C. AI mirrors the developments of ALife. D. AI speeds up the process of human evolution.

34. Which would be the best title for the passage?

A. Life Is Undefined. Can AI Be a Way Out?

B. Life Evolves. Can AI Help ALife Evolve, Too?

C. Life Is Undefined. Can ALife Be Defined One Day?

D. Life Evolves. Can Attempts to Create ALife Evolve, Too?

**答案解析：**

31. A. 作者在文中引用了Alan Smith对ALife领域的辩护，并且没有提出任何批评或质疑，这表明作者对Alan Smith的观点是支持的。选项A与文章内容相符。

32. C. 根据上下文，“enamored”这个词用来描述研究人员对开放性演化的概念感兴趣和着迷。选项C “Attracted”与这种情感状态相符。

33. B. 根据第三段的内容，ALife和人工智能都被开放性演化的概念所吸引，这表明两者有共同的特征。选项B与文章内容相符。

34. D. 文章讨论了ALife领域的尝试和挑战，以及它如何模仿生命的演化过程。选项D作为标题，最能概括文章的主题和讨论内容。