江西理工大学课程思政案例库

案 例 库 名 称 Economics Cases Studies——from an International Perspective

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Topic 1: Covid-19 and the Vaccines

1.1 Italy Cuts Its Pension Budget After Nearly 100,000 Elderly People Die from COVID-19 in 2020 Alone[1]

The Italian state spent 1.1 billion euros less on pensions in 2020 than the previous year, due to the excess mortality generated by the COVID-19 pandemic, the Italian Institute for Social Security (INPS) announced on Tuesday, reports EFE agency.

In 2020, 96,818 people over the age of 64 died in Italy. INPS estimates an average of 13 years of life lost for the 20,110 deceased people aged between 65 and 79 years and an average of 7 years of life lost for the 76,708 Italians aged 80 and over who died in 2020 due to COVID-19.

According to the assessment of that institute, the deaths caused by the pandemic will translate for the Italian state into an “economy” of 11.9 billion euros in the pension budget until 2029, notes the source quoted by Agerpres.

About 96.3% of the excess mortality recorded in Italy in 2020 corresponds to pItaly has recorded 151,296 associated COVID-19 deaths so far since the beginning of the pandemic.

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[1]https://www.tylaz.net/2022/02/15/italy-cuts-its-pension-budget-after-nearly-100000-elderly-people-die-from-covid-19-in-2020-alone/

1.2 Vaccine Scepticism in Japan: Side-effects

Covid-19 jabs are making other inoculations less contentious

【para1】NATSUME AKI had a promising career as a J-pop star. By the time she turned 23, in 2014, she had become the poster girl of a trendy new anime. Yet as her fame grew, so did a tumour inside her womb. A cervical-cancer diagnosis knocked her off stage and plunged her into despair. She lost her fertility. "It's not like I was already thinking of having kids at the time, but the fact that I no longer had a choice crushed me," Ms Natsume says.

【para2】Similar misfortune befalls many Japanese women, mostly in their late 20s to 30s. Every year some 10,000 contract cervical cancer, and 3,000 die from it. Many survivors suffer infertility and other complications, such as early menopause. Yet all of this is avoidable. The human papillomavirus (HPV) vaccine, first approved by America's Food and Drug Administration in 2006, makes cervical cancer preventable. It is widely used in the rich world. Australia, where inoculation rates are 80%, may eliminate the disease as a public-health burden by 2035.

【para3】In Japan, however, few women have had the jab. The government approved the vaccine in 2009. In 2013 it included it in its routine immunisation programme, making it free for girls aged 12-16. But just a few months after that, spurious allegations of side-effects such as paralysis and seizures led the government to drop its recommendation. Vaccination rates plummeted from some 70% of the target age-group to less than 1%. A study by Hokkaido University reckons this will cause 5,000 additional deaths among women born between 1994 and 2007. "It's a public-health tragedy," says Michael Reich of Harvard University.

【para4】Ms Natsume became a vocal proponent of vaccination. In 2019 she decided to enter politics herself as an assemblywoman in Arakawa, a district in Tokyo. Mihara Junko, a former deputy health minister who became a politician in 2010 after surviving cervical cancer and a hysterectomy, served as a role model. Arakawa's local government sent out brochures about the vaccine and held seminars and events. Such efforts helped: a survey suggested uptake of the vaccine rose from under 2% of eligible girls in 2018 to over 25% two years later. Ms Mihara persuaded more local authorities to inform residents about the vaccine. Some 60% of municipalities sent out notices.

【para5】Yet the national government still refrained from recommending the vaccine. Japan has among the highest rates of vaccine scepticism in the world. Surveys from 2015-19 reported by the Lancet, a medical journal, found that only 9% of Japanese believed vaccines were safe, and just 15% thought them effective. But, confounding the fears of many public-health experts, Japan has embraced the covid-19 jab: 80% of the adult population is fully vaccinated.

【para6】As inoculations became routine, resistance to the HPV vaccine also weakened. That has nudged the national government to change its stance. Lawmakers could "no longer uphold their claim" about the vaccine's dangers, says Jimi Hanako, an upper-house member from the ruling Liberal Democratic Party, who has pushed for the health ministry to resume recommending the vaccine. It will do so from April.

【para7】The policy reversal highlights an awkward truth. "It was always about politics, not science," says Shibuya Kenji, an epidemiologist at the Tokyo Foundation for Policy Research, a think-tank. Sensational media reports focused on teenage girls' suffering. Patriarchal attitudes warped discussion. Since HPV is transmitted sexually, conservative politicians said protection was unnecessary—women should be reserving themselves for marriage. A handful of political heavyweights sided with the vaccine's alleged victims, so policymakers shied away from the topic.

【para8】All municipalities will now have to send out notices to target households. Older women who missed out during the period when the vaccine was not officially recommended will get free jabs. Yet advocates reckon that a more forceful public-information campaign is needed to restore inoculation levels to what they were. Vaccination requires parental consent in Japan, and a survey in 2021 revealed that only 13% of parents are willing to get their daughters inoculated. Many hurdles remain, but, as Ms Natsume puts it, "All we can do is continue raising our voices."

1.3 Banyan: The new Isolationism[2]

Pandemic border closures have cut Japan off from the world. It's time to end them

【para1】FACING THE MENACE of Christianity in the early 17th century, the Tokugawa shoguns closed Japan's borders. Foreigners were allowed to visit just a handful of ports. Japanese who tried to travel abroad, or who did so and returned home, were put to death. If they brought back a letter, their families were executed, too. Thus began the period later dubbed sakoku, or "closed country"; it lasted until Western warships "opened" Japan in the mid-19th century.

【para2】Cut to the 21st century. Throughout the pandemic, Japan has maintained some of the tightest border controls of any democratic country. To this day, tourists are barred unless part of a group tour. Some observers are calling the government's approach "neo-sakoku".

【para3】In some ways, Japan's pandemic policies are normal for Asia, where many places took a draconian approach to keeping out the virus. Yet whereas other countries pursuing zero-covid strategies, such as Australia, barred even their own citizens from leaving, Japan created a dual system. Japanese nationals were largely free to come and go. Foreigners, even those with permanent residence, faced restrictions. Nikkei, a daily, reported in October that roughly 370,000 foreign students, guest workers and their relatives were stuck outside the country despite holding residence visas. "Does the virus read your passport?" quipped a global health official.

【para4】Such isolationism is a reversal of the pre-pandemic direction of travel, so to speak. Spurred by its ageing, shrinking population, Japan had been opening up. The number of tourists had grown from fewer than 7m in 2009 to more than 30m in 2019. The number of foreign students nearly doubled over the same period. The tally of foreign workers had trebled, albeit from a low base. In 2019 the Japanese government loosened laws to allow some foreigners to stay for longer.

[2] 2022-07-19 日本式防疫：新型"锁国" | 经济学人

【para5】The pandemic revived an enduring scepticism about foreigners. “Japanese conceptualised covid as something that comes from the outside,” says Oussouby Sacko, a former dean of Kyoto Seika University, who was born in Mali. The unspoken logic is that foreigners cannot be trusted to stick to the practices, from mask-wearing to silent eating, that many believe helped the country maintain the lowest death-rate from covid in the oecd, a club of 38 mostly rich countries, despite having the highest share of old people. Border closures have been popular: nearly 90% of Japanese approved when Kishida Fumio, Japan’s prime minister, tightened travel restrictions in response to the outbreak of the Omicron variant late last year.

【para6】The short-term political gain comes at a cost, however. Japan has already lost a cohort of foreign students, the very people who often go on to become bridge-builders between countries. Only around 11,600 managed to enter Japan in 2021, compared with some 120,000 in 2019. Foreign students stuck in limbo have protested. Some have switched to studying in countries with more open borders, such as South Korea. Foreign businesspeople complain that the policies have made it harder to oversee operations, negotiate deals and make investments.

【para7】The present-day isolationism serves as a reminder of why Japan needs outsiders in the first place. The country needs to quadruple the number of foreign workers by 2040 to sustain the government’s modest average growth target of 1.2%, according to a recent study by a group of Japanese think-tanks. (Without sustained investment in automation, the number would have to rise more than ten-fold.) Japanese business leaders have been among the loudest voices calling for reopening. “Business is not conducted solely on a domestic basis,” the head of Keidanren, Japan’s biggest business lobby, said when calling for an end to the “ sakoku situation” earlier this year. As demographic change accelerates, labour shortages will become more acute.

【para8】Mercifully, neo-sakoku looks likely to ease a lot sooner than the original version. Japan began letting business travellers and students into the country in March and allowed group tours in June. Officials whisper that a full reopening will come sometime after upper-house elections on July 10th, barring a resurgence of the virus. If anything, demand for travel is likely to have grown rather than faded: in an annual survey, readers of Condé Nast Traveler, an American magazine, put three Japanese cities at the top of their list of favourite foreign cities in 2021, despite being unable to visit. Like it or not, the world wants Japan, and Japan needs the world.

【para1】历史渊源 ：日本锁国由来已久

【para2】国内现状 ：边境管控严格，来日旅游受限

【para3】双重制度 ：本国国民可自由出入境，外籍人士出行受阻

【para4】倒行逆施 ：孤立主义的外交政策与日本发展背道而驰

【para5】排外主义 ：日本民众对外籍人士不信任，大力支持政府关闭边境

【para6】沉重代价 ：来日留学生数量锐减，外籍商人叫苦不迭

【para7】事后反思 ：日本需要依赖外籍劳工促进本国经济发展

【para8】密不可分 ：世界需要日本，反之亦然

1.4 Vaccine mandates: Must you be jabbed?[3]

Arguments over compulsory covid-19 vaccination are raging across Europe

【para1】EARLIER THIS month President Emmanuel Macron said he wished to "piss off" those who had chosen not to be vaccinated against covid-19. France's 5m unjabbed people will soon be barred from restaurants, theatres and long-distance trains, among other things. Yet they might consider themselves lucky. Italy and Greece have passed laws making vaccination obligatory for all residents over 50 and 60 respectively. Austria has just done so for all adults, and Germany may follow suit.

【para2】Most European countries have already excluded unvaccinated people from large swathes of public life, to varying effect. In many places jabs are a condition of employment in hospitals and care homes. But facing a stubborn wall of vaccine scepticism, some governments have gone one step further. "I would have preferred to go another way. But…we need to take this drastic step," said Alexander Schallenberg, Austria's then chancellor, announcing the plan in November. Austria and Germany have some of the lowest vaccination rates in western Europe.

【para3】Many feel queasy at the prospect of governments ordering them to have needles stuck in their arms. Proponents counter that the unvaccinated erode the freedom of other citizens by swamping health-care systems and making new lockdowns more likely. Either way, compulsory vaccination carries several potential risks.

【para4】Start with the legal and logistical problems. Austria's law, which willapply to 7.4m people—all residents over 18 bar pregnant women and those with medical exemptions—will take effect on February 1st. From mid-March the unjabbed face fines of at least €600 ($680), with further checks and fines applicable every quarter. But the agency responsible for the vaccine registry says it will not be ready until April. (Spot-checks will apply before then.) The legal system could buckle if many refuseniks opt for fines over jabs. Germany, where parliament will debate vaccine mandates next week, does not even have a registry, making enforcement look yet trickier.

[3] The Economist-20220122期「Europe」Vaccine mandates: Must you be jabbed?

【para5】Moreover, constitutional courts will frown on mandates that look premature or disproportionate. Many reckon European governments could do more to balance the stick of restrictions with the carrot of better outreach. Rather than simply impose top-down measures, they could find vaccination champions in communities with large numbers of unjabbed people, including some minority groups.

【para6】A second concern is epidemiological. The German and Austrian mandates were proposed when the Delta variant was dominant. But laws may not prove as adaptable as the SARS-Cov-2 virus. What if the next variant requires a modified vaccine, or a fresh booster? For Janosch Dahmen, a German Green MP and doctor, uncertainty surrounding the behaviour of future variants is a strong reason to press ahead with (well-designed) compulsory vaccination now. Others disagree. A leading Austrian virologist urged the country to rethink its plan in the face of the widespread immunity the Omicron wave will confer.

【para7】A third worry is backlash. Most Germans support compulsion. But although moving from nudges to mandates may induce some sceptics to get the jab, others may become implacable foes. Anti-vax protests, many of them fuelled by the far right and prone to violence, are spreading rapidly. A vaccine mandate will surely swell them further. To avoid creating social “fissures” the Czechs recently scrapped a plan to oblige over-60s to get jabbed. (The age-limited mandates in Greece and Italy have proved less contentious.)

【para8】No one knows if compulsion will work. One Austrian panel found that roughly two-thirds of the 1m remaining unjabbed adults were unlikely to get vaccinated at any cost. But such surveys have their limits. The French, for example, turned out to be more relaxed about jabs than polls had once suggested. As other countries grapple with their vaccine hold-outs, they will be watching the experiments in the German-speaking countries closely.

【para1】重拳出击 ：法国总统矛头直指未接种人群，或将仿效他国出台疫苗强制令

【para2】出此下策 ：疫苗接种率吊尾车，怀疑论调久久不散，强制令实为无奈之举

【para3】争论四起 ：顽固者不愿“引颈就戮”，支持者担心新一轮封锁限制出行自由

【para4-7】举步维艰 ：法令虽出台，但实际实行阻碍重重，反对四起

-para4 后勤难题：疫苗登记机构尚在准备中，民众配合度关乎司法系统威严

-para5 后院起火：联邦法院未予首肯，各国政府实应奖惩结合，多动脑筋

-para6 生物难题 ：新冠病毒变异走向未有定论，疫苗有效性深受质疑

-para7 舆论难题：一纸律令恐激怒极右分子，反疫苗抗议或将愈演愈烈

【para8】拭目以待：民众态度与民调结果或有出入，强制令未来该何去何从？

1.5 Coronavirus in eastern Europe: The arc of susceptibility

Countries with poor vaccination rates are suffering dreadfully

【para1】ON NOVEMBER 6TH teams of medics dressed in full protective gear packed equipment into a Romanian military transport plane before pushing beds with two severely ill covid-19 patients up the ramp and inside. As the propellers began to whirr, the back door slowly closed and the plane lumbered up the runway heading for Denmark. “There is no secret,” says Raed Arafat, who is co-ordinating Romania’s fight against covid: the country’s hospitals are “overflowing”. About 90 patients have been evacuated to Denmark, Germany, Hungary and elsewhere. Teams of doctors are also flying in from all over Europe to help their beleaguered colleagues.

【para2】Across Europe the numbers of people infected with the highly contagious Delta variant are rising, and many governments are contemplating or imposing new restrictions. But this wave is affecting some countries far more than others. From the Balkans to the Baltics an arc of susceptibility has emerged, encompassing a swathe of countries with low vaccination rates.

【para3】In the past few weeks the death rate from covid-19 has hit record highs in Bulgaria, Latvia and Romania. In the week to November 8th there were 22.8 confirmed deaths in Bulgaria for every million people. In Romania the figure was 21.8 and in Latvia 18.8. Yet for the EU as a whole it was only 3.0. The number of cases is at last dropping in those three badly-hit countries, but it is now soaring in Croatia, Estonia, Lithuania, Slovenia and Ukraine.

【para4】All of the countries being clobbered are at the low end of the scale when it comes to vaccination. Only 23% of Bulgarians and 34% of Romanians have been double-jabbed. In Latvia the proportion is 57%, but it was much lower a month ago, when the current wave took hold. In the EU as a whole, 66% are double-vaccinated.

【para5】Low vaccination rates are not the result of a lack of vaccines. The countries of the arc have ample supply, but also loud anti-vaxxers. Distrust of government and medical staff is high. A Eurobarometer survey conducted earlier this year found that only 22% of Bulgarians and Croats, 26% of Latvians and 31% of Romanians tend to trust their governments. When asked if they trusted medical staff, 34% of Bulgarians said they did not, along with 32% of Croats, 31% of Latvians and 40% of Romanians.

【para6】It is ironic that relatively low levels of infection in the summer seem to have contributed to the scale of current outbreaks. Those with doubts about the vaccine saw little urgency in getting it, which left them vulnerable when the Delta variant hit. Of those now in hospital, says Dr Arafat, 92% are unvaccinated. The true share could be higher, as unknown numbers have bought fake vaccination certificates. He angrily denounces anti-vax disinformation, which is often propagated by rogue doctors, Orthodox priests and far-right nationalists, with the help of “Dr Facebook”.

【para7】Inga Springe, a journalist with Re:Baltica, a news website, says that in Latvia prominent doctors have given ambiguous signals about vaccinations and some politicians are promoting themselves via anti-vax sites. Bulgaria goes to the polls on November 14th for the third time this year, and politicians there may fear alienating anti-vax voters.

【para8】According to Oana Popescu, director of Global Focus, a Romanian think-tank, Romanians’ lack of enthusiasm for getting vaccinated is a direct result of what they perceive to be decades of neglect by the authorities. “When the government suddenly seems to care for you for the first time in 30 years, of course you become suspicious!” she explains. Alas, it is not just Romanians who feel that way.

【para1】设置悬念：罗马尼亚医院不堪重负，“兴师动众”转移重症病人，欧洲医疗队纷纷援助

【para2】点明主题：欧洲疫情反弹，多国重施限制措施，东欧成“震中”

【para3】凛冬将至：东欧各国确诊病例和死亡率创新高

【para4】共同之处：疫情肆虐的东欧各国疫苗接种率低位徘徊

【para5-7】探究原因：反疫苗运动

-para5 民众不相信本国政府和医护人员

-para6 疫苗怀疑论，假接种证明泛滥；反疫苗人士在社交网络传播疫苗虚假信息。

-para7 医疗专家含糊其辞；政客关注国内选举，将疫苗政治化

【para8】追根溯源 ：罗马尼亚当局突然关怀备至，民众担心“黄鼠狼给鸡拜年“。

1.6 Covid-19 hit poorest communities in US hardest, report finds[4]

【1】The devastating impact of the coronavirus pandemic on poor and low-income communities across the US is laid bare in a report released yesterday that concludes that while the virus did not discriminate between rich and poor, society and government did.

【2】As the US draws close to 1 million deaths from Covid-19, the disproportionate human toll that has been exacted is exposed by the study, named A Poor People's pandemic Report. Based on analysis of more than 3,000 counties across the US, it found people in poorer counties have died at almost twice the rate of those in richer counties. Looking at the most deadly surges of the virus, the disparity in death rates is even more pronounced. During the third pandemic wave in the US, over winter 2020-21, death rates were four and a half times higher in the poorest counties than in those with the highest median incomes. During the recent Omicron wave, that divergence in death rates stood at almost three times. Such a wide gulf in outcomes cannot be explained by differences in vaccination rates, the authors find, with more than half of the population of the poorest counties having received two vaccine shots. A more relevant factor is likely to be that the poorest communities had twice the proportion of people who lack health insurance compared with the richer counties.

【3】"The findings of this report reveal neglect and sometimes intentional decisions to not focus on the poor," said the Rev William J Barber II , the co-chair of the Poor People's Campaign. "The neglect of poor and low wealth people in this country during a pandemic is immoral, shocking and unjust."

【4】The report was produced by the Poor People's Campaign in partnership with a team of economists at the UN Sustainable Development Solutions Network (SDSN) led by Jeffrey Sachs . They have number crunched statistics from more than 3,200 counties as a way of comparing the poorest 10% with the richest 10%. They then examined the interplay

[4] 4.23 经济学人外刊精读 |新冠肺炎对美国最贫困的社区打击最大

between Covid death rates and poverty, as well as other demographic factors such as race and occupation.

【5】Until now the extent to which the virus has struck low-income communities has been difficult to gauge because official mortality data compiled by the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention and elsewhere has not systematically factored in income and wealth information. The report seeks to fill that gap in understanding of the pandemic in the US. One of its most striking findings is that within the top 300 counties with the highest death rates, 45% of the population on average lives below the poverty line as defined as 200% of the official poverty measure.

【6】Sachs, a Columbia University professor, who is president of the SDSN, said the findings underlined how the pandemic was not just a national tragedy but also a failure of social justice."The burden of disease–in terms of deaths, illness and economic costs–was borne disproportionately by the poor, women and people of colour,"Sachs said. "The poor were America's essential workers on the front lines, saving lives and also incurring disease and death."

【7】Racial disparities have been at the centre of the pandemic in the US. Early on it became clear that black people and Hispanics in New York City, for instance, were dying of Covid at twice the rate of whites and Asians.

1.7 Scientists call for long Covid screening as study identifies more than 200 symptoms[5]

【1】The largest ever international study of people with long Covid has identified more than 200 symptoms and prompted researchers to call for a national screening programme. The study found the myriad symptoms of long Covid - from brain fog and hallucinations to tremors and tinnitus – spanned 10 of the body's organ systems,and a third of the symptoms continued to affect patients for at least six months.

【2】A national screening programme would help produce a better understanding of how many people are affected and the kind of support they would need,the researchers said. The researchers also called for the clinical guidelines for assessing patients with suspected long Covid to be widened beyond cardiovascular and lung-function tests.

【3】Athena Akrami, a neuroscientist at University College London, and senior author of the study, said: "A lot of post-Covid clinics in the UK have focused on respiratory rehabilitation. It's true that a lot of people have shortness of breath, but they also have a lot of other problems and types of symptoms that the clinics need to provide a more holistic approach to."

【4】She said that she was still experiencing symptoms 16 months after becoming infected with coronavirus, adding: "There are likely to be tens of thousands of long Covid patients suffering in silence, unsure that their symptoms are connected to Covid-19.

【5】"Building on the network of long Covid clinics, which take GP referrals, we now believe a national programme could be rolled out into communities able to screen, diagnose and treat all those suspected of having long Covid symptoms."

【6】The study – published in the Lancet's journal E clinical Medicine, surveyed 3,762 people with confirmed or suspected long Covid from 56 countries. It identified 203 symptoms, of which 66 were tracked for seven months.

5 8.15 经济学人考研精读|鉴于研究确认了（新冠病毒的）200 多种症状，科学家呼吁进行长期的新冠病毒筛查

【7】The most common symptoms were fatigue, post-exertional malaise (where people's health worsens after physical or mental exertion)and brain fog. Other effects included visual hallucinations, tremors, itchy skin, changes to the menstrual cycle, sexual dysfunction, heart palpitations, bladder control issues, shingles, memory loss, blurred vision, diarrhoea and tinnitus.

【8】The researchers also captured the progression of symptoms over time. "After six months most of the remaining symptoms are systemic-things like temperature regulation, fatigue, post-exertional malaise - and neurological [affecting the brain, spinal cord and nerves]," Akrami said.

【9】Respondents with symptoms lasting longer than six months, a total of 2,454, said they experienced an average of 13.8 symptoms during the seventh month. Across the course of their illness, patients' symptoms affected nine organ systems on average.

【10】About 22% of the people who participated in the survey reported not being able to work – being fired, taking prolonged sick or disability leave, or quitting – due to their illness. And 45% required a reduced work schedule.

【11】Meanwhile, a review led by researchers at the University of Birmingham and published in the Journal of the Royal Society of Medicine, found that those who experienced more than five symptoms of Covid-19 during the first week of infection were at significantly greater risk of developing long Covid, irrespective of age or gender.

【12】Separate research flagged the substantial strains that could be placed on health and social care systems in the coming years,as a result of Covid- related complications that occurred during the acute phase of illness among those patients who were admitted to hospital. It found that half of those hospitalised with Covid- 19 developed at least one additional complication during their stay, while a quarter of patients were less able to look after themselves when they were discharged from hospital than before they had the virus. This impact on self-care was even higher among those with neurological complications such as strokes or meningitis.

【13】"Being admitted to hospital with breathing problems is not a complication in itself, the complication is if they get a pneumonia on top of that, or a blood clot or an acute kidney injury," said Dr Annemarie Docherty, an honorary consultant in critical care at the University of Edinburgh, who was involved in the study.

【14】The study, which was published in The Lancet and involved more than 70,000 people in 302 UK hospitals, found that the most common complication was sudden damage to the kidneys causing them to not work properly.

【15】This affected one in four of those admitted to hospital with severe Covid. It was followed by lung complications, such as pneumonia or severe inflammation of the lungs, which affected around one in five patients; and heart complications, such as heart attack, inflammation around the heart or an abnormal heart rhythm, which affected just over one in eight(12%).

【16】Although men and over-60s were most commonly affected, some 27% of 19-to 29-year-olds and 37% of 30- to 39-year-olds who were admitted to hospital also experienced at least one complication.

【17】Prof Calum Semple at the University of Liverpool, the study's chief investigator, said: "I was distraught to see that we were talking about young people, who were previously fit and well, having complications such as an acute kidney injury." He warned that policymakers must consider the risk of complications for Covid survivors, not just deaths, when making decisions around easing restrictions. For instance, someone with an acute kidney injury will require ongoing monitoring and may require kidney dialysis or transplantation.

1.8 Covid-19 and business: Shanghai stops[6]

Lockdowns strike at the heart of China Inc

【1】"Snatch groceries first, then get a covid test" has quickly become an anthem for the lockdown that started suddenly in Shanghai in the early hours of March 28th. Local hip-hop artists CATI2, P.J. and Keyso describe scenes of panic buying—qiang cai, or snatching groceries—and the threat of being locked out of one's home amid a bid to control an outbreak of covid-19 in China's main business and finance hub. One lyric hints that residents can grow vegetables in the small patches of land outside their apartments or scavenge for edible plants.

【2】The song attracted hundreds of thousands of views online in less than a day, bringing cheer to an otherwise grim situation. China is currently facing its worst outbreak since the pandemic started in the city of Wuhan in 2020. Thousands of new cases of the highly transmissible Omicron variant are being discovered each day. The large cities of Shenzhen and Shenyang, as well as the entire province of Jilin, have been locked down in recent weeks.

【3】Now it is Shanghai's turn. The two-phase lockdown of the city, whose 25m inhabitants have been mostly spared harsh containment efforts in the past two years, was announced hours before it began at 5am. The local government had gone to great lengths to avoid shutting down the metropolis, especially its wealthy central districts. In coming weeks it will find it difficult to project an image of business as usual—because business is anything but.

【4】The lockdown's first phase covers areas east of Huangpu river, home to the main financial centre. Many white-collar workers have packed up toiletry bags and moved into their offices until April 1st, when the lockdown is supposed to be lifted in the east and imposed instead in western neighbourhoods. In order to keep the stock exchange running, employees are said to be sleeping on the floor of the bourse. Countless companies listed in Shanghai have put out statements in recent days to notify investors that they are shutting down their factories in

[6] 4.19 经济学人外刊精读 | 上海按下暂停键

the region and, in some cases, elsewhere in the country. Tesla is suspending production at its electric-car factory in the city, according to Reuters.

【5】The pain will be felt abroad, too, just as it was amid the lockdowns in Shenzhen, another city deeply entangled in global supply chains. Although seaborne traffic can be diverted from Shanghai to other ports, such as Ningbo around 100km to the south, the cross-border flow of people is being disrupted. International flights have been rerouted to airports in other cities. Shanghai's tourism businesses are bracing for a year that will even worse than 2020.

【6】The measures may stretch beyond eight days; parts of the city could remain closed once more cases are identified, as is likely given Omicron's transmissibility. One team of economists estimates that a one-month lockdown of Shanghai and its spillover effects would knock a staggering 4% off China's GDP in that period. Whatever the eventual cost, in the short run the Shanghai experiment is the biggest test yet of China's "zero-covid" approach to snuffing out the virus. Officials hope that "production bubbles", instituted in Shenzhen and other places to bus workers to and from factories in a covid-controlled manner, will work in Shanghai, too.

Questions：

1. Who do you think suffers more from Covid-19?
2. Do you support Vaccine mandates? Why or why not?
3. From case 1.1, 1.4, 1.5 and 1.6, do you think any of the European governments has done a good job in Covid-19 pandemic ?
4. From case 1.2, 1.3, and 1.8, do you think the Japanese and Chinese governments have done good jobs in Covid-19 pandemic?
5. So in the case of fighting against Covid-19, what are the medias for and what are they against? All in all, what's the role of these western media such as *Economist*?

问题：

（1）在新冠肺炎病毒流行过程中，哪些人受到的伤害最大？

（2）你支持强制免疫吗？为什么？

（3）从案例 1.1, 1.4, 1.5 和 1.6 来看，你认为欧洲政府在应对新冠肺炎疫情中做的好吗？

（4）从案例 1.2, 1.3 和 1.8 来看，你认为日本政府和中国政府在应对新冠肺炎疫情中做的好吗？

（5）所以在抗疫过程中，西方媒体到底支持什么，反对什么？《经济学人》杂志之类的媒体在抗疫过程中到底发挥了什么作用？

一、案例中的思政元素

① 公共道德和公民意识：让学生理解对于传染性疾病而言，打疫苗不仅仅是个人选择，更涉及公共安全，鼓励学生具有公共道德，承担公民责任，主动接种疫苗。

② 慈悲和善与关爱他人：让学生理解疫苗对老年人和弱势（贫困）群体的重大不良影响，培养学生关心关爱弱势群体的意识。

③ 道路自信和辩证思维：对比西方国家疫情防控不利的后果，引发学生对我国的疫情防控和公共安全成果的理解和赞赏。通过对不同国家案例报道中的评论，引导学生进行辩证思维，辩证看待西方国家新闻评论。

二、采用的教学方法

（1）讲授法：教师讲授相关知识点。

（2）案例分析法：选择契合相关知识点的案例进行分析。

（3）小组讨论法：将学生课堂上分成小组对案例进行讨论，分别汇报讨论结果。

（4）问答法：在学生阅读相关案例材料后，请学生回答/抢答其中的经济学原理。

（5）翻转课堂：请学生自行组织对案例发表自己的观点和见解，并且以答辩的形式接受质询。

三、案例适用的范围

（包含案例适用的专业或课程、案例与专业课程思政的内在联系等）

案例名称	包含知识点	对应课程
1.1 Italy Cuts Its Pension Budget After Nearly 100,000 Elderly People Die from COVID-19 in 2020 Alone	贫困与发展 平等与人权	发展经济学 政治经济学
1.2 Vaccine Scepticism in Japan: Side-effects	外部性	微观经济学
1.3 Banyan: The new Isolationism	自由与外部性 自由与平等	微观经济学 政治经济学
1.4 Vaccine mandates: Must you be jabbed?	外部性	微观经济学
1.5 Coronavirus in eastern Europe: The arc of susceptibility	教育与反智 信息不对称	发展经济学 微观经济学
1.6 Covid-19 hit poorest communities in US hardest, report finds	贫困与发展 财政政策	发展经济学 宏观经济学

1.7 Scientists call for long Covid screening as study identifies more than 200 symptoms	追求科学与真理	发展经济学 政治经济学
1.8 Covid-19 and business: Shanghai stops	外部性	微观经济学

Topic 2: Price and Inflation

2.1 Inflation: The chicken and the peg[7]

Workers have the most to lose from a wage-price spiral

【para1】THE WORLD economy keeps producing nasty inflation surprises. In January consumer prices grew by more than expected in America, Britain and the euro zone, and America's rate of annual producer-price inflation stayed close to 10%. Making matters worse, fears that Russia would invade Ukraine sent the oil price to over $96 a barrel on February 14th, its highest since 2014. On both sides of the Atlantic financial markets have rapidly priced in more monetary tightening in 2022, as some central bankers have begun to worry in public that they face a test of their credibility.

【para2】Monetary policymakers are scouring labour markets for signs that high inflation is becoming baked into workers' wage demands, indicating the start of a wage-price spiral. They are in an awkward spot, because the idea that wages are rising too fast is politically toxic. In America annual wage growth of 5.7% is plainly inconsistent with the Federal Reserve's 2% inflation target. Yet President Joe Biden is celebrating rising pay while left-wing Democrats blame price rises on corporate greed. There is plenty of fuss elsewhere, too. Britain's government has said it does not support a call by Andrew Bailey, the governor of the Bank of England, for workers to rein in their pay demands. Christine Lagarde, head of the European Central Bank, says she hopes to see wages rise, even as her colleagues warn of the dangers of excessive pay growth.

【para3】In the popular imagination workers are often canny first movers in a wage-price spiral, rather than its victims. Rising pay pushes up costs for firms, which then increase prices to protect profits. In part this is based on the experience of the late 1960s and 1970s, when union bosses negotiated above-inflation pay increases for their members. In 1974, in Germany's infamous Kluncker-Runde, Heinz Kluncker, a combative unionist, won public-sector workers a budget-busting 11% pay rise.

[7] The Economist-20220219 期「Leaders」Inflation: The chicken and the peg

The Economist

【para4】In fact, high inflation often hurts workers. Over the past year inflation has been higher than wage growth in every G7 country, despite widespread labour shortages. Unions are much less powerful today than they were in the 1970s and scholars typically find that prices lead wages, rather than vice versa. Even in the 1970s many workers suffered from the wage-price spiral. In that decade American wages grew only half as fast as workers' productivity, just as today wages are yet to catch up with such gains.

【para5】In Europe high inflation is mostly down to expensive energy. But in America it is the consequence of a tsunami of spending, the result of stimulus cheques and low interest rates, overwhelming the economy's capacity to expand production. Firms have raised prices not to pass on costs but to curb demand, sending profit margins soaring. As consumer-price inflation has risen to 7.5%, it is capital, not labour, which has had the upper hand, feeding claims that firms are profiteering. The outcome is perverse, not least because Jerome Powell, the Fed's chairman, has often said that the main justification for stimulus was to help workers and to reduce inequality.

【para6】It is pointless, however, to attempt to bully firms or workers into resisting market forces. Just ask Japan, where the government has for years tried to deal with below-target inflation by badgering firms to raise wages, without success. The correct response to an economy that is too hot or too cold is to adjust macroeconomic policy, not to interfere with wage- and price-setting.

【para7】It is important that the Fed raises interest rates quickly—and that European policymakers stay vigilant. The longer inflation is too high, the more painful it could be to bring it back down. The wage-price spirals of the 1970s were contained only after tight monetary policy induced a global downturn in which American unemployment peaked at nearly 11%. If central bankers once again have to induce recessions to restore their credibility on inflation, workers will pay the price for that, too.

【Para1】通胀危机：当前，通货膨胀正对全球经济造成严重打击。欧美各国物价飞涨，金融市场已考虑采取货币紧缩政策。

【Para2】工资诉求：为应对物价上涨，欧美工人们呼吁工资上浮。但各政要对此意见不一，工资上涨过快可能对国家政治经济系统造成更严重损害。

【para3-5】解读工资-价格螺旋效应（其中 para3 为理论/理想情况，para4 和 5 是对现实情况的分析，探讨该效应下消费者与企业所受的影响。）

-Para3 理论情况：大众认知中，工人应该是工资-价格螺旋效应中率先引起变化的一方，物价提升只是企业应对成本上升的保护性战略，工人总体而言还是获益。

-Para4 消费者：实际上，在工会逐渐式微的情况下，物价增长远高于且先于工资上涨，工人苦不堪言。

-Para5 企业 ：美国的通胀原因在于消费激增，导致供不应求，企业只能提高价格抑制消费，无奈也因此背上了"投机"的黑锅。

【Para6-7】提出应该如何解决通胀问题（上文分析，消费者和企业都不应该背锅）

-Para6 借鉴失败案例 ：日本的例子清晰表明，为调整通胀，政府应采用宏观经济政策，而不是干预工资及产品定价。

-Para7 制定核心政策 ：作者认为，最重要的是应迅速加息，尽快把通胀抑制下来，避免以后采取过于激进的紧缩政策而导致全球经济衰退。

2.2 Consumer Prices[8]

【1】The cost of household goods such as toys, furniture and clothing is rising by the fastest rate in more than 15 years, as the impact of the war in Ukraine combines with Covid lock downs in China.

【2】Non-food inflation accelerated to 2.2% in April, up from 1.5% in March, according to the latest shop price index from the British Retail Consortium (BRC) and market research group Nielsen IQ, the highest rate since the monitor began in 2006. Food inflation rose to 3.5% in April – up from 3.3% in March – making it the highest such figure on the index since March 2013, as the price of energy and commodities, including wheat and oil, drove up costs for many producers. The inflation is intensifying existing pressures on the cost of living , including last month's energy cap increase that pushed the average electricity and gas bill up by £700 a year. The cost of petrol has also shot up, while household budgets are already under pressure after the chancellor, Rishi Sunak, raised national insurance contributions.

【3】Helen Dickinson, chief executive of the BRC, which represents most of the major UK retailers, said that furniture, electrical goods and books were seeing particularly high price increases as disruption caused by Russia's invasion of Ukraine added to rising energy prices. It is understood that flooring, stationery and DIY materials, including paint, which are all heavily imported from China where many large cities have been shut down as part of strict anti-Covid measures, are also seeing high cost increases. “This [inflation] has been exacerbated by disruption at the world's largest seaport, following Shanghai's recent lockdown,” Dickinson said. “Food prices continued to rise, though fresh food inflation slowed as fierce competition between supermarkets resisted price hikes on many everyday essentials.”

【4】The BRC's comments follow a warning from non-food retailers that sales have been hit by supply difficulties and weakening demand. The biggest squeeze on living standards since the 1950s has made consumers

[8] 5.21 经济学人外刊精读 | 日用品价格

far less willing to spend in the shops. Sainsbury's, which owns the Argos chain, flagged problems with items such as TVs and consumer electronics made in China. The retailer said it expected the supply chain difficulties in east Asia – and a squeeze on customers' spare cash caused by rising energy, petrol and food bills – to lead to lower sales of such non-food items.

【5】Shares in household appliance specialist AO World dived by more than a fifth last week as it said consumer demand for electrical goods had "progressively weakened". Households are paring back spending on large non-essential items as the average household faces potential grocery price increases of £271 a year, according to the latest data from market research firm Kantar. It said that shoppers had begun stockpiling some goods, such as sunflower oil, amid concerns over price rises and potential shortages.

【6】The rise in the cost of living is also expected to drive a surge in personal borrowing. demand for credit from UK households is expected to rise to a five-year high of 7.9% – or about £16bn – in 2022, according to the latest EY Item Club UK bank lending forecast, as consumers increasingly turn to credit cards to cover bills. The rise would mark a reverse in trends from the first phase of the pandemic when many people paid down personal debts with nearly £200bn in extra cash saved—mostly by wealthier households–because of restrictions on travel, socialising and visiting high street shops.

【7】However, EY predicted demand for unsecured loans would diminish as households are likely to cut spending on discretionary purchases and big-ticket items, such as sofas and household appliances, in order to save money for essentials. Growth in mortgage lending is also expected to dampen from 4.3% last year to 3.8% this year and 3.3% next – to £59.4bn and £53.5bn in 2022 and 2023 – amid rising interest rates and growing cost of living pressures.

2.3 American inflation: On the up and up[9]

Inflation in America tops forecasts yet again, adding to recession risks

【1】At this point upside surprises in inflation occur with such frequency that surprise is probably the wrong word for them. So it was with America's consumer price index (CPI) for June, published on July 13th. It soared 9.1% compared with a year earlier, marking yet another four-decade high and beating forecasts for an 8.8% increase. Still, investors seemed to be caught unawares, with stocks falling sharply after the data, adding to this year's big losses. The pessimism in financial markets is easily understood: persistently high inflation is forcing the Federal Reserve to press on with aggressive monetary tightening, even at the potential cost of a recession.

【2】All the more important, therefore, to understand how persistent inflation will be. In this respect the most concerning part of the latest data was not the shocking headline figure, about half of which could be attributed to oil and gas prices, which surged early in June but have since ebbed. Rather, it was the change in core prices, stripping out volatile food and energy.

【3】Core inflation rose 0.7% in June from May, the highest month-on-month increase in a year. And it was not a blip: over the past three months core inflation has been running at an annualised rate of nearly 8%, an indication of the breadth of price pressures (see chart). Just about everything—from cars to clothing and furniture to rents—is getting more expensive.

【4】That reinforces investors' belief that the Fed will stay on its hawkish path. A day before the inflation data, bond-market pricing implied that the Fed would raise interest rates by three-quarters of a percentage point at its next rate-setting meeting in late July, the second straight increase of that size. Following the data, bond pricing put the chances at roughly 50-50 that it would instead opt for a full percentage point increase. Either way, it puts the Fed on track for the steepest monetary tightening in a calendar year since 1981, when Paul Volcker was at the central bank's helm. That is already weighing on economic growth.

[9] 8.8 经济学人外刊精读 | 美国通货膨胀率，英文杂志双语精读 2022-08-08 10:18 发表于山东

【5】America is hardly alone in struggling with high prices. inflation in the euro area is expected to have risen to 8.6% in June. But the details are different. Europe's problems are more closely linked to surging gas costs, both exacerbating the risk of an imminent recession and perhaps limiting the European Central Bank's scope for rate increases. That has hurt the euro, which has fallen by more than 10% since the start of the year, bringing it to parity with the dollar for the first time in two decades.

【6】The White House has tried to put as positive a gloss as possible on the figures. Before the data release, it drew attention to the recent decline in petrol prices. The national average is now about $4.63 per gallon, 5% lower than in June. With the price of crude down by even more, that does probably set the stage for a lower inflation reading in July. Moreover, President Joe Biden's advisers have noted that an alternative gauge of inflation, the personal-consumption-expenditure (PCE) price index, which is usually seen as more reliable by the Fed, has been more muted.

【7】Neither argument is all that reassuring. Energy prices have weakened over the past month, but with the war in Ukraine dragging on and winter looming, they may resume their upward climb before long. As for PCE inflation, it is indeed less extreme than CPI inflation, but it is still more than twice as high as the Fed's 2% target, and rising prices for services such as health care may nudge it higher still.

【8】The best news about inflation is that the Fed's tightening is in fact gaining traction in the crucial realm of expectations. The Fed cannot solve supply-chain snarls or reduce oil prices. Where it can be uniquely effective is in tempering the outlook for prices. A basic measure of market expectations for annual inflation over the next five years is now 2.5%, down by more than a percentage point since March. In the middle of June a closely watched consumer survey by the University of Michigan put expected annual inflation at 3.3% for the next five years; by the end of the month it was down to 3.1%.

【9】That is precisely what the Fed wants to see. Unfortunately, economists, firms and investors are also busily ratcheting down their expectations for economic growth—a consequence the Fed cannot avoid.

2.4 Food prices: Eat up[10]

The cost-of-living crisis in Britain is not just about energy

[1] Asked in august what was behind the rising cost of living, 82% of adults blamed gas or electricity bills. But even more, 96%, blamed higher food prices. Although food is a smaller proportion of household budgets than energy, people pay for it frequently and visibly rather than via direct debits that they might not watch closely. Overall food prices were 12.8% higher in August than they were a year earlier; suppliers and shoppers are slowly adjusting their behaviour.

[2] Now, as in the global food-price crisis of 2008, increases are being driven by higher costs. Even before Russia's invasion of Ukraine, a tight labour market and rising global commodity prices meant that in January 2022 British inputs into food production were 7.2% more expensive than a year earlier, and the imported kind 6% pricier. In July these increases had ballooned to 14% and 17.5% respectively, pushed up in part by the eye-wateringly high price of gas. That is used to make fertiliser and carbon dioxide, which is itself deployed to slaughter animals and preserve food.

[3] At first long-term contracts slowed the spread of these higher costs down the supply chain. As those contracts have come up for renewal, suppliers and retailers have had tough conversations. In June Tesco, Britain's biggest supermarket chain, tussled with Kraft Heinz, a food manufacturer, over the price of its baked beans; that led to the product's temporary disappearance from shop shelves. According to Assosia, a data company, in August the price of four tins of baked beans rose from £3 ($3.45) to £3.49, a 16.3% increase.

[4] In some cases the cost of processed foods can be trimmed by reducing the quantity of expensive proteins in them, using vegetable oil instead of animal fats or becoming less fussy about where ingredients are sourced. But such measures can achieve only so much. William Woods of Bernstein, a broker, says that discounters with the thinnest margins, like Aldi and Lidl, started lifting their prices as early as spring last year; their competitors began moving six months later.

[10] 选文来源：The Economist-20220910 期「Britain」Food prices: Eat up

[5] Fraser McKevitt of Kantar, a research firm, says that, in contrast with the global financial crisis, supermarkets are refraining from ramping up promotional offers. They are putting more emphasis on trying to deliver consistently good value than on luring customers with one-off deals. That reflects both the expense of running such deals and fierce competition from the discounters, whose market share has increased slightly over the past year (see chart). Both Tesco and Sainsbury's, two of the big four chains, are matching their prices to those of Aldi, a cut-price rival.

[6] Mr Woods says that shoppers have taken their time trading down to cheaper products, and suspects that savings accumulated during the pandemic delayed this move. But now the shift to supermarkets' own-label ranges has started. Data from Kantar suggest that sales of these have risen by 7% over the past year, whereas those of branded products are essentially flat. If and when a recession gets going, that pattern could be complicated by more affluent people spending more on premium products as they switch from dining out.

[7] As wholesale gas prices swing wildly, there is scope for food prices to rise higher. Expensive fertiliser prices could drag down agricultural yields and

prolong the pain. Although commodity prices have been falling since April, a weaker pound limits how much that helps British importers; they can also take up to six months to feed into lower retail costs because of those contracts between supermarkets and manufacturers. Food prices will leave a sour taste for a while yet.

【para1】罪魁祸首：英国生活成本上升，民众怪罪粮价上涨，供需双方随机应变

【para2】成本飙升：劳动力短缺加之天然气价格攀高，英国深陷食品价格危机

【para3】渐受波及：合同续订将至，成本上升蔓延至供应商，供求双方讨价还价

【para4】隔靴搔痒：生产商千方百计降成本：减少蛋白含量；改用植物油

【para5】“弃暗投明”：超市不再促销拉客，转而提高产品质量，强调物美价廉

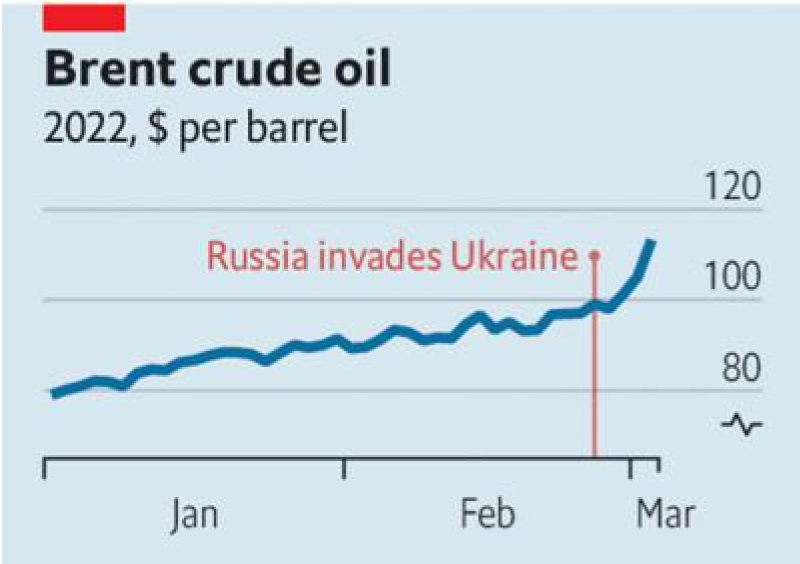
【para6】价低者胜：超市自有品牌价格实惠备受青睐，富人砸钱恐将趋势复杂化

【para7】粮价之痛：化肥高昂、英镑贬值加之新合同签订，近期粮价招人嫌恐已板上钉钉。

2.5 Inflation: War and Price

Central banks should ignore soaring energy prices and focus on home-grown inflation

【para1】WAR IN UKRAINE has caused European natural-gas prices almost to double and sent oil prices soaring to over $115 a barrel. That has added to the inflation problem facing the world's central banks. And more pain is probably coming. Western energy giants are getting out of Russia, sanctions are wreaking havoc on Russian commodities exports and the cancelling of the Nord Stream 2 gas pipeline from Russia to Germany will remove a potential source of relief. If Russian energy exports are cut off completely, the oil price could reach $150, rapidly boosting global consumer prices by another 2%.



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【para2】According to orthodoxy, rich-world central bankers should all but ignore supply shocks such as dearer energy. That is because their direct effect on inflation is only temporary. When policymakers ignore this rule of thumb things usually go wrong. In 2008 and 2011 the European Central Bank (ECB) raised rates because of supply-side factors, and ended up worsening the Great Recession and its aftermath.

【para3】But today's shock comes as inflation is already too high. Central bankers are worried about prices taking on a momentum of their own. They may be reminded of the energy crisis in 1973, when the Yom Kippur war led to an oil embargo and a spike in prices that made a bad inflation problem worse.

【para4】It is right to be alert to the danger of a repeat of the 1970s. But there is little central banks can do about expensive energy without unnecessarily crashing their economies. Thankfully, although the public's expectations for inflation over the next year are up strongly, long-term expectations remain pretty stable, suggesting that it should be possible to follow the standard approach to this supply shock by overlooking energy prices.

【para5】At the same time, policymakers must be wary of the opposite mistake. Pricier energy will cause slower growth, especially in the parts of Europe that rely on Russian gas. It may therefore be tempting to keep policy very loose. Yet both the experience of America during the pandemic and the history of the 1970s show the folly of creating too much stimulus when supplies are disrupted: it causes overheating.

【para6】The right approach is to maintain a laser-like focus on price pressures at home. Wage growth and core inflation, which excludes energy and food prices, are the indicators to watch. In America, where wages are 5.7% higher than a year ago and core inflation is 5.2%, the Federal Reserve should raise interest rates sharply in 2022. (The energy shock might also benefit the economy by boosting investment in shale oil and gas.) In the euro zone, although core inflation, at 2.7%, is too high, the arguments are more balanced because of the absence of fast wage growth. Unless the job market weakens, it would be right to raise rates in 2022 at the pace that had been expected before the war. The same goes for the Bank of England.

【para7】Though central bankers should not yet rewrite their plans for managing interest rates, they may need to pare back their ambitions to shrink their balance-sheets. That is because, as sanctions take effect, the global financial system may need support. There have been signs of stress in offshore dollar-funding markets, meaning foreign central banks may ask the Federal Reserve for dollars. In Europe worries about the sustainability of countries' debts could resurface as growth is squeezed by high energy prices—Italy is vulnerable on both counts. During the pandemic the euro zone benefited from financial solidarity created in part by the ECB's implicit mutualisation of government debt. The central bank may need to stand behind vulnerable countries in an energy crisis, too.

2.6 Banyan: Food fight

Unhelpful short-term fixes are not the answer to spiking food prices

【para1】MAHN TUN LYNN says he has thought of little but food since Myanmar's armed forces mounted their brutal coup in February last year. First, from Yangon, the commercial capital, he used his skills from years running an import-export business to get staples to the resistance groups springing up around the country. When, late last year, hunger began to gnaw even at him, he fled the country. He now shelters in Thailand, by the banks of a river that marks the two countries' border. Everyone in his makeshift camp knows how conflict disrupts the cycle of sowing seed and harvesting crops. When bullets fly, rice bowls grow emptier.

【para2】And now, says Mr Mahn Tun Lynn, another war, on the other side of the Eurasian land mass, has made things even worse. Since Vladimir Putin invaded Ukraine, the prices of food staples available to Burmese refugees have risen sharply. The World Food Programme and other charities that provide aid find their dollars do not go so far. And the refugees are among the lucky ones. Before the coup, some 1m Burmese were in need of humanitarian aid. Today, according to the UN, the number is over 14m, among them 5m children.

【para3】Even before Mr Putin's needless war supply-chain disruptions caused by the pandemic, along with climate-change-related vagaries in the weather, had forced many Asian and Pacific countries to think harder about food. Now the risk is that governments will respond in ways that will make supplies even scarcer and prices even higher in the long run.

【para4】The direct effects of the war are bad enough. Ukraine and Russia are both agricultural powerhouses. Before the war they generated 12% of the world's farm exports, measured by calories. That included nearly a third of all wheat exports and three-quarters of exports of sunflower oil. Fighting has kept many Ukrainian farmers from their fields. Combined with sanctions, it has disrupted trade flows, too. Both countries have restricted food exports to conserve stocks. Russia's fertiliser exports have been hit. All this adds up to a huge shock to global food markets.

【para5】Central Asians are feeling the pain. Russia's ban in March on exports of grain to fellow members of the Eurasian Economic Union, a club of some former Soviet states, has hit Kazakhstan hard. Though a big wheat producer itself, it normally imports Russian grain for domestic consumption while exporting its own (dearer) wheat to neighbours. The Russian ban led Kazakhstan's flour-millers to warn that, running out of supplies, they were going bust. Last month the government urged the millers to switch to domestic grain, banning most exports for three months.

【para6】Central Asian neighbours, which get 90% of their grain imports from Kazakhstan, are appalled. Uzbekistan, the region's most populous country, was planning to import 100,000 tonnes of Kazakhstani wheat between April and July. Turkmenistan has long suffered from chronic food shortages, which only last October Kazakhstan's president, Kassym-Zhomart Tokayev, promised to help end. Now he risks exacerbating them.

【para7】The war is pushing up the prices of all kinds of foodstuffs, not just grain. In Indonesia, households have been grumbling about the cost of cooking oil. Late last month the government suddenly halted exports of crude and refined palm oil, of which Indonesia is the world's biggest producer. The stuff is used not just for frying but also in cakes, cosmetics and much more. India, the world's biggest importer, is scrambling to find replacements.

【para8】In Sri Lanka, food inflation—and staples such as lentils disappearing from shop shelves—are a major factor in popular calls for the president, Gotabaya Rajapaksa, to go. As for nearby Bangladesh, with a population of 164m, its food-security predicament is among the most severe, says the Washington-based International Food Policy Research Institute (IFPRI): paying more for food and fertiliser imports will deplete foreign-currency reserves, while leaving less room for social-safety-net support.

【para9】Both Kazakhstan and Indonesia claim their moves are temporary. But as IFPRI argues, even short-term measures can be contagious, generating higher prices and further volatility. Hoarding and panic-buying are similarly counterproductive. And seeking food self-sufficiency, which some Asian governments are promoting, is a costly fool's errand for most food-importing countries. Open markets, and help for the neediest: these are the best ways to tackle the hunger that Mr Putin is inflicting on the world.

2.7 Wage growth: Cheques and imbalance[11]

Is the world economy entering a wage-price spiral?

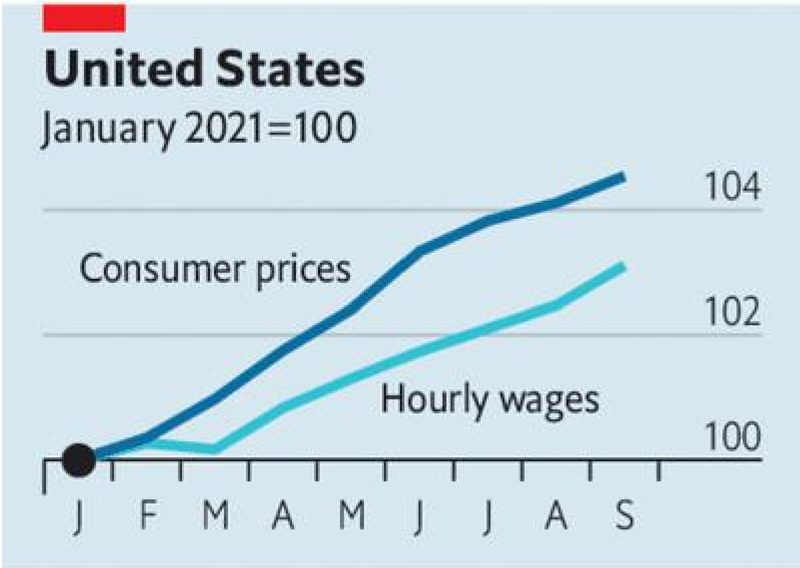
【para1】The rich world is used to wages and prices growing slowly. In the decade after the global financial crisis, inflation rarely exceeded central banks' targets, and wages seemed unable to grow much faster. The spending power of average hourly pay in Britain, Italy and Japan was about the same at the start of the pandemic as it had been in the mid-2000s. The fact that American wage growth averaged 2.9% from 2015 to 2019 while average inflation stayed below 2% seemed a rare triumph.

【para2】The recovery from the pandemic has brought about a startling change: prices and wages are both surging. American hourly pay rose by 4.6% in the year to September while consumer-price inflation of 5.4% is more than wiping out those gains. In Germany inflation has reached 4.1% and the main public-sector union is asking for a pay increase of 5%. Wages and prices have even picked up modestly in Japan.

【para3】The causes of higher prices are clear: rampant demand for goods has met bottlenecks in supply chains, and energy prices have soared. Wage growth is more mysterious. In most places employment is lower than it was before the pandemic. Yet workers seem unwilling or unable to take the abundant jobs that are on offer. The labour shortage may reflect how hard it is to move between professions and places as economies go through an unusual adjustment. Fear of the virus and the lingering effects of state support for household incomes could be keeping workers idle. The pandemic may even have led some people to put family and leisure above their careers.

【para4】A hazy understanding of what is driving wages up is making life harder for central banks. Most have argued that high inflation is temporary. But excessive wage growth could be the next factor to drive up prices, especially if workers demand higher pay in the expectation of future rises in the cost of living—an insurance that exacerbates the very thing it seeks to offset.

[11] The Economist-20211016期「Leaders」Wage growth: Cheques and imbalance



The Economist

【para5】To avoid enduring inflation, some combination of three things must happen. Firms could absorb higher wages in their margins rather than raising prices. Productivity growth could make higher increases in real-wages sustainable. Or idle workers could return to the labour force, dampening wage growth.

【para6】In the popular imagination workers' share of the economic pie has room to grow at the expense of profits. But recent research suggests that labour's share of the value created by firms has in fact been fairly stable in most rich countries during recent decades. We estimate that it has already risen by one percentage point on average in big rich countries during the pandemic. There may not be very much scope for further increases.

【para7】Higher productivity growth is a reasonable hope. Output per worker has risen in America since the start of the pandemic. The digitisation brought about by the pandemic should boost living standards, particularly if it reduces the need to live near expensive cities to get good jobs. The trouble is that time lags make it hard to base policy on productivity trends. They are hard to measure in real time and it takes about 18 months for central banks' decisions to fully feed through into the economy.

【para8】That means policymakers should focus on the labour supply. Its recovery has been disappointing so far. There is surprisingly little sign that the end of emergency programmes, such as America's extended unemployment insurance and Britain’s furlough scheme, has increased the number of people looking for work. Perhaps, though, as bank accounts run dry and the pandemic abates, some slack will reappear in 2022, causing wage growth to slow. Even more than usual, monetary policymakers should keep their eyes fixed on jobs.

【para1】忆往昔（抛砖引玉）：金融危机后，发达经济体物价和工资增长缓慢

【para2】看今朝（引入话题）：疫情后，物价和工资一反常态，轮番飙升

【para3】分析原因：供应链危机、能源价格上涨致物价上涨；工资上涨原因仍不明（因惧怕病毒、有政府补贴并想陪伴亲人，劳动力拒绝回归就业市场，就业市场复苏艰难）

【para4】恶性循环：通货膨胀原因不明，央行难对症下药，工资和物价将螺旋式上升

【para5-8】出谋划策：① 公司用利润补贴工资成本，而不提高商品价格；② 提高生产力；③ 劳动力重返就业市场

-para6 发达国家劳动力的经济价值占比变化空间较小，对利润挤压并不大

-para7 提高生产力是一个方向；但是政策效果无法实时显现，所以政策实施不好把握

-para8 眼下劳动市场复苏仍显乏力，但预期求职人数会逐渐增加，政策制定者应着眼于此

2.8 Public-sector pay: Wage fright

The government is trying to hold down inflation by practising pay restraint

【1】Britain's train network came to a halt on June 21st and June 23rd as striking rail workers protested against a below-inflation pay offer, among other things. With further strikes planned for June 25th, the disruption threatens to endure. It also threatens to spread. The biggest teachers' union has warned of industrial action in the autumn. Doctors, nurses and local-government employees could go on strike, too. Together the health-care and education sectors account for around 60% of public-sector employment.

【2】The underlying problem is that high inflation is eating into people's income. In May prices rose at an annual rate of 9.1%, the highest level since 1982 and much more than was expected when the government set departmental budgets last October. The Bank of England expects the inflation rate to hit double digits later in the year

【3】That has made conflict over wages all but inevitable. Public-sector employees want their pay to keep pace with rising prices: one teachers' union is demanding a 12% pay award, for example, against a government suggestion of 3%. But each one-percentage-point increase in the wage bill would cost the government around £2.4bn ($2.9bn), or 0.1% of GDP. That would require offsetting spending cuts, higher taxes or more borrowing.

【4】Reconciling these tensions will not be easy. Beyond the expense, the government fears that giving in to unions' demands would encourage workers in the private sector to raise their pay requests, too, risking a wage-price spiral. It also worries that higher borrowing could boost demand at a time when the economy would struggle to absorb it; tighter monetary policy would be the result. And the Treasury has already announced measures designed to offer the most vulnerable households protection against rising prices. An inflation-matching pay rise could compensate people twice, at least in the short term.

【5】Arguments line up on the other side, too. Trade unions are not wrong to say that many staff will struggle to make ends meet. Next April the state pension will rise by at least September's rate of inflation—why should public-sector employees not be afforded the same protection as pensioners? It is ultimately for the Bank of England to keep inflation under control, and for the government to set the level and quality of public services it desires.

【6】One increasingly salient consideration is the risk of public servants fleeing to the private sector—or not joining at all. Over the three months to April pay in the private sector, excluding bonuses, grew at an annual rate of 4.8%, compared with just 1.8% in the public sector. According to Ben Zaranko of the Institute for Fiscal Studies, a think-tank, average pay in the public sector is still higher than in the private sector but the gap between the two has narrowed significantly (see chart). Indeed, if you adjust for differences in the two workforces for factors like age and education, the premium disappeared altogether in 2021-22, although this does not account for relatively generous public-sector pensions.

【7】Over the coming months the government will consider recommendations from eight pay-review bodies, and then haggle with an array of unions over the amounts. The upshot will be variety in the generosity of pay deals, both within and across occupations. Within occupations, workers at different levels of seniority are likely to get different pay bumps. During the austere 2010s, for example, more experienced teachers and higher-paid NHS staff got smaller increases than junior and lower-paid colleagues.

【8】As for differences between industries, outcomes depend on everything from average salaries to political sensitivities. Workers in the National Health Service (NHS) will be trickiest to handle. Health-care workers draw on a deeper reservoir of public sympathy than, say, rail workers; reducing NHS backlogs is a political priority; and rising demand for private-sector health-care gives workers other options. Last year they were among the few groups of public-sector employees to receive a cash pay rise. One study found that 10% growth in the pay of NHS nurses in London, relative to the private sector, would enable a 7% increase in their employment. A shift in the other direction would pile more pressure on to a creaking system. Deals will eventually be struck. But expect more disputes in the meantime.

Questions：

1. Why do you think that inflation suddenly become popular?

2. In case 2.2,"The cost of household goods such as toys, furniture and clothing is rising by the fastest rate in more than 15 years, as the impact of the war in Ukraine combines with Covid lock downs in China." What's your opinion about this? Do you think that China has made great contribution to world welfare? Then how do you appraise US tariff and anti-dumping against China?

3. In case 2.6, "In Indonesia, households have been grumbling about the cost of cooking oil. Late last month the government suddenly halted exports of crude and refined palm oil, of which Indonesia is the world's biggest producer." What's your opinion about this? Is it a responsible decision? Is it different from "US first" in essence?

4. From case 2.1, 2.7 and 2.8, in the inflation, do you think it reasonable for worker to ask for higher pay? Or do you agree that the government should hold down inflation by practising pay restraint?

问题：

（1）你觉得为什么突然间通货膨胀成了许多国家的普遍现象？

（2）在案例 2.2 中"随着乌克兰战争的影响和中国新冠肺炎的封闭，玩具、家具和服装等家居用品的成本正以 15 年多来最快的速度增长"，对此你怎么看？你认为中国对全世界的福利做出了贡献吗？那么你又如何评价美国针对中国加征关税和反倾销？

（3）从案例 2.6 中"在印度尼西亚，家庭一直在抱怨食用油的价格。上个月末，政府突然停止了原油和精炼棕榈油的出口，印尼是世界上最大的棕榈油生产国"，对此你怎们看？这是一个负责任的决定吗？本质上讲这个"美国优先"有没有区别？

（6）从案例 2.2, 2.3 和 2.8 来看，你认为工人面临通胀时要求更高的工资是合理的吗？你认为政府可以通过限薪来控制通货膨胀吗？

一、案例中的思政元素

① 热爱祖国珍爱和平：让学生理解战争对经济的打击不仅危害交战双方，还影响到全世界人民的福利。引导学生珍爱和平，热爱祖国，真心我国近年来的和平发展成就。

② 独立自主自立自强：俄乌战争的案例显示，只有自然资源禀赋还不够，西方社会的支持更是靠不住，一个国家要有坚实的经济基础、稳固可靠的国防、科学技术的创新和独立自主的精神，才有可能免受外来势力直接压迫。

③ 热爱劳动勤俭节约：让学生理解在英国等国家，通胀的原因是供给不足，只有增加有效供给才能抑制通胀，“幸福生活的奋斗出来的”；在美国，通胀高企的最初原因是需求过剩，过分追求消费只会造成奢侈浪费和物价上涨，对于真实的经济福利并没有好处。

④ 吃苦耐劳踏实肯干：一味要求与劳动生产率相悖的加薪并没有好处，罢工也只会减少供给加剧短缺和通胀，进一步损害自身福利。只有通过提高劳动生产率，才能够增加产出降低通胀。

二、采用的教学方法

（1）讲授法：教师讲授相关知识点。

（2）案例分析法：选择契合相关知识点的案例进行分析。

（3）小组讨论法：将学生课堂上分成小组对案例进行讨论，分别汇报讨论结果。

（4）问答法：在学生阅读相关案例材料后，请学生回答/抢答其中的经济学原理。

（5）翻转课堂：请学生自行组织对案例发表自己的观点和见解，并且以答辩的形式接受质询。

三、案例适用的范围

（包含案例适用的专业或课程、案例与专业课程思政的内在联系等）

案例名称	包含知识点	对应课程
2.1 Inflation: The chicken and the peg	贫困与发展 平等与人权	宏观经济学 政治经济学
2.2 Consumer Prices	消费价格指数	宏观经济学
2.3 American inflation: On the up and up	货币政策 美元汇率	宏观经济学 国际经济学

2.4 Food prices: Eat up	通货膨胀	宏观经济学
2.5 Inflation: War and Price	总需求总供给	宏观经济学
2.6 Banyan: Food fight	贸易壁垒 WTO 规则	国际贸易
2.7 Wage growth: Cheques and imbalance	总供给模型 通货膨胀	宏观经济学
2.8 Public-sector pay: Wage fright	价格管制	微观经济学 政治经济学

Topic 3: Population and Labor

3.1 Demography: Spinster nation[12]

Childlessness is climbing back to the level of a century ago

【para1】ANYBODY MULLING a career as a midwife or nursery manager might want to reconsider. On October 14th the Office for National Statistics reported that in 2020 the fertility rate in England and Wales, which is expressed as the number of children per woman, fell to 1.58, the lowest since records began in 1938. Babies are particularly scarce in inner London. Just 5,442 were born in the borough of Newham last year, down from 6,426 in 2012. And almost all were conceived before covid-19 made the prospect of going into hospital unappealing. The tally for 2021 may well be lower.

【para2】Birth rates can fall for several reasons. Couples may decide to stop at two children rather than going for a third. Gaps between pregnancies can extend. If women merely delay having children, the fertility rate will fall and then rebound, as happened to some extent in the 1970s and again around the turn of the century. But this time it looks as if people are going without altogether.

【para3】 A recent article by John Ermisch, an Oxford University sociologist, finds that the drop in the English and Welsh fertility rate has been caused largely by a decline in first births. Women without university degrees, who have historically been more likely to have children, are emulating the better-educated. If the current pattern holds, Mr Ermisch reckons, 21% of women will have no children—back to the level of the cohort born in 1920 (see chart).

【para4】Although the stereotype of a childless woman is a trouser-suited careerist running too late to the IVF clinic, the reality is different. One study of Britons born in 1970 found that the two most important reasons for remaining childless, among both men and women, were that they did not particularly want children or did not meet the right partner. That hints at a broad change in norms and expectations. A new paper on America by Melissa Schettini Kearney and two other economists comes to similar conclusions. They think fertility is declining not because of economic pressures, but because people's assumptions

[12] The Economist-20211016期「Britain」Demography: Spinster nation

about life and families have changed. In particular, children are thought to require much more effort and attention than was the case in the past.

【para5】Few old people are childless today. Those celebrating their 80th birthdays this year belong to a cohort born in 1941, among whom only 11% ended up child-free. Falling fertility and growing lifespans mean that the number of childless 80-year-olds will triple over the next two decades, according to the ONS, and seems likely to rise thereafter. That will put more pressure on the care system, because old people without children are more likely to receive formal care.

【para6】Culture might change, too. British novels used to be stuffed with elderly bachelors, spinsters and maiden aunts, but they faded from view in the 20th century. "The position of an unmarried, unattached, ageing woman is of no interest whatsoever to the writer of modern fiction," complained a character in "Quartet in Autumn", a novel in 1977 by Barbara Pym, who was the standout exception to the rule. Bring back the literary spinster—or, failing that, look to Pym's novels for a vision of the future.

【para1】 开门见山，阐明事实 ：2020 年英国生育率降至 80 年来最低水平。而新冠大流行对医疗系统的冲击很可能进一步影响生育率。

【para2-4】正反论证，分析原因 ：家庭因素（不想生育，没有合适的伴侣，需要比以往更多精力照顾儿童）；社会因素（朋辈效仿）；非以下因素（经济压力和推迟生育）：

-para2 婴儿出生率降低的原因有很多，但推迟生育不是其中之一。

-para3 头胎出生率下降，低学历女性效仿高学历的朋辈降低生育意愿。

-para4 人们对于两性关系的规范和期望，以及对家庭的设想发生了变化，降低了生育意愿。

【para5-6】深入思考，后续影响 ：养老护理系统面临更大压力，流行文化也会发生变化:

-para5 生育率下降和寿命延长将使得未来没有后代的老人数量增加，这将给护理系统带来压力。

-para6 随着未婚个体数量的增加，未婚女性形象在文化领域将重新受到关注。

3.2 Demography : NIMBYs v babies[13]

Asia’s advanced economies now have lower birth rates than Japan

【para1】The list of things for which Japan enjoys a global reputation includes delicious food, cutting-edge technology, an oversupply of karaoke bars and an undersupply of babies. In 1990 it published a record-low fertility rate for the previous year—the so-called “1.57 shock”. For years it has been seen as a harbinger of how rich societies will age and shrink.

【para2】Much of Asia has now caught up with or overtaken it. Japan's fertility rate of 1.3 in 2020, the latest year for which comparable figures are available, according to the Population Research Bureau, an American outfit.

【para3】Japanese fertility is still ultra-low compared with almost any society in human history. Yet it is now higher than that of any well-off East Asian or South-East Asian economy. The numbers in H K, Macau, Singapore, and South Korea ranged between 0.8 and 1.1 in 2020. Nor is this a temporary blip caused by the pandemic: Japan’s figure was higher than all those regions in 2019, too.

【para4】Rich, baby-averse Asian countries in the region have three things in common. First, their people rarely have children outside marriage. Only around 2% of births in Japan and South Korea are to unmarried mothers, the lowest levels in the OECD, a club of rich countries. In wealthy Western countries that figure is typically between 30% and 60%. In China, the few who become pregnant out of wedlock are often denied benefits. The region’s decline in births has closely tracked a decline in marriages. The age at which people commit to a lifetime of entanglement has also been rising, further delaying child-bearing.

【para5】A second shared factor is expensive schooling. Pricey private tutoring and other wallet-emptying forms of “shadow education”, as such extras are known, are common in East Asia. The most frequent reason cited by Japanese couples for having fewer children is the cost of raising and educating them. Lucy Crehan, an education researcher, says that these problems might be even worse in other parts of Asia. Japanese pupils face their first high-stakes exams only at the age of 15. In contrast,

[13] The Economist-20220521 期「Asia」Demography : NIMBYs v babies

children in Shanghai and Singapore must take such tests as early as primary school, piling on the parental pressure to perform and adding to the family's tuition bills.

【para6】Yet it is the third factor that might explain why Japan is out-sprogging its rich Asian peers. A flurry of research in recent years suggests that high house prices cause young couples to delay having children. One paper found that an increase of $10,000 in house prices in America led to a 5% increase in fertility rates among homeowners, but a 2.4% decrease among non-owners. Across much of East Asia and especially in urban China, buying a home is an uphill struggle for young people. South Korea, whose fertility rate of 0.8 is the lowest in the region, correspondingly has a house-price-to-income ratio (the number of years of income needed to buy a home) of 16.6, the highest in the OECD after New Zealand. Japan's ratio of 7.5 is among the lowest.

【para7】The problem of high house prices keeping young families from settling down is not unique to Asia. But Japan's housing market is different. Unlike most rich countries, it has planning rules that make it relatively easy to build more homes. Housing stock in Tokyo has consistently grown faster than the city's population (which is also still rising). Also, Japanese homes are not built to last, so they are demolished and replaced regularly. Wooden Japanese homes are deemed by the tax authorities to depreciate in value to zero over 22 years. That means that the secondary market in residential property is more limited, and gives landowners an extra incentive to rip down old buildings and build taller ones.

【para8】Economists debate how much of Japan's relatively affordable housing is down to those policies on supply and construction, and how much is down to the country's slow economic growth. But either way, the ease of building in popular areas is likely to keep prices in check.

【para9】Many Japanese are glad that their country seems likely to avoid total demographic collapse. But Japan still has by far the worst old-age dependency ratio, or the number of people over 65 (a lot) relative to the number of working-age people (not enough), among rich Asian countries. That has effects on everything from the affordability of health care for the elderly to the size of the government budget dedicated to pensions. The drop in fertility rates elsewhere presages similar problems to come for the countries following in Japan's footsteps. They may find there are lessons to be learned from Japan.

亚洲人口危局：生育低谷

亚洲各发达经济体的人口出生率现已低于日本

日本闻名全球的事物有很多：既有可口美食和尖端科技，还有过剩的 K 厅以及过低的出生率。1990 年，日本公布其上一年度的人口出生率创历史新低（1.57）——即所谓的“1.57 冲击”。这些年来，人们一直认为“1.57 冲击”敲响了发达社会迈入老龄化和人口萎缩危机的警钟。

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这些发达且生育意愿低的亚洲国家有三个共同点。第一，国民鲜有婚外生子的情况。在日本和韩国，只有 2%的孩子是未婚妈妈生的，这在经合组织（OECD，一个由发达国家构成的组织）中是最低的水平。在发达的西方国家，该数值通常处于 30%到 60%的水平。在中国，未婚生子的女性（少数群体）通常领不到生育保险金。并且，亚洲出生率的下降与结婚率的走低密切相关。亚洲逐渐呈现出晚婚趋势，导致该地区的生育年龄也进一步延迟。

第二个共同点是教育费用太过高昂。价格不菲的家教，及其他形式的所谓"影子教育"都很费钱，而这在东亚地区非常普遍。日本夫妇最常提到少生孩子的原因便是抚养与教育孩子的成本。教育研究员露西·克里汉（Lucy Crehan）表示，这些问题在亚洲其他地区可能更加严重。日本学生在 15 岁时才面临他们人生第一场大考。相比之下，上海和新加坡的孩子早在小学就必须参加这样的考试，这不仅大大增加了父母的执行压力，而家庭也需要在教育支出上增加投入。

然而，为何日本的生育率会高于其他亚洲发达地区，可能还要靠第三点来解释。 近年来的一系列研究表明，高房价会导致年轻夫妇推迟生育计划。一篇论文发现，美国房价每上涨 1 万美元，房产拥有者的生育率就会上升 5%，而无房一族的生育率则会下降 2.4%。在东亚的大部分地区，尤其是在中国的城市，买房对年轻人来说非常吃力。韩国的生育率为 0.8，属东亚最低。而而其房价收入

比（购买一套房子需要多少年的收入）为 16.6，在经合组织中仅次于新西兰。日本的该数值为 7.5，居于最低之列。

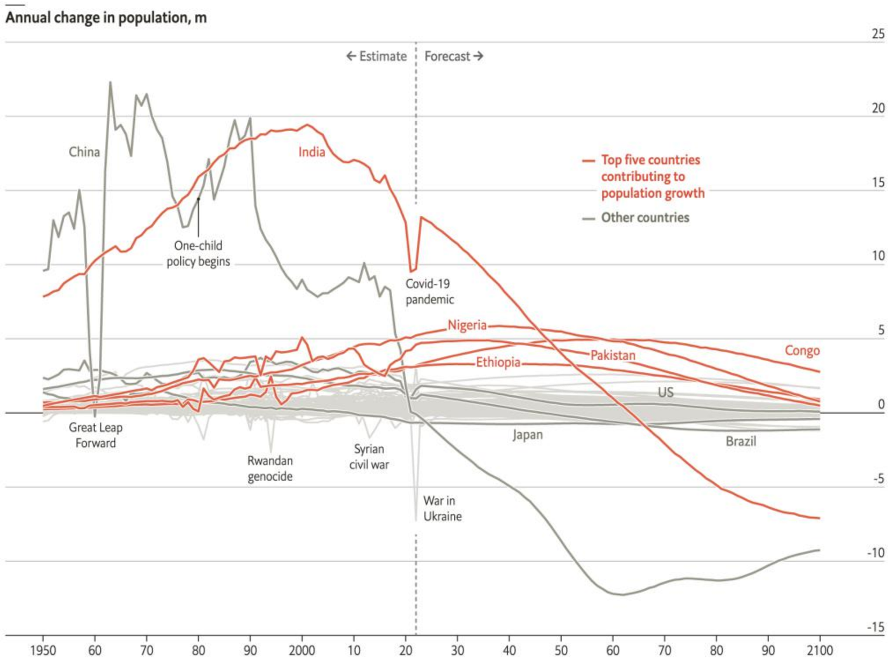
高房价让小家庭对安居望而却步，这个问题并非“亚洲特色”。但日本的房地产市场与其他地区不同。相较于大多数富裕国家，它的房屋规划准更倾向于加建住房。东京的住房存量一直比城市人口增长更快（人口也在增长）。此外，日本房屋建造的目的并非经久耐用，就免不了定期的拆除和重建。税务机关规定，日本的木制房屋在 22 年后，其残值就会折旧至零。这意味着住宅地产的二手市场相对低迷，而房东则更有动力来拆除旧房，建造新高层。

经济学家的争论点在于: 日本相对低廉的住房在多大程度上是由供应和建设政策造成的？又在多大程度上是由国家经济增长缓慢造成的？但无论怎样，由于在热门地段建造房屋无需过大投入，房价大概率能得到控制。

日本有望避过人口全面崩盘的危机，叫日本国人倍感庆幸。但日本的老年抚养比仍比其他亚洲国家高得多——抚养比指 65 岁以上的人口数量（极多）与适龄劳动人口数量（不足）的比值。高老年抚养比对社会的影响是全方位的，不仅会加大老年人医保的财政负担，还会影响政府预算中对养老金拨款规模。亚洲其他地区生育率的下降预示着步日本后尘的国家也将面临类似的问题。他们或许能从日本的案例中吸取教训。

3.3 Population forecasts: People watching[14]

The pecking order of the world's population is soon to change



【para1】THE WORLD'S population is expected to reach 8bn on November 15th. But, such is the uncertainty with counting every person on the planet, that milestone may already have been reached. India is forecast to surpass China as the world's most populous country in 2023 or soon thereafter.

【para2】The UN hedges its predictions even as it makes them. A new forecast published on July 11th says that the world's population will reach 9.7bn in 2050, 800m more than it thought in 2002. By 2100 the world will contain between 8.9bn and 12.4bn people, with a 50/50 chance that its population will be shrinking.

【para3】Just a handful of countries are expected to lie behind population growth. The UN forecasts that 43% of the increase between now and 2050 will come from five: the Democratic Republic of Congo, Ethiopia, India, Nigeria and Pakistan. America will remain the third-largest country in 2050, with 375m inhabitants, after it has added another 40m people. Nigeria will add four times

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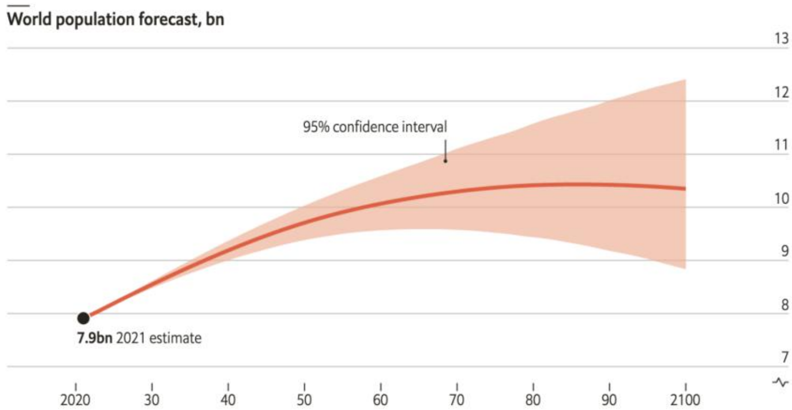
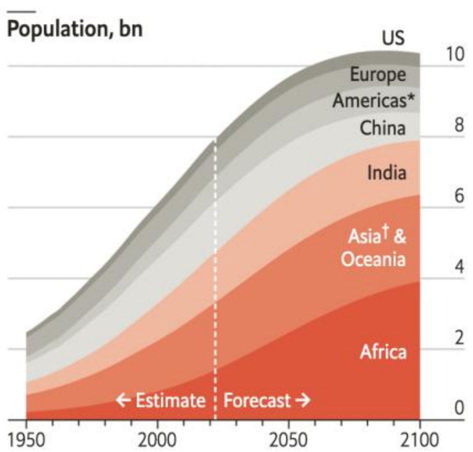
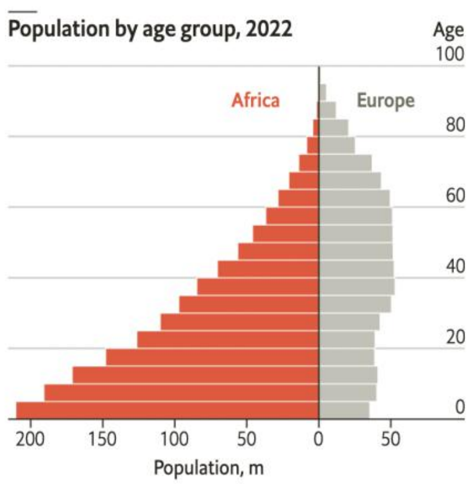
that number and be nearly as big as America. It will displace Indonesia as the fourth-most-populous place.



【para4】Some countries are helping the Earth's population to level out. This year 41 countries and territories are expected tolose more people than they gain from births and immigration. Ukraine's population, ravaged by war, will shrink by around 7m. The population of Europe, the world's oldest region, with a median age of 42 years, began shrinking in 2020 after peaking at 747m. By 2050 it is forecast to have 40m fewer inhabitants than it does today.





*Excluding United States †Excluding China and India

【para5】It is a safer bet that the distribution of humanity across the world will shift dramatically. Europe started on the path to population decline in the 1970s after the number of births per woman fell below 2.1—the level needed to replace people who die. It has since fallen to 1.5. Fertility in Africa, the world's youngest region, is nearly three times Europe’s, and it will not fall below replacement rate until 2090. Births in Africa will increase even as the number of births per woman falls. By 2050, 25% of the world's population will be African.

【para6】These demographic shifts will have geopolitical consequences. Since 1950 China and India have been responsible for 35% of the world's population growth. But China's population is projected to begin falling as soon as this year. Although China now allows women to have three children apiece, they average only 1.2. By 2050 the country will be 8% smaller. Meanwhile, India's population will continue growing, albeit at a gradually slower rate, peaking at 1.7bn in 2064, nearly 50% higher than in China. That will add weight to its claim to play a much greater role in world affairs

【para1】引入话题 ： 今年世界人口破 80 亿大关；印度或成人口第一大国

【para2】最新预测 ： 世界人口持续增长，2100 年后或将下降

【para3-4】国别预测

-para3 人口增长主要集中于五国；人口排名发生变动

-para4 多数国家人口面临负增长

【para5】分布变化 ： 非洲成为世界人口增长主力军

【para6】政治格局 ： 印度人口赶超中国，提升国际地位

3.4 Gen Z and work[15]

What graduates want？

More flexibility, more security—and more money

【1】Generation z is different. As a whole, Americans born between the late 1990s and early 2000s are less likely to have work or look for it: their labour-force-participation rate is 71%, compared with 75% for millennials (born between 1980 and the late 1990s) and 78% for Generation x (born in the decade or so to 1980) when each came of age. As a result, they make up a smaller share of the workforce. On the other hand, they are better educated: 66% of American Gen-zs have at least some college. The trend is similar in other rich countries. With graduation ceremonies behind them, the latest batch of diploma-holders are entering the job market. What they want from employers is also not quite the same as in generations past. And as the economy sours following a pandemic jobs boom, those wants are in flux.

【2】Start with their broad preferences. Although Gen-z recruits felt more lonely and isolated than their older colleagues at the start of the pandemic, the ability to work remotely has unearthed new possibilities. The benefits go beyond working in your pyjamas. Many are taking calls from beach chairs and hammocks in more exotic locales or fleeing big cities in search for cheaper or larger homes.

【3】In Microsoft's latest Work Trend Index, which polled more than 30,000 workers in 31 countries in January and February, more than half of Gen-z hybrid workers said they were relocating thanks to remote work, compared with 38% of people overall. The option to work remotely is increasingly non-negotiable. Workers aged 18 to 34 are nearly 60% more willing to quit than their older peers if the choice is taken away, according to research by McKinsey, a consultancy. They are also more likely to engage with job listings that mention flexibility.

【4】This has big implications. Industries with jobs that cannot be done from home are falling out of favour with recent graduates. A study by

[15] 8.15 经济学人外刊精读 | Z世代和职场，英文杂志双语精读 2022-08-15 10:07 发表于山东

ManpowerGroup, a recruitment company, suggests an inverse relationship between talent shortages and flexible working policies. The sectors which are either less able to offer remote work or have been slower to embrace it—including construction, finance, hospitality and manufacturing—have faced some of the biggest skills gaps for all types of job. The same is almost certainly true for their university-educated workers.

【5】That in turn has accelerated a pre-existing trend of young recruits trading Wall Street for Silicon Valley. Ever since thousands of banking jobs were axed—and the industry’s reputation tarnished—in the wake of the financial crisis of 2007-09, big tech has looked more attractive to graduates than big banks have. In Britain, the number of young people studying computer science rose by almost 50% between 2011 and 2020, to over 30,000. More than 31,000 took up an engineering course in 2020, up by 21% from 2011.

【6】Now technology bosses are more willing than their opposite numbers in finance to let employees work from home (or anywhere else). Bankceos such as Jamie Dimon of JPMorgan Chase or James Gorman of Morgan Stanley have urged employees back to the office. By contrast, Mark Zuckerberg has allowed workers at Meta, his social-media giant, to work from anywhere if their role allows it even after the firm reopened its American offices in March.

【7】Annual rankings of employer desirability by Universum, a graduate-staffing consultancy, bear this out. In 2008 the list of best employers as graded by American graduates was dominated by big banks and the Big Four consulting firms (Deloitte,ey, kpmg and pwc). By 2021 seven of the ten highest spots were occupied by tech and media giants.

【8】There are signs that Gen-zs’ love affair with tech may be losing some of its ardour. After a decade of frantic hiring, tech is suddenly looking like a less secure early-career bet for the ambitious graduate. Having taken a battering from nervy investors this year, companies such as Alphabet, Meta, Microsoft and Uber have slowed hiring. Twitter has revoked recently made job offers.

Netflix has laid off hundreds of workers. So have newer tech darlings such as Coinbase and Robinhood. Elon Musk, Tesla’s chief executive, has announced a hiring freeze and cuts of about a tenth of the electric-car maker’s staff. More than 28,000 workers in America's tech sector have lost their jobs so far in 2022, according to Crunchbase, a data provider. Those graduates who do choose tech are likelier to pick an established firm over a sexy startup with hazier prospects.

【9】Some graduates may instead opt for other high-tech sectors that seem less vulnerable to economic swings. Drugmakers at the forefront of the covid-19-vaccine rollout are finding particular favour. AstraZeneca and Pfizer, each of which has produced an effective jab, shot up in the rankings of Britain's most attractive employers last year. AstraZeneca doubled its intake of high-school and university graduates in 2021. The war in Ukraine, meanwhile, may boost the appeal of armsmakers—shunned by some millennials and Gen-xers as irredeemably unethical but now able to portray themselves as producers of the "arsenal of democracy".

【10】Graduates' sharpening focus on job security also boosts the appeal of the public sector, notes Dan Hawes, co-founder of graduate recruitment Bureau, a British firm. In Britain, applications for government jobs rose by nearly a third at the start of the pandemic. In March there were an estimated 67,000 more public-sector employees in the country than a year earlier. Around 1.4m Chinese vied for just over 31,000 government positions by sitting the notoriously tough national civil-service exam in November 2021, up by more than 40% compared with the previous year.

【11】If graduates keep gravitating towards safe government jobs, that will leave a smaller talent pool for private employers to fish in. Despite signs of a slowing economy, labour markets remain tight. Many older professionals quit their jobs during the pandemic. Others retired early.

【12】Britain's labour force has lost more than 250,000 people since covid-19 first struck. America has 3.3m fewer people working. The latest official figures there show 11.3m job openings but only 6m unemployed Americans. It will take at least four years for the American labour market to return to its pre-pandemic employment rates, according to the OECD, a club of mostly rich countries.

【13】How far will companies go to entice younger workers—and keep them happy? For the time being the short answer seems to be: quite far. To burnish its flexible-working credentials Citigroup, a bank, has opened a new hub in the

Spanish coastal city of Málaga, luring over 3,000 applicants for just 30 analyst roles. In addition to providing gourmet meals, round-the-clock massages and nap pods, Google recently hired Lizzo, a pop star, to perform for staff.

【14】The best thing firms can do to attract young talent is to cough up more money. According to Universum, some earlier Gen-z hobby horses such as an employer’s commitment to diversity and inclusion or corporate social responsibility have edged down the list of American graduates’ priorities. Competitive base salary and high future earnings have edged up. Banks such as JPMorgan Chase, Goldman Sachs and Citigroup, and management consultancies including McKinsey and bcg have bumped first-year analysts’ annual pay up to $100,000. Law firms have been raising their starting salaries. bp, a British energy giant, offers recent graduates sign-on bonuses of as much as £5,000 ($6,000) and discounts on cars. Money isn’t everything. But it’s something.

Questions：

1. Why do you think that the growth of world population is declining?
2. India will soon be the largest population country instead of China. How do you feel about this?
3. Do you think it is lucky or unfortunate be the most populated country? Why?
4. From case 3.4, we can see that in British “Graduates’ sharpening focus on job security also boosts the appeal of the public sector”. It seems just like what happens in China. So what do you care most about your future job, job security, mor money or something else?

问题：

（1）你觉得为什么全世界人口增长率都呈现下降趋势？

（2）印度将很快取代中国成为第一人口大国，对此你有何感想？

（3）作为人口最多的国家是幸运还是不幸，为什么？

（4）从案例 3.4，我看到在英国“毕业生对工作保障的高度关注也增强了公共部门的吸引力”，似乎中国的情况也是如此。你对于经济未来工作最关心的是什么？工作有保障。更高的工资还是其他？

一、案例中的思政元素

① 社会责任感和可持续发展理念：让学生理解人口增长对于人类社会可持续发展的重要性。虽然生育可能意味着一定的付出，但是要用于承担社会责任。

② 热爱祖国热爱人民：让学生理解人口红利对中国经济增长发挥的巨大作用，理解人口规模对国际话语权的重要性。相信我们几天的幸福生活是一代代劳动人民创造出来的。

③ 热爱劳动开拓创新：鼓励学生热爱劳动，积极工作。不一味追求安逸的生活，用于尝试勇于挑战，保持不断进取的动力。

二、采用的教学方法

（1）讲授法：教师讲授相关知识点。

（2）案例分析法：选择契合相关知识点的案例进行分析。

（3）小组讨论法：将学生课堂上分成小组对案例进行讨论，分别汇报讨论结果。

（4）问答法：在学生阅读相关案例材料后，请学生回答/抢答其中的经济学原理。

（5）翻转课堂：请学生自行组织对案例发表自己的观点和见解，并且以答辩的形式接受质询。

三、案例适用的范围

（包含案例适用的专业或课程、案例与专业课程思政的内在联系等）

案例名称	包含知识点	对应课程
3.1 Demography: Spinster nation	人口与增长	发展经济学
3.2 Demography : NIMBYs v babies	人口与财政政策	发展经济学 宏观经济学
3.3 Population forecasts: People watching	人口红利 贫困增长	发展经济学
3.4 Gen Z and work	薪酬与激励	管理学

Topic 4: Wage and Employment

4.1 In Praise of Cheap Labor[16]

Bad jobs at bad wages are better than no jobs at all.

By Paul Krugman

(1,669 words; posted Thursday, March 20; to be composted Thursday, March 27)

For many years a huge Manila garbage dump known as Smokey Mountain was a favorite media symbol of Third World poverty. Several thousand men, women, and children lived on that dump--enduring the stench, the flies, and the toxic waste in order to make a living combing the garbage for scrap metal and other recyclables. And they lived there voluntarily, because the $10 or so a squatter family could clear in a day was better than the alternatives.

The squatters are gone now, forcibly removed by Philippine police last year as a cosmetic move in advance of a Pacific Rim summit. But I found myself thinking about Smokey Mountain recently, after reading my latest batch of hate mail.

The occasion was an op-ed piece I had written for the New York Times, in which I had pointed out that while wages and working conditions in the new export industries of the Third World are appalling, they are a big improvement over the "previous, less visible rural poverty." I guess I should have expected that this comment would generate letters along the lines of, "Well, if you lose your comfortable position as an American professor you can always find another job--as long as you are 12 years old and willing to work for 40 cents an hour."

Such moral outrage is common among the opponents of globalization--of the transfer of technology and capital from high-wage to low-wage countries and the resulting growth of labor intensive Third World exports. These critics take it as a given that

[16] To get a taste of moral outrage against globalization, turn to Corporate Watch, a site dedicated to exposing the "greed" of transnational giants. Or, for a bizarre twist, check out Sweat Gear, a satirical online catalog that attacks sweatshops in Central America. Another argument against globalization--that it threatens democracy-- is made by Benjamin Barber in the Atlantic. The Clinton administration's word on the subject can be found in a speech by Labor Secretary Robert Reich to the International Labor Organization urging better compliance with core labor standards. For more on Paul Krugman, see a Newsweek profile that dubs him "The Great Debunker." And information on employment at McDonald's can be found on the Web site of Hamburger U, their worldwide management-training center. Paul Krugman is a professor of economics at MIT whose books include The Age of Diminished Expectations and Peddling Prosperity. Illustrations by Robert Neubecker.

anyone with a good word for this process is naive or corrupt and, in either case, a de facto agent of global capital in its oppression of workers here and abroad.

But matters are not that simple, and the moral lines are not that clear. In fact, let me make a counter-accusation: The lofty moral tone of the opponents of globalization is possible only because they have chosen not to think their position through. While fat-cat capitalists might benefit from globalization, the biggest beneficiaries are, yes, Third World workers.

After all, global poverty is not something recently invented for the benefit of multinational corporations. Let's turn the clock back to the Third World as it was only two decades ago (and still is, in many countries). In those days, although the rapid economic growth of a handful of small Asian nations had started to attract attention, developing countries like Indonesia or Bangladesh were still mainly what they had always been: exporters of raw materials, importers of manufactures. Inefficient manufacturing sectors served their domestic markets, sheltered behind import quotas, but generated few jobs. Meanwhile, population pressure pushed desperate peasants into cultivating ever more marginal land or seeking a livelihood in any way possible--such as homesteading on a mountain of garbage.

Given this lack of other opportunities, you could hire workers in Jakarta or Manila for a pittance. But in the mid-'70s, cheap labor was not enough to allow a developing country to compete in world markets for manufactured goods. The entrenched advantages of advanced nations--their infrastructure and technical know-how, the vastly larger size of their markets and their proximity to suppliers of key components, their political stability and the subtle-but-crucial social adaptations that are necessary to operate an efficient economy--seemed to outweigh even a tenfold or twentyfold disparity in wage rates.

And then something changed. Some combination of factors that we still don't fully understand--lower tariff barriers, improved telecommunications, cheaper air transport--reduced the disadvantages of producing in developing countries. (Other things being the same, it is still better to produce in the First World--stories of companies that moved production to Mexico or East Asia, then moved back after experiencing the disadvantages of the Third World environment, are common.) In a substantial number of industries, low wages allowed developing countries to break into world markets. And so countries that had previously made a living selling jute or coffee started producing shirts and sneakers instead.

Workers in those shirt and sneaker factories are, inevitably, paid very little and expected to endure terrible working conditions. I say "inevitably" because their employers are not in business for their (or their workers') health; they pay as little as possible, and that minimum is determined by the other opportunities available to workers. And these are still extremely poor countries, where living on a garbage heap is attractive compared with the alternatives.

And yet, wherever the new export industries have grown, there has been measurable improvement in the lives of ordinary people. Partly this is because a growing industry must offer a somewhat higher wage than workers could get elsewhere in order to get them to move. More importantly, however, the growth of manufacturing--and of the penumbra of other jobs that the new export sector creates--has a ripple effect throughout the economy. The pressure on the land becomes less intense, so rural wages rise; the pool of unemployed urban dwellers always anxious for work shrinks, so factories start to compete with each other for workers, and urban wages also begin to rise. Where the process has gone on long enough--say, in South Korea or Taiwan--average wages start to approach what an American teenager can earn at McDonald's. And eventually people are no longer eager to live on garbage dumps. (Smokey Mountain persisted because the Philippines, until recently, did not share in the export-led growth of its neighbors. Jobs that pay better than scavenging are still few and far between.)

The benefits of export-led economic growth to the mass of people in the newly industrializing economies are not a matter of conjecture. A country like Indonesia is still so poor that progress can be measured in terms of how much the average person gets to eat; since 1970, per capita intake has risen from less than 2,100 to more than 2,800 calories a day. A shocking one-third of young children are still malnourished--but in 1975, the fraction was more than half. Similar improvements can be seen throughout the Pacific Rim, and even in places like Bangladesh. These improvements have not taken place because well-meaning people in the West have done anything to help--foreign aid, never large, has lately shrunk to virtually nothing. Nor is it the result of the benign policies of national governments, which are as callous and corrupt as ever. It is the indirect and unintended result of the actions of soulless multinationals and rapacious local entrepreneurs, whose only concern was to take advantage of the profit opportunities offered by cheap labor. It is not an edifying spectacle; but no matter how base the motives of those involved, the result has been to move hundreds of millions of people from abject poverty to something still awful but nonetheless significantly better.

Why, then, the outrage of my correspondents? Why does the image of an Indonesian sewing sneakers for 60 cents an hour evoke so much more feeling than the image of another Indonesian earning the equivalent of 30 cents an hour trying to feed his family on a tiny plot of land- -or of a Filipino scavenging on a garbage heap? The main answer, I think, is a sort of fastidiousness. Unlike the starving subsistence farmer, the women and children in the sneaker factory are working at slave wages for our benefit-- and this makes us feel unclean. And so there are self-righteous demands for international labor standards: We should not, the opponents of globalization insist, be willing to buy those sneakers and shirts unless the people who make them receive decent wages and work under decent conditions.

This sounds only fair--but is it? Let's think through the consequences.

First of all, even if we could assure the workers in Third World export industries of higher wages and better working conditions, this would do nothing for the peasants, day laborers, scavengers, and so on who make up the bulk of these countries' populations. At best, forcing developing countries to adhere to our labor standards would create a privileged labor aristocracy, leaving the poor majority no better off.

And it might not even do that. The advantages of established First World industries are still formidable. The only reason developing countries have been able to compete with those industries is their ability to offer employers cheap labor. Deny them that ability, and you might well deny them the prospect of continuing industrial growth, even reverse the growth that has been achieved. And since export-oriented growth, for all its injustice, has been a huge boon for the workers in those nations, anything that curtails that growth is very much against their interests. A policy of good jobs in principle, but no jobs in practice, might assuage our consciences, but it is no favor to its alleged beneficiaries.

You may say that the wretched of the earth should not be forced to serve as hewers of wood, drawers of water, and sewers of sneakers for the affluent. But what is the alternative? Should they be helped with foreign aid? Maybe--although the historical record of regions like southern Italy suggests that such aid has a tendency to promote perpetual dependence. Anyway, there isn't the slightest prospect of significant aid materializing. Should their own governments provide more social justice? Of course--but they won't, or at least not because we tell them to. And as long as you have no realistic alternative to industrialization based on low wages, to oppose it means that you are willing to deny desperately poor people the best chance they have of progress for the sake of what amounts to an aesthetic standard--that is, the fact that you don't like the idea of workers being paid a pittance to supply rich Westerners with fashion items.

In short, my correspondents are not entitled to their self-righteousness. They have not thought the matter through. And when the hopes of hundreds of millions are at stake, thinking things through is not just good intellectual practice. It is a moral duty.

4.2 Earnings: Pay up[17]

Britain's minimum wage is catching up with pre-pandemic ambitions

【para1】ONE OF THE pre-budget leaks—designed to ensure positive press in advance of the big event—was that the minimum wage would rise from £8.91 ($12.23) to £9.50. This will lift the pre-tax pay of a full-time worker by £1,000 a year from next April, in keeping with the government's promise to deliver a high-wage economy. Yet if the politics of the move were obvious, the economics were less so.

【para2】The Low Pay Commission (LPC), a group of economists, employer representatives and trade unionists, has advised the government on the minimum wage since 1997. In recent years the government has given it increasingly ambitious goals. The latest, which it received in 2020, was to work out how to put an end to low pay altogether, defined as earning below two-thirds of the median hourly wage.

【para3】Previous changes have yielded results. The share of people on low pay fell sharply from around 23% in the 2000s and early 2010s, to just 15% in 2019. But it is uncertain whether further climbs will be as easy. Across the OECD, a club mostly of rich countries, only Chile, Colombia, Costa Rica and Turkey have minimum wages with a sharper bite.

【para4】Worries about the new target paled into insignificance when the covid-19 pandemic struck. The quality of the data available to the LPC plummeted, and the furlough scheme muddled average earnings figures by replacing 80% of people's pay. A year ago the commission's best guess suggested that staying on track to meet the target would have implied raising the minimum wage to £9.06. Given the extent of the uncertainty, they instead advised the government to apply an "emergency brake" and to raise it to just £8.91.

【para5】The impact the minimum wage had on the labour market during the pandemic is still unclear (when asked, businesses told the LPC they had no idea). A glance at the data suggests the commission was maybe too pessimistic

[17] The Economist-20211030期「Britain」 Earnings: Pay up

about employers' capacity to absorb higher wages, as its latest estimates show the number and share of workers paid the minimum wage have fallen slightly. But that same observation may also suggest they were correct to be cautious, since it could be that the lowest-paid workers were more likely to lose their jobs.

【para6】The LPC's latest estimate is that achieving the government's goal means the minimum wage will need to reach £10.70 in 2024. A number of factors support the case for a meaty rise now. Inflation is higher than usual; earnings growth is strong, particularly in sectors where pay is lowest; unemployment is relatively low in places with lots of minimum-wage workers; and businesses do not seem to be planning waves of redundancies.

【para7】Next year's rise is almost—but not quite—on course to hit the target. The slightly cautious increase the LPC and chancellor ultimately plumped for reflects concerns about other business pressures looming in April, including a rise in National Insurance contributions and the end of tenants' protection from eviction. Despite long-standing fears, higher minimum wages have yet to noticeably increase unemployment. But no one wants to reach the point at which they do.

【para1】口风泄露：政府预算部门透露英国最低收入将有所上涨，然此举政治意义大于经济层面

【para2】使命未达：此前，政府专门成立委员会就最低工资给予意见，旨在终结低薪问题

【para3】颇有成效：英国近些年最低收入群体占比缩小，但是进一步涨薪谈何容易

【para4】疫情冲击：疫情的忽然来袭干扰了原先的计划。

【para5】影响几何：最低工资对劳工市场的影响尚不明朗；最低收入群体受影响最大

【para6】涨薪依据：综合考量通胀、收入增加、失业率、企业表现等数据之后，LPC 提议不妨大幅涨薪

【para7】来年预期：综合权衡各种变数后，政府和 LPC 选择小幅上涨最低工资，稳步达标。

4.3 The economic recovery: The curious case of the disappearing worker[18]

What to do about a labour crunch

【para1】As rich countries loosen lockdowns, an economic puzzle is emerging. Businesses are voicing ever-louder concerns about labour shortages, even as millions of people remain out of work. In America a surge of spending is creating job openings, but few people seem willing to fill them. The number of vacancies, at over 8m, has never been so high.

【para2】Worker shortages are a growing problem elsewhere, too. British publicans, who opened their doors to indoor drinkers on May 17th, are searching for pint-pullers. In Australia vacancies are 40% above their pre-pandemic level. Europe has been slower to come out of its lockdown, but even there unfilled positions from Switzerland to Germany are higher than before.

【para3】Some see news of worker shortages as welcome. If human labour is still in demand, then perhaps predictions of job-killing robots were wrong. Company managers are also having to work harder to attract staff. McDonald's is boosting wages; England's pubs are ditching qualification requirements; other firms are paying people just to show up for an interview. Underlying pay growth is strong, at more than 3% in America. A good thing, you might say. After a year of lockdowns, who would begrudge workers a rise?

[18] The Economist-20210522期「Leaders」The economic recovery: The curious case of the disappearing worker

The Economist

【para4】That is to ignore the downsides of labour-market snarl-ups. A bidding war between employers could yet cause an inflationary spiral. And shortages ricochet around the economy. A builder that cannot find labourers will put up fewer new houses, in turn hitting decorators. Businesses that are still recovering from the crisis may face another financial blow.

【para5】High inflation and bankruptcies may never happen. But today's worker shortages are also an enormous waste of talent. Including those on furlough schemes, we estimate that 30m fewer people in the rich world are working than before the pandemic. For so many people to be idle comes at a huge cost, not only in lost wages but also in terms of their health and dignity.

【para6】To get labour markets working better, governments should consider three P's: payments, passports and patience. Take payments first. In America businesspeople, almost to a pinstripe, are convinced that the $300-a-week boost to unemployment insurance (UI) explains the shortages. However, pundits do not agree on whether stimulus handouts really lead people to shirk.

【para7】The evidence is hazy elsewhere, too. It might seem natural that British pot-washers would prefer to earn 80% of their salary on furlough than stand in a hot kitchen for 12 hours a day for 100% of it. However, Australia ditched its job-protection scheme in March, and shortages have worsened.

【para8】Given this uncertainty, the solution is not to slash welfare but to redesign it so as to encourage work. Arizona is reallocating some of the money used for UI, instead offering $2,000 payments to folk who move into a full-time job. The evidence on back-to-work bonuses from past recessions is encouraging.

【para9】Next is passports, which relates to immigration. Temporary border controls to stop the virus make sense, but they should not last beyond the pandemic. In New Zealand annual net migration has fallen from 92,000 to 7,000. Australia is losing migrants. Britain is also reckoning with Brexit-related immigration changes. That is why in many countries industries, such as hospitality, that rely on foreigners face the most acute shortages. Politicians must be clear that closed borders will come with a painful price tag—or change tack.

【para10】The last requirement is patience. Many people are avoiding work because of fear of contracting covid-19. These concerns should fade as more of them are vaccinated. Some industries are seeing jobs wither, even as parts of the labour market, from delivery drivers to remote yoga tutors, boom. Faced with change on such a scale, people may take longer to find new careers. A misfiring jobs market is in no one’s interest. Time and the right policies will clear the blockages.

【para1】富国疫情封锁限制放松，出现失业率上升和用工荒并存的两难局面

【para2】全球均出现劳动力短缺现象（举例英国、澳大利亚和欧洲）

【para3】用工荒体现可喜一面：机器还未完全取代人类；各公司纷纷涨薪

【para4】但用工荒扰乱劳动力市场不容忽视 ：企业大打工资战，会导致恶性通胀；工人短缺影响经济，企业雪上加霜

【para5】失业率高却招工难，意味着人才浪费；人们无所事事代价高（丧失收入，损害个人健康和尊严）

【para6-10】政府应做到 3 个 P（payments, passports, patience），保证劳动力市场的正常运转

【para6】Payments ：商人认为失业补助让人们消极怠工

【para7】但证据不足且有反例（人们怠工是人之常情；澳大利亚停止就业保障计划，用工荒加剧）

【para8】政府应重新制定福利政策，鼓励就业（例举美国亚利桑那州再分配失业保险资金）。

【para9】Passports ：移民是劳动力主要来源之一，但疫情期间边境管制，移民大大减少，政府应考虑改变移民政策（取消边境管制）

【para10】Patience ：疫情尚在，人们担心感染病毒不愿工作；疫情为产业带来巨变，人们需要时间适应并找新工作。时间和正确的政策才能“治愈一切”。

4.4 Worker shortages: Paying a pittance is passé[19]

Why McDonald's is supersizing its wages

【Para 1】FOR YEARS McDonald's has been a prime target of the battles of labour-rights campaigners over miserly pay. The day before its annual general meeting on May 20th Fight for $15, an advocacy group, organised a strike of McDonald's workers in 15 cities across America. The strike went ahead despite the firm's vow a week earlier to raise wages. The company said that its 36,500 in-house employees will get a rise of 10% on average, that entry-level wages for new hires would go from $11 to $17 an hour and that average wages for all staff paid by the hour would reach $15 by 2024. It added that it wants to hire 10,000 people for the 650 restaurants it owns outright over the next three months.

【Para 2】McDonald's followed Chipotle and Olive Garden, two other restaurant chains that recently announced wage increases while they try to recruit staff as America reopens for business. The fast-food giant has room to reinvest in labour, says Sara Senatore at Bernstein, a broker. It reported growth of same-store sales in America of 14% in the first quarter, year on year, thanks to a boom in online orders. Because people spent twice as much when they buy from home, and 20% more ordering via mobile devices, the company's operating margin hit 44.5%, the highest in years.

[19] The Economist-20210522 期「Business」 Worker shortages: Paying a pittance is passé

【Para 3】McDonald's is not raising burger prices just yet to offset the extra costs. The wage hike will only marginally affect its profits, much of which come from franchise fees from the 14,000 restaurants that the firm does not operate. Fight for $15 says workers at all McDonald's-branded restaurants deserve higher pay. But franchisers do not have much say in the labour practices of franchisees. All they can do is encourage better wages by subsidising employee training and other perks, which frees up money for franchise operators. McDonald's has not said it would do so.

【Para 4】Restaurants big and small are struggling to attract workers. According to the Brooklyn Chamber of Commerce entry-level line cooks at the New York borough's eateries who were paid $15 an hour (the minimum wage in the city) before the pandemic are now offered up to $25 an hour. Restaurateurs are stretching to offer health-care benefits even to part-timers. Many promise sign-on bonuses. Brooklyn being the wokest part of woke New York, some go so far as to throw in a commitment to social justice and equity in staffing (by, for instance, promising to hire reformed juvenile offenders).

【Para 5】Most economists expect the labour shortage to ease as potential workers' worries over infection in the workplace abate and children return to school. Even so, before covid-19 wages were rising and businesses struggled to find workers, says Mark Zandi, chief economist at Moody's Analytics. As life returns to normal-ish, employers will need to come up with ways to attract staff. Treating interviewees to a free Crispy Chicken-sandwich combo, as McDonald's is doing in Florida, won't cut the mustard for long.■

【para1】事件回顾：5 月 20 日，麦当劳再度因为薪酬问题引起罢工抗议活动，麦当劳表态：将加工资并招新

【para2】加薪是大势所趋：同行巨头已经加薪；线上订单激增，麦当劳利润见涨；

【para3】加薪对麦当劳公司和加盟店的影响：对总公司利润冲击不大，但是加盟店稍显被动

【para4】行业大趋势：用工荒招工难，不少餐馆老板加薪求才，不惜聘用边缘人士

【para5】专家评价：随着疫情冲击退却，招工问题将获缓解，加薪实在避无可避，企业招人方面需下本钱。

4.5 ‘We are worse off ’— Afghan society pays high price for loss of female workers[20]

【1】One morning last summer, Nasira arrived for work at the government building in Kabul where she was employed as a manager to find men from the Taliban had occupied her office. “I wasn’t allowed to enter,” the 32-year-old says. “When I inquired why, I was told to wait for a government announcement, which never came.” This was shortly after the Taliban swept to power and seized Kabul, Afghanistan’s capital , on 15 August . That was the last day that Nasira and thousands of women like her were able to go to work. Though the Taliban’s acting prime minister, Mullah Mohammad Hassan Akhund , claimed women would be allowed to continue working under sharia law , female government employees in Kabul were told to stay home , and only women whose jobs could not be done by men were allowed to work. Nasira is technically still employed and receives a much reduced salary. “They tell me : ‘ We are paying you, what else do you need?’ But money is not my priority,” she says. “I was responsible for our department’s services to women citizens. I want to serve my people, especially the women of my country, who are not receiving services they need because there are no women officials to help them.”

【2】According to Reporters Without Borders, only 100 of Kabul’s 700 female journalists were still working by the end of 2021. In 2019, 36% of teachers in the country were women, according World Bank data, but the Taliban’s ban in March on education for girls forced many female educators out of work. Sima Bahous, the UN Women executive director, said this month :“Current restrictions on women’s employment have been estimated to result in an immediate economic loss of up to $1bn [£820m] – or up to 5% of Afghanistan’s GDP .” She added: “There is almost universal poverty in the country.”

【3】The latest decree issued by the ministry for the propagation of virtue requires “all respectable Afghan women to wear a hijab” – and identifies

[20] 6.5 经济学人外刊精读｜‘我们每况愈下’，经济学人考研精读 2022-06-05 09:21 发表于山东

the chador (the blue Afghan burqa) as the “best hijab”– which will have a huge impact on women in public roles. The order also criminalises women’s clothes and says female government employees who violate the dresscode will be fired.

【4】“As per the Afghan Women’s Chamber of Commerce, we had over 3,500 small and medium business owners who were women, the majority of whom are now closed because they couldn’t
survive,” Nehan says. “Because how do you expect women to work or run a business under a chador ?”A gynaecologist from Herat, who wishes to be identified only as Dr Maryam, says: “ Even before this decree, they made hijab mandatory for women doctors, and require female surgeons to wear long sleeves, and a long scarf, even during surgery. It affects the way they work and is not safe.” Armed Taliban officials often force themselves into the hospital, especially at night, to “monitor ”female doctors and nurses.

【5】According to an article from the BMJ, women make up nearly half of Afghanistan’s community health worker programme. “One hospital in Kabul reported that segregation of men and women, for staff as well as patients, had been requested already,” the BMJ said. Maryam says: “Although these restrictions are not new – I recall working under the Taliban regime the last time they were in power – they are new to this generation, and will discourage younger women from joining professions under the Taliban’s hateful gaze .”

【6】Afghan women made significant inroads into various sectors after the fall of the Taliban in 2001. World Bank data shows women made up nearly 22% of the Afghan workforce and numbers were growing before the Taliban’s return. But the International Labour Organization in January reported Afghan women’s employment levels fell 16% in the third quarter of 2021, compared with 6% for men. Restricting women from economic and public activities would have a dire impact on the economy, a UN report warned last December. Nasira’s supervisor, Abdul, said: “Not only has our workload increased, we are unable to provide adequate technical services to Afghan women, who were way more comfortable approaching our female staff … We are worse off without our female colleagues.”

4.6 British rail strike[21]

No hope of avoiding strike, says Network rail, as it warns passengers not to travel

【1】Network rail said there was "no real hope" of avoiding the biggest rail strike in 30 years next week, as it told passengers to only travel if necessary. The walkouts are on 21, 23 and 25 June and a special schedule will be in operation from 20 to 26 June. The full timetable will be published tomorrow but several operators, including Southern, Northern and transport for Wales, have already told passengers to avoid travelling on strike days. Network rail confirmed that large parts of the country would have no services at all on strike days, including Penzance in Cornwall, Bournemouth in Dorset, all of Wales west or north of Cardiff , and no trains running north from Glasgow or Edinburgh. With back up staff for signalling, about 20% of trains will run on main lines and urban areas on the strike days , while services will start later in the morning, with about 60% of the schedule on the subsequent days.

【2】 Network rail's chief executive, Andrew Haines , described the strike by 40,000 RMT workers as a "high stakes gamble" by unions, and said it would cost the industry £150m and make a pay increase harder. Haines said proposals to modernise, increase safety and productivity were meeting "intransigence even when terms and conditions are patently anachronistic". He said talks would continue but added: "We haven't yet seen movement that gives us real hope."

【3】 The RMT union called for direct talks with the government, saying it was "clear that the Treasury is calling the shots". Mick Lynch, the RMT general secretary, wrote to the transport secretary, Grant Shapps, to seek an urgent meeting, saying: " In effect, in recent weeks the union has been negotiating with the government but the government have not been in the room. "The last meeting between unions and the government was with the

rail minister, Wendy Morton, in March. Labour accused the government of a "dereliction of duty" for failing to hold talks to resolve the strike. The

21 7.3 经济学人外刊精读｜英国铁路罢工,经济学人考研英语精读 2022-07-03 07:00 发表于山东

shadow transport secretary, Louise Haigh, said it was “frankly extraordinary” and wrote to Shapps calling on him to convene urgent talks.

【4】In a Commons debate yesterday, Shapps said it was a “red herring”, adding: “These negotiations are a matter between the employer and the union.” He said the strikes were “entirely pointless, counterproductive” and the industry needed to be modernised. He told MPs: “Our railway needs a new direction. It has lost 20% of its passengers and 20% of its revenue too. “We protected the railway with £16bn during the pandemic … not a single railway worker lost their jobs or were furloughed. This level of subsidy cannot continue forever.” The former Labour leader Jeremy Corbyn responded: “The rail companies were preserved and supported and did very well, as did many others in the private sector. Why is he now punishing those people that kept the railway system working, that do all the difficult jobs on the railway, with job losses, inadequate pay and a loss of morale?”Shapps said he paid tribute to those people – but a train driver had a median salary of £59,000, and the median within the rail sector was £44,000. He added that rail workers had seen wages rise by 39% over the last 10 years compared with 7% for police.

【5】In response, Haigh said that no one wanted strikes, but they were not inevitable, adding : “The bad news is that it require ministers to step up, to show leadership, and get employers and unions round the table.” The number of passenger services on the strike days is expected to be limited to about 4,500 compared with 20,000 normally. The last services between London and Scotland will leave by 2pm, while most intercity trains in England will have their final departure in mid-afternoon.

【6】Steve Montgomery, who chairs the rail Delivery Group, representing train operators, said: “ Our plan is to keep as many services running as possible but significant disruption will be inevitable and some parts of the network will not have a service, so passengers should plan their journeys carefully and check train times.”

Questions：

1. In case 4.1, if “Workers in those shirt and sneaker factories are, inevitably, paid very little and expected to endure terrible working conditions,” then why did Paul Krugman say “Bad jobs at bad wages are better than no jobs at all”?

2. From case 4.3 and 4.4, why do you think that there is a worker shortage in US and Australia? If the increased wage will cause inflation, do you think?

3. Do you think that immigration is a good labour source for a country?Why？

4. From case 4.4 and 4.6, why there are always many strikes in western countries? does strikes really help to improve the welfare of workers? Is there any alternatives?

5. From case 4.5, whom do you think is harmed by gender bias?

问题：

（1）在案例 4.1 中，如果“那些衬衫和运动鞋厂的工人不可避免地，工资很少，而且需要忍受恶劣的工作条件”，那么为什么保罗*克鲁格曼说“低工资的坏工作总比没有工作好”？

（2）从案例 4.3 和 4.4 中，你认为为什么美国和澳大利亚出现工人短缺？你认为涨工资会引起通胀吗？

（3）你认为外来移民能够作为一国劳动力的供给来源吗，为什么？

（4）从案例 4.4 和 4.6 来看，为什么西方国家经常罢工？罢工增加了工人的福利吗？如果不罢工，还有其他选择（要求增加福利）吗？

（5）从案例 4.4 和 4.6 来看，性别歧视伤害了谁？

一、案例中的思政元素

① 爱国主义与道路自信：通过对经济学家理论观点的分析让学生理解中国改革开放和加入 WTO 取得的巨大成就，赞赏中国特色社会主义道路的正确性，更加热爱祖国，加强民族自豪感。

② 热爱劳动：通过西方经济增长与失业的困境，深刻理解“劳动是价值的源泉”。

③ 平等开放包容：通过性别歧视的案例让学生明白，平等对待他人，歧视不仅伤害别人，也伤害自己。

二、采用的教学方法

（1）讲授法：教师讲授相关知识点。

（2）案例分析法：选择契合相关知识点的案例进行分析。

（3）小组讨论法：将学生课堂上分成小组对案例进行讨论，分别汇报讨论结果。

（4）问答法：在学生阅读相关案例材料后，请学生回答/抢答其中的经济学原理。

（5）翻转课堂：请学生自行组织对案例发表自己的观点和见解，并且以答辩的形式接受质询。

三、案例适用的范围

（包含案例适用的专业或课程、案例与专业课程思政的内在联系等）

案例名称	包含知识点	对应课程
4.1 In Praise of Cheap Labor	比较优势理论	国际经济学 国际贸易
4.2 Earnings: Pay up	最低工资理论 预期与通胀	微观经济学 宏观经济学
4.3 The economic recovery: The curious case of the disappearing worker	要素供给理论	微观经济学
4.4 Worker shortages: Paying a pittance is passé	市场失衡	微观经济学
4.5 ‘We are worse off ’— Afghan society pays high price for loss of female workers	要素市场一般均衡理论	微观经济学
4.6 British rail strike	选举政治	政治经济学

Topic 5: FDI and Tree Trade

5.1 Supply chains: Marginal revolution[22]

Japanese firms try to reduce their reliance on China. But only a bit

【para1】AT THE END OF the month the production line of a Toshiba factory in Dalian will come to a halt, 30 years after the Japanese electronics giant opened it in the north-eastern Chinese city. Once a totemic example of global supply chains expanding into China, the closure exemplifies how these are being reconfigured. The short answer is: delicately and at the margin.

【para2】Toshiba's plant in Dalian has spanned a sea change in Asian business patterns. When it opened, Japan was the undisputed linchpin of the region's trade and manufacturing networks. By 2019 Japan's $390bn in intermediate-goods trade with big Asian economies was vying for runner-up status with South Korea. China, with $935bn-worth, was way ahead.

【para3】Hourly wages commanded by Chinese workers have risen tenfold in nominal terms this century, to $6.20. That is still a quarter of Japanese rates but twice the pay of Thai workers, who were at parity with Chinese ones as recently as 2008. If that were not enough, geopolitical tensions are souring relations.

【para4】These trends help explain why China's share of Japan's new outbound foreign direct investment has steadily declined since 2012. The number of manufacturing affiliates that Japanese companies have in China stopped growing almost a decade ago, while new affiliates elsewhere in Asia—notably India, Indonesia, Thailand and Vietnam—have continued to mushroom. Toshiba will offset some of the forgone capacity with expansion in some of its 50 factories back home and also in Vietnam, one of its 30 overseas facilities. It is tapping the Japanese government's year-old subsidy scheme to encourage reshoring and diversification of supply chains (and whose unspoken aim is to reduce reliance on China).

【para5】Many other Japanese firms find themselves in a similar situation. This month oki Electric Industry, a smaller Japanese electronics-maker, announced that its factory in Shenzhen, set up 20 years ago, would stop making printers. That capacity would move to existing factories in Thailand and Japan. Still,

[22] The Economist-20210918期「Business」Supply chains: Marginal revolution

most are not rushing to exit China altogether. A survey last year for the Japan External Trade Organisation, a government body, found that 8% of Japanese companies said they were planning to reduce or eliminate their Chinese presence, less than the average for Japanese firms in other countries. Many global companies, from Hasbro (an American toymaker) to Samsung (a South Korean technology giant) are making a similar calculation. Toshiba itself will maintain a second, part-owned factory in Dalian.

【para6】Even the most tub-thumpingly patriotic executive would hesitate to sever ties with the world's second-biggest economy. This would disrupt profitable relationships with Chinese suppliers and manufacturing know-how. Such things take years to forge. But at the margin, where companies find themselves pressed by the imperatives to cut costs and guarantee stable future supplies, China no longer looks like the place to be

【para1】引入话题 ： 日本东芝大连关厂，日企重整供应链

【para2】今不如昔 ： 亚洲制造业冠军从日本易手中国

【para3】撤厂原因 ： ①劳动力成本增加 ②地缘政治博弈

【para4】另谋出路 ： 供应链多元化，减少中国依赖，日本政府补助日企将供应链分散至日本及东南亚

【para5】离华之潮 ： 众多外企工厂“去中国化”，但非一时三刻之事

【para6】剪不断理还乱 ： 与中国切割非一朝一夕之功夫，但中国魅力大减已是不争事实。

5.2 Rice Rrestraint[23]

Asia is not feeling the same price pressures as the West—for now

【1】Inflation has shot to multi-decade highs in much of the rich world during the past year, with the effect of supply constraints, covid restrictions and a burgeoning economic recovery all helping to drive consumer prices higher. In Asia, however, pressure on prices is much weaker. Why?

【2】In much of the region—in China, Hong Kong, India, Indonesia, the Philippines and Vietnam—inflation is in fact below average levels over the decade before the pandemic, notes Abdul Abiad, director of macroeconomic research at the Asian Development Bank. Where it is higher than the average for 2010-2019—in Malaysia, Singapore, South Korea, Taiwan and Thailand—it is by around two percentage points or less.

【3】The divergence between East and West is the result of several factors. Some of the disparity with the booming prices seen in North America and Europe, as well as many non-Asian emerging markets, comes down to food. Whereas prices of food globally have surged, Mr Abiad notes that the effect has been uneven. Maize and wheat prices rose by 18% and 20% respectively in the 12 months to the end of January. In contrast, the price of rice fell by around a fifth in the same period. In a country like the Philippines, rice makes up a quarter of the food share of the consumer-price index, and one-tenth of the entire index. In China in particular, average wholesale pork prices dropped by more than half in the 12 months to January, as the African swine fever epidemic that has raged through the country since 2018 began to abate.

【4】The impact of food prices is most obvious in developing economies, but there are reasons why Asia's richer countries have recorded lower inflationary pressure too. For one, supply-chain bottlenecks are not as severe as they are in the West. The cost of shipping a 40-foot container from Shanghai to Rotterdam has risen by around 60% in the past year, to $13,686, according to Drewry, a supply-chain consultancy. In contrast, the

[23] 3.1 经济学人外刊精读 |大米限制

price for the return journey is little more than a tenth of that, at $1,445, a figure which has dropped by 1% in the past year. Surveys of purchasing managers suggest that supplier delays are still worsening in most of Europe and America, but falling in China, India, Indonesia, Thailand and Vietnam.

【5】The different ways in which countries have emerged from the pandemic matter too. Researchers at Capital Economics, another consultancy, note that Asia's "reopening" inflation in consumer services remains low. The rise in prices for recreation and cultural services in Indonesia, Malaysia, the Philippines, Singapore, South Korea and Taiwan is half or less of the American year-on-year rate of around 4%. The difference may be caused by more gradual loosening of restrictions, as well as a dearth of international tourists.

【6】Not all forms of inflationary pressure can be avoided. Energy prices are more influenced by global trends than those for most other goods and services. Rising energy costs have been the biggest contributor to the inflation surge in Asia, making up as much as a third of the total increase recently, according to analysts at Goldman Sachs, a bank.

【7】Many economies in the region may face higher interest rates despite their milder inflation. Potential interest-rate increases from the Federal Reserve this year raise the threat of a stronger dollar, which would bring imported inflation to Asia. monetary policymakers in Indonesia, Singapore and South Korea have already announced small steps to tighten monetary policy. They are unlikely to be the last.

5.3 African economies: Long walk to free trade[24]

African countries need to put more effort into tearing down trade barriers

【1】In 1963, AS decolonisation swept through Africa, politicians heady with pan-African ideals called for a common continental market. They saw it as a way to transcend colonial economic models based upon extracting and exporting natural resources. Sadly there has been all too little progress since. intra-African trade remains small compared with the continent's external trade. Primary commodities account for more than 70% of Africa's exports. Just 18% of exports by African countries are to others on the continent—a lower share than equivalent figures for Asia (58%) and Europe (68%).

【2】The African continental Free trade Area (AfCFTA) is meant to help change this. This ambitious pact has been ratified by 41 of Africa's 55 countries. Making it easier for them to trade with one another should boost manufacturing, incomes and growth. The World Bank estimates that, if implemented, by 2035 the AfCFTA would enable an additional 30m people to escape extreme poverty, increase intra-African exports by 81% and boost wages by 10%. Although the AfCFTA has in theory been operational since the beginning of this year, in practice no trade has happened under its terms because of continued political wrangling. Africa's leaders risk squandering the promise of freer trade.

【3】Some of the potential benefits of the AfCFTA come from lower tariffs. To realise these, the continent's trade negotiators still have work to do in agreeing on rules of origin, the bedrock of any trade area. They need to get their skates on.

【4】The biggest prize, however, will come not from lower tariffs but from lower "non-tariff barriers"—by pulling down more of the other obstacles that make it hard for, say, a Ugandan farmer to export chickens to Kenya or for a Beninese weaver to sell fabric to Nigeria. These barriers include corruption, shoddy infrastructure, red tape at border crossings, sloth-like customs bureaucracies and expensive logistics. Because of them, transporting goods within Africa can be three to four times as costly as in other parts of the world. In 2017 it took an average of 251 hours to ensure paperwork was in order when

[24] 4.18 经济学人外刊精读 | 自由贸易长路漫漫

importing goods into sub-Saharan Africa, versus nine hours in rich OECD countries.

【5】Many of these problems can be fixed. Potholes could be filled; ports expanded. Paperwork could be digitised and sent in advance of time. More countries could build one-stop border posts, instead of making lorry drivers queue separately for migration, road taxes, vehicle inspection and customs clearance. In east Africa such streamlining has cut crossing times from 12 hours to four. Not requiring covid-19 tests would let lorries spend more time ferrying and less time tarrying. Countries should make it easier to establish logistics startups, such as firms that cut costs by matching loads with empty vehicles. Cheaper transport means cheaper goods in shops.

【6】Yet all this is easier said than done. One obstacle is that vested interests, such as trucking cartels and customs bureaucracies, profit from inefficiency. Ghana has shown that these can be weakened. Another problem is that for all their homilies about free trade, many African politicians are protectionists at heart. No country seems to want to move first in ongoing talks about implementing the free-trade deal. Even though they stand to benefit the most, the largest economies in each region—Egypt, Kenya, Nigeria and South Africa—are proving pitifully slow to embrace the trade pact.

【7】A third political challenge relates to outsiders, including America, China and the European Union. though they say they want to support the AfCFTA, they often undermine it by signing bilateral deals which then complicate Africa's efforts to harmonise its own trade rules.

【8】Each of these problems requires the sort of leadership that has so far been in scant supply. But if politicians seize the opportunity, the AfCFTA can help the continent climb out of the economic slump it has been pushed into by the pandemic and the war in Ukraine. It would also send a message to the rest of the world. At a time when protectionist noises are growing louder, Africa has a chance to be an inspiring outlier.

5.4 The China tariffs have failed economically, politically and legally[25]

BY MARC L. BUSCH AND DANIEL TREFLER, OPINION CONTRIBUTORS - 10/10/22 1:00 PM ET

THE VIEWS EXPRESSED BY CONTRIBUTORS ARE THEIR OWN AND NOT THE VIEW OF THE HILL

The "China tariffs" are under review. The U.S. trade representative (USTR) is looking into whether President Trump's Section 301 tariffs, which remain in place under President Biden, are "effective" or not. No need to wait for the study. The answer has long been clear: No.

By every measure, the tariffs have done serious harm to the U.S. economy. The full price of the tariffs has been paid by American wholesalers, retailers and consumers. Trump touted the idea that the tariffs would have a "zero pass-through:" U.S. prices would rise, Chinese prices would fall, but neither by the full amount of the tariffs. This didn't happen. Why?

The evidence suggests that China diverted its exports to third markets, and thus didn't have to change its prices. In fact, China's exports to the world did not decline, and commanded the same price after the tariffs as they did before.

U.S. retail prices on affected goods didn't change either. American wholesalers and retailers ate the full cost of the tariffs. U.S. export competitiveness also took a beating, given the higher costs of imported inputs.

The biggest canard is that the tariffs boosted U.S. manufacturing employment. They didn't. The evidence shows that in industries most exposed to the tariffs *and* Chinese retaliation, American manufacturing jobs declined by over 2 percent.Finally, there's the myth that the revenue generated from the tariffs outweighed their costs. Nonsense. By themselves, the 2018 tariffs came at the

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25 https://thehill.com/opinion/international/3681207-the-china-tariffs-have-failed-economically-politically-and-legally/

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expense of roughly 0.05 percent of gross domestic product (GDP). Throw in the 2019 tariffs, and the economic damage soars to around 0.2 percent of GDP.

Confronted with all this evidence, proponents of the China tariffs like to play one last card: namely, that Section 301 brought Beijing to the bargaining table. This, too, is absurd. The purchase agreements built into Phase 1 of Trump's US-China deal were embarrassing, and didn't come close to making US agricultural exporters "whole" after Trump pulled out of the Trans-Pacific Partnership (TPP). There was no Phase 2, and even aspirations for it paled in comparison to what the TPP promised.

Adding insult to injury, the U.S. was forced to defend the tariffs at the World Trade Organization (WTO). This was a no-win situation. The U.S. trade representative ended up arguing an implausible (albeit creative) affirmative defense about "public morals." The argument was that Chinese intransigence was seen by Americans as morally repugnant, hence the morals argument. It didn't work.

The China tariffs have failed economically, politically and legally. The evidence is clear. The mystery is how anyone expected otherwise. We get that "leverage" is in the eye of the beholder, but there was no way the China tariffs were going to overturn economic theory.

We'll redouble our efforts in the classroom. Congress should claw back its tariff authority to rein in Section 301.

5.5 How to call Trump's bluff on tariffs without going soft on China[26]

BY JEFF MOON, OPINION CONTRIBUTOR - 04/27/22 12:00 PM ET
THE VIEWS EXPRESSED BY CONTRIBUTORS ARE THEIR OWN AND NOT THE VIEW OF THE HILL

The Biden administration is wrestling with how to manage the legacy of President Trump's China tariffs without appearing "soft" on China in the upcoming congressional midterm elections. Here's a recipe for addressing concerns of most stakeholders and surviving a tough election season ahead.

First, Trump imposed tariffs on $370 billion of Chinese imports. Biden should announce that he will retain and renew tariffs on all those goods pursuant to Section 301 of the Trade Act of 1974. Maintaining Trump's tariff structure would help Biden rebut midterm campaign claims of "softness" on China.

Second, Biden should adjust the applicable Section 301 tariff percentages – as Trump did during the trade war – which currently range between 7.5 percent and 25 percent. Adjustments upward should target Chinese industrial policy abuses identified during the Section 301 investigation and retaliate for China's failure to meet its Phase 1 trade deal obligations. Adjustments downward may help reduce U.S. price inflation and should be aimed at reducing tariffs on products that benefit less from Chinese industrial policies.

Tariff increases get "tough" on China and appeal to trade hawks while decreases will introduce a worker-centric approach addressing consumer and business community complaints about the destructive impact of the Trump tariffs.

The overall drag that the Trump tariffs impose on the U.S. economy will decrease if more tariffs are adjusted downward than upward. Consumer products and other goods not benefitting from Chinese industrial policies might theoretically remain in place but drop to as low as 1 percent. But tariffs for

[26] https://thehill.com/opinion/international/3467423-how-to-call-trumps-bluff-on-tariffs-without-going-soft-on-china/
Jeff Moon is a China trade and government relations consultant who served previously as assistant U.S. trade representative for China affairs.

products benefiting from the Chinese government subsidies, intellectual property rights (IPR) theft, forced technology transfer and other industrial policies, such as the Made in China 2025 plan, should increase significantly.

Third, Biden must put an end to endless internal strategizing and announce a China trade policy that highlights the positive aspects identified above. After more than a year in office, even Biden's supporters are not sure where he stands on China trade. The administration desperately needs to fill this policy void with a platform that Democrats can advocate and defend. Pending congressional legislation could change the playing field in some respects, of course, but prospects for passage are uncertain, and the midterms are just months away.

The new China policy should, in the interest of prioritizing immediate action, resolve various discrete trade issues that have been debated at length. For example, the Biden administration should declare that Trump's Section 301 case provides legal authority to take actions described above and debate over a possible new Section 301 investigation should stop.

Similarly, tariff exclusion debates should end because tariff percentage reductions can achieve the same purpose with immediate effect. Legal challenges to Biden's policies are inevitable, but the experience of the Trump years suggests that cases will take years to decide and are thus irrelevant for purposes of the 2022 midterms — and perhaps even the next presidential election.

Biden faces a choice between defining a carefully crafted China trade policy and letting the Republicans' "soft on China" charge define him. He and his party must take the initiative by boldly accommodating as many stakeholders as possible and winning by capturing the support of middle-of-the-roaders. It will not be easy to punish Chinese economic aggression, reduce the burden of the Trump tariffs on the U.S. economy and re-take the initiative in the U.S. political arena on China trade issues. But it can be done.

Questions：

1. In case 5.1, “where companies find themselves pressed by the imperatives to cut costs and guarantee stable future supplies, China no longer looks like the place to be”. Do you think that China will still be a place with low costs and stable supplies in the future, why or why not?

2. From case 5.4 and 5.5, what do you think is the purpose of “the China tariff”? and why does it fail?

3. In case 5.3, “African countries need to put more effort into tearing down trade barriers”, but US have imposed heavy tariff against China and few western countries have criticized it publicly. what do you think of that?

4. In case 5.2, “Asia is not feeling the same price pressures as the West—for now”, what do you think is the reason that Asia preforms differently from western countries in inflation? Theoretically，should Asia feel the same price pressures as the West?

问题：

（1）在案例 5.1 中，“企业（跨国公司）受到削减成本和保证未来供应稳定的压力，中国看起来不再是未来的投资选择地点”，你认为中国未来还能够保持低成本和稳定供给吗？为什么能或者为什么不能？

（2）从案例 5.4 和 5.5 中，你认为“中国关税”的目的是什么？它失败了吗？

（3）案例 5.3 中“非洲国家需要付出更多的努力来消除贸易壁垒”，但是美国对中国加征了高额关税，西方国家几乎没有公开批评过这一行为，对此你怎么看？

（4）案例 5.2 中“亚洲目前还没有感受到像西方那样的价格压力”，你认为为什么东西方国家在通胀问题上表现的截然不同？理论上讲，亚洲国家应该感受到像西方国家那样的价格压力吗？

一、案例中的思政元素

① 爱国主义与四个自信：让学生认识到美国通过加征关税打压中国经济的行为没有得逞，中国特色社会主义道路正确，理论可靠，制度完善，文化优秀，培养学生的民族自信心和自豪感。

② 开放包容与合作共赢：认识到国际贸易和国际投资是互利互惠的行为，树立“人类命运共同体”意识。

③ 辩证思维与立场坚定 :通过案例对比让学生明白西方媒体历来“双标”的做法，坚定学生的政治立场。

二、采用的教学方法

（1）讲授法：教师讲授相关知识点。

（2）案例分析法：选择契合相关知识点的案例进行分析。

（3）小组讨论法：将学生课堂上分成小组对案例进行讨论，分别汇报讨论结果。

（4）问答法：在学生阅读相关案例材料后，请学生回答/抢答其中的经济学原理。

（5）翻转课堂：请学生自行组织对案例发表自己的观点和见解，并且以答辩的形式接受质询。

三、案例适用的范围

（包含案例适用的专业或课程、案例与专业课程思政的内在联系等）

案例名称	包含知识点	对应课程
5.1 Supply chains: Marginal revolution	区位理论	国际投资
5.2 Rice Restraint	开放经济下的价格传到	国际经济学
5.3 African economies: Long walk to free trade	贸易自由化	国际经济学 国际贸易
5.4 The China tariffs have failed economically, politically and legally	关税与贸易壁垒	国际经济学 国际贸易
5.5 How to call Trump’s bluff on tariffs without going soft on China	关税与贸易壁垒	国际经济学 国际贸易

Topic 6: Education

6.1 Preschool education: Wondering what's best for the kids[27]

A new study finds that preschool can be detrimental to children. Really?

【para1】FREE, UNIVERSAL preschool for three- and four-year-olds is a key component of the Democrats' agenda. Proponents say pre-kindergarten, or pre-K, education can be transformative for children, particularly those from disadvantaged backgrounds. A new study seems to contradict this. It finds that children who attended a pre-K programme in Tennessee actually scored worse on a range of education and behavioural measures. Yet this might reflect general improvements in early education rather than the impact of one programme.

【para2】Studies from the 1960s and 70s suggested that pre-K might be a silver bullet for improving the outcomes of poor children. In one striking example, those enrolled in the Perry Preschool Project, which targeted African-American children from low-income families, were by the age of five more than twice as likely to have an IQ above 90. As adults, they committed fewer crimes and earned more money. For every dollar spent, the programme generated nearly $13 in economic returns.

【para3】More recent results are far more nuanced (see chart). A meta-analysis of 22 experiments conducted between 1960 and 2016 shows that children who were enrolled in preschool were less likely to need special-education services or repeat years and graduated from high school at higher rates. But the improvements were small. One study published in 2021 of programmes in Boston found that attending preschool did not affect test scores in adolescence but did boost high-school graduation and college attendance.

【para4】The new study complicates the picture further. Researchers at Vanderbilt University followed nearly 3,000 disadvantaged Tennessee children, some of whom were randomly assigned places in a free pre-K programme. Like previous studies they found that attending preschool made children better-prepared for kindergarten. But the benefits ended there. Between third and sixth grade, the children who attended preschool did worse on standardised

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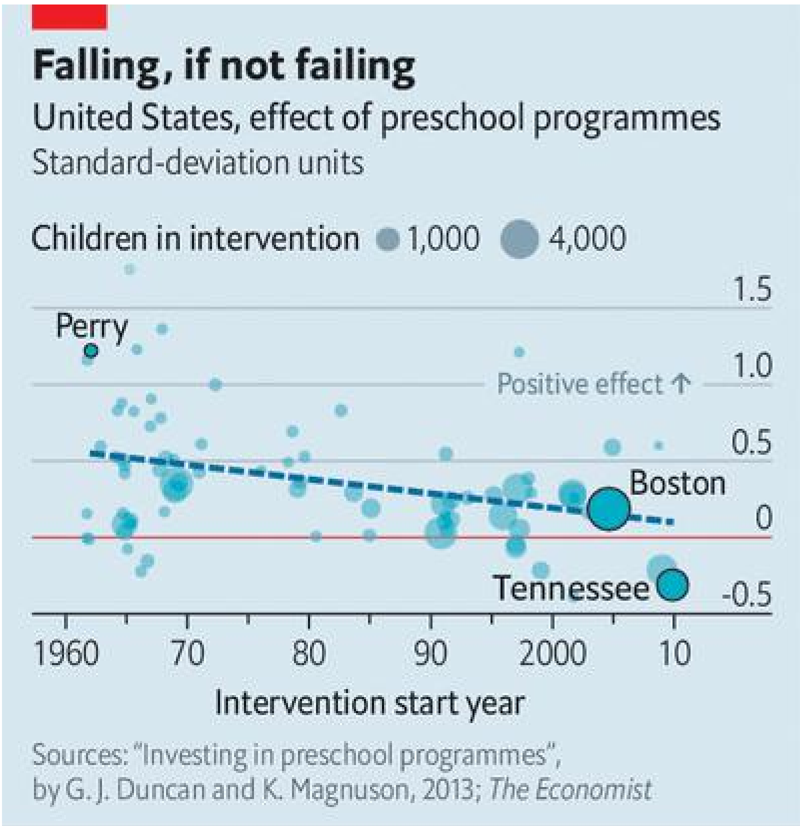
tests, had lower school attendance, racked up more disciplinary infractions and needed more special-education services.



The Economist

【para5】The effects were small, however. The biggest differences were in sixth grade, where scores in reading and maths were between 1% and 4% lower than for children who were not given spots in the programmes. In the context of previous studies, this difference is modest.

【para6】Measuring the impact of pre-K is difficult. Many of the effects don't emerge until later in life. And the effect of individual programmes is becoming harder to isolate. In the Tennessee study 18% of children in the control group enrolled in Head Start, a programme offering early education, nutrition and health care to children from low-income families. A further 16% attended private day-care centres. Parenting has also changed a lot since the 1960s: parents are more hands-on, and home-educational resources have vastly improved.

【para7】The quality of pre-K instruction may have deteriorated, too. Programmes have expanded. Teacher-student ratios in Tennessee were double those in the Perry project. And America has the third-lowest spending on early-childhood education among 36 mostly rich OECD countries.

【para8】Even if pre-K programmes are only as good as the alternatives, they help in other ways. They allow parents to return to work. A number of papers have found that the economic benefits of child-care or pre-K programmes vastly outweigh the costs.

【para1】引入话题：学前教育是人生转折？研究发现并不见得！

【para2】昔日结论：学前教育改变穷苦孩子命运（智商提高，犯罪率降低，赚钱更多）

【para3-4】最新发现：更加微妙

-para3 波士顿：提高高中毕业率和大学出勤率，但是并不能提高成绩

-para4 田纳西：学前教育优势止步幼儿园，小学 3-6 年级表现欠佳

【para5】收效甚微：对 6 年级阅读和数学成绩影响最大

【para6】效果难辨：其他教育项目的影响；育儿方面变化大

【para7】质量堪忧：项目扩大，教师增多，资金不足

【para8】另有妙用：“解放”父母；带来经济效益

6.2 Education abroad: The West's allure[28]

China's globetrotting students are getting back on the road

【1】QIN YIBO is half way through a science degree at the University of Auckland in New Zealand. But she has not been in the country since early 2020 when it closed its borders to prevent the spread of covid-19 (she was back in China at the time). instead the university has arranged for Ms Qin and other stranded students in China to take up residence on campuses in their own country while they continue their studies remotely. Ms Qin has thought about transferring permanently to a Chinese university, but she still plans to return to New Zealand when it eases its border controls.

【2】Ms Qin is relatively lucky. She has enjoyed seeing parts of her country that she had not visited previously. She spent the early months of this year at a university in Heilongjiang, a north-eastern province with bitter winters. Then, for a change of scenery, she moved to a campus in Fujian in the balmy south. Many thousands of Chinese students who had not yet enrolled at universities abroad when the pandemic began have found their plans upended by covid-related travel restrictions. Universities in the West have lived in fear that young Chinese, whose tuition fees are a lucrative source of revenue, would give up the dream of studying aboard.

【3】There are good reasons for Western universities to be anxious. In 2019 around 700,000 Chinese headed abroad to study, more than three times the number a decade earlier. Most joined universities in English-speaking countries. Chinese students have had several reasons to reconsider their destinations. Foreign travel is difficult during a pandemic, and covid is still rife in Western countries. China has grown more unpopular in recent years, and some Chinese people in the West have suffered racist abuse. Anti-Western sentiment has also been rising in China.

【4】But the pandemic's impact on Chinese demand for study abroad has not been as bad as many had predicted. Before the crisis about 370,000 Chinese were studying at American universities, where they made up about a third of foreign students. In 2020 the number of Chinese enrolled,

[28] 12.16 经济学人外刊精读 |海外教育

including those studying online from abroad, fell by around 15%. That is not the collapse that some in the industry had predicted, says Martin McFarlane of the University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign. The fall was caused almost entirely by a reduction in the number of foreign students starting new courses, which now seems to be rebounding. The Institute of International Education, an American NGO, says that this autumn the number of foreigners who began studying at American universities for the first time was only 9% lower than in 2019 (though about 35% were taking their classes online).

【5】Australia has kept its borders shut to most foreign students throughout the pandemic. Even now, roughly half of them are studying online from outside the country, including about 65% of those from China. Yet, in Australia, total Chinese enrolment in higher education has fallen only 7%. Chinese students—nervous of the virus but keen to burnish their CVs with a Western degree—have proven more willing to put up with online learning than peers of other nationalities. Enrolments by Indians, for whom in-person classes are a high priority, have fallen by more than a third.

【6】Britain's universities have fared the best. The number of Chinese students was rising fast in the years leading up to the pandemic. This summer the country began allowing foreigners to remain longer after graduation to work or look for a job. Britain's rules on post-study employment are now among the most permissive in the West. Since the pandemic began, Britain's borders have stayed mostly open to foreign students, as long as they are willing to endure quarantine. In 2020 the number of Chinese accepted for undergraduate studies increased by 30%. This year the number of Chinese applying to start undergraduate courses rose again, by 17%.

【7】In some countries, Chinese demand for tertiary education may yet falter. America is likely to remain the single most-popular destination for several more years. It is still widely regarded in China as having the largest number of great universities. But some Chinese have been put off studying in America by the xenophobic rhetoric of American officials during Donald Trump's presidency, which fuelled perceptions of Chinese as potential spies. Such concerns may have abated a bit since Joe Biden took over. But surveys of Chinese considering study in America have shown that they view America's handling of covid as the worst in the English-speaking world. Chinese students show growing interest in studying in Asia, says Simon Emmett of IDP, a multinational agency that helps universities recruit them. Asian countries are deemed to have a better record with covid.

【8】In Australia there have been big falls in the number of Chinese students taking non-degree courses such as English-language lessons, says Peter Hurley of Victoria University's Mitchell Institute, a think-tank in Melbourne. Students often use these courses as preparation for study at Australian universities. This may suggest that Chinese enrolment at universities in Australia will keep on falling, at least for a while, even after the country reopens.

【9】In China there is another indication of unsettled demand. A large share of the Chinese who leave the country to study commit to doing so at the end of their compulsory education, when they are about 15. At that stage they opt out of preparation for China's university-entrance exam and instead join senior high schools that offer curriculums focused on study abroad. Francis Miller, a college counsellor at one such school in the city of Xi'an, says the number of 15-year-olds entering its international programme fell sharply in 2020, before recovering somewhat this year. He thinks other, similar schools are having a harder time recruiting students. Xiaofeng Wan, who manages international admissions at Amherst College in America, notes that last year more Chinese children than usual elected to sit the entrance exam for senior secondary schools. Pupils aiming to study abroad sometimes skip this.

【10】There are other, long-term, challenges. The number of Chinese of university age is no longer growing. Amid economic headwinds, fewer families will have the resources to splash out on foreign tuition. Meanwhile, China's own universities are improving. About 47m people are enrolled in tertiary education there, up from around 6m in 1998. Before the pandemic an expert at the British Council, a state-funded cultural organisation, estimated that the number of Chinese seeking a foreign degree could start falling in 2023.

【11】China does not appear keen to deter study abroad. During the pandemic Chinese officials have supported foreign universities' efforts to help Chinese students continue their studies online, says Brett Berquist of the University of Auckland. The Chinese government has stopped issuing passports to most people, but has given them to those planning to study abroad.

【12】Officials still want clever young Chinese to get the best training in science, medicine and engineering, wherever in the world it can be found. After all, about 80% of such students return to China after graduating. For many of them, China's allure ultimately trumps the West's.

6.3 Education in india: Testing situation[29]

Widespread cheating is yet another symptom of a poor education system

【1】As india's exam season kicked off earlier this year Facebook groups dedicated to helping with preparations were inundated with offers of guaranteed academic success. "Get leaked questions and answers before your upcoming exam, 100% guaranteed and secured," read one. "Get certificate without sitting exams 100% legal," promised another.

【2】india's education system is brutal. The bar for entry to university is extraordinarily high. There is a near-unlimited pool of applicants for the top institutions. Until it changed its policies this year, Delhi University, among the best, required prospective students to have scored at least 99% in their school-leaving exams. Stratospheric parental expectations only add to the pressure. Getting into university is not the end of it, either. High marks are necessary there, too, so that graduates can go on to foreign universities or find jobs at home. Plenty of canny (if dubious) entrepreneurs are only too happy to offer shortcuts to success—for a hefty price.

【3】Cheating is thus widespread. It is also organised and elaborate. In a survey in 2021 by Learning Spiral, a big provider of online-exam software, 73% of university students admitted to cheating in online tests. Neha, who teaches at an engineering college in Maharashtra, a western state, reckons that 90% of her students cheat in some form.

【4】At its simplest, cheating involves smuggling notes into the exam hall or buying stolen test papers. Students are routinely frisked as they enter the hall. Question papers are often kept under lock and key in police stations or government buildings. They are nonetheless commonly leaked on social media. Sarita Sinha, a former schoolteacher who now runs a prep centre, says she does not find this surprising. "Even if you lock it in police stations, you think the policemen do not have children?" she says. Yet it works both ways. Once a paper is out online, it quickly goes viral. This means everyone—including the authorities—discovers the leak and questions can be changed.

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【5】Officials are turning to ever more sophisticated and stringent measures. This year, the state of West Bengal installed internet jammers near schools in many districts. It also put cctv cameras in exam halls and insisted students trade in their face masks for fresh ones provided by the school. More basic methods are also used: in 2019, a school in Karnataka, in the south, forced students to wear cardboard boxes over their heads—cut open on one side—to foil cheating.

【6】Yet even as officials come up with novel ideas, so do the cheats. In February, a medical student at Mahatma Gandhi Memorial College in Indore, a small city, was caught with a skin-coloured Bluetooth device surgically implanted in his ear. A phone linked to the device was sewn into a secret trouser pocket. Last year, ten students taking a trainee-teacher exam were arrested for attempting to use Bluetooth gadgets concealed in the soles of their flip-flops. At least 25 students had bought such footwear from a gang for 600,000 rupees ($7,700) a pair. It is often mandatory for students to remove shoes and socks before exams.

【7】Parents, too, sometimes help with the cheating. In 2015 dozens of them scaled the outside of a five-storey building to pass answers to their schoolchildren taking crucial year-end exams inside. Hundreds, including parents, were arrested and at least 750 students expelled.

【8】The problem may be with the education system itself, rather than any innate dishonesty among students. Teachers receive low salaries and can be bribed to help or turn a blind eye. Schools care about pass rates. Learning revolves around memorisation rather than understanding or reasoning. Outcomes are poor. Exams requiring thought rather than regurgitation would be harder to memorise, says Ms Sinha. The quality of education would improve, too. The Indian government is mulling changes to the way it assesses students at higher levels. Until then, the cat-and-mouse game between students and invigilators is doomed to continue.

6.4 Education: Crisis in the classroom[30]

Governments are ignoring the pandemic's disastrous effect on education

【para1】IF HISTORY IS "a race between education and catastrophe", as H.G. Wells once put it, education seemeduntil recently to be winning. In 1950 only about half of adults globally had any schooling; now at least 85% do. Between 2000 and 2018, the proportion of school-age children who were not enrolled in classes fell from 26% to 17%. But the rapid rise in attendance masked an ugly truth: many pupils were spending years behind desks but learning almost nothing. In 2019 the World Bank started keeping count of the number of children who still cannot read by the time they finish primary school. It found that less than half of ten-year-olds in developing countries (home to 90% of the world's children) could read and understand a simple story.

【para2】Then the pandemic struck and hundreds of millions of pupils were locked out of school. At first, when it was not yet known whether children were vulnerable to covid-19 or were likely to spread the virus to older people, school closures were a prudent precaution. But in many places they continued long after it became clear that the risks of reopening classrooms were relatively small. During the first two years of the pandemic more than 80% of schooldays in Latin America and South Asia were disrupted by closures of some sort. Even today schools in some countries, such as the Philippines, remain shut to most pupils, leaving their minds to atrophy.

【para3】Globally, the harm that school closures have done to children has vastly outweighed any benefits they may have had for public health (see International section). The World Bank says the share of ten-year-olds in middle- and low-income countries who cannot read and understand a simple story has risen from 57% in 2019 to roughly 70%. If they lack such elementary skills, they will struggle to earn a good living. The bank estimates that $21trn will be wiped off their lifetime earnings—equivalent to about 20% of the world's annual gdp today.

【para4】This should be seen for what it is: a global emergency. Nearly every problem that confronts humanity can be alleviated by good schooling.

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Better-educated people are more likely to devise a cleaner energy source, a cure for malaria or a smarter town plan. Workers who can read and manipulate numbers are more productive. Bookish populations will find it easier to adapt to climate change. They will also have fewer babies, and educate them better. If the damage the pandemic has done to education is not reversed, all these goals will be harder to reach.

【para5】Politicians talk endlessly about the importance of schooling, but words are cheap and a fit-for-purpose education system is not. Spending has risen modestly in recent decades but fell in many countries during the pandemic. Scandalously, many governments spend more on rich pupils than they do on poor ones. Moreover, too little development aid goes to education, and some is self-interested. A chunk goes to donor countries' own universities, to fund scholarships for the relatively well-to-do from poor places. Such exchanges are welcome, but funding primary schools in poor countries does more good.

【para6】 Many of the most critical changes are not things that money will buy. Testing is a mess, leading governments to overestimate levels of literacy. New teachers have been hired but not trained properly. Lessons in reading and maths are too often cut short to make room for instruction in whatever other subjects happen to be faddish. Teachers, who have come through the same education systems they are supposed to be improving, often struggle to teach. They would benefit from clear lesson plans, as well as the freedom to pause and help children who have fallen behind. Politicians must stop pandering to teachers' unions, many of which want schools to be run for the comfort of unsackable adults, rather than for the benefit of pupils.

【para6】At present a quarter of countries do not have any plans to help children claw back learning lost during the pandemic, according to a survey carried out earlier this year by unicef. Another quarter have inadequate catch-up strategies. The same energy that was once poured into building schools and filling up classrooms should now be used to improve the lessons that take place within them. At stake is the future not only of the generation scarred by the pandemic, but of all the pupils who will come after them. No more children should stumble through their school days without learning to read or add up.

【para1】引入话题：全球教育日益普及，但学习贫困率仍居高不下

【para2】教育现状：疫情之下，学校复课遥遥无期，学生学习能力退化

【para3】得不偿失：更多学生无法掌握基本阅读理解能力，大大影响未来收入

【para4】国之根本：通过教育，培养人才，应对世界挑战（发展新能源、医学、智能城市，提高生产效率，解决气候变化，提高人口质量）

【para5-7】锦囊妙计

-para5 缩小教育支出鸿沟（完善资金调动，向贫困地区小学倾斜）

-para6 以学生为本；课程改革；提高教师质量

-para7 国家干预 ：出台行之有效的政策，更多精力投入基本能力培养——教育关乎全人类

6.5 Schools and covid-19: Poor students[31]

America's educators have failed to learn from the safe opening of classrooms abroad

【para1】Over the past two years America's children have missed more time in the classroom than those in most of the rich world. School closures that began there in early 2020 dragged on until the summer of 2021. During that time the districts that stayed closed longest forced all or some of their children to learn remotely for twice as long as schools in Ireland, three times longer than schools in Spain and four times longer than in France.

【para2】In recent weeks American schools have started closing once again, as the Omicron variant of covid-19 has brought a fresh wave of infections. About 5,000, equivalent to roughly 5% of schools, were shut for part or all of the first week in January. Sometimes that was because staff had been forced into isolation (see United States section), but other closures were pre-emptive. In Chi cago teachers refused to turn up between January 5th and 11th. Some staff in California urged healthy colleagues to call in sick. America's shrill debates about schooling continue to set it apart. The new term met with much less fuss in England—even though the country had a higher national infection rate than America and has vaccinated fewer young children.

【para3】America's bungling has several explanations. Whereas in Europe national or regional governments have decided when schools close and reopen, in America the choice has largely fallen to its 14,000 or so school districts. That has splintered the conversation about school closures into thousands of noisy arguments. Media coverage has not helped. A study in 2020 found that stories about school reopening run by big American news providers were much more negative in tone compared with similar stories abroad. Teachers' unions have ignored encouraging findings from other countries, such as research suggesting that teachers in schools that had opened faced no greater risk of severe sickness than other professionals.

[31] The Economist-20220115期「Leaders」Schools and covid-19: Poor students

【para4】Defenders of America’s record claim that its schools are more crowded and poorer than those abroad. But many foreign educators envy America’s advantages. The federal government has earmarked around $200bn for schools since 2020. America was quicker than most countries to make vaccines available to all adults, and to offer jabs to children.

【para5】Some of those demanding fresh closures argue that Omicron brings new uncertainties, and that it would cost little for schools to shut their buildings for a while. Remote learning may be more effective than being in a classroom where lots of staff and students are absent, goes the thinking. But once schools have closed temporarily, they tend to stay shut longer than expected. Even short closures seem to depress children’s attendance after they reopen. Lots of children have no safer place to be than a classroom and many parents cannot work from home. Furthermore, without wider lockdowns that nobody is considering, school closures accomplish little, because youngsters continue to catch and pass on the virus, for example in child care, in shops, or while being looked after by relatives.

【para6】Remote teaching has harmed children’s learning, mental health and physical safety. America’s schools should be buoyed by early evidence suggesting that Omicron infections lead to less severe symptoms than other variants of covid (which are themselves mild in most children) and that vaccination still offers strong protection against serious illness.

【para7】Schools must continue to find ways of covering for quarantining teachers, such as pulling administrative staff into classrooms or inviting teachers back from retirement. When staff shortages are severe, it would be better to force only some year groups into remote learning before closing whole schools. Even then, schools should allow vulnerable children and those of key workers to remain in the building. That has been common in Europe, but far from standard in America. Children have little to gain from school closures and much to lose. Teachers’ unions should stop dumping the pandemic’s costs on them.

【para1】引入话题 ： 疫情期间，美国学校长期闭校，开启线上教学

【para2】停课风波 ：美国再迎疫情高峰，教师或隔离或罢课，学校再次被迫停课引争议

【para3】分析原因 ：①美国各校自主决定是否停课，各执己见；②舆论压力；③教师工会“无视”开学计划

【para4-5】停课支持者辩称

-para4 美国学校人多且穷，但实际上优势明显（资金、资源充足）

-para5 省钱高效，但事与愿违（学校停课时间更长，学生感染风险更高）

【para6】勇往直前 ：远程学习弊大于利，美国学校不应再谨小慎微（奥密克戎症状轻，疫苗仍有效）

【para7】解决之策 ：寻找代课教师；教师短缺时，部分学生远程学习；允许学生和主要人员留校

Questions：

1. In case 6.2, "Officials still want clever young Chinese to get the best training in science, medicine and engineering, wherever in the world it can be found. After all, about 80% of such students return to China after graduating. For many of them, China's allure ultimately trumps the West's", what's your opinion on this?
2. In case 6.3, "Widespread cheating is yet another symptom of a poor education system", India seems to have a poor education system, but many CEOs in US multinational companies comes from India. What do you think of this?
3. From case 6.4 and 6.5, what can you find about the benefit of schooling?

问题：

（1）在案例 6.2 中，"官员们仍然希望聪明的中国年轻人能在科学、医学和工程方面得到最好的培训，无论在世界上哪里都能找到它。毕竟，大约 80%的这类学生会在毕业后返回中国。对许多人来说，中国的魅力最终胜了西方"，对此你怎么看？

（2）从案例 6.3 中，"普遍存在的作弊行为是教育体系糟糕的另一个症状"，看起来印度的教育体系似乎很糟糕，但是很多美国跨国公司的 CEO 都来自于印度，对此你怎么看？

（3）从案例 6.4 和 6.5 中可以发现学校教育（线下）有什么好处？

一、案例中的思政元素

① 爱国担当：让学生认识到祖国的强大，中国愿意选送优秀学子出国深造，学生也应该用自己的知识和本领报效祖国。

② 制度自信：良好的教育需要以经济发展为基础，我国经济发展为教育水平提高提供里坚实的物质保证。

③ 求真务实：评估教育政策的有效性是一项复杂的科学任务，需要掌握正确的数理分析方法客观评价，避免凭借个人直觉和喜好盲目给出结论。

二、采用的教学方法

（1）讲授法：教师讲授相关知识点。

（2）案例分析法：选择契合相关知识点的案例进行分析。

（3）小组讨论法：将学生课堂上分成小组对案例进行讨论，分别汇报讨论结果。

（4）问答法：在学生阅读相关案例材料后，请学生回答/抢答其中的经济学原理。

（5）翻转课堂：请学生自行组织对案例发表自己的观点和见解，并且以答辩的形式接受质询。

三、案例适用的范围

（包含案例适用的专业或课程、案例与专业课程思政的内在联系等）

案例名称	包含知识点	对应课程
6.1 Preschool education: Wondering what's best for the kids	教育的价值评估	劳动经济学
6.2 Education abroad: The West's allure	人力资本投资 要素的国际流动	劳动经济学 国际经济学
6.3 Education in India: Testing situation	教育与公平	制度经济学
6.4 Education: Crisis in the classroom	教育的有效性	劳动经济学
6.5 Schools and covid-19: Poor students	教育的有效性	劳动经济学

Topic 7: Shortage and Poverty

7.1 A global food catastrophe is still coming

As well as war, disease and poverty, hunger is haunting the world. Expect sobering findings from the UN's annual "State of Food Security and Nutrition in the World" report, which is published on Wednesday. Covid-19 has warped supply chains and curbed household incomes, and extreme weather has hurt yields in many breadbaskets. The result was a jump in the number of undernourished people in 2021.

Yet this year threatens to be worse. International grain prices, which shot up after Russia invaded Ukraine, have at least fallen to pre-war levels. But the UN's negotiations with Russia to end a blockade on Ukraine's shipping of grain have failed to bear fruit. And many risks remain, from protectionism and more adverse weather events to the soaring costs of energy and fertilisers. In May the UN warned that the number of people facing acute hunger could rise by 47m in 2022, bringing the total to nearly 250m. That forecast still looks tragically credible.

7.2 Powder keg: What a baby-formula shortage reveals about corporate heft and price gouging[32]

【1】Shoppers have become all too familiar with the fragility of supply chains. In America the latest product missing from supermarket shelves is infant formula. Whereas previous shortages, affecting everything from cars to couches, presented an inconvenience, a lack of nourishment for babies creates serious health risks. So the administration has swung into action. On May 16th the Food and Drug administration (fda) said America would loosen restrictions on imports of formula. Two days later, President Joe Biden invoked the Defence Production Act to boost domestic production.

【2】There are several explanations for the shortage. The biggest problem has been a halt to production at a facility in Michigan since February, when officials began investigating infections in four babies possibly caused by its milk-based powder. A lack of packaging, delays to the import of ingredients and staffing vacancies have also contributed to the headache. As much as 43% of formula products were out of stock across America in early May, according to Datasembly, a data firm.

【3】Some politicians and analysts have also pointed to two deeper problems in the American economy supposedly exposed by the shortages: corporate concentration and price gouging. The former is a valid concern; the latter is a distraction.

【4】Just four companies (Abbott, Gerber, Perrigo and Reckitt Benckiser) make nearly all of America's formula. The production stoppage occurred at a factory owned by Abbott, which controls around 40% of the market. It is an illustration of how reduced competition, seen in about three-quarters of American industries over the past 30 years, can serve the economy poorly.

【5】concentration in the formula market has been exacerbated by regulation. About 98% of formula consumed in America is made domestically because of the fda's stringent approval process for foreign factories. And more than half is purchased through a nutrition programme for low-income families, which in turn buys from a single supplier in each state. In 2007 when California switched

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its contract from Abbott to Mead Johnson (now owned by Reckitt), Abbott's market share there fell from 90% to 5%, while Mead's rose from 5% to 95%. On May 13th a group of Democratic senators called for an antitrust review of the industry. If that were to happen, it would not solve the shortages at hand, but it could put the market on sounder footing.

【6】More dubious are claims about the severity of price gouging. Mr Biden has asked the Federal Trade Commission to investigate whether "unscrupulous profiteers" were scooping up formula in shops and reselling it for hugely marked-up prices. And there have indeed been instances of such anti-social behaviour.

【7】But for some in the Democratic Party, these allegations about pricing now fit into a broader narrative, that corporate greed lies at the root of high inflation. Elizabeth Warren, a Democratic senator from Massachusetts, and several colleagues introduced a bill on May 12th that would "prohibit...price gouging during all abnormal market disruptions". They cited a study by the Economic Policy Institute, a left-wing think-tank, which argued that fatter profit margins have driven more than half of price rises since 2020. Mr Biden has also seized on greed as an explanation for high prices. On May 13th he tweeted that making the wealthiest companies pay "their fair share" would bring down inflation.

【8】In theory the fiscal drag that would come from higher taxes without any offsetting increase in government spending could reduce inflation (as well as growth). But if corporate greed explains high inflation, why did so many prices only start to soar well after the pandemic began? It is not as if companies just discovered a love of profits. Jeff Bezos, the owner of Amazon, was right to criticise Mr Biden's tweet as "misdirection", accusing him of trying to muddy the water in the debate over prices.

【9】indeed, something far more basic explains the run-up in inflation: a surge in stimulus-fuelled demand, compounded by disruptions to supply. For individual products the signal sent by higher prices is the most effective way to bring supply and demand back into balance. In the case of baby formula, it encourages domestic companies to make more and foreign producers to run the gauntlet of approvals. Much like formula itself, higher prices can play a part in healthy development.

7.3 Poverty in Britain：Wrong man, wrong plan[33]

proposals to boost the poorer half of the country fall short

【1】After a month of rows about cake and Prosecco—who consumed them; who invited whom; who knew—Boris Johnson has been badly damaged. Police are investigating a dozen lockdown-busting gatherings, some in his offices and residence. A report by a senior civil servant, published on January 31st, was gutted of detail in order to prevent that investigation being compromised, leading to claims of a cover-up. Despite it all, Conservative MPs seem inclined to wait until after local elections in May to decide whether to depose their prime minister.

【2】No wonder Mr Johnson is desperate for a policy relaunch to knock "Partygate" off the front pages. On February 2nd his government released a long-awaited white paper on its big idea for post-Brexit Britain: decreasing regional inequality, or "levelling up". Mr Johnson is right to sense that his government should be judged by whether this programme succeeds: it is setting out to deal with one of Britain's most pressing problems. Sadly, the proposals fall short.

【3】Britain is highly geographically unequal. Outside London and the south-east (and a region around Edinburgh) lies a country where wages, literacy and life expectancy are lower, and unemployment and rates of illness higher. It is as if America's rustbelt or the former East Germany were home to half the population. Average life expectancy for men in Blackpool is 74.1 years; in Westminster it is 84.7. In Barnsley 15% of disadvantaged 18-year-olds go to university; in London 45% do. The ratio between GDP per person in Britain's richest places and its poorest is 4.8—the biggest of any OECD country. Voters who wanted to leave the European Union were animated by many desires and grievances. But some expressed understandable rage at being left behind and ignored by a distant, self-serving elite.

【4】The work of Michael Gove, one of the government's most capable ministers, the latest proposals identify 12 "missions", with numerical

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targets attached, to be undertaken between today and 2030. They range from increasing healthy-life expectancy and improving literacy and numeracy in what the white paper calls "Britain's forgotten communities" to rolling out high-speed broadband and encouraging "pride in place"—that is, feeling good about where you live. New directly elected county leaders will be created, and given powers in a "devolution revolution". By 2030 everywhere in England could in theory have the sort of powers now wielded by metropolitan mayors.

【5】Targeting outcomes is welcome: this government has focused more on inputs (this many new nurses, that many new schools). And more devolution is sorely needed. Measured by where tax-raising power lies, Britain is the most centralised country in the G7. Decision-making is also tightly held, with the Treasury overseeing almost all infrastructure. England's most powerful mayor, Sadiq Khan, takes dictation from Whitehall on how to balance transport for London's budget. Andy Burnham of Manchester, the second-most-powerful, is locked in a battle with central government about the design of a railway station.

【6】Look more closely, and the plans are based on a caricature of Britain. The biggest cities voted to stay in the EU in 2016 and for a Labour government in 2019. Not coincidentally, ministers often talk as if the splits in wealth, well-being and esteem map onto the same pattern. They do not. In some regions, both cities and their hinterlands are rich; in others, both are poor. The north of England will not succeed if Greater Manchester does not; the West Midlands depends utterly on the Birmingham metropolis.

【7】What ails poor places will not be fixed by giving counties a bit of power and cash. The control over how money is raised and spent needs to be pushed out of London—and to handle such powers a region must be large. Better infrastructure, both within cities and connecting them to surrounding areas, is crucial to regional development. But how can the planned new phalanx of mayors and county authorities transform their regions if they cannot even plan transport links?

【8】The intricacies of the white paper are not the only cause for scepticism. An ambition as big as erasing Britain's patterns of deprivation will require a leader of unusual calibre. The job will take an ability to unite the country in a common cause and to inspire it with a grand vision. It will also take a mastery of policy detail and the discipline to be steadfast when things go awry, results are slow to appear and centralisers cling to power. Mr Johnson's lockdown shenanigans, dissimulation and U-turns are no mere obsession of the chattering classes. They are evidence that this Herculean task is very probably beyond him.

Questions：

1. In case 7.1, who do you think will suffer food shortage, and why?
2. In case 7.2, US is the biggest power in the world, Could it be possible that formula shortage happen in US?
3. In case 7.3, “Britain is highly geographically unequal”, the same is China. What has Chinese government done to eradicate poverty and alleviate inequality? And what did the British government do?
4. Compare the case 7.1, 7.2 and 7.3, what do you find about shortage and poverty?

问题：

（1）在案例 7.1 中，你认为食品短缺将伤害到谁？为什么？

（2）从案例 7.2 中，美国是世界上最大的经济体，奶粉短缺这种事情怎么可能发生在美国？

（3）从案例 7.3 中，“英国在地理上高度不平等”，中国也是这样的。中国政府为了消除贫困降低不平等做了什么？英国政府做了什么？

（4）对比案例 7.1，7.2 和 7.3，关于短缺和贫困你有什么发现？

一、案例中的思政元素

① 感恩祖国：让学生认识到中国在消除贫困和促进平等方面做出的不懈努力和取得的巨大成就。

② 制度自信：对比英国和美国发生的短缺和贫困，加强对中国特色社会主义道路的自信。

③ 理性思考：认识到短缺和贫困不仅仅发生在发展中国家，错误的政策往往导致灾难性的后果。

二、采用的教学方法

（1）讲授法：教师讲授相关知识点。

（2）案例分析法：选择契合相关知识点的案例进行分析。

（3）小组讨论法：将学生课堂上分成小组对案例进行讨论，分别汇报讨论结果。

（4）问答法：在学生阅读相关案例材料后，请学生回答/抢答其中的经济学原理。

（5）翻转课堂：请学生自行组织对案例发表自己的观点和见解，并且以答辩的形式接受质询。

三、案例适用的范围

（包含案例适用的专业或课程、案例与专业课程思政的内在联系等）

案例名称	包含知识点	对应课程
7.1 A global food catastrophe is still coming	战争与贫困	发展经济学 国际经济学
7.2 Powder keg: What a baby-formula shortage reveals about corporate heft and price gouging	寡头产量和价格 选举政治	微观经济学 制度经济学
7.3 Poverty in Britain：Wrong man, wrong plan	选举政治	制度经济学

Topic 8: Fairness and Welfare

8.1 'A duty to humanity' Should richer nations rethink vaccine priorities?[34]

【1】the UK's Covid vaccination programme has been an astonishing effort. To date almost 89% of adults have received their first dose and just over 73% have had their second. And the programme is to expand . Children over the age of 12 who are extremely vulnerable or live with someone at risk are already offered the jab, but this week the Joint Committee on vaccination and Immunisation (JCVI) recommended that 16- and 17-yearolds should also be offered their first dose of the Pfizer/BioNTech jab. booster shots are also expected to be introduced later this year to the most vulnerable.

【2】But while those in Britain may be breathing a sigh of relief that they and their loved ones have some protection against Covid, global health experts have reiterated calls for richer nations to think of those in poorer parts of the world where coverage is far lower .The World Health Organization (WHO) called yesterday for a moratorium on booster shots until at least the end of September to ensure at least 10% of the world is vaccinated. The WHO also said in May that richer countries should postpone giving children and teenagers Covid vaccines and focus on boosting supplies for vulnerable people in poorer nations.

【3】Experts have stressed that it is in countries' interest to share vaccines because reducing transmission means problematic variants are less likely to emerge and spread. Attempts to ensure poorer countries receive Covid vaccines have been hampered, however, by export bans, supply shortages, patent rights and rich countries offering higher prices to buy up doses of the different vaccines.

【4】 Should Britain hold fire on expanding its vaccination programme in an effort to help others? Prof Eleanor Riley, an immunologist at the University of Edinburgh, said it was a very difficult call."The risks and benefits to individual children are finely balanced. The impact that vaccinating teenagers will have on the shape of the UK epidemic in the

[34] 2021.8.28 经济学人考研英语｜“对人类的责任”富裕国家应该重新考虑疫苗优先项吗？

next few months is rather unclear and the global demand for vaccines continues to exceed the current supply," she said. "I don't envy those having to make this decision."

【5】 With infection rates high in the UK, particularly among younger people, Dr Deepti Gurdasani, a clinical epidemiologist and senior lecturer at Queen Mary University of London , welcomed the latest expansion of the UK's vaccination programme. "The choice now is unfortunately between infection and vaccination for these age groups, and although severe disease occurs less often than in adults, it is far from trivial," she said.

【6】 vaccinating all 12- to 17-year-olds in the UK would take 8m doses, she said, and rather than giving away the doses, the UK could have more impact by, for example, providing resources and funding to Covax, the global vaccine-sharing initiative, supporting technology transfer agreements for domestic manufacture and scaling up vaccine production.

【7】 Dr Kit Yates, the co-director of the Centre for Mathematical Biology at the University of Bath and a member of the Independent Sage group of experts , said the decision over whether to give booster jabs or vaccinate younger people was complicated, but that he agreed with Gurdasani. "unfortunately, teens forgoing their jabs in the UK will not mean those doses are donated to countries who are short on supply," she said.

【8】 One concern is that infection levels could rise even higher in the autumn once schools reopen and people mix more indoors. "Such a surge could coincide with waning immunity, and potentially lead to greater severe disease amongst the most vulnerable who were vaccinated early on," said Gurdasani.

【9】"If the UK really wants to donate vaccines and not offer boosters, it must do this while suppressing infection, so that vulnerable people can be protected in the UK, as well as globally," she said. Others are adamant that the global picture must be a priority. Prof Sir Andrew Pollard, the director of the Oxford vaccine Group, said: "Before we give third doses to people in rich countries who are now vaccinated and very unlikely to die, we have a duty to humanity to give first doses to the unvaccinated in a global effort to save lives.”

8.2 Forgotten but not gone: How older women got left behind in conflict[35]

【1】Halyna Vasylivna lives alone in a tiny"Khrushchevka"flat. At 94, she has outlived her sons and husband. Her grandchildren live outside the city. Her apartment, named after Nikita Khrushchev, the Soviet leader under whom the five-storey buildings in Kyiv's Podil district were built, is too far from the bunker so she hides in her pantry during airstrikes. Vasylivna is grateful for her social worker Olya's visits a few times a week. She wishes she did not live alone. "It's important to have someone who can listen to you," she says. Vasylivna is one of 2 million older women in Ukraine who have remained largely invisible to authorities. Most of Ukraine's elderly people are women – they make up two-thirds of those aged over 65 and 71% of those aged above 75 – partly because Ukraine has the sixth highest proportion of women in the world.

【2】These women are reliant on tiny state pensions (Vasylivna's is about £130 a month), and require support from social services, charities and international institutions. They have become the group most likely to be alone because of mobility issues, bereavement or a reluctance to leave familiar surroundings. Ukraine's health and social care system was already under pressure before Russia invaded in February. Now the country is experiencing a humanitarian crisis, with dozens of accounts of the rape and murder of elderly Ukrainian women – the biggest group left behind, and the least able to escape.

【3】In Kyiv's Holosiyevo district, there are 786 elderly people – 80% of them women like Vasylivna – alone, unable to leave their homes, and without relatives to care for them. Since Russia attacked, the number of social workers in the local centre has collapsed by more than 75%. Those who remain are mostly elderly women themselves, and now have four times as many clients to look after. They work five days a week, earning about £170 a month to supplement their small state pensions. "We need to support both our elderly clients and ourselves," says Nataliya Bodnar, a

[35] 6.4 经济学人外刊精读 | 被抛弃的老人，大西洋月刊 2022-06-03 07:00 发表于山东

65-year-old social worker. Oksana Ruban, a social centre manager, says her staff have faced multiple challenges. “Public transport was closed, the curfew lasted sometimes up to several days, shops closed, too. We had to make sure all of our clients were taken care of by someone – if not relatives or us, at least by neighbours or volunteers. We all worked relentlessly.”

【4】The situation for older people is particularly acute in the Donetsk and Luhansk regions, where a survey of more than 1,500 over-60s conducted in March revealed the scale of the problem: 99% did not want to leave their homes; 91% needed help to get food; 91% were also experiencing extreme cold, with no heating due to electricity cuts; 75% needed basic hygiene items; and 34% needed urgent medication for chronic illness. These needs are exacerbated by a shortage of vital medicines and Russia destroying healthcare facilities.

【5】“I wonder why some young people evacuate their cats and hamsters, but leave their parents behind,” says Roman Vodyanyk, the head doctor at Severodonetsk hospital in Luhansk, the only functioning hospital left in the city. With no water, gas or electricity in Severodonetsk, Vodyanyk has turned the hospital, which has more than 50 patients, into a humanitarian hub, providing hot food, wifi and medical support. About 220 patients have left in the past month but many elderly people have no desire to evacuate, with nowhere to go.“How do you evacuate a hospital in this situation? How do you leave them all behind?” asks Vodyanyk. So despite the shelling – and along with local authorities, nongovernment organisations and volunteers – he is not leaving.

【6】Elderly people are often the forgotten category in any humanitarian crisis – an analysis of Google news search keywords between 24 February and 22 April found that 97% of all Ukraine that mentioned either children or the elderly were focused on children. despite there being more than 50% more retirees in Ukraine than children under 15, the 390 British NGOs operating in Ukraine are nearly twice as likely to be helping children than elderly people. According to Justin Derbyshire, the chief executive of HelpAge International, the problem is global : elderly patients’ needs are neglected by governments and international bodies during and after wars. “This is systemic ageism and an example of how bad the global system is at responding to older people’s needs,” he says.

【7】Elderly people are at the centre of the Ukraine crisis , as victims and rescuers. After a lifetime of caring for others, they are now vulnerable, not only to loneliness and hunger, but also to rape and murder. “I’ve seen everything – the Holodomor (great famine of 1932-33), the second world war, so many horrors. What else could scare me?” says Vasylivna. She never imagined Russia would invade. It is her inability to take care of herself that scares her now. She feels trapped. “I would evacuate if I could take care of myself. I was working my whole life. It’s such a shame I can’t do anything any more.”

8.3 Forced assimilation: Stolen children[36]

A report on Native American boarding schools unveils some of their horrors

【1】SOPHIA TETOFF was 12 years old in 1901 when she was sent 4,000 miles from her island home in the Bering Sea to Carlisle, an Indian boarding school in Pennsylvania. Sophia was a member of Alaska's Unangax people. Five years later, she died from tuberculosis. She was buried in the school's cemetery and largely forgotten. Her name on her headstone was misspelt. Her tribe's name was incorrect. Sophia was one of thousands of children separated from their communities, often forcibly, and sent to Indian boarding schools.

【2】Last summer Deb Haaland, the secretary of the interior, whose department manages the Bureau of Indian Affairs, announced the federal Indian boarding School initiative, a comprehensive review of the troubled legacy of such policies. On May 11th Ms Haaland, the first Native American cabinet secretary, released the first volume of the review. The investigation found that from 1819 to 1969, the federal Indian boarding-school system had 408 schools across 37 states or territories. burial sites were identified at 53 schools (as the investigation continues that number is expected to rise). The Indian children who died at schools far from their families could number in the tens of thousands.

【3】The consequences of federal Indian boarding-school policies inflicted upon generations of children as young as four years old are heartbreaking and undeniable,"said Ms Haaland. Forced-assimilation practices included cutting off the children's long hair, and stripping them of their traditional clothing, language and culture. The government mixed children from different tribes to disrupt connections and force the use of English. There was rampant physical, sexual and emotional abuse as well as malnourishment, disease and overcrowding. Many children were sent out to farms and businesses for months of manual labour. The schools often pocketed their wages.

[36] The Economist-20220514 期「United States」Forced assimilation: Stolen children

【4】Ms Haaland was moved to shed light on these traumas by the discovery of hundreds of unmarked graves connected to Indian residential schools in Canada. The review found much evidence of intergenerational trauma caused by family separation and cultural eradication. Ms Haaland's own grandparents were stolen from their families and sent away to school. Her great-grandfather was taken to Carlisle.

【5】Carlisle was used as a model for other schools. Its founder, Richard Henry Pratt, infamously said in 1892, "Kill the Indian in him, and save the man." His outlook was not novel. As far back as George Washington it was part of federal policy. Indian territorial dispossession and assimilation through education was considered a cheap and safe way of subduing Native Americans. By 1926, 83% of Indian school-age children were attending boarding schools.

【6】The initiative will continue its search for burial sites. It also intends to identify surviving boarding-school pupils to document their experiences. And it will explore the potential repatriation or disinterment of children's remains. Sophia's remains, along with those of nine Rosebud Sioux children, returned to Alaska and South Dakota last summer, where they were welcomed home by their communities. At the review's unveiling Deborah Parker, head of the National Native American boarding School Healing Coalition, said: "Our children deserve to be brought home."

【para1】连根拔起：同化政策将数以万计的印第安儿童带离原生部落，许多孩子惨死他乡

【para2】昭然若揭：内政部项目揭露美国原住民政策下印第安寄宿学校罪行滔天

【para3】煞费苦心：寄宿学校为摧毁儿童身份和文化认同无所不用其极，儿童遭受非人苛待

【para4】难以磨灭：学校旧址无名冢遍地，强制同化的伤痛烙印在印第安人基因里代代相传

【para5】由来已久：种族灭绝乃美国长期系统问题，同化教育臭名昭著

【para6】长路漫漫：真相探索永无止息，远离家乡的印第安儿童终于踏上漫漫回家路

8.4 Tax in America：A tale of two profits[37]

A minimum tax on companies seems alluring, but is likely to disappoint

【1】On the face of things, it seems both absurd and unfair that large American companies regularly whittle down their tax bills, taking advantage of every loophole on offer. One study found that at least 55 big companies incurred no federal taxes at all on their profits in 2020. A proposal being discussed as The Economist went to press, and as the Democratic Party scrambled to fund its social-spending package, seems to offer a popular solution: a minimum tax on corporate earnings as reported to shareholders, rather than as massaged down when reported to tax collectors.

【2】The structure of the minimum tax looks simple enough. Companies that report more than $1bn in profits to shareholders would pay a tax of at least 15% on those profits. The levy would be explicitly aimed at firms such as Amazon, which had an effective federal income-tax rate of just 4.3% from 2018 to 2020, far below the statutory rate of 21%, according to the Institute on taxation and Economic Policy, a left-leaning think-tank. All told, the new tax would apply to some 200 big companies.

【3】Politically, the minimum corporate tax has much going for it. Angus King, an independent senator who is an architect of the proposal, believes it could raise $400bn over ten years. That would help fund the bill that is the cornerstone of President Joe Biden's "Build Back Better" agenda, featuring about $2trn in spending over the next decade (equivalent to less than 1% of projected GDP during that time). The corporate minimum is also less controversial than another new levy the Democrats were rowing over, a tax on unrealised capital gains that would target 700 billionaires.

【4】Democrats had hoped at first to rely on a general increase in the corporate-tax rate to raise revenues. But Kyrsten Sinema, a Democratic senator from Arizona whose support is needed for the bill to pass, opposed the wider increase and has instead backed the minimum tax as

[37] 11.22 经济学人外刊精读 |美国税收，经济学人考研精读 2021-11-17 08:00

"commonsense". The idea also has the approval of Joe Manchin, a Democratic senator from West Virginia, whose vote could prove decisive.

【5】The economic rationale is, however, more dubious. Despite its apparently simple structure, it would introduce more complexity into an already bloated tax code. Companies would face two parallel systems, calculating their liabilities first under regular tax rules and then under the minimum-tax regime. An earlier version of a minimum corporate tax, repealed under President Donald Trump in 2017, was so onerous that in some years compliance costs outstripped tax collections.

【6】The gap between taxable income and book income as reported to shareholders exists for a reason. When, say, a company builds a factory, financial rules require it to spread the cost over many years based on depreciation, letting investors know the value of its assets. Tax rules, however, let firms report costs when incurred. That lowers tax bills when investments are made and encourages more spending.

【7】calculating minimum taxes based on book, rather than taxable, income would lead to two perverse outcomes. First, powers over tax would, in effect, be granted to the Financial Accounting standards Board, an unelected body that governs how companies report income. Changes in its standards would lead to changes in taxation.

【8】Second, companies would have less scope for deducting investment expenses, and hence might pare back capital spending. Mr Biden, though, does not want that to happen, so the proposal maintains several deductions, including for spending on clean energy and on research and development—one of the provisions that may have allowed Amazon to lower its taxes.

【9】Companies, for their part, will adapt. By turning more to debt instead of equity markets for financing, for instance, they could increase their interest expenses, which would eat into both their book and taxable incomes. The upshot is that the minimum corporate tax may end up raising far less revenue than its proponents believe, while also skewing investment incentives—and making a messy tax code even more complicated.

Questions：

1. In case 8.1, “unfortunately, teens forgoing their jabs in the UK will not mean those doses are donated to countries who are short on supply,” do you think that donation of vaccine to those underdeveloped countries is “a duty to humanity”? what has our countries done?
2. In case 8.3, “Sophia was one of thousands of children separated from their communities, often forcibly, and sent to Indian boarding schools”, do you think that it’s democratic and humane?
3. In case 8.4, “A proposal being discussed as The Economist went to press, and as the Democratic Party scrambled to fund its social-spending package, seems to offer a popular solution: a minimum tax on corporate earnings as reported to shareholders, rather than as massaged down when reported to tax collectors”, every company should pay the tax, why does it have something to do with a Party?

问题：

（1）在案例 8.1 中，“不幸的是，在英国放弃注射疫苗的青少年并不意味着这些剂量被捐赠给了供应不足的国家”，你认为给欠发达国家捐赠疫苗是“人类的责任”吗？在这方面我们国家政府做了什么？

（2）从案例 8.3 中，“索菲亚是成千上万与社区分离的孩子之一，他们经常被强行送到印第安寄宿学校”，这样的做法民主和人道吗？

（3）从案例 8.4 中，“随着《经济学人》出版，以及民主党努力为其社会支出计划提供资金，一项正在讨论的提议似乎提供了一个受欢迎的解决方案：对向股东报告的企业收益征收最低税，而不是在向税务人员报告时降低税收”，每个企业都应该缴税，这和政党有什么关系？

一、案例中的思政元素

① 培养友善互助的国际主义精神，树立人类命运共同体的理念：通过新冠病毒疫苗的国际捐赠，培养学生高尚的格局和宽广的视野，在中国进一步扩大对外开放中贡献自己的力量。

② 制度自信：理解美国所谓“人权和民主”的虚伪性，理解美国政党和利益集团对经济制度以及社会公平的影响。

③ 孝顺父母：感恩父母的养育之恩，并且努力回馈父母。

二、采用的教学方法

（1）讲授法：教师讲授相关知识点。

（2）案例分析法：选择契合相关知识点的案例进行分析。

（3）小组讨论法：将学生课堂上分成小组对案例进行讨论，分别汇报讨论结果。

（4）问答法：在学生阅读相关案例材料后，请学生回答/抢答其中的经济学原理。

（5）翻转课堂：请学生自行组织对案例发表自己的观点和见解，并且以答辩的形式接受质询。

三、案例适用的范围

（包含案例适用的专业或课程、案例与专业课程思政的内在联系等）

案例名称	包含知识点	对应课程
8.1 ‘A duty to humanity’ Should richer nations rethink vaccine priorities?	贫困与平等	政治经济学 制度经济学
8.2 Forgotten but not gone: How older women got left behind in conflict	阶级与战争	政治经济学
8.3 Forced assimilation: Stolen children	民主与人权	政治经济学
8.4 Tax in America：A tale of two profits	财政政策与选举政治	制度经济学

Topic 9: Politics

9.1 Developing countries and debt：Progress and poverty[38]

Emerging-market crises have become harder to resolve but less of a threat to the world economy

【1】Whenever America's Federal Reserve raises interest rates, investors reflexively worry about a crisis in emerging markets. Today it might appear the usual pattern is playing out. On July 27th the Fed is expected to raise rates by another three-quarters of a percentage point. Meanwhile, Sri Lanka has run out of foreign exchange, Argentina faces another default and many poor countries are in trouble. Look more closely, however, and the world economy has been transformed in ways that mean the nature and consequences of emerging-market turmoil have changed.

【2】The archetypal emerging-market crisis was in 1997-98. As the Fed raised rates, pulling capital back to America, Thailand's currency peg broke, leading to a panic that floored South Korea and Indonesia. It then spread to Brazil and Russia, and to LTCM, a Wall Street hedge fund that collapsed. Calm was restored by the Fed and Treasury cajoling American banks to roll over loans, and by the IMF. Three American officials who led the firefighting were dubbed "the committee to save the world". A decade or so ago there was a faint echo of 1997-98 when the Fed signalled it would tighten policy, triggering a sell-off in emerging markets.

【3】Yet today much has changed. emerging economies' share of global GDP at market prices has risen from 21% to 43%. Asia's share of emerging-market output has doubled, to 60%, led by China and India, which are more self-contained financially, with state-led banking sectors and bond markets that are largely closed to foreigners. The weight of many crisis-prone places is small: Latin America represents 5% of world GDP and 1.4% of stock market value.

【4】Another change is that many emerging markets have moved away from currency pegs, dollar debt and foreign borrowing. Today only 16% of their debts are in foreign currencies. Governments increasingly rely on local banks. Instead of sudden crises that spill back across borders and to Wall Street, many places face slower-burn and home-grown dangers: inflationary spirals or

[38] 8.11 经济学人外刊精读丨发展中国家和债务,英文杂志双语精读 2022-08-11 07:01 发表于山东

zombie banks. A collapse of China's debt-ridden financial system would hurt global growth because the Chinese economy is large, not because investors elsewhere are directly exposed.

【5】The final change is that even where foreign creditors are important, their profile is different. For example, the "Paris Club" of creditors, which is composed mostly of rich countries and multilateral institutions such as the IMF, accounts for less than 60% of the poorest countries' debts, down from more than 80% in 2006. China accounts for about a fifth.

【6】The good news is that panics in emerging markets seem less likely to inflict serious damage on the rest of the world. We calculate the countries most at risk of default today account for only 5% of GDP and 3% of global public debt. The bad news is that these places have 1.4bn people, or 18% of the global population, and face a huge humanitarian challenge with higher inflation, debt loads, interest rates and expensive oil and food.

【7】Furthermore, the new distribution of their debts means it is harder to strike deals to provide them with debt relief. The West does not want to give aid that flows into the pockets of Chinese creditors. China is reluctant to participate in debt restructuring, even though any modern-day rescue committee needs a member from Beijing. As a result, even if emerging-market crises pose less of a danger to the global economy, they may pose more of a threat to the people living through them.

9.2 India's next decade[39]

The Indian economy is being rewired. The opportunity is immense. And so are the stakes

【1】Over the past three years India has endured more than its share of bad news and suffering. The pandemic has killed between 2.2m and 9.7m people. Lockdowns caused the economy to shrink temporarily by a quarter and triggered the largest internal migrations since partition in 1947, as city workers fled to their villages. religious tensions have been simmering, stoked by the anti-Muslim chauvinism of the Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP), in power since 2014 under the strongman prime minister, Narendra Modi. Now a heatwave is baking the north of the country and the global oil- and food-price shock is battering the poor.

【2】Yet if you take a step back, a novel confluence of forces stands to transform India's economy over the next decade, improving the lives of 1.4bn people and changing the balance of power in Asia. Technological leaps, the energy transition and geopolitical shifts are creating new opportunities—and new tools to fix intractable problems. The biggest threat to all this is India's incendiary politics.

【3】Since India opened up in 1991, its economy has prompted both euphoria and despair. One minute it is the next China: a rising superpower bursting with enterprising geniuses. The next it is a demographic time-bomb unable to generate hope for its young people; or a Wild West where Vodafone and other naive multinationals are fleeced. Over the past decade India has outgrown most other big countries, yet this has been overshadowed by a sense of disappointment. It has not engineered the manufacturing surge that enriched East Asia nor built enough big companies to marshal capital for development. Its fragmented markets and informal firms create few good jobs.

【4】As the country emerges from the pandemic, however, a new pattern of growth is visible. It is unlike anything you have seen before. An indigenous tech effort is key. As the cost of technology has dropped, India has rolled out a national "tech stack": a set of state-sponsored digital services that link ordinary

[39] 5.31 经济学人外刊精读｜印度的下个十年

Indians with an electronic identity, payments and tax systems, and bank accounts. The rapid adoption of these platforms is forcing a vast, inefficient, informal cash economy into the 21st century. It has turbocharged the world's third-largest startup scene after America's and China's.

【5】Alongside that, global trends are creating bigger business clusters. The IT-services industry has doubled in size in a decade, helped by the cloud and a worldwide shortage of software workers. Where else can Western firms find half a million new engineers a year? There is a renewable-energy investment spree: India ranks third for solar installations and is pioneering green hydrogen. As firms everywhere reconfigure supply chains to lessen their reliance on China, India's attractions as a manufacturing location have risen, helped by a $26bn subsidy scheme. Western governments are keen to forge defence and technology links. India has also found a workaround to redistribute more to ordinary folk who vote but rarely see immediate gains from economic reforms: a direct, real-time, digital welfare system that in 36 months has paid $200bn to about 950m people.

【6】These changes will not lead to a manufacturing boom as big as those in South Korea or China, which created enough jobs to empty the fields of farmers. They do not solve deep problems such as extreme weather or clogged courts. But they do help explain why India is forecast to be the world's fastest-growing big economy in 2022 and why it has a chance of holding on to that title for years. Growth generates more wealth to invest in the country's human capital, particularly hospitals and schools.

【7】Who deserves the credit? Chance has played a big role: India did not create the Sino-American split or the cloud, but benefits from both. So has the steady accumulation of piecemeal reform over many governments. The digital-identity scheme and new national tax system were dreamed up a decade or more ago.

【8】Mr Modi's government has also got a lot right. It has backed the tech stack and direct welfare, and persevered with the painful task of shrinking the informal economy. It has found pragmatic fixes. Central-government purchases of solar power have kick-started renewables. Financial reforms have made it easier to float young firms and bankrupt bad ones. Mr Modi's electoral prowess provides economic continuity. Even the opposition expects him to be in power well after the election in 2024.

【9】The danger is that over the next decade this dominance hardens into autocracy. One risk is the BJP's abhorrent hostility towards Muslims, which it uses to rally its political base. Companies tend to shrug this off, judging that Mr Modi can keep tensions under control and that capital flight will be limited. Yet violence and deteriorating human rights could lead to stigma that impairs India's access to Western markets. The BJP's desire for religious and linguistic conformity in a huge, diverse country could be destabilising. Were the party to impose Hindi as the national language, secessionist pressures would grow in some wealthy states that pay much of the taxes.

【10】The quality of decision-making could also deteriorate. Prickly and vindictive, the government has co-opted the bureaucracy to bully the press and the courts. A botched decision to abolish bank notes in 2016 showed Mr Modi's impulsive side. A strongman lacking checks and balances can eventually endanger not just democracy, but also the economy: think of President Recep Tayyip Erdogan in Turkey, whose bizarre views on inflation have caused a currency crisis. And, given the BJP's ambivalence towards foreign capital, the campaign for national renewal risks regressing into protectionism. The party loves blank cheques from Silicon Valley but is wary of foreign firms competing in India. Today's targeted subsidies could degenerate into autarky and cronyism—the tendencies that have long held India back.

【11】Seizing the moment

For India to grow at 7% or 8% for years to come would be momentous. It would lift huge numbers of people out of poverty. It would generate a vast new market and manufacturing base for global business, and it would change the global balance of power by creating a bigger counterweight to China in Asia. Fate, inheritance and pragmatic decisions have created a new opportunity in the next decade. It is India's and Mr Modi's to squander.

9.3 Global instability: Hungry and angry[40]

A wave of unrest is coming. Here’s how to avert some of it

【para1】JESUS SAID that man does not live by bread alone. Nonetheless, its scarcity makes people furious. The last time the world suffered a food-price shock like today’s, it helped set off the Arab spring, a wave of uprisings that ousted four presidents and led to horrific civil wars in Syria and Libya. Unfortunately, Vladimir Putin’s invasion of Ukraine has upended the markets for grain and energy once again. And so unrest is inevitable this year, too.

【para2】Soaring food and fuel prices are the most excruciating form of inflation. If the prices of furniture or smartphones rise, people can delay a purchase or forgo it. But they cannot stop eating. Likewise, transport costs are baked into every physical good, and most people cannot easily walk to work. So when food and fuel grow dearer, standards of living tend to fall abruptly. The pain is most intense for city dwellers in poor countries, who spend a huge part of their income on bread and bus fares. Unlike rural folk, they cannot grow their own crops—but they can riot.

【para3】Many governments want to ease the pain, but are indebted and short of cash after covid-19. The average poor country’s public debt-to-GDP ratio is nearly 70% and it is climbing. Poor countries also pay higher interest rates, which are rising. Some of them will find this unsustainable. The IMF says that 41 are in “debt distress” or at high risk of it.

【para4】Sri Lanka has already defaulted and melted down. Angry and hungry mobs have set fire to vehicles, invaded government buildings and spurred their reviled president into pushing out the prime minister, who is his brother. Riots have erupted in Peru over living standards, and India over a plan to cut some jobs-for-life in the army, which rankles when so many yearn for security. Pakistan is urging its citizens to drink less tea to save hard currency. Laos is on the brink of default. Anger at the cost of living doubtless contributed to Colombia’s election of a left-wing radical as president on June 19th.

[40] The Economist-20220625期「Leaders」Global instability: Hungry and angry

【para5】The Economist has built a statistical model to examine the relationship between food- and fuel-price inflation and political unrest. It reveals that both have historically been good predictors of mass protests, riots and political violence. If our model's findings continue to hold true, many countries can expect to see a doubling of unrest this year .

【para6】 The greatest risk is in places that were already precarious: countries such as Jordan and Egypt that depend on food and fuel imports and have rickety public finances. Many such places are badly or oppressively governed. In Turkey the supply shock has accelerated ruinous inflation caused by dotty monetary policy. Around the world, the cost-of-living squeeze is adding to people's grievances and raising the chance that they will take to the streets. This is more likely to turn violent in places with lots of underemployed, single young men. As their purchasing power falls, many will conclude that they will never be able to afford to marry and have a family. Frustrated and humiliated, some will feel they have nothing to lose if they join a riot.

【 para7 】 Another way inflation destabilises societies is by fostering graft. When wages do not keep up with prices, officials with needy relatives find it even more tempting to extort money from the powerless. This infuriates those who are preyed on. Recall that the trigger for the Arab spring was the suicide of a Tunisian hawker, who set himself ablaze to protest against constant demands for pay-offs from dirty cops.

【para8】If unrest spreads this year, it could add to the economic pain. Investors dislike riots and revolutions. One study finds that a big outbreak of political violence typically knocks a percentage point off GDP 18 months later. The damage is worse when protesters are angry about both politics and the economy combined.

【para9】Averting the coming explosions will be hard. A good start would be to scrap policies that discourage food production, such as price controls and export curbs. Farmers in countries like Tunisia leave fertile land unploughed because they have to sell their crop to the state for a pittance. Governments should let farmers reap what they sow. Also, far less grain should be wastefully burned as biofuel.

【para10】Several countries are asking for bail-outs. International financial institutions must strike a tricky balance. Saying no could spell chaos—and do lasting harm. But so could bailing out woeful governments, by entrenching bad and unsustainable policies. Bodies such as the IMF, whose negotiators arrived in Sri Lanka and Tunisia this week, should be generous but insist on reforms. They should continue to monitor carefully how their money is spent. And they should act swiftly. The longer all this anger is allowed to fester, the more likely it is to explode.

【para1】动乱重演 ：前有粮食价格冲击导致阿拉伯之春事件，后有俄乌战争重创谷物和能源市场，动乱或不可避免。

【para2】恶性通胀：粮食燃油价格飞涨乃最恶劣的通胀，人们生活水平急剧下降，甚至引发动乱。

【para3】政府无力：多国政府欲缓通胀，奈何财力薄弱，负债累累。

【para4】各国乱象：通胀招致各国面临债务危机，生活成本骤升。斯里兰卡、秘鲁、印度、老挝、哥伦比亚等国动乱不断。

【para5】模型测算：本刊搭建的统计模型表明粮食燃油通胀通常预示抗议、动乱等。今年很多国家可能难逃此“劫”。

【para6】重灾区域：依赖粮食燃油进口、国家财力薄弱、政府治理糟糕、失业人数多的地区动乱的可能性和破坏性更高。

【para7】滋生腐败：通胀常助长腐败，进一步引起社会动乱。

【para8】经济阵痛：若动乱蔓延，经济将受创。

【para9】预防之道：避免动乱虽难，但也并非无计可施，比如放松粮食价格与出口控制，鼓励农民自主生产。

【para10】IMF 助力：IMF 给予各国援助时，需严格把关资金用途

9.4 Dealing with refugees: Somebody else's problem[41]

Britain's deal to ship asylum-seekers to Rwanda could wreck the post-war refugee system

【1】Britain was one of the first countries to ratify the refugee convention of 1951, which spelled out countries' obligations to protect fugitives from persecution who had arrived in their territories and not return them to danger. The convention was "an excellent instrument", said Selwyn Lloyd, a Conservative minister in the Foreign Office. No country in Europe was doing as much to help refugees, boasted another minister.

【2】The country still leads the world in devising new ways of dealing with refugees. Now, however, Britain is leading in the opposite direction. The Conservative government is perturbed by the growing number of people (some 29,000 last year) who reach Britain in small boats crossing the Channel from France. On April 14th it signed a memorandum of understanding with Rwanda which would allow it to fly asylum-seekers who reach Britain's shores straight to the African country without listening to their claims. Rwanda, which gets cash as part of the deal, will consider whether to grant them asylum—in Rwanda. They will not be allowed back to Britain.

【3】If the Conservatives pull this off, it will be a perilous new step for the world's refugee system. Britain is not trying to process asylum claimants offshore, as Australia did when it interned boat people in Nauru and Papua New Guinea. Nor is it trying to push asylum-seekers back to the country they arrived from, as America has done since covid-19 hit (although it will soon relent) and as the European Union has done with Syrians who cross from Turkey to Greece. Britain proposes to send people 6,500km away, regardless of where they came from.

【4】The plans have been attacked by the Labour Party, refugee groups and the Archbishop of Canterbury. Even the most senior civil servant in the Home Office has demurred. None of that will worry the government, which relishes scraps with such softies. And many of their objections are the wrong ones.

[41] 5.16 经济学人外刊精读 | 难民问题

【5】Critics claim that the Rwanda scheme will be costly, like Australia's, and that it may not work as intended. Judges could strike it down. Britain may end up sending so few people to Rwanda that asylum-seekers will not be deterred from crossing the English Channel. But it is not clear that an asylum system ought to be cheap. And if Britain fails to send many asylum-seekers to Rwanda (as has happened with Denmark, which signed a much vaguer deal with the country last year) it will embarrass the British government but no one else.

【6】The much greater danger is that the plan works. If Britain manages to send thousands of asylum-seekers to Africa, others are likely to get the message and not try to come to Britain at all. Few refugees would find Rwanda congenial. Boris Johnson, Britain's prime minister, calls it "that dynamic country" and "one of the safest...in the world"; his home secretary, Priti Patel, says it has "many, many interests in common" with Britain. Such praise is overblown. Rwanda may be orderly, but it is also extremely poor and has one of Africa's scariest, most repressive governments. Britain has accurately criticised its human-rights violations in the past, although it may refrain from now on. Dealing with an autocrat messes with your moral compass.

【7】If asylum-seekers steer clear of Britain, other rich democracies will surely wonder why they should adhere strictly to decades-old conventions. They too are likely to start cutting deals to offload their asylum-seekers onto poorer countries, no matter how autocratic. The world will stumble towards a new system for processing refugees, in which money buys immunity from claims. The countries most able to accommodate desperate people will end up doing even less than they do today.

【8】Calais, not Kigali

Some of Mr Johnson's and Ms Patel's arguments are right. They correctly observe that the Channel crossing is dangerous and that asylum-seekers must pay smugglers to arrange the journey. The sight of ever more people crammed into dinghies irks voters, who can be generous towards immigrants when a crisis is in the news—witness their enthusiasm for welcoming Hong Kongers and Ukrainians. It is genuinely difficult to balance control of borders and compassion towards refugees.

【9】But if chaos, danger and illegality are the problems, a better solution exists. France has suggested that Britain ought to process asylum claims on French turf. That would create new problems, the greatest of which is that Britain would almost certainly receive more asylum claims than it does now (lacking a moat, France gets twice as many). But it would clean up the mess in the Channel and on the north coast of France, where would-be asylum-seekers wait in awful conditions for a chance to cross. It would entail no soul-sapping deal with an autocrat. And it would uphold the principle that protecting refugees is a shared obligation, not something to buy your way out of.

9.5 Ukraine and the European Union: Ever wider[42]

The EU should declare Ukraine a candidate for membership

【1】What is the point of the European Union? In a nutshell, to spread peace and prosperity on the continent. That mission has seen its membership expand steadily from the six founders of its precursor in the 1950s to 27 countries today. But in recent years its growth has slowed. No new member has been admitted since Croatia in 2013 (and one has left). Now war has ignited on the EU's borders—just the sort of horror its founders hoped to banish from the continent. To be true to the EU's mission, to bolster an embattled democracy and to face down the sort of nationalist aggression to which the EU considers itself the antidote, the club's leaders, who meet in Brussels next week, should formally declare Ukraine a candidate for membership.

【2】The fainthearted will object, saying that Ukraine is too poor, too corrupt and now too war-torn to join the cosy club. That is true, but it misses the point. No one imagines that Ukraine will be ready to become a member for many years yet. It will have plenty of hoops to jump through before that can or should happen. If Ukraine does not make sufficient progress, it should not be admitted. The progression from candidate to member is by no means inexorable: Turkey has been in the queue since 1987.

【3】The conferral of candidate status initiates a flurry of paperwork. It can create a powerful incentive for the government of the would-be member to institute big administrative and economic reforms. But its main significance is as an expression of intent, from both sides, to make the applicant part of the European family. In Ukraine's case, the symbolism of such a statement is huge. The EU would be saying that it considers Ukraine a sovereign European country no different from France or Finland, and potentially with just as bright a future. That, of course, is the opposite of what Vladimir Putin, Russia's president, believes, and a complete rejection of everything he is hoping to achieve with his invasion.

【4】Consider the alternative. Ukraine has asked to become a candidate for membership. If the EU rejects the request, it would be signalling to Mr Putin

[42] 7.7 经济学人外刊精读 | 乌克兰和欧盟,经济学人考研精读 2022-07-07 07:00 发表于山东

that Ukraine is somehow different from the other poor and corrupt places on Europe's eastern fringes that are slowly being absorbed into the club—that it is not truly European, or truly sovereign. That is tantamount to confirming Mr Putin's view that Ukraine is a cartographic fiction that should fall into his sphere of influence, not the West's. To send such a signal when Ukraine is fighting for its very existence would not just undermine the principles the EU claims to hold dear; it would encourage the biggest enemy of European stability and dishearten his .

【5】It is true that even starting negotiations on Ukrainian membership will bring big practical problems. It is not easy to convene working groups with missiles raining down. Assuming that Ukraine will struggle to reclaim all the territory seized by Russia, at least in the near term, it will be difficult to decide how to treat people and goods from the occupied areas. But the EU admitted Cyprus even though it does not control a third of its territory. The best solution is not to shy away from making Ukraine a candidate, but to give it more weapons, and so help it beat back Russia's army, which is grinding forward bloodily in the Donbas region. In particular, modern artillery could help halt the Russian advance.

【6】The EU likes to think of itself not as a self-interested club of well-to-do countries, but as the embodiment of the idea that openness and integration are superior to narrow, prickly nationalism. It has had great success in propagating that idea through expansion. It would be not only ironic, but tragic, if it were to retreat from its principles in the face of Mr Putin's warmongering. Now is the time to signal not just to Ukraine, but also to other countries bullied by Russia, such as Georgia and Moldova (and indeed long-rebuffed bits of the Balkans), that the EU remains determined to spread peace and prosperity ever more widely.

Questions：

1. In case 9.1, why “Emerging-market crises have become harder to resolve”? do you think that it is closely related to America’s rising interest rates?
2. In case 9.2, “It would generate a vast new market and manufacturing base for global business, and it would change the global balance of power by creating a bigger counterweight to China in Asia”, what do you think of that?
3. In case 9.3, “A good start would be to scrap policies that discourage food production, such as price controls and export curbs”, do you agree with that? If US helps to stop the war in Ukraine by conciliation, it will certainly encourage food production. Why won’t US do that?
4. In case 9.4, Britain ship asylum-seekers to Rwanda while welcoming Hong Kongers and Ukrainians enthusiastically, why?

问题：

（1）在案例 9.1 中，“新兴市场的危机已经变得更难解决”，你认为这和美国不断加息有关吗？

（2）在案例 9.2 中，“它将为全球业务创造一个巨大的新市场和制造基地，并将通过在亚洲为中国创造更大的制衡来改变全球力量平衡”，这对此你怎么看？

（3）在案例 9.3 中，“取消阻碍食品生产的政策，比如价格控制和出口限制，僵尸一个好的开始”，你同意这个观点吗？如果美国帮助调停俄乌冲，显然将有利于粮食生产，它为什么不那样做？

（4）在案例 9.4 中，英国将寻求庇护者运送到卢旺达，却热烈欢迎乌克兰难民和香港人，为什么呢？

一、案例中的思政元素

① 政治立场坚定：认清英国和美国等西方国家历来“双标”的言论，以及对我国压制不断增加的做法。不轻易被西方言论所左右，立志为中华民主伟大复兴而奋斗。

② 自立自强：理解乌克兰等国家的现状和形成的原因，明白中国必须坚持走独立自主，自力更生的道路。

③ 热爱祖国：从难民的悲惨遭遇中，让学生理解只有祖国强大，人民才能幸福安康。

二、采用的教学方法

（1）讲授法：教师讲授相关知识点。

（2）案例分析法：选择契合相关知识点的案例进行分析。

（3）小组讨论法：将学生课堂上分成小组对案例进行讨论，分别汇报讨论结果。

（4）问答法：在学生阅读相关案例材料后，请学生回答/抢答其中的经济学原理。

（5）翻转课堂：请学生自行组织对案例发表自己的观点和见解，并且以答辩的形式接受质询。

三、案例适用的范围

（包含案例适用的专业或课程、案例与专业课程思政的内在联系等）

案例名称	包含知识点	对应课程
9.1 Developing countries and debt ： Progress and poverty	国际货币美元的特殊地位	国际经济学
9.2 India’s next decade	区位优势、比较优势	国际投资
9.3 Global instability: Hungry and angry	一般均衡理论 贸易壁垒	微观经济学 国际贸易
9.4 Dealing with refugees: Somebody else’s problem	平等与人权	政治经济学
9.5 Ukraine and the European Union: Ever wider	博弈论 合谋与垄断	微观经济学

Topic 10: Climate and Environment

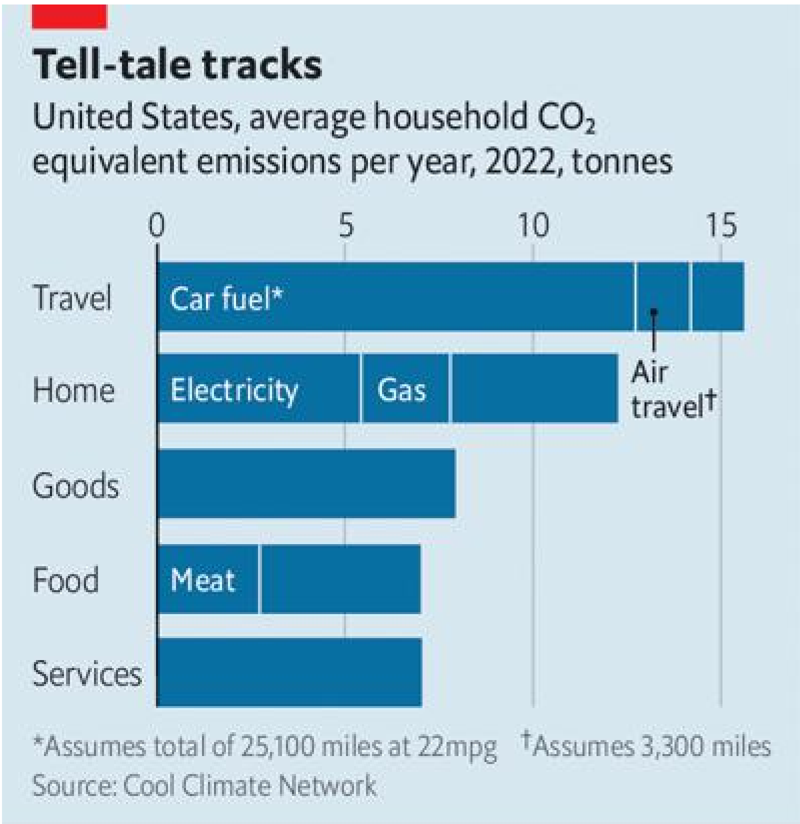
10.1 Carbon emissions: Seeing footprints in the air

The neglected Cinderellas of climate measurement deserve more attention

【para1】CHRIS JONES of the University of California, Berkeley, was on a river in the Amazon rainforest when he put the finishing touches on the world's first online household carbon calculator. That was in 2005. He hoped that, if he could show people how much greenhouse gas was associated with daily activities—driving the car, heating the house—they might change their behaviour and contribute in some small measure to saving the Amazon. Seventeen years and a proliferation of rival calculators later, trackers are providing a wealth of often-neglected information about the carbon emissions of everyday life. They provide local and micro data which usefully supplement the global findings of the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change.

【para2】Trackers work by asking users to answer questions such as: how many miles a year do you drive; how much is your annual household electricity bill; how often do you eat meat? They then calculate a personal or household estimate of emissions of carbon-dioxide equivalent (CO2e) per year. Alex Beale, a climate blogger in Atlanta who has studied them, reckons there are dozens of household carbon trackers and hundreds of specialist ones, including those which calculate emissions from food or other industries, such as a new one from the Stockholm Environment Institute (SEI) to track emissions from shipping. For individuals, reckons Mr Beale, the most comprehensive are the Cool Climate tracker run by Dr Jones at Berkeley and the calculator set up by the World Wildlife Fund (WWF) and SEI. What do they tell us?

【para3】Dr Jones describes the main household polluting activities as "cars, coal, cows and consumption, roughly in that order". By far the largest single source of emissions is the family vehicle. One car of average fuel efficiency driven 14,000 miles (22,500km) spews out 7 tonnes of carbon, according to Dr Jones's tracker. Swapping it for an electric vehicle would save over 6 tonnes, or an eighth of the average American household's yearly emissions.



The Economist

【para4】No other change would generate that much saving, though electricity in the home is responsible for over 5 tonnes of carbon emissions a year, so generating it with solar panels would come close (see chart). Like electric vehicles, a roof full of solar panels is not cheap. Changing diets costs less, and American households consume meat worth 2.7 tonnes of CO2e a year, far more than most people. If Americans miraculously went vegetarian, that would be like half an average solar roof.

【para5】These household averages, however, disguise what may be the most important thing carbon trackers reveal: that apparently similar households produce very different emissions. By combining their tracker's results with postal code data, the University of California team worked out average emissions by area. Places with high emissions—mostly suburbs—produce four or five times as much carbon as inner cities or rural areas, a much larger multiple than might have been expected. Chicago's households produce 37 tonnes of CO2e a year; suburban Eola's, some 35 miles (56km) from the Windy City, emit 96 tonnes. This is not only because of commuting. Trips to and from work account for less than a fifth of miles driven; the rest are to shops, schools and so on.

【para6】Even more striking is the difference air travel makes. The average household contribution from flying is 1.5 tonnes, less than a car. But half of Americans never fly. According to Cool Climate, flying 100,000 miles a year (as some frequent flyers do) produces a stunning 43 extra tonnes of CO_2. If jet-set households were to cut their travel sharply, they would have a disproportionate effect on emissions. They might even do something for the Amazon.

【para7】Over the next 30 years, many countries are promising to move to net-zero carbon, implying that household emissions will have to be cut to close to nothing. Stephanie Roe, WWF's lead climate scientist, reckons that, at best, half the reduction might be achieved through demand-side measures, such as behavioural changes by individuals and households. And even that would require companies and governments to provide more incentives to change through supply-side investments to make low-carbon options cheaper and more widely available. Trackers, it seems, have daunting lessons for public bodies and private households alike.

【para1】前世今生：首台家庭碳足迹计算器问世于17年前，如今为全球调查提供有益补充

【para2】浅显易懂：追踪器工作原理显而易见，种类多样，各有侧重

【para3】罪魁祸首：家庭碳排放“四大天王”，私家车一马当先

【para4】所费不赀：绿色选择(电动车&太阳能屋顶)价格不菲，肉食变素食才是性价比之神

【para5】内情毕露：家庭碳排量与地理位置息息相关，乡村地区表现令人瞠目

【para6】“飞”来横祸：时髦有钱的“爱飞”家庭或将为节能减排做出巨大贡献

【para7】道阻且长：“净零排放”承诺下，供给侧和需求侧均需严阵以待

10.2 Farming: How many cows are too many?[43]

And is a nut a fruit, asks the Dutch government?

【para1】AROUND THE CORNER from the office of Mark Rutte, the Netherlands' prime minister, lies the Koediefstraat, or "cow-thief street". Many Dutch farmers might find the name appropriate: by their lights, the government wants to rustle their cattle. On June 10th it unveiled proposed limits to nitrogen pollution, such as ammonia from fertiliser and manure, to abide by eu biodiversity rules. Farms next to nature reserves must cut nitrogen output by 70%. About 30% of the country's cows and pigs will have to go, along with a big share of cattle and dairy farms.

【para2】Since then farmers have protested so boisterously that one might think it was legal to drive a John Deere on the motorway. Pastures are festooned with the slogan "no farmer, no food". Farmers have parked tractors in front of the Senate, harassed government ministers at their homes and blockaded distribution centres to press supermarkets to take sides. They tried to intimidate a vegetarian food company into removing passages on its website stating that cattle-raising contributes to climate change.

[43] The Economist-20220716期「Europe」Farming: How many cows are too many?

【para3】The Netherlands is the biggest nitrogen polluter in the eu. The density of cows in parts of the country exceeds that of any other region of Europe. The government says that Dutch farmers will be paid the full value of any land, cattle or machinery they have to take out of production, and will get subsidies to convert to ecological farming. But radical groups such as the Farmers' Defence Force say they will resist anyway. Far-right politicians have taken up the cause, claiming that the pollution limits are in fact a conspiracy by the World Economic Forum (the organisers of the annual Davos shindig, much beloved by globalisers) to replace farms with housing for immigrants. On July 3rd the government appointed a mediator, but the farmers' groups have refused to meet him.

【para4】When it comes to food, good intentions and poor planning seem to be a problem lately for the Netherlands. In March the new government promised to fight obesity by eliminating VAT on fruit and vegetables. But as America's government discovered in the 1980s when it labelled ketchup a vegetable, determining which foods fall into such categories is harder than it seems. (Is juice fruit? What about nuts? Italians think so. Fruit rolls?) Experts have been dispatched to study the problem. Perhaps the partisans of orange juice will prove less ornery than cattle farmers.

【para1】限氮乎"偷牛"乎？：限氮政策太极端，荷兰农民纷纷不满

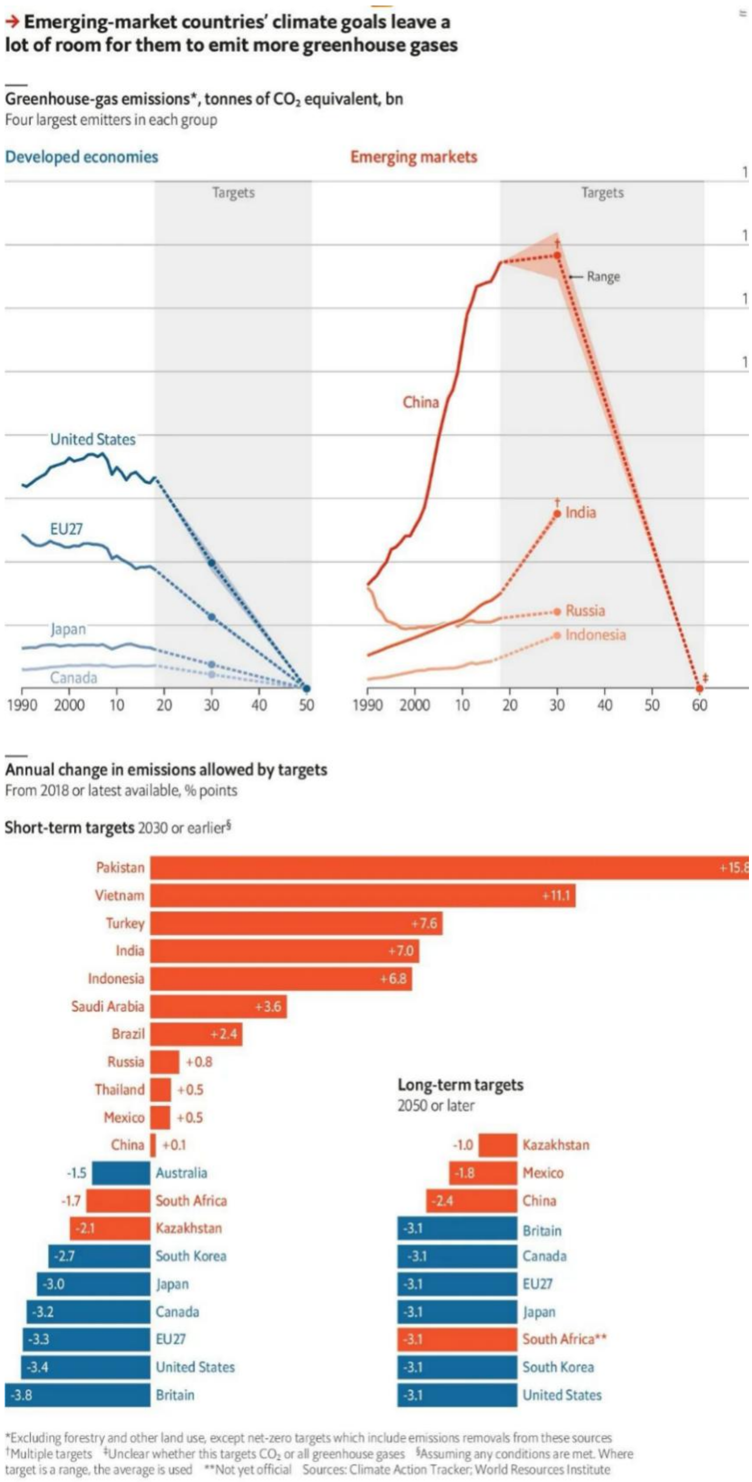
【para2】抵制措施：农民纷纷联手，手段百变，无所不用其极

【para3】剑拔弩张 ：政府让步，但大众不论出于何种原因都不买账

【para4】好心办事？：食物相关的问题一直以来都没完全解决，良策落地任重道远

10.3 Tackling climate change: Green goals[44]

Certain sorts of pledge are far less bold than they first appear



[44] The Economist-20210807期「Graphic detail」Tackling climate change: Green goals

【para1】New climate announcements are coming thick and fast. In recent weeks dozens of countries, including Nigeria and Malaysia, updated the mitigation plans known as "nationally determined contributions" (NDCS) required under the Paris climate agreement of 2015. The deal obliges its signatories to increase the ambition of their ndcs every five years. The original deadline for the first round of updates was cop26, the UN climate summit in Glasgow in 2020. However, because of the covid-19 pandemic, the shindig's start was delayed until October this year. So far, 58% of the 191 signatories have submitted new ndcs.

【para2】Countries' climate targets come in many shapes and sizes. Around two-thirds of the global economy is now covered by a pledge to achieve "net-zero" emissions by around mid-century. The array of different benchmarks and definitions can obscure how ambitious each country actually plans to be. To obtain a clearer picture, The Economist has crunched data from Climate Action Tracker, a research group.

【para3】The world's 20 biggest polluters account for four-fifths of global emissions. About half of them have climate targets that provide for their emissions to grow over the next decade—all of those are emerging economies. Their justification is that the West was allowed to spew greenhouse gases as it grew rich and that they have the right to do so, too.

【para4】Offering relative pledges connected to the intensity of future pollution, or measured against scenarios without any reductions, are popular ways to cloak meagre green ambitions and continue polluting. Tweaking statistics is another.

【para5】Consider China, the world's biggest emitter with roughly a quarter of total emissions. It says it will cut the carbon-dioxide intensity of its GDP by over 65% by 2030, compared with 2005 levels. As economies grow, however, they automatically tend to become more energy efficient and so burn less fossil fuel to produce each unit of GDP. Carbon intensity drops, even as the country pollutes more overall. China's target allows it to emit slightly more by the end of the decade than it does today.

【para6】Another type of climate goal involves promising to cut emissions compared with a business-as-usual scenario. Pakistan pledges a cut of 20% by

2030, compared with a pathway where no climate action is taken whatsoever. Yet this goal means its emissions could surge threefold by 2030.

【para7】Fiddling with baselines is another wheeze. Brazil submitted its updated ndc in December. A major percentage in the pledge was the same: a reduction of 43% below 2005 levels by 2030. But tweaks to its carbon accounting meant the level of emissions booked in 2005 increased from the equivalent of 2.1bn tonnes of carbon dioxide to 2.8bn tonnes. As a result, the amount Brazil can emit in 2030 has risen by about a third.

【para8】Rebasing climate targets changes the relative ambition of rich countries, too. On the face of it, the European Union's target of lowering emissions by 55% by 2030 is more ambitious than America's 52% cut. But the EU's goal is based on 1990 levels and its emissions have already fallen from that point. By contrast, America's plan is based on 2005 levels, and its emissions have fallen by less since. Once put on the same basis, America's goal appears more laudable.

【para9】Rich countries should not feel smug about their efforts, however. If Brazil's emissions rise in line with its pledge and America's fall to meet its goal, by 2030 the average carbon footprint of an American will still be twice as large as that of a Brazilian. Not enough is being done to combat climate change in either the rich world or in emerging markets.

【para1】气候行动：气候宣言此起彼伏，各国纷纷提出最新自主贡献目标。

【para2】目标多样：近零排放框架有不同的基准和定义，难以判断实际减排力度；于是本刊开始着手数据分析。

【para3】污染大户：20 个国家产生了 80%的污染，半数（新兴国家）提出气候目标。

【para4】揭穿诡计：通过虚晃一招或篡改数据两大花招来掩饰环境目标力度不足。

【para5-8】点评花名册：

-para5 在中国，能源效率提高只是发展的必然结果，未来污染问题将继续恶化。

-para6 在巴基斯坦，“消极作为”政策仅优于“不作为”方案，减排效力有限。

-para7 在巴西，基准线经过调整后，数据目标看似可观，但实际排放不降反增。

-para8 发达国家 ：同样通过调整年份基数来操纵环境目标，实际美国减排计划优于欧盟。

【para9】全球警醒 ：无论是发达国家还是发展中国家都还不够给力，进步只是相对；气候行动任重而道远。

10.4 Emissions targets: Zero effort[45]

Australia's climate policy is all talk and no trousers

【para1】THERE IS A "uniquely Australian" way to tackle rising temperatures, believes Scott Morrison, the country's prime minister. After weeks of being hassled to beef up his climate commitments, his conservative coalition government on October 26th at last pledged to reduce its emissions to "net zero" by 2050—but without addressing the tricky matter of fossil fuels. The country can both deliver "action on climate change" and "protect the Australian way of life", the prime minister argues.

【para2】Australia has long danced around climate change. It is the world's biggest exporter of coal by both energy and value. Mining of all sorts accounts for 11% of GDP and supports some 270,000 jobs. Over the past 11 years, three of Mr Morrison's predecessors have lost their jobs for trying to cut greenhouse-gas emissions.

【para3】That Mr Morrison still leads the country, even while uttering words like "net zero", is progress of a sort. Yet his government had to concede something to its international allies before the UN's climate talks start in Glasgow on October 31st. Alas, its plan has "all the strength of a wet paper bag", as Joe Fontaine, an ecologist, put it.

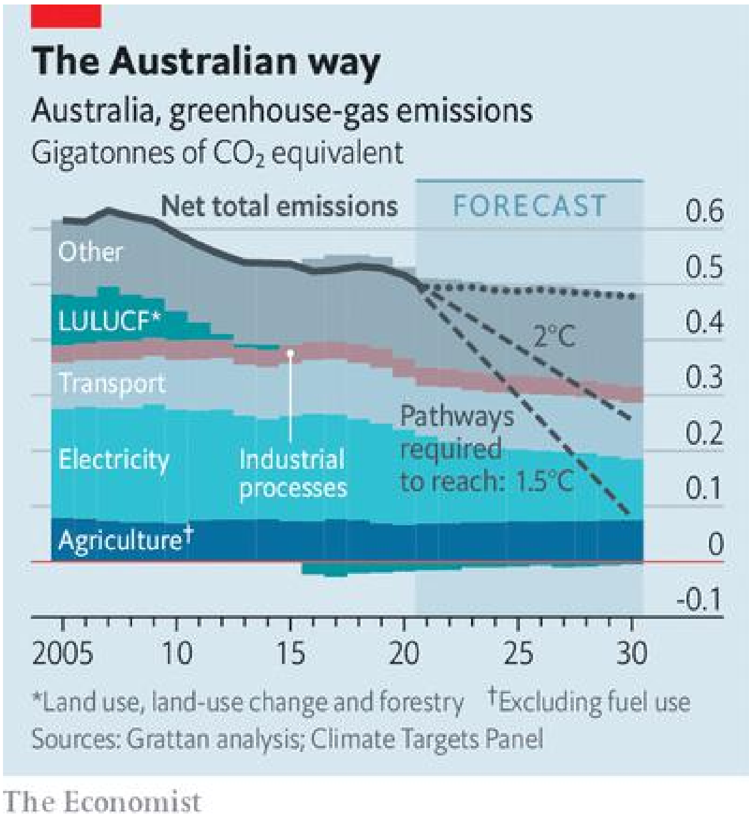
【para4】Mr Morrison's government will not pass a law to enforce any cuts. Nor will it put a price on carbon, as a Labor government did between 2012 and 2014, before the scheme was ripped up by the conservatives. Instead, Mr Morrison's vision rests on five principles, which boil down to hoping and praying. Apart from "technology not taxes" and "drive down the cost" of technology, the principles include keeping energy cheap, not insisting anybody do anything, and promising to be accountable for its progress.

【para5】There is "no new money, no new policy and no credible plan", says Tim Baxter of the Climate Council, an NGO. His organisation calculates that

[45] The Economist-20211030期「Asia」 Emissions targets: Zero effort

Australia is doing less to cut emissions than any other rich country. The government's proposal, dating from Paris in 2015, aims to reduce

greenhouse-gas emissions by 26-28% by 2030 from 2005 levels, compared with the 50-52% that America promises. No matter, says Mr Morrison. Australia will surpass its goal, with reductions of about 30-35%. Yet for it to do its part to keep global temperatures below 2°C as it promised in Paris, it too would have to raise its target to at least 50%, according to the Climate Targets Panel, a group of scientists. Hitting 1.5°C would involve cutting by 74%.



【para6】Australia's intransigence matters for the rest of the world. Coal is still the source of most of the country's electricity, accounting for a big chunk of its domestic emissions (see chart). Factoring in the vast quantities it exports, the country of just 25m people rises from the world's 15th-biggest emitter of CO{-2} to its fifth. It is lobbying alongside other energy giants such as Saudi Arabia to weaken the UN's recommendations for phasing out fossil fuels.

【para7】Neither of Australia's major parties has any plans to do so. Its coal exports are booming, and the federal and various state governments are waving through new mines as prices rise. Mr Morrison's has approved the expansion of three in the past two months. It also wants to open five new natural-gas fields as part of a "gas-fired recovery" from the pandemic. Mr Morrison plans to limit the damage by pumping A$20bn ($15bn) into "low-emissions" technologies. Green pressure groups complain that it is prioritising projects in nascent fields such as carbon capture and storage, which give it an excuse to keep burning fossil fuels.

【para8】Still, Mr Morrison may calculate that he has done enough to placate voters in a coming election. More than 60% of Australians think that climate change is a "serious and pressing problem", compared with 36% in 2012, according to the Lowy Institute, a think-tank in Sydney. Yet fewer want to make changes that would lighten their wallets. Less than half of people surveyed in another poll want coal-fired power to be phased out within a decade, and 44% would prefer to keep exporting the stuff until overseas demand dries up.

【para9】The lack of alarm is all the stranger given that the continent feels the effects of climate change more acutely than many rich countries. It suffers crippling droughts and increasingly ferocious bushfires. Half its most prized natural treasure, the Great Barrier Reef, has been killed by warming waters. Islands in the Torres Strait, off its northern coast, are slipping into the sea. "Time is ticking," says Yessie Mosby, a Torres Strait Islander who is part of a group trying to force the government into more urgent action by lodging a human-rights claim with UN. Three decades, he says, is too long for Australia to wait to cut emissions. By then, his people "will be refugees in our own country".

【para1】姗姗来迟：莫里森政府终于公布减排计划，具体内容却不尽人意。

【para2】烫手山芋：矿产对澳洲地位不可或缺，有心减排的领导人落得黯然下台。

【para3】虚与委蛇：澳洲迫于压力做出表态，但承诺的减排力度微乎其微。

【para4】无为而治：与前任相比，澳当局更加“躺平”，政策自由放任。

【para5】减排吊车尾 ：全球变暖大敌当前，但澳洲的减排目标落后于其他发达国家。

【para6】腐蚀势力：煤炭出口大国澳大利亚，不仅减排不力，还和其他石油大国一起削弱减排努力

【para7】开山挖矿：经济利&益作祟，澳洲一边押宝低碳科技，一边继续开矿打算一条路走到黑。

【para8】政治算盘：选举在即，民心所向导致澳洲在减排方面步履迟缓。

【para9】刻不容缓：澳洲已饱受气候变化之苦，若继续畏手畏脚只会自食其果。

10.5 Climate change: Constructive improvements[46]

The **property** industry has a huge carbon **footprint**. Here's how to reduce it

【1】Buildings have a dirty secret: they are among the planet's worst climate offenders. Heating, cooling and powering existing offices, homes and factories accounts for 27% of global energy-related carbon-dioxide emissions. Constructing new ones involves mountains of steel and colossal amounts of cement, and combined with demolition accounts for another 10% of the global CO2 emitted each year. Building debris generates a third of the European Union's annual waste by weight.

【2】What is more, landlords and homeowners, and the construction industry, have a rotten record on climate change. Only a tiny fraction of properties are carbon neutral, and on the current trajectory it will take nearly a century to decarbonise the rest. As the world urbanises, a dirty building boom beckons: by one estimate, cities will need to add 13,000 buildings every day until 2050, just to keep up with global population growth.

【3】The pandemic has thrown another spanner in the works. Doubts over the level of future demand for office blocks have reduced landlords' incentives to undertake green refurbishments, and demand for larger homes to accommodate remote working will crank up residential energy use.

【4】What can be done? The problem can be divided into three parts. The first goal is to incentivise owners to make existing properties more energy-efficient. In the long run, as electricity generation shifts towards renewables, the emissions arising from air-conditioning and day-to-day power use will fall. But retrofitting offices and homes with insulation, cleverer control systems and heat pumps rather than fossil-fuel boilers can have an immediate impact. In big cities, building codes and city-wide net carbon targets can prod commercial landlords to upgrade buildings.

【5】residential housing is more difficult, because many homeowners may have less spare cash and move houses rarely. Subsidies can be hugely expensive: in Italy, you can claim the full cost of green home renovations, plus an extra 10%,

[46] 7.5 经济学人外刊精读 | 房地产建设，英文杂志双语精读 2022-07-05 07:00 发表于山东

through generous tax credits worth up to €100,000 ($104,000) per home. An eye-watering €21bn has been paid out under this scheme since its launch in July 2020, often to wealthy homeowners. Governments would do better to invest in addressing the knowledge gap and skills shortages associated with green-building technology and refurbishment—and to eliminate red tape so that property-owners who want to improve their energy efficiency, as oil and gas prices surge, can do so more easily.

【6】The second goal is to facilitate more rational decisions about when to retrofit buildings and when to demolish them and rebuild, which generates waste and pollution but in some cases can reduce emissions overall. Regulations and tax codes are often skewed arbitrarily and can be reformed. In Britain, for example, until earlier this year most new buildings were exempt from value-added tax, but spending on renovations and repairs was not.

【7】The final goal should be to ensure that the construction of new buildings that does take place is far cleaner than it has been in the past. Green building codes are a powerful tool; in the long run, higher carbon taxes would also force the entire construction and building-materials supply chain to clean up its act.

【8】The good news is that there is huge room for improvement: new industrial processes can reduce the emissions from cement and steel. Better construction methods, including prefabricated houses, are more energy- and carbon-efficient but rarely used. The construction industry has a dire record on productivity growth—a sign that there has not been enough fresh thinking. Time to start building a new approach.

10.6 Public sceptical about success of Cop26[47]

【1】research find and doubt that Cop26 commitments can be met unless they are legally binding.

【2】The opinions come from the latest in the Net Zero diaries, a project run by the consultancy Britain Thinks to examine evolving attitudes to the pursuit of a net-zero emissions target, the first collation of public views from the cohort since the Cop26 climate summit in Glasgow. The focus group project involved 40 people keeping diaries of news events and their everyday climate encounters, and hearing from a range of experts. Post-Cop26, many said it was the first climate summit they had engaged with. Several felt "excited and hopeful" at the gathering of world leaders.

【3】The researchers examining the diaries found that those who were originally less engaged on climate issues tended to believe Cop26 had been a resounding success because of the extensive coverage. But even those who described themselves as having a strong interest in the environment were unable to name detailed specifics on what had been agreed on issues such as coal and deforestation.

【4】There was considerable criticism of the role of richer countries as opposed to aid for the developing world. One described the outcome as "mean-spirited as the developed world made pledges of support to the developing world yet had failed to uphold previous promises ".

【5】Two key moments in particular stood out to diarists from through out the conference: the US president, Joe Biden, appearing to fall asleep during one discussion, and the UK prime minister, Boris Johnson, flying to London for a dinner after opening the summit."It clearly didn't get people involved if they were falling asleep during it," one said. "I feel Boris Johnson was very hypocritical travelling by plane in between this – surely he could have utilised technology or at least travelled by an electric vehicle," another suggested. Some diarists felt these moments undermined the importance of Cop26, and fuelled diarists' concerns that powerful global leaders are not taking the issue seriously.

[47] 1.16 经济学人外刊精读 |第 26 届联合国气候变化大会，英文杂志双语精读 2022-01-16 07:00

【6】participants were also deeply sceptical about some of the agreements, and whether they would stick. "None of the agreements are legally binding and are phrased as quite vague statements. On the main points, the countries mainly responsible did not sign those agreements," one diarist in the cohort wrote. Most participants, given an article to read about the conference, picked up on the fact that commitments are self-policing and expressed concern that they would not be upheld, with those who were more engaged pointing to the fall out from the commitments made at the Paris summit.

【7】Overwhelmingly, the most popular and well-understood pledge was the global commitment to end and reverse deforestation, with commitments including from Brazil's Jair Bolsonaro . Land-clearing of forests contributes almost a quarter of greenhouse gas emissions, with clearances for the growing of agricultural products such as palm oil, soy and beef. Several diarists said the pledge was believable because it linked specifically to a practice that drives climate change and that it was backed by a multi- billion dollar finance package.

【8】The research was commissioned by the energy company Ovo, Citizens Advice, WWF and Lancaster University, and diarists were recruited to reflect differing views on climate, from engaged activists to low engagement regular consumers.

10.7 Land reclamation in the Gulf: Cities in the sea[48]

Artificial islands are costly and often bad for the environment

【1】A century ago the site of Bahrain's land-registration bureau was not on land. Like a good bit of the country, it has been reclaimed from the sea. Bahrain's eagerness for such projects is easy to understand: its natural land area is just 665 square kilometres (257 square miles), over half the size of Greater London. The south is mostly desert, good for oilfields, military bases and little else.

【2】Since the 1960s Bahrain has added more than 11% to its land area through reclamation, says Mohammed Al Khalifa, the head of the property regulator. It may soon add much more. Last year Bahrain said it would build five new cities on reclaimed land. "We're surrounded by shallow waters, so it doesn't take much to do reclamation—it's like a bathtub."

【3】The plan is still aspirational, with officials yet to secure funding or draw up blueprints. If it comes to pass, it will expand the country by more than half its current size. Yet land-reclamation projects, in Bahrain and elsewhere in the Gulf, come with a slate of environmental and economic concerns—and perhaps even existential ones.

【4】If Bahrain has built out of necessity, other Gulf states do it out of choice. palm Jumeirah, a collection of islands shaped like a palm tree, is one of Dubai's most iconic features. Abu Dhabi dredged the coastline to create attractions like Yas Island, home to theme parks and fancy hotels. Saudi Arabia has plenty of empty land; yet it still wants to build something called the Oxagon, an eight-sided floating industrial city in the Red Sea.

【5】Developers say they try not to harm the environment. But scientists and locals worry. Fishermen in Bahrain say land-reclamation has damaged their livelihoods by depleting fish stocks, forcing them to work farther out at sea. This annoys neighbouring Qatar, which regularly detains Bahraini boats that sail into its waters.

[48] 6.29 经济学人外刊精读｜填海造地，英文杂志双语精读 2022-06-29 07:00 发表于山东

【6】A study found land-reclamation projects shrank the number of mangroves in Tubli Bay, off Bahrain's east coast. Using satellite imagery, another group of researchers concluded that the palm increased average water temperatures by 7.5°C over 19 years, which is bad for reefs and hurts some marine life.

【7】These schemes can also be bad for investors: buying property on an artificial island is the ultimate off-plan sale. When the first residents of the palm moved into their villas, they discovered the properties occupied less land than promised: developers had to squeeze in more of them to recoup building costs.

【8】At least they were built. Dubai has a second palm-shaped archipelago near the main port, 19km south-west of its better-known cousin. Workers started construction in 2002, but the financial crisis of 2008 put a stop to it. Two decades on, the second palm remains a featureless expanse of sand.

【9】Then there is The World, the sort of project you would conceive if you read Percy Shelley's poem "Ozymandias" as a how-to guide. Nakheel, the developer, spent billions to create 300 islands in the rough shape of the world map. Then the financial crisis hit. Today there is a glitzy resort around "Tierra del Fuego", and a beach club in "Lebanon", but most of The World is as barren as the moon.

【10】Climate change menaces the Gulf's artificial lands, just as it does all waterfront property. The palm was designed to handle a 50cm rise in sea levels. Researchers at the University of Tehran have estimated that Gulf waters could rise 84cm by the end of the century.

【11】No one has ever recorded a cyclone in the Persian Gulf. But a study published in Nature Climate Change in 2015 concluded that they are no longer inconceivable. Last year cyclone Shaheen made landfall in Oman, the first of its kind to do so in at least a century. What man raised from the sea, the sea may take back.

Questions：

1. In case 10.2, "The Netherlands is the biggest nitrogen polluter in the EU"? as to nitrogen polluter, do you think that they have gone too far in the case of environmental protection?
2. In case 10.4, "Mr Morrison's government will not pass a law to enforce any cuts. Nor will it put a price on carbon, as a Labor government did between 2012 and 2014", what do you think of that? Do you agree that developed countries should take more responsibilities in climate commitments? Why or why not?
3. from case 10.3 and 10.6 you can see that "Not enough is being done to combat climate change in either the rich world or in emerging markets", and it is really hard to reach agreement，and enforcement is even harder. Can you give some suggestions to solve the problem?
4. In case 10.5 and 10.7, what do you get about pollution? And what will you do in your daily life to be environmentally friendly?

问题：

1. 在案例 10.1 中，"荷兰是欧盟最大的氮污染国"，关于氮污染，你认为他们在环保这个问题上做的过头了吗？
2. 在案例 10.4 中，"莫里森先生的政府将不会通过法律来强制执行任何削减开支。它也不会像 2012 年至 2014 年期间工党政府所做的那样，为碳排放定价"，这对此你怎么看？你认为发达国家应该在气候协定中承担更多的责任吗？为什么？
3. 从案例 10.3 和 10.6 中你可以看到"无论是发达国家还是新兴市场，在应对气候变化方面做的还不够"，的确达成协议很难，执行更难，对此你有什么建议吗？
4. 从案例 10.5 和 10.7 中你了解到了哪类污染，你今后将如何在日常生活做到环境友好？

一、案例中的思政元素

① 马克思主义历史观：理解环境污染的历史成因和发展历程，了解发达国家曾经的做法和应该承担的历史责任，能够将污染排放和人权结合起来，“不能只讲现状不讲历史”“不能只讲总量不讲人均”。

② 辩证思维：正确对待经济发展和环境保护两者之间的关系，做到两者相协调，避免有失偏颇。

③ 爱护环境：珍爱我们赖以生存的家园，在日常生后中随时践行环保理念，宣传环保意识，支持环保行动。

二、采用的教学方法

（1）讲授法：教师讲授相关知识点。

（2）案例分析法：选择契合相关知识点的案例进行分析。

（3）小组讨论法：将学生课堂上分成小组对案例进行讨论，分别汇报讨论结果。

（4）问答法：在学生阅读相关案例材料后，请学生回答/抢答其中的经济学原理。

（5）翻转课堂：请学生自行组织对案例发表自己的观点和见解，并且以答辩的形式接受质询。

三、案例适用的范围

（包含案例适用的专业或课程、案例与专业课程思政的内在联系等）

案例名称	包含知识点	对应课程
10.1 Carbon emissions: Seeing footprints in the air	环境规制	技术经济学 国际经济学
10.2 Farming: How many cows are too many?	环境污染	环境经济学
10.3 Tackling climate change: Green goals	公共地悲剧	微观经济学
10.4 Emissions targets: Zero effort	选举政治 经济增长与环境	政治经济学 发展经济学
10.5 Climate change: Constructive improvements	环境污染与治理	环境经济学
10.6 Public sceptical about success of Cop26	寡头竞争	微观经济学
10.7 Land reclamation in the Gulf: Cities in the sea	环境污染与治理	环境经济学

Topic 11: Infrastructure

11.1 SouthEast Asia On the rails[49]

The economics of a new train line

【1】In the late 1860s, French sailors who had set off from Saigon to find the source of the Mekong river encountered the precipitous Khone Falls between Laos and Cambodia, and realised that the waters would be impassable for larger trading vessels. Their dreams of reaching the riches of southern China by river were dashed. Quixotic plans for rail networks followed, first from British and French imperialists, and then from the Association of South-East Asian Nations (ASEAN), which in 1995 outlined its ambition to connect Singapore with Kunming, in China's Yunnan province.

【2】On December 3rd, at long last, a portion of those aspirations was realised. A high-speed rail line connecting Kunming to Vientiane, the capital of Laos, was opened after five years of construction. The route is part of China's Belt and Road Initiative, and the completed section comes with a hefty price tag of $5.9bn—equivalent to nearly a third of Laos's annual GDP before the pandemic.

【3】For China, the rationale for closer links with South-East Asia is clear. Rising factory wages at home make the case for moving low-complexity manufacturing to cheaper nearby locations. In 2019 Vietnam was China's fourth-largest trading partner for intermediate goods, between America and India, and up from 15th place a decade ago. China's intermediate-goods trade with Cambodia and Laos has risen nine- and 11-fold, respectively, in the same time.

【4】The strategy has historical precedent. Until the 1970s Japanese firms' main interest in South-East Asia was buying raw materials. Then they began moving production to the region. The shift took off after the Plaza Accord of 1985, at which Japan agreed to let the yen appreciate, which widened the gap between domestic wages and those in low-cost countries. Firms were able to preserve their competitive advantage by moving, while also fostering technological expertise elsewhere.

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[49] 2021.12.29 经济学人外刊精读 |铁路上的东南亚

【5】What does the new train line mean for Laos? The landlocked country suffers most from South-East Asia’s limited connectivity. The World Bank has been cautiously optimistic about the new route: Vientiane, it reckons, could become a logistical hub into China from Thai ports, but only if the Lao customs system were made more efficient and connecting roads improved. Although Laos has a land border with Yunnan and no coastline, as recently as 2016 almost two-thirds of its exports to China were transported via maritime routes.

【6】A wider network across the region would yield greater economic benefits for everyone, but that is outside any one country’s control. Thailand approved the first step of a Chinese-built high-speed line in March; it is intended to reach the Lao border at a later stage. Even the first half is not expected to be completed for five years, however, and such schemes often miss their deadline, if they materialise at all. The Malaysian government is studying a high-speed link to Bangkok, but serious discussion has barely begun. Until those longer-term benefits arrive, Laos may mainly be stuck with the bill.

11.2 Infrastructure: London's bridges falling down[50]

Politics and buck-passing threaten to turn one city into two

【para1】IN THE SPRING of 2019 micro-fractures were found in the cast-iron pedestals of Hammersmith Bridge in west London—one of more than 40 Thames river crossings in the capital. It has been closed to cars and buses ever since. That has knock-on effects on the neighbouring Chiswick and Putney bridges, as the 20,000-odd vehicles that used to cross Hammersmith Bridge each day seek other routes.

【para2】Cockneys have long joked that north and south London are separate cities, and increasingly they are. Last year Vauxhall and London bridges were closed to car traffic in order to allow repairs. Tower Bridge has closed twice in the past year because its drawbridge was jammed open. Battersea, Kew, Lambeth and Twickenham bridges are expected to need expensive repairs within a decade.

【para3】Many of the bridges are old: Hammersmith's opened in 1887. But they would be in better nick if they had been properly maintained. A report published on November 4th by the London Assembly's transport committee put the blame on the lack of any single authority responsible for keeping London's bridges functioning. Dozens of agencies, boroughs and departments share responsibility for their upkeep. As each tries to hand off the burden to others, a maintenance backlog of £241m ($326m) has built up.

【para4】Hammersmith and Fulham, the borough north of Hammersmith Bridge, has been responsible for its maintenance since 1985. Even before covid-19 gutted its reserves, it would have struggled to find the £140m or more needed to repair the bridge sufficiently to reopen it to cars and buses (an alternative plan to build a temporary truss and repair the bridge off-site might lower the cost—and be quicker). Nor does it feel much compulsion to do so. Its residents use the bridge less than people living in Richmond upon Thames to the south, says Sarah Olney, the local MP.

[50] The Economist-20211113期「Britain」Infrastructure: London's bridges falling down

【para5】The national Department of Transport and Transport for London (TfL) have agreed to split the cost of repairs with the borough in equal parts. But TfL also has a huge budget shortfall, caused by a slump in the use of public transport. The Conservative government in Westminster is more focused on building up infrastructure in northern England, where many of its new voters live, than on repairing a crumbling bridge in an affluent part of London. It might not help that Ms Olney is a Liberal Democrat. In 2019 her predecessor, Zac Goldsmith, a Conservative, claimed that he could get the bridge open if he was re-elected—though that boast was never tested.

【para6】A solution is possible. Some of London's transport authorities already work together informally to ensure that maintenance work does not gum up traffic entirely. The London Assembly's transport committee recommends formalising that co-operation, and giving the resulting group a budget to take over the repair of bridges. TfL seems open to the idea. But even if this solution is adopted, it could be too late for Hammersmith Bridge.Build it up with iron bars

【para7】Locals fear that the government-led task force meant to be co-ordinating repairs is waiting out the frustration, and that the bridge will never reopen to heavy vehicles. Some have already changed their travel habits. Fabrice Guillon, who owns a café down the street from Hammersmith Bridge, used to drive in every day from Kensington. He has switched to biking. Others have added 15 minutes to their commute, as they walk instead of taking the bus over the bridge to the closest Tube stop, in Hammersmith and Fulham. Older, frailer people must drive over another bridge. Efforts have been made to bring in pedicabs to help. But these too, have been held up by buck-passing and red tape.

【para1】大桥将倾：2019 年，哈默史密斯大桥出现了裂缝，因此造成了其他分流大桥的压力增大，是伦敦各地大桥危机的预兆。

【para2】祸不单行：连接伦敦南部和北部的大桥纷纷开始出现问题，这将加剧南北伦敦的分裂趋势。

【para3】部门推诿：大桥状况不尽人意的主要原因是，本应负责大桥保养的各个部门间不断“踢皮球”，推诿责任。

【para4】案例分析：以哈默史密斯大桥为例，应负责其修缮的行政区没有足够的经济能力；而较少居民使用大桥也使政府对修缮工作不上心。

【para5】力不从心：尽管修缮费用有部门均摊， 伦敦交通局仍囊中羞涩；其余政治算盘也不利于大桥修缮

【para6】亡羊补牢：虽然目前已经有相关机构开始合作进行桥梁修缮，但对于哈默史密斯大桥来说或许为时已晚。

【para7】愚公换道：居民纷纷开始改变自己的出行习惯，政府也准备引入出租三轮车来解决居民的出行问题，但这些也同样受繁文缛节的官僚作风阻碍。

11.3 Infrastructure year: Unlocked[51]

Joe Biden's infrastructure bill will boost competitiveness for decades to come.

【1】Lock and dam 25 on the upper Mississippi River is testament to how good American infrastructure can be. Stretching nearly 1,300 feet (400 metres) across the water, the concrete-and-steel structure is a crucial link in the system that connects Midwestern fields to Southern ports and thence to Asian markets. Roughly 60% of America's corn and soy exports pass through it every year. But it is almost 100 years old, and engineers wage a constant battle to keep it operational. It has the same capacity as when it was built, while boats have grown bigger. "How many highways built in the 1930s still have the same number of lanes now?" asks Andy Schimpf, a manager at the lock.

【2】Salvation may be at hand. On November 5th the House of Representatives passed a five-year, $1trn bill to repair and upgrade America's ageing infrastructure. About $2.5bn has been allocated to inland waterways, and Mr Schimpf is optimistic that some will go towards rebuilding Lock and dam 25, doubling the size of its chamber. Today, workers sometimes need to break apart barges to get them through, and then reassemble them on the other side, which can take up to three hours. A bigger lock could reduce transit time to 30 minutes.

【3】Hundreds of similarly delayed and neglected public projects around America will get a big boost from the infrastructure bill, which President Joe Biden will soon sign into law (it long ago passed the Senate). It includes $40bn of new funding for fixing bridges, the largest investment since the construction of the interstate highway system. There will be nearly $70bn for passenger rail, aimed both at clearing years-old maintenance backlogs and bringing service to new areas. Another $65bn should ensure that every American has access to high-speed internet. And the list goes on and on, from highways to airports and the electricity grid to water pipes.

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[51] 12.1 经济学人外刊精读 |基础设施年：解锁

【4】For years American infrastructure has suffered from under-investment. It would take $2.6trn over the next decade to get it up to scratch, according to the American Society of Civil Engineers (ASCE), a professional body (albeit one with an interest in spending more). The bill will not fix everything. But it could be the beginning of a process that will make a real difference.

【5】How big a difference? Roughly half the headline amount would have been expected as part of regularly budgeted maintenance, meaning that about $550bn actually constitutes new spending, to be disbursed over five years. That might not sound like much, but it is. From 2022 to 2026 federal infrastructure spending will rise from about 0.8% of annual GDP to 1.3%, well above the trend of the past four decades. Adie Tomer of the Brookings Institution, a think-tank, says that is nearly the same average level as during the New deal, which helped lift America's fortunes after the Great Depression.

【6】As a rough rule of thumb, an additional $100bn per year spent on infrastructure could boost growth by about a tenth of a percentage point when the digging actually begins, and potentially more if it catalyses additional private-sector investment, notes Ellen Zentner of Morgan Stanley, a bank. In the longer term, she estimates, a sustained expansion of infrastructure spending could support productivity and raise America's potential growth by as much as a fifth of a percentage point, a big deal for a large, mature economy. "That's why whenever you talk to economists, infrastructure is the stuff that we go to bed at night dreaming of," says Ms Zentner.

【7】Getting a positive return will, of course, require the money to be allocated well. Considering the shortfalls in investment over the years, it should not be hard to find good projects. On average a water main breaks every two minutes somewhere in America, while nearly half of all roads are in bad shape, according to the ASCE. In some cases the investments will not generate new growth so much as defend America's existing strengths. Take the locks on the upper Mississippi: they help American soyabeans compete against Brazilian ones. Labour is much cheaper in

Brazil, but transportation is better in America. Keeping the locks in good shape underpins that. "If you were to close any of them down for a few months, it would cost us billions of dollars," says Steve Censky, CEO of the American Soybean Association.

【8】Just about doubling the federal government's expenditure on infrastructure overnight could lead to waste, however. Cost overruns often bedevil American infrastructure projects. It is more expensive to build rail in America than in almost any other country, according to transit Costs Project, a research group. The price of building highways has also soared. That just about anyone can mount a legal challenge against public works in their vicinity is part of the problem, leading to delays and missed budgets. And the current backdrop is hardly propitious, with supply-chain congestion affecting even the most basic home-building projects.

【9】On the positive side of the ledger, the bill creates space for private investors to join the government's efforts, which could both enlarge total spending and impose more financial discipline. Any city or state seeking federal funding for transport projects costing more than $750m will be required to evaluate whether partnering with private-sector investors would deliver better results. Some projects, such as the development of the first-ever national network of chargers for electric vehicles, naturally lend themselves to co-operation with the private sector, given that is where the technology resides. The government also wants companies to pitch in to make infrastructure more resilient to climate change. Grant programmes, useful in attracting private investment in water systems, are likely to be expanded. "This bill can potentially create a framework for ongoing and necessary public and private investment in infrastructure," says Aaron Bielenberg of McKinsey, a consultancy.

【10】But a dose of scepticism is also useful. Ultimately, the amount that America spends on infrastructure is a direct result of the amount that Americans are willing to be taxed. And that, by the standards of other rich countries, is not very much. "Ten years from now, I think we will look back and say that this bill was a historic investment, a great expansion of investments that were neglected," says Austan Goolsbee, an economist at the University of Chicago and a former adviser to President Barack Obama. “But people are still going to be saying, well, why don’t we have high-speed rail all over the country?” Even so, better to fix roads, expand ports and lay broadband cables than not.

11.4 Kentucky's tornado：The long road back[52]

Recovering from natural disasters is easier if you're already strong

【1】At the first Baptist Ministries Centre in downtown Mayfield, Kentucky, a huge cross used to be visible through a large window overlooking the crossroads. Now it stands, perilously, in the open air. The entire rest of the front of the building, as well as much of the roof, was torn off by a tornado on the night of December 10th, which flattened a large part of the rest of the town. On December 14th, the congregation were serving coffee and breakfast buns to passers-by out of the shell. "It has been an experience," said Debbie Fowler, a 68-year-old parishioner whose son is the pastor. "We were so sick at heart to see it, it's devastating." But, she says, the town will come back. "It won't look the same, but the people will be the same. This is a close-knit community," she says.

【2】The tornado that hit Mayfield was the worst to have hit America since one destroyed much of Joplin, Missouri, in 2011. As well as tearing up Mayfield, it wrecked buildings in five other states across the Midwest and South. By December 15th, 88 people were known to have been killed, 74 of whom were in Kentucky. Dozens more were still missing, while hundreds have been made homeless. Andy Beshear, Kentucky's governor, described it as the "worst, most devastating, most deadly tornado event" in his state's history. On December 15th Joe Biden visited Mayfield to survey the damage himself, and announced federal aid to cover the costs of rebuilding. And yet recovery from natural disasters is rarely easy. The population of New Orleans is still 20% lower today than it was before Hurricane Katrina in 2005. Many smaller towns like Mayfield have struggled to retain population even without tornadoes. Will it really bounce back?

【3】When your correspondent arrived, volunteers from all over Kentucky, and even further afield, had set up stalls to hand out food, water and other essentials. Fire departments were busy clearing the roads. Generators had been hauled in to provide power. "The town is not going to quit because of this," says John Darnell, who drove in from his home in a neighbouring

[52] 1.4 经济学人外刊精读 |灾后重建的漫漫长路

county to drop off supplies. “They’re too resourceful.”And yet volunteers rushing in is not the main determinant of how easily somewhere recovers. Sam Anselm, who was assistant city manager in Joplin when it was hit, says the town got a lot of donations of clothes and toys, and then had to find space to store them. “Really what we needed was a gift card or cheque,” he says.

【4】What matters more is having a good plan, says Elaina Sutley, who studies disaster recovery at the University of Kansas. A well-organised local government can marshall an enormous amount of federal and state resources. But smaller towns often do not have the ready expertise to work out which grants to apply for, or what to do with them. Political conflict can stifle the ability to use money well. “There is a window of opportunity that does not last very long after each disaster,” she says.

【5】Sadly, as in so many things, a town’s existing wealth is an important factor. Where most residents affected are homeowners and decently insured, they can often recover quickly, by enlisting private sector resources to rebuild their homes. Poorer places, with lots of renters, are more likely to suffer permanently, as people whose homes are damaged leave. What you sometimes see, says Ms Sutley, is that “some pieces of the town look really great, and other parts get left behind.” Joplin has largely recovered, partly thanks to decent leadership, but also because its housing stock was well-insured.

【6】Whether Mayfield will thrive is yet to be seen. The median household income in the town is just $32,200, much lower than the national figure of $67,500. Poverty will prove a challenge. At a community centre shelter in Wingo, a town around 10 miles away, one evacuee, Evonda Murdock, says this is the second time she has been forced to move recently. A few months before, her landlord had evicted her and her son, forcing them to live in a hotel. “I don’t know what we are going to do now,” she says. America has an enormous amount of compassion when catastrophe arrives. But more day-to-day support for the vulnerable would help too.

Questions：

1. In case 11.4, “Recovering from natural disasters is easier if you’re already strong”? Do you agree with that? If so, how aboutcase 11.2: “Infrastructure: London’s bridges falling down”?

2. In case 11.1, “Even the first half (Chinese-built high-speed in Thailand) is not expected to be completed for five years, however, and such schemes often miss their deadline, if they materialise at all.”, “Until those longer-term benefits arrive, Laos may mainly be stuck with the bill”, please give your comments on it.

3. In case 11.3, “Joe Biden’s infrastructure bill will boost competitiveness for decades to come”, what’s your opinion about that? Why are they so optimistic with US Infrastructure while pessimistic in Asian railway?

问题：

(1) 在案例 11.4 中，“如果你已经很强大了，从自然灾害中恢复就更容易了”，你同意这一点吗？如果同意，那么如何解释案例 11.2“基础设施：伦敦桥正在倒塌”？

(2) 在案例 11.1 中，“然而，即使是前一半（中国在泰国建造的高速项目）也预计无法在五年内完成，而且这些计划如果真的能实现的话，往往会错过最后期限”“在这些长期福利到来之前，老挝可能会付不出账单”，请评论这些说法。

(3) 从案例 11.3 中你可以看到“拜登的基础设施法案将在未来几十年提高竞争力”，对此你的观点是什么？为什么他们对美国基础设施建设如此乐观，而对亚洲铁路建设却很悲观？

一、案例中的思政元素

① 制度自信和民族自豪感：通过案例让学生了解到中国基础设施建设取得的巨大成就，为我国提高国际声誉和作用起到的促进作用，坚定学生对中国特色社会主义制度的自信，增强民族自豪感。

② 合作共赢的国际视野：通过中老、中泰铁路建设的案例，让学生形成开放的心态，懂得合作共赢的重要性，培养国际视野。

③ 自强不息努力奋斗：通过案例让学生理解搞好基础设计建设并不是国家富裕就可以，虽然经济发展水平起到了一定的作用，但是中国人民的勤劳和智慧才是主要原因，“幸福生活是奋斗出来的”。

二、采用的教学方法

（1）讲授法：教师讲授相关知识点。

（2）案例分析法：选择契合相关知识点的案例进行分析。

（3）小组讨论法：将学生课堂上分成小组对案例进行讨论，分别汇报讨论结果。

（4）问答法：在学生阅读相关案例材料后，请学生回答/抢答其中的经济学原理。

（5）翻转课堂：请学生自行组织对案例发表自己的观点和见解，并且以答辩的形式接受质询。

三、案例适用的范围

（包含案例适用的专业或课程、案例与专业课程思政的内在联系等）

案例名称	包含知识点	对应课程
11.1 SouthEast Asia On the rails	区位理论 一体化理论	国际投资 国际贸易
11.2 Infrastructure: London’s bridges falling down	科斯定理	制度经济学
11.3 Infrastructure year: Unlocked	投资乘数效应	宏观经济学
11.4 Kentucky’s tornado: The long road back	投资与增长	发展经济学

Topic 12: Finance and Economics

12.1 Money: Cash is king[53]

The pandemic has seen a puzzling surge in banknotes

【para1】EVEN BEFORE covid-19, a surprising quantity of coins and banknotes were at large in Britain. The rise of internet shopping and contactless payment cards pushed the share of transactions involving physical money down from over two-thirds in the early 2000s to under a quarter by 2019. Yet over the same period the value of banknotes in circulation rose from just over 2% of GDP to over 3%. Demand for cash as a medium of exchange has fallen but demand for physical money as a store of value has more than compensated. And over the past 15 months, even as many pubs and retailers have insisted on cashless payment, the amount of money in circulation has risen even further (see chart).

【para2】A decade of low inflation and extremely low interest rates explains some of the appeal of old-fashioned notes. The opportunity cost of keeping savings in a liquid but non-interest-bearing form has rarely been lower. But that cannot explain the jump in the amount of money in circulation since March 2020.

【para3】Graham Moody of LINK, the company that runs Britain's ATM network, says that cash machines were busy in the days before the first national lockdown in March 2020. Panicked consumers stockpiled money at the same time as they emptied supermarkets of toilet paper and pasta. After that, he says, "usage fell like a stone". Total withdrawals from cash machines between April and December 2020 were 35% lower than the year before. But as the amount of cash entering circulation fell, the amount leaving circulation fell even faster.

【para4】It is likely that some of the extra notes are not actually changing hands. Saving rates have been historically high since the pandemic began, and some of that is probably in the form of physical money. Households and small businesses have made fewer trips to the bank, just as they have made fewer trips of all kinds. Some of the cash that would have normally been paid into bank accounts is probably sitting in wallets and tills.

[53] The Economist-20210529期「Britain」Money: Cash is king

【para5】But there is another, more worrying, explanation for the surge in cash. Treasury officials suspect that much of the rise has been caused by growth in the undeclared cash-in-hand economy since the early months of 2020. Four million Britons are still furloughed from their jobs; some of them are no doubt looking to top up their incomes. For those who choose to work in the shadows, cash is still king.

【para1】直入主题：虽然互联网和移动支付的兴起导致现金交易份额下降，但在英国人们将现金视为保值媒介，流通货币数量持续增加

【para2~5】流通货币数量增加的 4 个原因:

-para2 一般原因：低通胀和低利率使得持有现金的机会成本降低，但是无法解析近期货币流通量骤升

-para3 疫情初期：疫情封锁初期，居民恐慌心理囤积一切，包括货币和日需品

-para4 疫情的影响：由于新冠疫情影响出行，和银行打交道次数变少，钱滞留手中

-para5 官方推断：财政部官员怀疑，现金激增也可能是影子经济导致。

12.2 Climate change and investing: The uses and abuses of green finance[54]

Why the net-zero pledges of financial firms won't save the world

【para1】ALAS, THE COP26 summit in Glasgow is shaping up to be a disappointment. The hope that emerging markets, which belch out much of the world's greenhouse gases, would announce ambitious proposals is being dashed. The plans of China, India and Brazil all underwhelm. There is no sign this will be the COP that kills coal, as Britain, the host, wanted. World leaders have still not agreed to stop subsidising fossil fuels.

【para2】But one area where enthusiasm is growing is climate finance. Financial institutions representing nearly $9trn in assets pledged to uproot deforestation from their investment portfolios. The most striking announcement has come from the Glasgow Financial Alliance for Net Zero (GFANZ), a coalition co-chaired by Mark Carney, a former governor of the Bank of England. Its members, which include asset owners, asset managers, banks and insurers, hold about $130trn of assets. They will try to cut the emissions from their lending and investing to net zero by 2050. Can the financial industry really save the world?

【para3】In principle, it has a huge role to play. Shifting the economy from fossil fuels to clean sources of energy requires a vast reallocation of capital. By 2030, around $4trn of investment in clean energy will be needed each year, a tripling of current levels. Spending on fossil fuels must decline. In an ideal world the profit incentive of institutional investors would be aligned with reducing emissions, and these owners and financiers would control the global assets that create emissions. Asset owners would have both the motive and the means to reinvent the economy.

【para4】The reality of green investing falls short of this ideal. The first problem is coverage. The Economist estimates that listed firms which are not state-controlled account for only 14-32% of the world's emissions. State-controlled companies, such as Coal India or Saudi Aramco, the world's

[54] The Economist-20211106期「Leaders」Climate change and investing: The uses and abuses of green finance

biggest oil producer, are a big part of the problem and they do not operate under the sway of institutional fund managers and private-sector bankers.

【para5】A second issue is measurement. There is as yet no way to accurately assess the carbon footprint of a portfolio without double counting. Emissions from a barrel of oil could appear in the carbon accounts of the firms that are drilling, refining and burning the stuff. Methodologies behind attributing emissions to financial flows are even sketchier. How should shareholders, lenders and insurers divvy up the emissions from a coal-fired power plant, for instance?

【para6】The third problem is incentives. Private financial firms aim to maximise risk-adjusted profits for their clients and owners. This is not well-aligned with cutting carbon. The easiest way to cut the carbon footprint of a diversified portfolio is to sell the part of it invested in dirty assets and put the proceeds in firms that never emitted much, such as, say, Facebook. Together, the five biggest American tech firms have a carbon intensity (emissions per unit of sales) of about 3% of the S&P500 average.

【para7】Heavily polluting firms or assets will often find new owners. If you can brush off the stigma, it can be profitable to hold assets that can legally generate untaxed externalities—in this case pollution. As shareholders urge oil majors to clean up, the oilfields they sell are being bought by private-equity firms and hedge funds, away from the public eye. Pledges alone do not alter the fact that firms have little reason to invest trillions in green technologies that still have mediocre risk-adjusted returns.

【para8】What should be done? Fine-tuning can help. Measurement should be improved. The EU is rolling out mandatory carbon reporting for businesses; America is considering it. Some accounting bodies want to standardise how climate measures are disclosed. Asset owners, such as pension funds, should hold on to their investments in polluting firms and use them to help bring about change. Institutional investors also need to build up their venture-capital arms to finance new technologies, such as green cement.

【para9】Pledges like GFANZ are good as far as they go, but the world needs a widespread price on carbon if finance is to work wonders. That would target all firms, not just those controlled by some institutional investors. The urge to avoid the tax would supercharge efforts to count emissions. Firms and governments would have an incentive to grapple with questions of who is polluting and who should pay. Crucially, a carbon price would align the profit incentive with the goal of reducing greenhouse gases. The job of the financial system would then be to amplify the signal sent by the price of carbon. That combination would be a powerful engine for changing how economies work.

【para1】一声叹息：第 26 届联合国气候变化大会在英国格拉斯哥举行，各国关于碳排放与煤炭使用的问题尚未达成一致意见，会议目标仍未能实现。

【para2】气候融资热：会议上，大型金融机构及金融联盟纷纷表达愿景：希望通过贷款和投资转型向净零排放迈进。

【para3】美好设想：金融机构理应能发挥重大作用，促进资本向清洁环保型企业流动，从而将经济效益和环保效益相结合，重塑经济形态。

【Para4-7】论述实现绿色金融的三大难题：

-para4 ①覆盖范围小：绿色金融不对国有企业造成影响，而国有企业才正好是排放大户。

-para5 ②测算过程复杂：绿色金融在测算相关环境指标（如碳足迹、排放量）时，会出现重复计算、责任分配的问题。

-para6-7 ③动力不足：低碳企业收益少，而私营金融资本需要收益最大化，因此它们的口头承诺（支持低碳企业）往往与实际行动（投资高碳巨头）不相吻合。

【para8】解决措施：总体思路是微调，具措施体包括：提高测算水平；环境政策披露过程标准化；从污染企业内部作出改变；机构投资者建立风投部门资助新科技。

【para9】核心提议：全球需要大范围实施碳定价，这不仅有助于促进企业和政府主动优化碳排放计算，更关键在于它将企业逐利和环境目标结合起来，有效推动经济模式的改变。

12.3 Commodity prices[55]

Helter **skelter**

Are commodities now signalling recession, rather than inflation?

【1】The war in Ukraine throttled a flow of raw materials that was already being restricted by logistical logjams, bad weather and other disruptions. The result was soaring prices. In March a barrel of Brent crude oil hit $128, and European gas prices were three times higher than they had been just two months earlier. copper, a trendsetter for all industrial metals, hit a record price of $10,845 per tonne. wheat, corn and soyabean prices rose by double-digit percentages. The surge turbocharged consumer-price inflation, which, by challenging central banks' credibility, has given them another reason to raise interest rates.

【2】Yet in recent weeks the wind has changed. Oil is trading at around $100 a barrel. copper has dropped below $8,000 a tonne for the first time in 18 months; metals in general have fallen by 10-40% since May. Agricultural-commodity prices are back at pre-war levels. (Europe's gas prices, which have continued to rise as Russia has cut supply, are bucking the trend.) The slide may fuel hopes that inflation will soon be defeated. But the victory might prove hollow—if there is one at all.

【3】One explanation for tanking commodity prices is that worries about a recession are taking hold. In this view, rising interest rates are cooling the market for new homes, dampening demand for building materials such as copper and wood, and lowering spending on things like clothing, appliances and cars, which in turn hurts everything from aluminium to zinc. Moreover, some of the supply constraints that contributed to price rises earlier in the year have eased—the weather in grain-growing regions has improved, for instance. Meanwhile, the UN is trying to end a blockade on Ukraine's shipments of wheat.

【4】For central banks, this is mixed news. It suggests that inflation may be beaten even though they have only just begun tightening monetary policy. True, this might be accompanied by a recession, but, because inflation would be

[55] 8.1 经济学人外刊精读丨大宗商品价格，英文杂志双语精读 2022-08-01 11:04 发表于山东

tamed without interest rates having to rise too much, the downturn would, perhaps, at least be shallow.

【5】Worries about the economy are not the only force pushing down prices. Much of the money that has fled commodities, say industry experts, belongs not to physical traders but to financial punters. In the week to July 1st about $16bn flowed out of commodity-futures markets, bringing the total for the year so far to a record $145bn, according to JPMorgan Chase, a bank. In part that reflects rising interest rates. In May America's long-dated real rates turned positive for the first time since 2020. That made commodities, which do not offer a yield, less attractive to speculators.

【6】This suggests that commodity-price inflation may not have been slayed. Movements driven by real-rate swings are usually short-lived, says Tom Price of Liberum, an investment bank. The last time one happened, in 2013, prices stabilised within weeks. Prices are also still sensitive to further supply disruptions. commodity stocks remain 19% below historical average at a time of tight production, meaning there is less of a buffer against shocks.

【7】Even as some supply problems have eased, triggers for others abound. Energy prices are still vulnerable to Vladimir Putin's whims. Pricey energy, in turn, would cause metals producers to trim output further, making production tighter still. And the return of La Niña, a harsh climate pattern, for the third consecutive year could disrupt grain harvests worldwide. Prices, in other words, might stay high even if recession hits.

12.4 Economics focus :The dollar and the deficit

Sep 12th 2002

From The Economist print edition

Why the dollar still rules the world—and why the world should be grateful[56]

THE dollar is looking vulnerable. It is propped up not by the strength of America's exports, but by vast imports of capital. America, a country already rich in capital, has to borrow from abroad almost $2 billion net every working day to cover a current-account deficit forecast to reach almost $500 billion this year.

To most economists, this deficit represents an unsustainable drain on world savings. If the capital inflows were to dry up, some reckon that the dollar could lose a quarter of its value. Only Paul O'Neill, America's treasury secretary, appears unruffled. The current-account deficit, he declares, is a "meaningless concept", which he talks about only because others insist on doing so.

The dollar is not just a matter for America, because the dollar is not just America's currency. Over half of all dollar bills in circulation are held outside America's borders, and almost half of America's Treasury bonds are held as reserves by foreign central banks. The euro cannot yet rival this global reach. International financiers borrow and lend in dollars, and international traders use dollars, even if Americans are at neither end of the deal. No asset since gold has enjoyed such widespread acceptance as a medium of exchange and store of value. In fact, some economists, such as Paul Davidson of the University of Tennessee and Ronald McKinnon of Stanford University, take the argument a step further (see references at end). They argue that the world is on a de facto dollar standard, akin to the 19th-century gold standard.

For roughly a century up to 1914, the world's main currencies were pegged to gold. You could buy an ounce for about four pounds or twenty dollars. The contemporary "dollar standard" is a looser affair. In principle, the world's currencies float in value against each other, but in reality few float freely. Countries fear losing

[56] "Financial Markets, Money and the Real World" by Paul Davidson. Edward Elgar 2002.
"The International Dollar Standard and Sustainability of the U.S. Current Account Deficit" by Ronald McKinnon 2001. Available on www.stanford.edu/~ mckinnon/papers.htm

competitiveness on world markets if their currency rises too much against the greenback; they fear inflation if it falls too far. As long as American prices remain stable, the dollar therefore provides an anchor for world currencies and prices, ensuring that they do not become completely unmoored.

In the days of the gold standard, the volume of money and credit in circulation was tied to the amount of gold in a country's vaults. Economies laboured under the "tyranny" of the gold regime, booming when gold was abundant, deflating when it was scarce. The dollar standard is a more liberal system. Central banks retain the right to expand the volume of domestic credit to keep pace with the growth of the home economy.

Eventually, however, growth in the world's economies translates into a growing demand for dollar assets. The more money central banks print, the more dollars they like to hold in reserve to underpin their currency. The more business is done across borders, the more dollars traders need to cover their transactions. If the greenback is the new gold, Alan Greenspan, the Federal Reserve chairman, is the world's alchemist, responsible for concocting enough liquidity to keep world trade bubbling along nicely.

But America can play this role only if it is happy to allow foreigners to build up a huge mass of claims on its assets—and if foreigners are happy to go along. Some economists watch with consternation as the rest of the world's claims on America outstrip America's claims on the rest of the world. As they point out, even a dollar bill is an American liability, a promise of ultimate payment by the US Treasury. Can America keep making these promises to foreigners, without eventually emptying them of value?

According to Mr Davidson, the world cannot risk America stopping. America's external deficit means an extra $500 billion is going into circulation in the world economy each year. If America reined in its current account, international commerce would suffer a liquidity crunch, as it did periodically under the gold standard. Hence America's deficit is neither a "meaningless concept" nor a lamentable drain on world savings. It is an indispensable fount of liquidity for world trade.

Spigot by nature

But is the deficit sustainable? Many of America's creditors, Mr McKinnon argues, have a stake in preserving the dollar standard, whatever the euro's potential charms. In particular, a large share of America's more liquid assets are held by foreign central banks, particularly in Asia, which dare not offload them for fear of undermining the competitiveness of their own currencies. "Willy nilly," Mr McKinnon says, "foreign governments cannot avoid being important creditors of the United States." China, for one, added $60 billion to its reserves in the year to June by ploughing most of its trade surplus with America back into American assets.

This is not the first time America's external deficits have raised alarm. In 1966, as America's post war trade surpluses began to dwindle, *The Economist* ran an article entitled "The dollar and world liquidity: a minority view." According to this view, the build-up of dollar claims by foreigners was not a "deficit" in need of "correction". Rather, the American capital market was acting like a global financial intermediary, providing essential liquidity to foreign governments and enterprises. In their own ways, Mr Davidson and Mr McKinnon echo this minority view today. A "correction" of America's current deficit, they say, would create more problems than it would solve. Whether the world's holders of dollars will always agree remains to be seen.

12.5 Economics focus: Stop worrying and love the deficit[57]

Nov 27th 2003

From The Economist print edition

America's current-account deficit poses few dangers, says Alan Greenspan. Except to Europeans

IN THE past year the United States has run up a current-account deficit of more than $500 billion. Some think that the line of credit extended by the rest of the world to America is dangerously long. As Kenneth Rogoff, formerly chief economist of the International Monetary Fund, puts it, foreign creditors give poor countries "just enough rope to hang themselves", but they are giving the Americans "enough rope to tie the noose around their neck several times." Most countries with a deficit of such size would find the downward pressure on their currencies and the upward pressure on bond yields irresistible. They would be forced to cut their expenditure and switch their spending from imports to domestic production.

But for America the gallows do not beckon yet, according to a recent speech* by Alan Greenspan, the chairman of the Federal Reserve, at a conference sponsored by The Economist and the Cato Institute. Admittedly, Americans' demands on the world's savings are greater than ever. But Mr Greenspan argues that, thanks to spreading globalisation, the pool of savings on offer in today's global capital markets is deeper and more liquid than ever. The markets continue to furnish America with the money it needs without demanding higher yields in return.

In a recent paper† Michael Dooley, of the University of California at Santa Cruz, and David Folkerts Landau and Peter Garber, of Deutsche Bank, come to the same sanguine conclusion from opposite premises: the deficit is manageable not because today's world is unique but because it replicates the post-war Bretton Woods era. America is once again at the centre of an international monetary system. On the periphery, where post-war Europe once stood, now stands East Asia, with its cosseted

[57] * www.federalreserve.gov/boarddocs/speeches/2003/20031120/default.htm
† "An Essay on the Revived Bretton Woods System". NBER Working Paper no. 9971, September 2003: www.nber.org/papers/w9971

capital markets and fear of floating against the dollar. The players have changed, but the rules of the game are much the same.

Under Bretton Woods, the Europeans, as they regained their exporting strength, amassed ever greater dollar claims on America. Similarly, under today's "revived" Bretton Woods system, the East Asians hoard their export earnings in low-yielding dollar assets, such as Treasury bills. What East Asia hoards, America happily spends: the inflow of Asian capital keeps American interest rates low and demand high. Moreover, America tends to spend its cheap East Asian loans on cheap East Asian

goods. America and Europe used to enjoy a similar relationship. As Jacques Rueff, a French economist, put it in 1965: "If I had an agreement with my tailor that whatever money I pay him returns to me the very same day as a loan, I would have no objection at all to ordering more suits from him."

America gets more suits, but what do the East Asian tailors get out of it? Yields on safe, dollar assets are low and the opportunity cost is high, given better returns at home or elsewhere. Messrs Dooley, Folkerts-Landau and Garber argue that East Asia's governments are accumulating dollar assets as a by-product of a strategy of export-led growth. East Asia is prepared to forgo better returns in order to keep its exchange rates down and export demand up. This allows the region's industries to compete on world markets and attract foreign investment. To stretch Mr Rogoff's metaphor, the rope East Asia extends to America is not a noose but a tow-line, which will gradually pull Asian economies towards greater prosperity.

Others, such as Ronald McKinnon of Stanford University, think that American profligacy has trapped East Asia into running current-account surpluses. The region is forced to acquire dollar assets in order to avoid exchange-rate appreciation and deflation. Under the original Bretton Woods system, Mr McKinnon points out, America borrowed on a short-term basis from Europe, but lent long, making enormous direct investments in the rebuilding of Europe's war-blasted capital stock. These days America (direct investments in China notwithstanding) borrows short in order to spend.

Slow change, or slower

The $500 billion question, however, is whether America's deficit is sustainable. The authors believe that the current system can endure, but that it will change. East Asia will continue to lend to America until the surplus labour in its hinterlands is absorbed into its export industries, its financial system has matured and its currencies are ready to float. And after East Asia has graduated from the economic periphery, as Europe did before it, South Asia may take its place. Mr Greenspan, by contrast, thinks America's build-up of foreign debt must slow and eventually be reversed. But he is confident of a soft landing: market forces will "incrementally defuse" the deficit. The dollar may fall

and bond yields rise, but America is flexible enough to adjust painlessly.

Messrs Dooley, Folkerts-Landau and Garber put their faith in the rigged exchange rates and regulated capital markets of Asia. Mr Greenspan puts his faith in market forces and the flexibility of America. None of them thinks America should lose any sleep over its current-account deficit. All of them caution against protectionism, of which there have recently been unnerving signs.

Most of the discomfort caused by America's deficit will be felt neither in Asia nor in America but in Europe. European investors may be growing less willing to underwrite American borrowing for miserable returns: according to Morgan Stanley, they sold $403m-worth of American stocks, bonds and notes in September after purchasing $28 billion-worth a month between January and August. Meanwhile, European exporters are losing markets, squeezed out by an appreciating euro. However much rope East Asia provides, European necks are in the noose.

12.6 What is a recession?[58]

The definition is contested—and political

【para1】Wikipedia editors cannot agree on the definition of "recession". Last month the site barred new and unregistered users from editing its page on the subject, after a fierce dispute over the claim that two consecutive quarters of falling GDP indicates a recession. The page, which had previously been tweaked just 24 times in 2022, was edited 180 times in a week. Nor is the debate confined to interested amateurs. In America it has been the subject of political sparring. On August 12th Britain's Office for National Statistics announced that the country's economy had shrunk in the second quarter of the year; economic forecasters think further declines lie ahead. So what constitutes a recession?

【para2】In short, a period of significant decline in economic activity. A recession typically leads to drops in output and investment, falling profits for businesses and rising unemployment. The global financial crisis of 2007-09 shaved almost 4% off economic growth worldwide. In some countries, including Britain, France and Germany, the convention is that two quarters of negative GDP growth indicates a recession. But many economists believe this definition is too narrow. Japan's cabinet office uses multiple indicators, including factory output, retail sales and employment. America's government has ceded the authority to declare a recession entirely. It defers to the National Bureau of Economic Research (NBER), a private, nonprofit research group.

【para3】A panel of eight NBER economists—known as the Business Cycle Dating Committee (BCDC)—has been America's arbiter of recessions since 1978. As in Japan, the committee defines a recession using a range of factors, including employment, personal income and industrial production. Considering GDP alone, says one former member, is akin to diagnosing a patient's illness only by checking their temperature. This is one reason why America is not officially in a recession, despite its GDP falling in the first and second quarters of the year. Unemployment is low and job growth robust: the country added

[58] 选文来源 The Economist-20220813 期「The Economist explains」What is a recession?
转自 the Economist 每天一篇经济学人 2022-08-24 07:00 发表于江苏

528,000 jobs in July, more than twice as many as expected. It has now recovered all those lost during the pandemic.

【para4】Another reason is that the committee does not make real-time judgments, much less predictions. It prefers to be retrospective, thereby avoiding the possibility of error. (In 2013, for instance, it became apparent that Britain had not in fact gone into recession the previous year, after GDP figures for 2012 were revised.) The BCDC usually flags a recession once it is well under way—and sometimes after it is over. The pandemic-induced downturn in 2020 lasted from February to April, according to an official pronouncement made in June that year. The usual lag between the start of a recession and the committee's announcement is almost 12 months. The BCDC concluded in December 2008 that the recession in America caused by the global financial crisis had begun in December the previous year.

【para5】The NBER may be inclined to wait before making an official pronouncement. But its cautious approach seems to hold little sway with Americans. In a survey conducted by CNN last month 64% of respondents reckoned a recession had already begun. (In June 73% of Britons responding to an Ipsos poll thought the same.) Republicans lambast Democrats for causing a downturn and warn they will pay the price in mid-term elections on November 8th. Democrats maintain that no such recession exists. They may be technically correct—but have good political reason to be defensive too. In the past three recessions that took place around the time of a presidential race, the party controlling the White House lost power. Such political consequences are not uniquely American. In countries where people are reluctant to trust their politicians, economic downturns are especially likely to trigger a change in leadership.

【para6】For all the political noise, if a recession does hit America it is likely to be relatively mild. It may not be so everywhere. Britain is forecast by the Bank of England to face five quarters of declining output. For poor and middle-income countries the forecast is even worse. In many, says the World Bank, "recession will be hard to avoid".

【para1】引入话题：经济衰退尚无普遍认同的定义（举例维基百科页面词条被频繁修改）

【para2】因国而异 ：经济衰退后果严重；各国对经济衰退的判定指标各不相同（政府或使用单一指标，或使用多重指标，又或授权其他组织判定）

【para3-5】美国否认进入经济衰退原因

-para3 原因①：BCDC 判定指标复杂多样（GDP 连续两季度下降，但失业率较低，就业强劲）

-para4 原因②：判定滞后性，时间差近一年

-para5 原因③：虽民众已有感受，但经济衰退致政党博弈，推动政党更替，执政党恐官宣

【para6】未来预测 ：美国经济衰退较轻；英国产能面临持续下降；多国难逃衰退

Questions：

1. Reading case 12.4, and answer “Why the dollar still rules the world—and why the world should be grateful”? ,should we be grateful for the ruling dollars?
2. In case 12.5, why do Alan Greenspan said, “America's current-account deficit poses few dangers, except to Europeans”? how do you see the relationship between the US and the EU?
3. In case 12.2, what do you think of climate finance? if “the net-zero pledges of financial firms won’t save the world”, what do you think could save the world?
4. From case 12.1,12.3 and 12.6, are we in a recession? Anyway, how to define a recession and how does it happen? Who do you think will suffer more in a recession?

问题：

(1) 阅读案例 12.4 并回答，“为什么美元仍然统治着世界，为什么世界应该心存感激”，我们应该感激美元统治世界吗？

(2) 在案例 12.5 中，为什么阿兰*格利斯潘说“除了对欧洲人来说之外，美国的经常项目赤字几乎没有造成什么危险”？你如何看待欧洲和美国的关系？

(3) 在案例 12.2 中，你如何看待气候金融？如果“金融公司的净零承诺不会拯救世界”，你认为什么才能拯救世界？

(4) 从案例 12.1,12.3 和 12.6 来看，我们处于衰退之中吗？如何定义衰退，它是怎么发生的？谁会在衰退中承受更多痛苦？

一、案例中的思政元素

① 独立自主自力更生：对比美国队欧盟的态度，让学生明白我们国家必须走坚持独立自主自力更生的道路，个人也是如此。

② 求真务实努力奋斗：尽管有很多新的名词不断出现，比如“碳金融“，但是节能减排保护环境是一个科学的问题，需要客观地认识，需要在实体经济中做出改变，比如技术进步工艺改造和生产流程再造，这些都需要努力奋斗才能得以实现。

二、采用的教学方法

（1）讲授法：教师讲授相关知识点。

（2）案例分析法：选择契合相关知识点的案例进行分析。

（3）小组讨论法：将学生课堂上分成小组对案例进行讨论，分别汇报讨论结果。

（4）问答法：在学生阅读相关案例材料后，请学生回答/抢答其中的经济学原理。

（5）翻转课堂：请学生自行组织对案例发表自己的观点和见解，并且以答辩的形式接受质询。

三、案例适用的范围

（包含案例适用的专业或课程、案例与专业课程思政的内在联系等）

案例名称	包含知识点	对应课程
12.1 Money: Cash is king	资产流动性	金融学
12.2 Climate change and investing: The uses and abuses of green finance	碳金融 产业结构	金融学 产业经济学
12.3 Commodity prices	商品价格指数	宏观经济学
12.4 Economics focus :The dollar and the deficit	财政赤字 国际收支与汇率	宏观经济学 国际经济学
12.5 Economics focus: Stop worrying and love the deficit	财政赤字 国际收支与汇率	宏观经济学 国际经济学
12.6 What is a recession?	经济增长	宏观经济学

Topic 13: Freedom

13.1 Regulating content: Moderating power

Free-speech idealism will clash with laws—and reality

【para1】RESTORING THE supremacy of America’s First Amendment on Twitter seems priority number one for Elon Musk. Inconveniently, his acquisition of Twitter comes as several countries are passing laws to regulate how social-media firms should moderate content.

【para2】The European Union’s Digital Services Act (DSA), which was agreed on April 23rd, will do most to stymie Mr Musk’s plans to turn Twitter back into a place where almost anything goes. “Be it cars or social media, any company operating in Europe needs to comply with our rules—regardless of their shareholding,” Thierry Breton, the EU’s commissioner for the internal market, warned (on Twitter, naturally) hours after the buy-out was announced.

【para3】Bureaucrats in Brussels will not now tell Twitter and other social-media firms which type of speech they should take down, explains Julian Jaursch of SNV, a think-tank based in Berlin. Instead, the thrust of the DSA, which is set to apply fully on January 1st 2024, is to push services to systematise and strengthen their content moderation. For instance, Twitter will have to be more transparent over how it polices its platform, follow regulators’ advice on how to improve things, provide a way for users to flag bad content easily and give vetted researchers access to key data. Repeated violations can lead to hefty fines: up to 6% of global annual sales.

【para4】Surprisingly, given Britain’s long tradition of protecting free speech, its Online Safety Bill, which was recently introduced in Parliament, goes further. Details still need to be hammered out but the bill will require internet platforms, among other things, to go after not only illegal content, such as child pornography, but “legal but harmful” abuses such as racism or bullying. Fines are higher, too: up to 10% of global revenues.

【para5】Other countries, including Australia and India, have recently passed their versions of such laws. Even in America there is a big debate about how to reform Section 230, the provision in the Communications Decency Act that shields online services from liability for content published on their platforms. Yet it is unlikely to result in legislation in the foreseeable future. Democrats want stricter rules whereas Republicans fear censorship—and Congress is paralysed.

【para6】Yet even without all these laws, Mr Musk may soon come to realise some content moderation is needed. After years of debate and experiment, even a few free-speech advocates argue that, while tricky, if done well it “actually enables more free speech”, in the words of Mike Masnick of Techdirt, a blog. “What content moderation does,” he recently wrote, “is create spaces where more people can feel free to talk.

13.2 Millions of women are now less free[59]

【1】 Yesterday, the sword that has long been hanging over American women's heads finally fell: the supreme court overturned Roe v Wade, ending the nationwide right to an abortion. The coming days will be consumed with finger pointing and recriminations. But the story is not about who was right and who was wrong.

【2】 Nor is the story about the judiciary's crumbling legitimacy, or the supreme court's fractious internal politics. In the coming days, Americans' attention will be called to the justices themselves – to their feelings, to their careers, to their safety. We will be scolded not to protest outside their houses, and we will be prevented, by high fences and heavy gates and the presence of armed cops, from protesting outside the court itself. But the story is not about the supreme court.

【3】The story is not about the Democratic politicians whose leadership on abortion rights has been tepid at best, and negligent at worst, ever since the 1990s. They will issue statements talking about their outrage; they will make platitude-filled speeches about the worth and dignity of American women. They will not mention their own inaction, persisting for decades in the face of mounting and well-funded right wing threats to Roe v Wade. They will not mention that most of them still, even now, oppose doing the only thing that could possibly restore reproductive freedom: expanding the courts. But the cowardice, hypocrisy, and historic moral failure of national Democrats is not the story.

【4】The story is not, even, about the legal chaos that will now follow. It is not about the fact that in 13 states, today's order has made all abortion immediately illegal . Nor is the story about the other 13 states that will almost certainly ban abortion now, too, meaning that the procedure will be illegal in 26 of the nation's 50 states within weeks.

【5】 The story is not about the cop who will charge the first doctor or the first patient with murder – that's already happening, anyway. The story is not about the anti-choice activists, sneering in their triumph, who will say

[59] 7.16 经济学人外刊精读丨女性权益，经济学人考研英语精读 2022-07-16 07:00 发表于山东

that they only want the best for women, and that women can't be trusted to know what's best for themselves. The story is not about the women who will be imprisoned or committed at the behest of these activists, or the desperate pregnant people, with nowhere to turn, who will be ensnared by them into deceitful crisis pregnancy centres or exploitative "maternity ranches".

【6】The real story is not about the media, which will churn out the think pieces, and the crass, enabling both-sidesism, and the insulting false equivalences and calls for unity. It is not even about those other rights – the rights to parent, and to marry, and to access birth control – that a cruel and emboldened right will come for next.

【7】The real story is the women.

【8】The real story is the student whose appointment was scheduled for today, who will have got a call from the clinic sometime in the last hours telling her that no, they were sorry, they could not give her an abortion after all. The real story is the woman waiting tables, who has felt so sick and exhausted these past few weeks that she can barely make it through her shifts, who will soon be calling clinics in other states, hearing that they're all booked for weeks, and will be asking friends for money to help cover the petrol, or the plane, or the time off that she can't afford. The real story is the abortion provider, already exhausted and heartbroken from years of politicians playing politics with her patients' rights, who will wonder whether she can keep her clinic open for its other services any more, and conclude that she can't.

【9】The real story is about thousands of these women, not just now but for decades to come, whose lives will be made smaller and less dignified by unplanned and unchosen pregnancies, the women whose health will be endangered by the long and gruelling physical process of pregnancy; the women, and others, who will have to forgo dreams, end educations, curtail careers, stretch their finances beyond the breaking point .

【10】The real story is the millions of women, and others, who now know that they are less free than men are .

【11】The real story is these people's unfreedom – the pain it will inflict and the joy it will steal. The real story is women, and the real story is the impossible question: how can we ever grieve enough for them?

13.3 Guns in America: Perhaps make it a bit harder to buy one?[60]

In many states it is easier to own a gun than a dog. That is absurd

【para1】The motives for mass murder vary. The teenager in Buffalo who on May 14th shot and killed ten people, most of them black, was driven by racial paranoia. The 68-year-old who killed one and injured five on May 16th in a Californian church hated Taiwanese people. What impelled Salvador Ramos to kill at least 21 on May 24th in and around a school in Texas may someday become apparent, though Mr Ramos is no longer alive to explain himself.

【para2】What these horrors have in common, though, is the murder weapon. Guns are simple, reliable tools for killing. A man with a gun and plenty of ammunition can kill more people, more quickly and with far less physical effort than he can with a knife, a blunt object or his bare hands. The weapon Mr Ramos used—a military-style assault rifle with high-capacity magazines—allowed him to keep shooting until someone shot him. That most of his victims were children makes the crime unusually horrific. But it resembles countless other American tragedies in that the easy availability of guns made it deadlier than it might have been.

【para3】A robber who carries a gun is more likely to kill. Domestic quarrels are more likely to end in death if a firearm is handy. Suicide attempts with guns usually succeed. Police in England and Wales shot and killed only two people in 2021; American cops killed 1,055. The main reason for this vast disparity is not that English cops are gentler or less racist. It is that American police face a heat-packing public. Most of those they kill are armed; many of the rest are mistakenly believed to be so. The abundance of guns is also the main reason why the murder rate in America is four or five times higher than in a typical rich country.

【para4】By one estimate, Americans own 400m guns. If they were evenly distributed, each family of five would have six. In 2020 more than 45,000 people in America died from firearm-related injuries. Guns now kill more young people than cars do.

【para5】The Economist believes it should be hard to own a gun. Farmers need them for pest control; hunters and other hobbyists may use them for sport. But each gun

60 美国控枪难题丨经济学人 0528 期文章 Perhaps make it a bit harder to buy one?　LifePlusEng 2022-05-31 20:34 发表于江苏

should be licensed and registered. Each owner should have to pass stringent background checks, and the process should be slow—no one should be able to buy a gun while in a fit of rage. Also, there is no good reason to let civilians own guns that fire rapidly, or magazines that let them kill a room full of people before reloading.

【para6】In America such strict gun control is unthinkable. The Second Amendment guarantees a right to bear arms, and the National Rifle Association promotes a maximalist interpretation of it. Politicians who hint that they might make it a little bit harder to obtain a firearm face a well-organised bloc of single-issue voters. In Republican primaries, especially, few dare offend the gun lobby.

【para7】Hence the steady loosening of rules in places like Texas, where 21-year-olds can carry a handgun in public without training or a permit (both of which are needed to cut hair); and where 18-year-olds can buy a handgun if they come from a violent home (to defend themselves against abusive relatives); and where almost any adult can buy a rifle with minimal hassle. Mr Ramos bought two assault rifles legally as soon as he turned 18, and shot his grandmother before heading for the local elementary school.

【para8】This is not what most Americans want. Hefty (but dwindling) majorities favour some commonsense curbs, such as denying weapons to the mentally ill, creating a database to track all gun sales, and banning both assault-style weapons and high-capacity magazines. Congress is unlikely to deliver such things, thanks to the Senate filibuster. So cities and states should step in, though guns will always flow illicitly from lax jurisdictions to stringent ones. Voters should reward politicians who think a gun licence should be at least as hard to obtain as a driving licence. Not all gun deaths are preventable, but many could be.

13.4 Guns and cars: Beep beep, bang bang[61]

As Americans get back into their cars, road-rage shootings are spiking

【para1】AS TRAGEDIES GO, it was an all-American story. On November 20th Sara Nicole Morales, a 35-year-old librarian who lived in Orange City, Florida, drove her car into a 40-year-old motorcyclist, Andrew Derr. According to a statement issued by the police, Mr Derr was not injured or knocked off his bike, and followed her to an intersection to try to persuade her to stop and exchange details. Instead of stopping, she drove away to her home, with Mr Derr and two witnesses to the crash in pursuit. When they arrived Ms Morales came out of her house with a gun and pointed it at the group. Mr Derr drew his own concealed handgun and shot her dead.

【para2】She was pregnant, engaged to be married and had an 11-year-old daughter. “That girl tried to kill me,” said Mr Derr, in body-cam footage released by the police. “She pointed a gun at me. I’m so sorry.” The investigation continues and nobody has been charged. What motivated Ms Morales to drive her car at Mr Derr and then point a gun at him remains unclear. But a remarkable number of shootings begin with road rage.

【para3】According to research by Everytown for Gun Safety, an anti-gun lobby group, 2021 is likely to see some 500 people injured or killed in road-rage shootings, more than double the number in 2016 (see chart). The researchers, Sarah Burd-Sharps and Kathryn Bistline, analysed data gathered from news and police reports to determine the number of road-rage shootings.

【para4】Why should the red mist be descending ever more frequently? It could be that driving has become more stressful. Before the pandemic stopped much of it, the number of miles driven during a year by Americans had been soaring, and congestion with it. But even when far fewer people were driving during lockdowns last year, the number of people killed in car crashes increased sharply, suggesting that people have been driving more recklessly.

[61] The Economist-20211204期「Asia」Guns and cars: Beep beep, bang bang

【para5】In 2020 almost 38,700 Americans died in crashes, a 7% increase on the previous year. Now most cars are back on the road—the amount of driving over the Thanksgiving holiday was expected to be just 3% lower this year than it was in 2019—and the rise in recklessness seems to have continued. Changing commuting patterns mean that traffic may be worse than it was before.

【para6】However, says Ms Burd-Sharps, a more likely explanation is the availability of guns. Sales soared last year and have remained high this year. Almost 22m Americans now have concealed-carry permits, a 48% increase on 2016. Road-rage shootings are most common in southern states such as Texas and Alabama, where a lot of drivers go armed. In California, New York and Hawaii, where concealed-carry permits are hard to get, they are much rarer. Between them, guns and cars kill around 80,000 Americans a year, most of them young. Combined, they make for a particularly lethal combination.

【para1】枪击惨案：交通矛盾随即上升至枪击血案

【para2】指向路怒：具体原因尚不明确，路怒或是背后推手

【para3】数据说话：2021 年路怒枪击案件大幅增多，远超 2016

【para4】原因分析：疫情前交通状况差，司机压力驾驶；疫情期间交通拥堵缓解，但鲁莽驾驶增加

【para5】疫情浇油：疫情期间①车祸死亡人数增加；②预计感恩节期间交通流量恢复，鲁莽驾驶增加，交通恶化

【para6】组合杀手：私人枪支许可证越容易获得，路怒枪击事件越多，枪支和路怒症组合构成马路杀手。

13.5 Flying with guns: Oops, I did it again[62]

More people are trying to take their weapons on planes

【para1】Hartsfield-jackson International Airport, south of Atlanta, is, by passenger numbers, America's biggest. Flying through it offers a quintessentially American airport experience. At the security checkpoint, where in other countries signs would remind you to discard liquids, televisions display a revolving 3D image of a handgun. Passengers are reminded in large lettering that no weapons are allowed in the concourse. For guns to be transported, they must be checked as baggage, unloaded, and locked in a dedicated container.

【para2】Atlanta's airport also holds a less desirable accolade: as the airport where the most Americans are caught trying to bring guns through security. In 2021 Transportation Security Administration (TSA) agents found 507 guns in passengers' hand luggage, a record. In the first six months of this year, another 200 were caught—a slight dip on the same period last year. More visible signage in the airport may have helped.

【para3】Across America, the number of guns found each year has been rising sharply. Occasionally weapons even scarier than guns are intercepted. In 2019 officials at Baltimore-Washington airport found a rocket launcher in the luggage of a Texan man flying home from Kuwait. In 2020, even though the number of passengers flying in America fell by 60% compared with 2019, the number of guns found decreased by only 27%. This might suggest that quieter airports enabled agents to catch a higher share—so in normal times, a worrying number of guns may be making it onto planes. In 2021 the number of guns caught at airport checks hit a record just shy of 6,000, more than twice as many as in 2015 (see chart).

【para4】According to Mark Howell, a TSA spokesman, most guns found are a case of "oops, I forgot" rather than any sinister intent. They crop up far more often in states with loose gun laws. People in Georgia or Texas often carry a

[62]选文来源：The Economist-20220813 期「United States」United States | Flying with guns: Oops, I did it again
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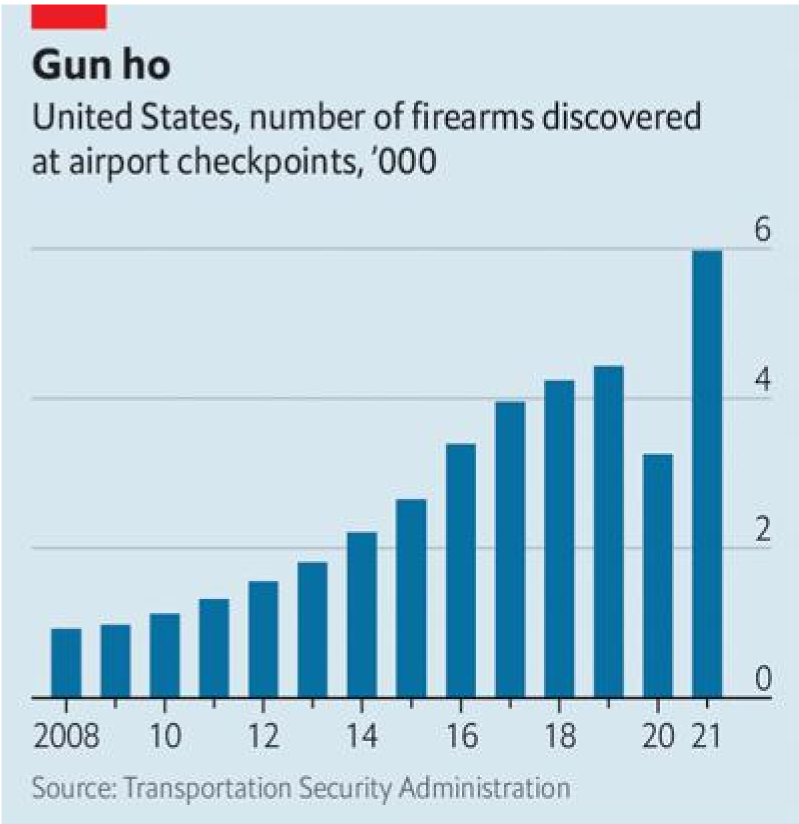

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gun as others carry their keys. Roughly 90% of firearms found are loaded. When passengers are stopped by TSA agents, they are fined (sometimes several thousand dollars) and handed over to police, who see if they have broken any local laws.

【para5】In Atlanta, police now simply direct passengers to return any guns to their cars, or to check them in as luggage. In April Brian Kemp, Georgia's governor, signed a "constitutional carry" law, allowing people in the state to carry a concealed weapon without a permit. As a result, local police can no longer confiscate weapons found by TSA agents at the airport, or even compel owners to submit to questioning. "We are working on it," Darin Schierbaum, Atlanta's interim police chief, told the city council in June. Some might worry it is only a matter of time before one goes off in the air.

【para1】机场现状：哈兹菲尔德机场用醒目字体提醒乘客严禁携带枪械登机

【para2】如此"美名"：哈兹菲尔德机场是美国带枪通过安检未遂者最多的机场

【para3】与日俱增：机场截获的枪支数量每年都在节节攀升

【para4】无心之过：多数被发现携带枪支登机的人并非图谋不轨

【para5】解决之道：佐治亚州通过合宪持抢法案，允许人民有权无证隐蔽持枪，但仍留隐患

13.6 Policing: Stop and think[63]

Stop-and-search is on the rise again

【para1】The conservatives have been in power for 12 years. That is long enough for some policies to be tried, ditched and revived. Stop-and-search, a policing technique in which people are stopped on the street and frisked for weapons or drugs, falls into this category.

【para2】Police conducted 1.2m stop-and-searches in England and Wales in the year to March 2011. They fell sharply in subsequent years because Theresa May, during her time as home secretary, told police to cut back. She said searches did little to fight crime and soured relations with ethnic minorities. In the year to March 2018 fewer than 280,000 searches took place.

【para3】Since then, the numbers have been climbing again. An uptick in knife crime prompted Sadiq Khan, the mayor of London, to increase use of stop-and-search. In May Priti Patel, the home secretary, made it easier for police forces to authorise "suspicionless search", which is allowed in specific areas for a limited amount of time—in response to violence or during events such as festivals. Parliament passed a law this year that gave police the power to stop people who had been convicted of weapons offences; a proposed bill would allow them to frisk people suspected of carrying glue or padlocks for use in disruptive protests. The number of stop-and-searches rose to 704,000 in the year to March 2021.

【para4】The return of a familiar policy has meant the return of familiar criticisms. In England and Wales people who are black or black British are seven times more likely to get stopped for a suspicion-based stop-and-search than white people. (That disparity rate doubles in suspicionless stops.)

【para5】Some police forces do better than others. In London, where the plurality of stop-and-searches in England and Wales takes place, black people are 3.4 times more likely to be searched than white people for suspicion-based stops. Yet even forces with lower disparity rates can struggle to explain why they have one at all.

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【para6】The Home Office and regional police forces are taking steps to tackle this issue. The Home Office tracks the ethnicity of the people stopped. Officers wear body cameras; in some forces, community panels review that body-camera footage and give feedback. The disparity rate between black and white Britons has been falling, from 8.8 in the year ending March 2020 (to that figure of seven in the following year).

【para7】Proponents of stop-and-search say it removes weapons from the streets—16,000 of them last year. But more than two-thirds of stops in the year to March 2021 were because of drugs. And as numbers of searches have risen, arrest rates have decreased; arrest rates for suspicion-based stops peaked at nearly 18% in the years following Mrs May’s change in policy, when the number of stops was low, and dropped to 11% in the year ending March 2021.

【para8】The trade-offs involved in stop-and-search have not changed. It results in some arrests and the seizure of some weapons but risks eroding public confidence. A study published in 2020 in the “European Law Enforcement Research Bulletin” found that a belief that police were acting fairly and honestly mattered more for trust than low crime rates or neighbourhood policing. Mrs May understood how to use stop-and-search: sparingly.

【Para1】审视政策：保守党已执政十余年，政府已有足够时间审视警察截停搜身的相关政策。

【Para2】严控搜查：特雷莎·梅担任内阁大臣期间，警方截停搜身行为有所减少。

【Para3】再次攀升：在过去一年内，警方更容易获得授权进行“无嫌疑搜身”，截停搜查次数再次增加。

【Para4】招致批评：此番搜查增多引致各界批评，尤其是搜查中体现的种族歧视。

【Para5】区域差异：有的地方执法的歧视性没那么严重，但是歧视只要存在，便无合理性。

【Para6】采取措施：政府部门开始采取措施解决执法中的歧视性，如让警官使用穿戴式摄像头等，这使截停搜查的种族差异率大幅减少。

【Para7】支持意见：支持派认为，截停搜查有助于消除潜在的武器威胁。但搜查次数越多，实际逮捕的效率更低。

【Para8】问题关键：过度搜查会破坏警察的公信力。公正有效的执法比过度巡查和居民自治都更有效。

Questions：

1. Reading case 13.1, “Free-speech idealism will clash with laws—and reality” , do you think that it is a violations of “human rights and democracy”? If Chinese government passes such laws to regulate content on social-media, guess what will the western media say.
2. In case 13.2, do you think that women have abortion rights? Why do US government deprived them of their rights?
3. In case 13.3,13.4 and 13.5, do you think owning a gun is part of human rights? Then what about taking guns on taxi or on plane? Guns protect people from harm or do the harm?
4. In case 13.5, the UK stop and search for what? What do we do in China to prevent crime?

问题：

(1) 阅读案例 13.1 并回答，“言论自由的理想主义将与法律和现实相冲突”，你认为这侵犯了人权和民主吗？要是中国颁布类似的法律，你猜猜西方媒体会说什么？

(2) 在案例 13.2 中，你认为女性拥有堕胎权吗？美国政府为什么剥夺他们这种权力？

(3) 在案例 13.3，13.4 和 13.5 中，你认为拥有枪支是人权的一部分吗？把枪支带上出租车和飞机呢？枪支保护给人们带来安全还是伤害？

(4) 在案例 13.6 中，英国警察为什么要截停搜身？在中国我们通常怎么做？

一、案例中的思政元素

① 理解自由：通过欧洲限制言论和美国剥夺女性堕胎权的案例，让学生明白自由是相对的，任何国家都有某种形式的限制，有的甚至非常不合理（如美国）。绝对的自由是不存在的。

② 制度自信：通过美国枪支现状让学生理解中国禁止私人拥有枪支带来的好处，通过警察搜身的对比赞赏中国警察执法规范，让学生深刻体会到中国的安全感，使学生对我们的制度充满信心。

③ 坚定立场：能够辩证地看待西方媒体在谈论关于所谓"自由、民主与人权"时，对东西方国家采用的不同标准。

二、采用的教学方法

（1）讲授法：教师讲授相关知识点。

（2）案例分析法：选择契合相关知识点的案例进行分析。

（3）小组讨论法：将学生课堂上分成小组对案例进行讨论，分别汇报讨论结果。

（4）问答法：在学生阅读相关案例材料后，请学生回答/抢答其中的经济学原理。

（5）翻转课堂：请学生自行组织对案例发表自己的观点和见解，并且以答辩的形式接受质询。

三、案例适用的范围

（包含案例适用的专业或课程、案例与专业课程思政的内在联系等）

案例名称	包含知识点	对应课程
13.1 Regulating content: Moderating power	言论自由	政治经济学
13.2 Millions of women are now less free	自由与人权	政治经济学
13.3 Guns in America: Perhaps make it a bit harder to buy one?	机制设计	制度经济学
13.4 Guns and cars: Beep beep, bang bang	机制设计	制度经济学
13.5 Flying with guns: Oops, I did it again	博弈论囚徒困境	微观经济学
13.6 Policing: Stop and think	经济增长	宏观经济学

Topic 14: Industry

14.1 Chipmaking: A self-solving problem[64]

Markets, not nationalism and subsidies, are the cure for the chip shortage

【Para1】One firm's crisis is another's opportunity. A shortage of semiconductors has helped pump up the valuations of firms such as Nvidia, whose chips power everything from video-gaming to machine learning and data centres. But boom time for sellers means misery for buyers. Carmakers, whose products have become computers on wheels, are among the victims. Profits at Ford, America's second-biggest carmaker by volume, fell by half in the most recent quarter amid a global shortage of chips. Analysts say the industry might build around 5m fewer cars this year, all for want of their tiniest components.

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【Para 2】Carmakers are not the only firms feeling the pinch. Apple and Microsoft have also warned that they will be affected. Politicians are being drawn in, too. Chips will be on the agenda later this month when America's vice-president, Kamala Harris, visits Vietnam, which has a flourishing electronics industry. Angela Merkel, the outgoing German chancellor, has lamented Europe's small share of global chip production.

【Para3】The shortage is the result of a sudden surge in demand. Chipmaking is a cyclical business which, between the peaks and troughs, has been enjoying strong growth for decades as computers creep into every corner of society. That

[64] The Economist-20210807期「Leaders」 Chipmaking: A self-solving problem

trend was amplified by the pandemic. Locked-down consumers shopped online, logged into meetings remotely, and wiled away the hours with video-streaming and video-gaming. The result has been a spike in demand for the semiconductors that power the data centres and gadgets that make such things possible, clogging factories with orders.

【Para 4】The crisis has had three consequences, two encouraging and one less so. The first is an investment boom. Big producers such as Intel, Samsung and TSMC are planning to spend hundreds of billions of dollars on extra capacity over the next few years. As in many markets, high prices are the best cure for high prices.

【Para5】The second is that the chip industry's customers are adapting, too. When demand collapsed early in the pandemic, carmakers cut their orders with chipmakers. The car industry's size and clout mean that it is used to ordering suppliers around. But when demand recovered, it found itself at the back of the queue, because of long lead times and competition for capacity from the even bigger and more influential tech industry.

【Para6】The unpleasant experience of being the supplicant rather than the boss has prodded carmakers to take tighter control over supplies of vital components. Following in the tyre-treads of Tesla, Volkswagen has announced plans to develop driver-assistance chips in-house. Other firms are forging closer relationships with chipmakers. Toyota, a Japanese firm, has weathered the shortage relatively well, partly because it was slower to cut orders when the pandemic hit. In June Robert Bosch, a big supplier of automotive parts, cut the ribbon on a €1bn ($1.2bn) chip factory of its own in Dresden. Redesigned supply chains will be more resilient.

【Para7】The third, unwelcome effect has been a surge of techno-nationalism. America is planning to hand out billions of dollars to lure chipmakers back from East Asia. Europe wants to double its share of global production, to 20%, by 2030. Even Britain has declared the fate of a small chip factory in Wales to be a matter of national security.

【Para8】<u>There is some force in the argument that chips have come to occupy what used to be called the "commanding heights" of an economy, in the way</u>

that oil refineries or car factories did in the 20th century. But as last century's governments discovered, subsidies lead to overcapacity and gluts—and, eventually, to yet more calls for public money to prop up uncompetitive businesses. The chip shortage is mostly a self-solving problem. Governments should resist the temptation to see themselves as saviours.

【para1】几家欢喜几家愁 ：全球芯片短缺，一方面导致半导体公司股价上升，另一方面使芯片需求者持续减产，多个行业受牵连。

【Para2】殃及池鱼：除了汽车行业，手机、电脑等电子设备行业也受到牵连，对发达国家的经济造成严重影响。

【para3】分析原因：芯片短缺主要由于需求激增。疫情期间，由于人们更多使用电子产品，作为重要零部件的芯片需求也相应上涨。

【Para 4-7】分析芯片短缺的三个影响：两个积极，一个消极

-para4 影响①芯片需求上涨引发投资热，多家芯片制造公司计划扩大产能。

-para5-6 影响②: 促进芯片用户革新——如汽车制造商发现买方市场已不再，需要与其他科技企业竞争芯片（para5)。因此，各大汽车企业或开始自己开发芯片，或与其他芯片公司建立更紧密的关系，或调整供应链增强韧性（para6)。

-para7 影响③：可能导致技术民族主义激增，各国正为芯片制造建立国家壁垒。

【para8】作者点评：芯片产业成为了当今社会最重要的行业之一，但政府不应该介入其中，芯片问题还是应该留待市场自身解决。

14.2 Gaming in Asia: Powering up[65]

South Korea is trying to reclaim its e-sports crown from China

【para1】Some 4,000 fans gathered at the bexco Centre in Busan, a big port city in South Korea, on May 29th. Another 2.2m tuned in online. They were there for the finals of the Mid-Season Invitational, a prestigious e-sports tournament. A dozen teams had been competing over the course of three weeks to show off their skills at League of Legends (LoL), an online strategy-fantasy game. Now just two remained: Royal Never Give Up from China and t1, representing the home side. As the battle raged, t1 soon sputtered. The mood in the hall grew sombre. Some fans left early. By the time the Chinese team, locked down at home and joining virtually, emerged victorious, few were left. Confetti rained down in a half-empty hall.

【para2】The enthusiasm, and crushing disappointment, reflect the place e-sports have in South Korean youth culture. The games are not just fun, but a source of national pride. Since the 1990s players have honed their skills in pc bangs (internet cafés), where children would go straight after school. Games such as StarCraft and lo l filled time and fired up competitive spirit like after-class basketball in America or football in Brazil. The pool of talent expanded, and South Korean players came to dominate online-gaming championships.

【para3】No longer. China is now on the rise. Chinese companies are at the heart of gaming globally. The country's biggest tech firm, Tencent, owns Riot Games, which developed lol, as well as 40% of Epic Games, which makes Fortnite. They are among the most popular games in the world. Interest in the pastime has grown, too. There are some 685m gamers in China, including those who play on their phones, compared with 33m in South Korea. Over the past few years China has consistently beaten South Korea in big championships.

【para4】South Korea conspired in its own downfall. "Skilled Korean players and coaches played a role in cultivating the e-sport scene in China," says Choi Eun-Kyoung of Hanshin University, near Seoul. South Korean masters, drawn in by big money, taught Chinese players the lessons of their success and established real-world gaming academies and systems for spotting and recruiting talent.

[65] The Economist-20220604 期「Asia」Gaming in Asia: Powering up

【para5】South Korea now spies a chance to catch up. Given that serious players start as young as 14 and practise some 70 hours a week, Chinese e-sports are bound to suffer. South Korea, meanwhile, last year scrapped a decade-old law banning under-16s from playing online games in the dead of night. Local governments are investing in gaming academies. During a campaign visit to lol Park, an e-sports venue in Seoul, Yoon Suk-yeol, South Korea's new president, asked gamers for ideas on how to improve the perception of gaming among parents, who think it is addictive and a waste of time. "Our deeds shape the future," he said, quoting a lol character.

【para1】赛事回顾：韩国 T1 在英雄联盟季中冠军赛决赛中不敌中国 RNG，遭韩国国民唏嘘。

【para2】国民自豪：韩国自 1990s 起大力培育电子竞技，其已成为国家自豪感的来源。

【para3】异军突起：在游戏制作、人才储备、比赛表现方面，中国逐渐赶超韩国。

【para4】助人志气：韩国在培育中国电子竞技行业方面助力良多。

【para5】趁机追赶：中国限制未成年人网游时间，韩国便废除类似法律、大搞投资，欲趁机追赶。

14.3 The snow business: Avalanche risk[66]

Will the money ploughed into China's ski industry melt away?

【para1】In much of the world the business of running ski slopes has, like most of tourism, been crippled by lockdowns and travel restrictions. China is no exception. Visits to Chinese ski areas slumped by 38% in 2020—steeper than a global decline of 14% after covid-19 hit. Two in five winter-sports businesses lost more than half their revenue as a result of anti-virus measures, according to the Beijing Olympic City Development Association, an official group set up to champion sport. One in 14 ski areas, especially small ones, gave up the ghost in 2020. As China prepares to host the Winter Olympics, which open in Beijing on February 4th, its ski-industrial complex is hoping that this celebration of all pursuits below freezing will mark the end of a short-lived icy patch.

【para2】Unlike Europe and America, where the winter-sports sector's downhill slide predates the pandemic, Chinese skiers were taking to the slopes in record numbers. The Beijing Ski Association says that people paid more than 20m visits to China's ski venues in 2019, twice as many as in 2014. Eileen Gu, a teenager raised in San Francisco who has chosen to represent China, where her mother was born, in freestyle skiing, has recalled that just a few years ago she knew virtually all the freestyle skiers in the country. Now the gold-medal contender suggests they are like snowflakes in a blizzard.

【para3】Investors have been swept up, too. China had nearly 800 ski areas before the pandemic, four times the number in 2008 and not a world away from around 1,100 in the Alps, where they began popping up around 1900. Though the Chinese areas still have many fewer lifts than Western ones, they are getting more sophisticated. Some now offer summer pastimes like mountain-biking, hiking and rafting. China's 36 indoor ski centres—it has more of these than any other country—accounted for a fifth of all ski visits in the country in 2020. Sunac China is the world's largest operator of such venues. Indoor ski slopes contributed to the success of the developer's culture-and-tourism business (which also includes malls, water-sports venues and hotels), where revenues grew by 166% year on year in the first half of 2021.

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[66] The Economist-20220205 期「Business」The snow business: Avalanche risk

【para4】Even so, Chinese ski-resort operators are vulnerable to two industry-wide uncertainties. The first is climate change. Since milder temperatures mean less snow, ski resorts everywhere are hostage to global warming. Doubts over sufficient snowfall have prompted Olympic organisers this year to rely entirely on artificial snow for the first time. But making the white stuff artificially uses an awful lot of water—a scarce resource in China's drought-prone north, home to half its population and most of its resorts. The Olympic games alone may need 2m cubic metres—enough to fill 800 Olympic-size swimming pools—to produce sufficient snow cover, according to Carmen de Jong, a hydrologist at the University of Strasbourg. Officials reckon the event will use up to a tenth of all water consumed during the ski events in the Chongli district, which will host them. Indoor slopes, for their part, need less snow but all of it is artificial.

【para5】The second uncertainty has to do with future demand. China still has room to catch up with big skiing nations. Chinese skiers hit the slopes once a year in the winter of 2020-21, on average, compared with half a dozen times for those in Austria or Switzerland. Optimists also point out that many Chinese skiers are young, and so in principle have plenty of skiing left in their legs; whereas in America more than one-fifth of skiers are over 55, about 80% of China's are under 40 years old, according to Laurent Vanat, a consultant on the global ski industry.

【para6】However, precisely because China lacks a strong tradition of skiing, absolute beginners are exceptionally common on its pistes. Around 80% of skiers in China are first-timers this season, up from 72% in 2019, according to Mr Vanat. In Europe and America the share is less than 20%. China's ski industry is counting on a strong showing from Ms Gu and the rest of the national team to convert such neophytes into regulars. Like her, though, resort owners face tough terrain ahead.

【para1】行业寒冬：在疫情的影响下，滑雪产业遭遇寒冬：企业利润骤减，部分滑雪场倒闭。行业团体希望，北京冬奥会能重燃人们的滑雪热情。

【para2】市场广阔：与欧美国家不同，中国滑雪人数逐年递增。业余爱好者与专业运动员数量都大幅上涨。

【para3】带动产业：除了滑雪场本身，以融创中国为首的文旅产业运营商发展出一系列休闲娱乐场所，拉动相关产业发展。

【para4-5】论述影响冰雪行业的两大因素

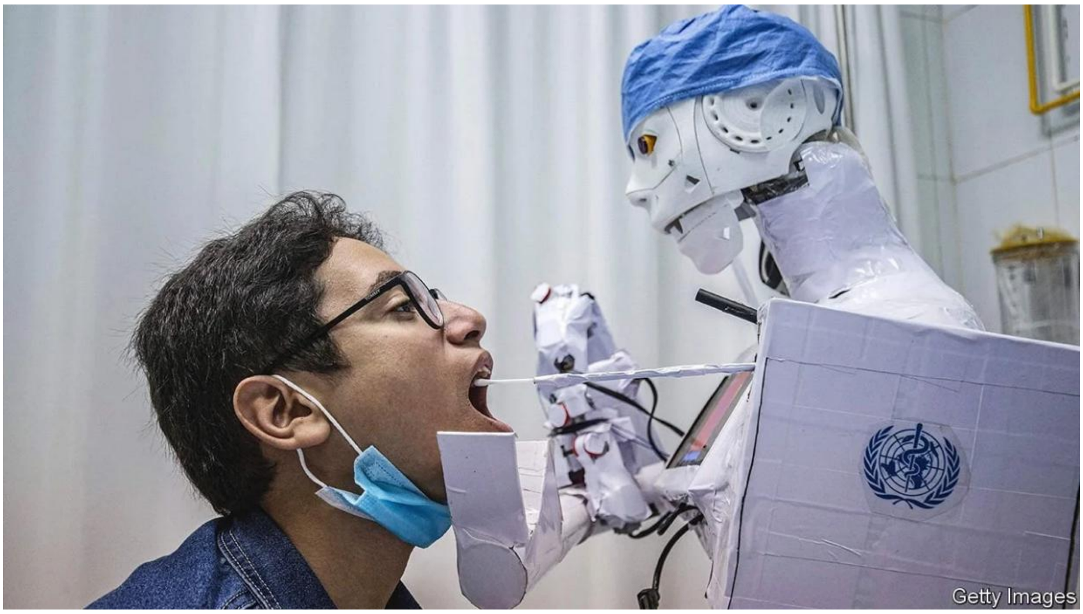
-para4 气候变化：由于全球气候变暖、降雪减少，人造雪的使用对水资源本不充足的北方地区而言可谓雪上加霜。

-para5 未来需求：中国滑雪者平均年龄较低，滑雪的年限还很长。但相较于滑雪大国而言，他们的滑雪频次较少。

【para6】行业展望：中国滑雪传统不足，以及冬奥会的契机都将为该行业带来机遇。然而，形势依旧严峻

14.4 Workplace automation: Rise of the robots[67]

The world should welcome the rise of smart machines



【para1】THE WORD "robot" was coined in 1920 by the Czech playwright Karel Capek. In "R.U.R." ("Rossum's Universal Robots") Capek imagined artificial, fully functional servants. For most of their history, however, robots have been dumb, inelegant mechanical devices sitting out of sight in factories.

【para2】Things are starting to change, however. Robots have benefited from rapid innovations in smartphones, which brought cheap cameras and sensors, fast wireless communications and powerful, smaller computer chips. More recent advances in machine learning have added software to make robots better informed about their surroundings and equipped them to make wiser decisions. Robots are leaving carefully managed industrial settings for everyday life and, in the coming years, will increasingly work in supermarkets, clinics, social care and much more.

【para3】They could not be coming at a better time. Many industries are facing a shortage of labour—the demand for workers has recovered much faster than expected from the pandemic and some people have left the workforce, particularly in America. Warehousing has grown rapidly thanks to the e-commerce boom. Robots are now indispensable, picking items off shelves and

[67] The Economist-20220226 期「Leaders 」Workplace automation: Rise of the robots

helping people pack an exponentially rising numbers of boxes. They are even beginning to trundle slowly along some pavements, delivering goods or food right to people's doors. In a pandemic-ravaged world, short of workers but with lots of elderly folk to look after, having more robots to boost productivity would be a good thing.

【para4】And yet many people fear that robots will destroy jobs. A paper in 2013 by economists at Oxford University was widely misinterpreted as meaning that 47% of American jobs were at risk of being automated.

【para5】In fact, concerns about mass unemployment are overblown. The evidence suggests robots will be disruptive but ultimately beneficial for labour markets. Japan and South Korea have the highest robot penetration but very strong workforces. A Yale University study that looked at Japanese manufacturing between 1978 and 2017 found that an increase of one robot unit per 1,000 workers boosted a company's employment by 2.2%. Research from the Bank of Korea found that robotisation moved jobs away from manufacturing into other sectors, but that there was no decrease in overall vacancies. Another study, by researchers at the Massachusetts Institute of Technology and colleagues elsewhere, looked at Finnish firms and concluded that their use of advanced technologies led to increases in hiring.

【para6】For all that, the march of the robots will bring big changes to workplaces. The skills and firms that are rewarded will shift, too. But that need not be the disaster many fear. One supposed example of "bad automation" is self-service checkouts in supermarkets, because they displace human workers. But this is hardly dystopian —robots could perform work, such as butchering, that is unpleasant or stigmatised. Checkout staff who retrain to help customers pick items from aisles may well find that dealing with people in need is more rewarding than spending all day swiping barcodes in front of lasers.

【para7】Inevitably, some people will be on the losing end of change even as the robots make society as a whole better off. One lesson from the freewheeling globalisation of the 1990s and 2000s is that the growth in trade that was overwhelmingly beneficial triggered a political backlash, because the losers felt left behind. That is one more reason why firms and governments would do well to recognise the value of retraining and lifelong learning. As jobs change, workers should be helped to acquire new skills, including how to work with and manage the robots that will increasingly be their colleagues.

【para8】The potential gains from the robot revolution are huge. In Capek's play, the robots revolt against their human masters and cause mass unemployment and worse. The beginnings of the world's real robots have not matched Capek's satire. There is no reason to think that their future needs to either.

【para1】追溯起源："机器人（robot）"由杰克剧作家创造而来，但大多愚笨、粗陋

【para2】日新月异：科技发展推动机器人进化成长，从工厂走向服务业

【para3】恰逢其时：疫情下，机器人填补职缺，取货打包，送货上门

【para4】引发担忧：人们担心机器人冲击人类就业

【para5】庸人自扰：机器人带动劳动力市场（日本、韩国、芬兰等国数据说话）

【para6】职场革 ：一些工作和企业或不再需要人类员工（超市收银），但机器人可以代替人类从事受歧视的工作（屠宰业），人类从事更有成就感的工作

【para7】鉴往知来：机器人损害一些人的既得利益；企业和政府应吸取全球化的教训，提供再培训等帮助人类员工适应机器人时代

【para8】前景广阔：现实中的机器人与科幻迥然不同，潜在收益巨大，未来大有可为

14.5 Street hawkers in Bangkok: Sidewalk ballet[68]

The city is trying to bring some order to its pavements

【para1】SNAILS AND fermented fish, bamboo shavings and cured buffalo skin: these are among the delights that Wannee Junrut has laid out on trays at her stall in Lao Market in Bangkok, Thailand's capital, every morning for the past 28 years. Hawking is the family business: Ms Wannee's mother tended the stall before her, and her children are also in the trade. They may soon need to find other work, however. The local government is threatening to demolish their stall.

【para2】When the Thai army seized power in 2014, it vowed to bring order to the streets of Bangkok. Tens of thousands of hawkers ply their trade on the city's roads, selling not just food but everything from clothing to cleaning products. Bangkok's local government reckons they are a nuisance, responsible for all manner of ills including bad hygiene and obstructing traffic. In 2014 it launched a campaign called "returning walkways to the public" and started evicting hawkers, licence or no licence. It claims to have since closed nearly 75% of informal markets and shooed away some 12,000 vendors, nearly 60% of the total.

【para3】Hawkers are "a health-and-safety issue", says Ton Panon, a property developer. He lists a litany of complaints: they force pedestrians onto the road; they do not clean up after themselves; they pour cooking oil down the drains, clogging sewers and exacerbating flooding (vendors pooh-pooh these claims). He does not want them banned from the city—"They are a way of life here"—but wishes they could be relocated to designated food courts and markets. Many Bangkokians share Mr Ton's frustrations. Facebook groups such as ThailandFootpath, which chronicle broken and blocked pavements, have hundreds of thousands of members.

【para4】Vendors and skint backpackers will suffer if the stalls vanish. So, too, will ordinary Bangkokians. The city's residents get nearly half of their weekly meals from street vendors, suggests one survey. Many stalls cater to people with low incomes. Besides, banishing hawking from pavements will not

[68] The Economist-20220212 期「Asia」Street hawkers in Bangkok: Sidewalk ballet

magically render them safe and passable: Bangkok’s motorcyclists seem convinced that they are an extension of the carriageway.

【para1】现象描述 ：在曼谷街市，居民世代经营杂货小摊生意，但目前正面临政府禁令。

【para2】政府管制 ：曼谷当局从 2014 年开始整顿街道卫生及沿路交通，至今已关停近 75%的非正规市场，驱逐约 60%的摊贩。

【para3】乱象丛生 ：小摊不仅霸占人行道，而且忽视环境卫生；乱扔乱倒的废弃食油造成下水道堵塞，进一步加剧洪涝；公众对此怨声载道。

【para4】整治难点 ：小摊承载着众多曼谷平民的生计与生活，不好一网打尽；此外，越道横行的摩托车将继续构成人行道交通安全隐患。

14.6 Business in Japan: At the sharp end[69]

Japan's small companies lack spark—and successors

【para1】INOUE TOYOSAKU moved to Tokyo in 1913 and became an apprentice to a metalworker. When he struck out on his own a few years later he found profit making scissors for hair salons. The company he founded, Tokosha, now sells its Joewell brand scissors in more than 50 countries, for as much as ¥330,000 ($2,900) a pop. "We make scissors in the Japanese countryside but export to New York, London and Paris," boasts Inoue Kenji, a grandson of the founder and Tokosha's current boss.

【para2】Companies such as Tokosha, which has around 50 employees, make up a big share of Japan's economy. The country has some 3.6m small and medium-size enterprises (SMEs), which employ 70% of workers (in Britain the figure is 61%). These firms are less productive than peers in other wealthy places. The gap between the labour productivity of Japan's SMEs and its bigger companies is greater than the average in the OECD, a club of rich countries.

【para3】In the coming years even the better small firms may face a reckoning. Hundreds of thousands of profitable businesses responsible for millions of jobs risk shutting down because their ageing owners cannot find successors. Consolidation would make SMEs more spritely, and save good ones from closing needlessly. But efforts to encourage it are going slowly.

【para4】Japan's small businesses are often family-run. But families have fewer children than they did in the past, and fewer of them are excited about inheriting the family trade. In 2000 some 80% of leadership changes at SMEs involved one family member handing control to another; now it is only 34%. Committing to take over the family business can require youngsters to abandon dreams of city life to toil for years at their parents' feet. "Being a successor is lonely," says Suzuki Hiroaki, who this year won a business competition that the government runs for them. "There are conflicts with family members, with fathers."

[69] The Economist-20211204期「Asia」Business in Japan: At the sharp end

【para5】Though mergers are becoming more common, many business owners remain loth to sell to competitors or foreigners. Getting all the decision-makers in a family to agree to the terms of a sale is difficult, says Tsunoda Michie of Sapporo University: “Many miss the chance to sell, and so many profitable companies close.” Some 60% of the 50,000 or so SMEs that closed down last year were in the black when they shut. Researchers at the International Monetary Fund and Japan’s Research Institute of Economy, Trade and Industry argue that these closures also increase the likelihood of their suppliers and buyers shutting their doors—a domino effect with macroeconomic implications, especially in rural areas.

【para6】As their owners age, Japan’s small firms may start to lose their dynamism. In 2000 some 21% of SME bosses were 65 or older. By 2020 it was 42% (see chart). Research suggests that Japanese firms with older managers see sales and profits grow at a slower pace than those with younger ones. Older managers are less likely to seek entry into new business fields, less likely to make capital investments and less likely to foster a corporate culture that encourages trial and error.

【para7】Government policies have not helped. Japan provides generous support to SMEs through long-standing credit guarantees. That helps poor performers stay alive (and three-quarters of Japan's small firms are over ten years old, compared with half in most rich countries). The subsidies also dry up as firms get bigger, giving them an incentive not to.

【para8】Suga Yoshihide, who stepped down as prime minister in September, was conscious of these problems. His government introduced subsidies encouraging SMEs to merge with each other and to expand into new lines of business. It slightly raised the minimum wage, which is low by the standards of rich countries, in the hope of prodding business owners to seek ways to make their staff more productive. But many small-business owners have railed against these reforms.

【para9】Kishida Fumio, who succeeded Mr Suga as prime minister, is taking a milder approach. He has talked up causes that please small-business owners, such as finding ways to stop large firms bullying subcontractors. Making companies bigger need not be the only way of boosting productivity, argues Okada Koichi at Meiji University in Tokyo. He says the government could do more to help SMEs invest in technology.

【para10】Companies such as Tokosha see little advantage in mergers. Given the time it takes to train craftspeople, "you can't all of a sudden make these companies bigger," Mr Inoue says. His customers are aficionados who appreciate subtle differences between brands. "Every scissor has its own flavour," he adds. Mr Inoue has not thought much about buying competitors or selling his firm. But he does worry about who will succeed him. He hopes his nephew will take over one day. ■

【para1】继承衣钵：日本小型商业有世代相传、家族经营的传统。

【para2】水平有限：日本中小型企业虽然数量大、雇工多，但生产力与生产效率明显落后。

【para3】前景堪忧：经营者日趋年老，薪火难以相传，成千上万的企业即将关门大吉。

【para4】后继无人：越来越少人愿意继承家业，年轻人对家族事业有诸多顾虑。

【para5】学者分析：家族决策摩擦不利于企业及时把握商机；接二连三的企业倒闭会引发链式连锁反应。

【para6】每况愈下：随着企业总裁老龄化，日本的小公司可能会渐渐失去生机与活力。

【para7】政策乏力：政府信用担保仅能让企业苟延残喘，资金补贴还会变相抑制企业扩张。

【para8】事与愿违：政府试图用政策鼓励企业合并与开拓新业务，但许多小企业并不领情。

【para9】可行之策：提高生产效率不一定靠规模扩张，政府可以帮助企业增加技术投资。

【para10】现身说法：店主回应称短期内难以迅速扩张，且有必要保持品牌独特性，但也确实面临接班问题。

Questions：

1. Reading case 14.1, "But as last century's governments discovered, subsidies lead to overcapacity and gluts—and, eventually, to yet more calls for public money to prop up uncompetitive businesses. The chip shortage is mostly a self-solving problem. Governments should resist the temptation to see themselves as saviours."? Do you agree with that? which government do you think that should take the advise seriously?
2. Are you interested in e-sports? In case 14.2, "Given that serious players start as young as 14 and practise some 70 hours a week, Chinese e-sports are bound to suffer". Comments.
3. In case 14.3, what do you about the future of China's ski industry? Why?
4. In case 14.4, do you worry about it that the rise of smart machines will cause mass unemployment? Can you find some data to show the proof?
5. In case 14.6, since "Japan has some 3.6m small and medium-size enterprises (SMEs), which employ 70% of workers (in Britain the figure is 61%). These firms are less productive than peers in other wealthy places" , do you think it necessary to worry about "Japan's small companies lack spark—and successors"?

问题：

(1) 阅读案例 14.1 并回答，“但正如上个世纪的政府发现的那样，补贴导致产能过剩和供过于求，并最终更多地呼吁公共资金来支撑没有竞争力的企业。芯片短缺主要是一个自我解决的问题。政府应该抵制住把自己视为救世主的诱惑。”，你同意这个观点吗？你认为哪国政府应该认真听取这个建议？

(2) 你对电竞感兴趣吗？在案例 14.3 中，“考虑到认真的运动员 14 岁就开始，每周练习 70 小时，中国的电子竞技肯定会受到（限制未成年人网游时间）影响”，请评价。

(3) 在案例 1.3 中你如何看待中国冰雪产业发展的未来？为什么？

(4) 在案例 14.4 中，你担心只能机器人的崛起会导致大规模失业吗？你能找到数据证明吗？

(5) 在案例 14.6 中，既然“日本有约 360 万中小企业（SMEs），雇佣了 70% 的工人（英国的数字为 61%）。这些公司的生产力低于其他富裕地区的同行”，“日本的小公司缺乏继任者”有必要担心吗？

一、案例中的思政元素

① 辩证思维与立场坚定：通过产业补贴案例对比让学生明白西方政府历来言行不一致，做法存在“双重标准”，坚定学生的政治立场。

② 道路自信热爱祖国：通过冬季奥林匹克运动会带动我国冰雪产业发展的案例，向学生展示我国在经济建设在选择了正确的道路，使学生更加热爱祖国。

③ 宽容平等：通过泰国小商贩和日本小企业的案例，让学生明白追求效率并不是经济学唯一的目标，要兼顾公平，保护弱者权力，给予更多人平等的机会。

④ 关爱自己：通过电竞产业案例让学生明白有健康才有未来。

二、采用的教学方法

（1）讲授法：教师讲授相关知识点。

（2）案例分析法：选择契合相关知识点的案例进行分析。

（3）小组讨论法：将学生课堂上分成小组对案例进行讨论，分别汇报讨论结果。

（4）问答法：在学生阅读相关案例材料后，请学生回答/抢答其中的经济学原理。

（5）翻转课堂：请学生自行组织对案例发表自己的观点和见解，并且以答辩的形式接受质询。

三、案例适用的范围

（包含案例适用的专业或课程、案例与专业课程思政的内在联系等）

案例名称	包含知识点	对应课程
14.1 Chipmaking: A self-solving problem	政府补贴与规制	产业经济学
14.2 Gaming in Asia: Powering up	比较优势	国际贸易学
14.3 The snow business: Avalanche risk	经济增长	发展经济学
14.4 Workplace automation: Rise of the robots	要素替代率 技术与就业	微观经济学 政治经济学
4.5 Street hawkers in Bangkok: Sidewalk ballet	规模经济	微观经济学
14.6 Business in Japan: At the sharp end	效率与公平	微观经济学

Topic 15: China’s Achievements

15.1 EU: China, a major driver in the push for greater resilience and autonomy[70]

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Summary: Against the backdrop of China's emergence as a global economic powerhouse and its increasing assertiveness on the world stage, the impact of tense Sino-American relations and the Covid-19 crisis have spurred a debate about EU trade-, investment, and supply-chain-related dependencies. This debate has shed light on the vulnerability of the EU's technological and industrial base and raised awareness of potential risks related to China's geopolitical aspirations. In this context, the EU has developed strategies, policies, and instruments to reduce dependencies on third powers, including China, while also upholding market liberalism, human rights, and a rules-based world order. With the return of power politics, the EU needs to be clear-eyed about the tradeoffs it faces. If it wishes to embody a distinct position in the face of a growing US–China rivalry, it will have to boost its competitiveness, take measures to combat market and trade asymmetries, and proactively promote its values and interests abroad.

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Final reflections and recommendations

Europe's dependencies or vulnerabilities toward China relate to trade and investment, technological and industrial leadership, security, and geopolitics. The EU can only hold a distinct position from the US and China if it overcomes its dependencies and gains a greater degree of autonomy. A number of different tradeoffs in this area must be proactively addressed:

• Review competition policy: Against the backdrop of accelerating technological innovation on a global scale, Europe's competition policy is being reviewed.53,54 In particular, discussions have unfolded about allowing European players to merge and grow to reach a critical mass in order to improve their chances to compete globally,

[70] ***Dependence in Europe's Relations with China Weighing Perceptions and Reality*** Edited by: John Seaman, Francesca Ghiretti, Lucas Erlbacher, Xiaoxue Martin and Miguel Otero-Iglesias. European Think-tank Network on China (ETNC) Annual Report April 2022 p24—40.

particularly in the face of Chinese national champions, which are shielded from foreign competition at home and boosted by public support as they go abroad.

• Find a sustainable balance between liberalism and protectionism: Unlike during the economic and financial crisis—which facilitated China's growing influence in Europe through the BRI—, the acquisition of strategic European assets by third-country actors has been averted55 during the coronavirus crisis.

Beyond crisis situations, adequate measures need to be taken to cope with power politics. "Industrial policy" and "sovereignty" have become buzzwords, although they once seemed incompatible with the EU's market-liberal tradition. Finding the right balance between liberalism and protectionism is essential, as the EU's openness to trade is already unquestionable.

• Focus more proactively on the Western Balkans: If the EU wants to be a geopolitical actor, it needs to start addressing growing third-country influence in candidate countries for EU accession. Stalling accession negotiations and enlargement fatigue in the Western Balkans increase China's weight in the region to the detriment of the EU. Further convergence between the EU and the Western Balkans should therefore be a priority. Formulating a clearer accession policy and deploying instruments to bridge infrastructure gaps in the region, with all the conditions that such policies and instruments may encompass, is now crucial.

15.2 Yuan Longping: To feed the world[71]

Yuan Longping, developer of hybrid rice, died on May 22nd, aged 90

【para1】He was wandering in a ricefield of dreams. The plants were tall as sorghum, taller than a man. Their panicles hung full as brooms, and each grain was as big as a peanut. After walking a while he lay down in the leaf-shade with a friend, quite hidden. A rest was a good idea, because the wonder-plants went on and on. In fact, they covered the world.

【para2】Then Yuan Longping woke up, laughing. The rice plants he had tended for decades at Anjiang and then Changsha in Hunan province, sowing and nurturing them, visiting daily on his motorbike to inspect them, were not quite there yet. But they still deserved their name of super rice. The leaves were straighter and taller than ordinary, and the grains plumper. They had all the vigour of the wild strain that he and his team had found, after much searching, beside a railway line in Hainan in 1970 and had cross-bred, over careful years, with the domesticated variety. Sceptics told him he was wasting his time, since rice was a self-pollinator. He believed that cross-breeding was universal and, besides, that it always made the offspring stronger.

【para3】The figures spoke for themselves. With his new hybrid rice the annual yield was 20-30% higher. This meant that at least 60m more people could be fed every year. In Yunnan province more than 17,000 kilograms had been produced per hectare. China's rice crop had risen from 57m tonnes in 1950 to 195m in 2017; from food deficiency, to food security. Higher rice-yields allowed farmers to turn more land to other uses—fruit, vegetables, fishponds—so that people not only ate more, but ate well. And this message was for the world, as well as China. Once his rice grew well, he sent seeds to the International Rice Research Institute in the Philippines. Then he travelled widely, all across Asia and to Africa and America, as well as inviting foreign students to the Hunan Hybrid Rice Research Centre in Changsha to instruct them. A fifth of all rice grown globally now comes from hybrids that were his.

【para4】For this he won the Medal of the Republic, China's highest, and the World Food Prize. An asteroid was named after him. There was talk of the

[71] The Economist-20210529期「Obituary」Yuan Longping: To feed the world

Nobel, too. All that seemed just smoke to him. Though he was rich, from his shares in a seed company that used his name, he looked like a peasant, wiry as a twig, with his face leathered by sun and his big hands rough from “playing in the mud” all day. He was far happier in his short-sleeved work-shirts, out in his rice, or stripped off swimming in any wild river he could find, than in a tang suit in some conference hall. At social gatherings, he would offer round the first cigarettes and the nimblest jokes. When he lost at mahjong, no one was more delighted to pay the penalty of creeping through under the table.

【para5】Why he had become an agronomist was tricky to explain. His mother, whom he adored, did not want him to do it. He was a city boy anyway, born in Beijing, though he enjoyed the countryside and the thought of growing luscious things, like the grapes Charlie Chaplin could pick at his kitchen door in “Modern Times”. As he made his way to the Anjiang agricultural school, in a charcoal-fuelled bus struggling through the mountains, he had doubts himself. What settled his vocation was famine.

【para6】In 1949, at the founding of Communist China, he had first met hunger on the roads. Between 1959 and 1961, he saw country people falling down dying in the fields. They had been driven to eating tree-bark, fern-roots, even white clay. At the college, too, there was so little to eat that he barely had energy to dig. He dreamed of bowls of steamed fat pork, but woke to chew on rice bran. From that point his mission was to make sure people were fed.

【para7】Before the famine he had worked on grafting, because that was the Soviet model. Crossbreeding of plants was forbidden and genes, ludicrously, were dismissed as “metaphysical”. So he grafted moonflowers on sweet potatoes, tomatoes on potatoes and a watermelon on a pumpkin (grotesque fruit, indescribable taste!), but found that any inherited traits vanished in the second generation. Secretly then he read Gregor Mendel on plant genetics, hiding him under the People’s Daily, and after 1960 he turned his full attention to China’s staple, rice.

【para8】He loved it in any case. As a boy he was enraptured by the deliciousness of xiaozhan rice from Tianjin, said to be the best in China. Around Anjiang, what the peasants wanted was quantity: miracle-yields from their fields. They would cross the mountains to get better seeds, so he did the same, traipsing round China to find the strong wild male-sterile plants he needed. Once he found them, in that unlikely spot in Hainan, it took three years to perfect the hybridising and another three to get his super rice into commercial production. Then, in a steep curve, yields soared away.

【para9】The Party applauded him, but he never joined. He worried that, not understanding politics, he might say the wrong thing. In the Mao years at Anjiang he left indoctrination to other teachers, while he taught sports and how to sing Russian songs. Party officials called him “Comrade”, but he was no comrade of theirs, only of his agronomist colleagues and, he hoped, all hungry people. For their sake he kept on working to make rice better: salt-tolerant to grow by the coast, cross-bred with maize to be more nutritious, enriched with Vitamin A to improve people’s eyes. He fizzed with the thought that if just half of the 160m hectares of ricefields in the world were planted with his hybrid rice, an increase in yield of two tonnes per hectare would feed 500m more people every year. And he still talked, impishly, of plants taller than a man.

【para10】Outside the funeral home in Changsha on the day after his death, crowds came to lay a mountain of yellow and white chrysanthemums. Several of the mourners said that whenever they sat down to a meal, or merely smelled the fragrance of rice, they would remember “Grandfather Yuan”. Among the flowers were the traditional bowls of boiled rice, super-food for his journey.

【para1】以袁老的“禾下乘凉美梦”开启话题，如今梦想成真杂交水稻遍布全球

【para2】袁老几十载亲自下田试验，终培育出当之无愧的“超级稻”

【para3】产量数据不辨自明（杂交水稻亩产剧增），粮食短缺到粮食安全，人民吃饱到吃好；与世界共享成果，造福全人类

【para4】尽管功勋卓著，但在袁老心中，名利淡如水，事业重于山，生活依旧简朴，为人幽默风趣

【para5】袁隆平从小就有学农梦，饥荒让他决心走上农学家之路

【para6】“路有饿殍”的所见，以及三年困难时期的经历，促使袁隆平立志让所有人远离饥饿

【para7】最初并非结缘水稻，花式嫁接培育世间奇果；受遗传学家孟德尔启发，将目光转向水稻

【para8】袁隆平与水稻结缘一生，跑遍全国只为找到雄性不育株，终攻克种种难题研究成功，产量大增

【para9】袁隆平潜心研究，不涉足政治，为实现“杂交水稻覆盖全球梦”坚持一生

【para10】群众献花送别袁老，世人将永远怀念。

15.3 TikTok[72]

TikTok now **fastest** growing source of news, says Ofcom

【1】For those of a certain age, names such as Sir Trevor McDonald, Kate Adie and Huw Edwards are synonymous with breaking news – the big beasts of broadcast journalism. But younger British adults appear to be turning away from traditional sources of news for their daily update of world affairs, choosing instead to consult their TikTok feeds. The Chinese-owned video platform is the fastest growing news source for UK adults, according to a survey. But nearly half of those using the app for news turn to fellow TikTokers – content creators who upload homemade videos–rather than conventional news organisations.

【2】TikTok is used by 7% of adults for news, according to the UK's communications watchdog, up from 1% in 2020. The growth is primarily driven by young users, with half of its news followers aged 16 to 24. Ofcom's annual report on news consumption in the UK showed that for teenagers aged 12-15, Instagram has deposed BBC One and BBC Two to become the most popular news source, closely followed by TikTok and YouTube.

【3】"Teenagers today are increasingly unlikely to pick up a newspaper or tune into TV news, instead preferring to keep up to date by scrolling through their social feeds," said Yih-Choung Teh, Ofcom's group director for strategy and research. "And while youngsters find news on social media to be less reliable, they rate these services more highly for serving up a range of opinions on the day's topical stories." The Ofcom study showed that news organisations are having to compete with non-journalist TikTokers as news sources on the platform. For those who consume news on TikTok, their main source is other people they follow (44%), followed by friends and family (32%) and then news organisations (24%). The most popular official news source on TikTok is the BBC, followed by Sky News and ITV. TikTok has more than 1 billion users worldwide and is owned by ByteDance, a Chinese tech company. Its power as a news source has come to the fore during the Russian invasion of Ukraine, with the White House briefing 30 influential TikTokers on the war. Invites were sent

[72] 8.7 经济学人外刊精读｜英文杂志双语精读 2022-08-07 07:00 发表于山东

to prominent users including Kahlil Greene, who has more than 500,000 followers, and Marcus DiPaola, a news creator, who then briefed his nearly 4 million followers.

【4】There have been warnings that the platform has been susceptible to misinformation and disinformation during the conflict, with examples including video game clips passed off as real footage and the mislabelling of footage to give the impression that Russia is readying for a nuclear attack. disinformation is the deliberate distribution of false information that intends to cause harm, whereas misinformation is when false information is shared but no harm is meant. The app also became a highly popular source of coverage for the defamation case brought by Johnny Depp against his ex-wife Amber Heard in the US, with the platform's videos appearing to skew heavily in favour of Depp, who ultimately won the case. TikTok videos posted with the # Justice For Johnny Depp hashtag gained more than 20bn views in two months, while the derogatory # Amber Turd had billions of views.

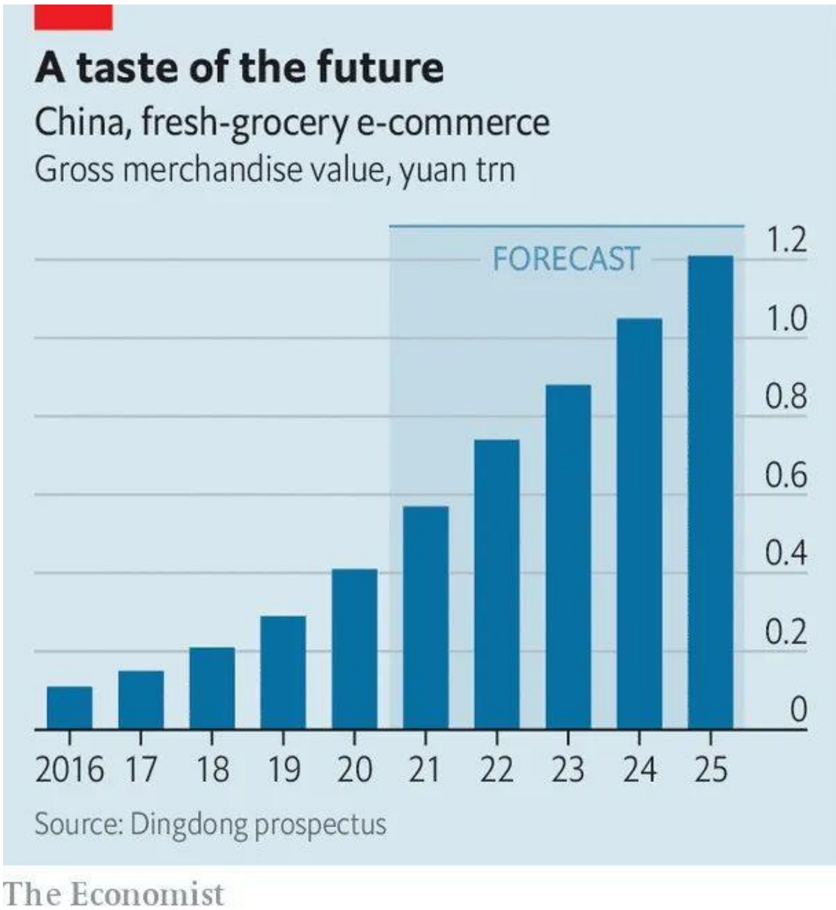
【5】Nic Newman, a senior research associate at the Reuters institute for the Study of journalism, said the institute's own research indicated that TikTok was not used as a platform for serious current affairs. "Even young people, mostly, don't see it as a platform for serious news. But they see it as a good place to get news about celebrities or issues that are not about life and death. They will often use TikTok in combination with traditional news when something really big happens like the war in Ukraine," he said. The Ofcom survey showed that only three out of 10 people who use TikTok for news view it as a trustworthy source. Newman added: "This is a network where people are listening more to ordinary people, social media influencers and celebrities when it comes to news, compared with networks like Twitter where official sources and mainstream media attracts more of the attention … In that sense there is more of a risk that unreliable information will be spread, especially when combined with that addictive algorithm."

【6】The Ofcom report shows BBC One remains the most popular news source among adults (53%), followed by ITV (35%) and then Facebook (32%), which remains the most popular social media source for news .

15.4 Chinese e-grocers: Selling like hot cakes[73]

Investors cannot get enough of online produce-peddlers

【para1】WET MARKETS in China have suffered more than most businesses in the pandemic. After one in Wuhan was blamed as the source of covid-19, officials ordered others to shut. Shoppers have been reluctant to frequent bustling outdoor stalls selling fresh meat and vegetables. Many may never reopen—not least because they are being rapidly displaced by online rivals. The value of online sales of fresh produce in China, which amounted to 293bn yuan ($45bn) in 2019, before the pandemic, may rise to 570bn yuan by the end of 2021 (see chart). That would put e-grocers' share of fresh-food spending at 11%, double what it was before covid-19. It could hit 18% by the middle of the decade.



【para2】Until recently e-grocery was a small add-on to other e-commerce offerings of giants such as Alibaba or JD.com, rather than a big business in its

[73] The Economist-20210626期「Business」Chinese e-grocers: Selling like hot cakes

own right. No longer. JD.com is busily adapting its logistics network, China's most sophisticated, to handle fresh produce. Last year Alibaba spent $3.6bn on a grocery-store chain, and it has been building a network of supermarkets that can be used to get groceries to online shoppers. Pinduoduo, another big e-merchant, raised $6bn in 2020 to boost its grocery operations. It ferries produce to neighbourhood shops where buyers can pick up orders, overcoming the problem of the costly last mile, says David Liu, the company's vice-president of strategy.

【para3】At the same time, challengers are taking a bite out of the market. Missfresh claims to control 28% of Chinese e-grocery deliveries that rely of distributed mini-warehouses: small, refrigerated neighbourhood storage centres, which the company is credited with inventing. By keeping the products closer to customers, Missfresh says it was able to fulfil orders in an average of 39 minutes in 16 cities during the first three months of the year. Dingdong Maicai, which has 10% of the domestic market and is the dominant e-grocer in the greater Shanghai region, has built a similar set of units. WM Tech, with a market share of around 17% in northern China, can count on the retail chops of its boss, Zhang Wenzhong, who founded Wumart as China's answer to Walmart in 1994. Like Alibaba, it can use its hundreds of retail outlets as warehouses.

【para4】China's fragmented agricultural sector, a relative absence of industrial farming, poor transport links to rural areas and patchy cold-supply chains beyond cities all add to the costs in what is already a business with wafer-thin margins. Missfresh, Dingdong and dozens of smaller rivals are burning cash as they scramble for market share in the hope of adding millions of new customers. The pair alone notched up a combined 9.7bn yuan in net losses during 2019 and 2020. WM Tech makes a profit, but that is thanks in large part to its conventional retail operation.

【para5】All this leads Arun George of Smartkarma, a research firm, to fear a repeat of China's e-bike boom and bust, which left cities littered with

clapped-out bicycles and investors with holes in their pockets. Adding to the uncertainty, Chinese authorities are paying closer attention to dominant technology firms, as well as to the plight of overworked scooter-borne delivery drivers. A government official recently went undercover to reveal their arduous 12-hour days for little pay. In January one desperate delivery worker set himself on fire over unpaid wages.

【para6】Pessimists like Mr George are, though, in the minority. Rural infrastructure is improving and the government may, despite the sting operation, prefer millions of drivers with tough jobs to millions of restive jobless. And the e-grocers have deep-pocketed patrons. Tencent, China's most valuable internet company, has backed both WM Tech and Missfresh. Dingdong has secured an investment from SoftBank, a free-spending Japanese technology group. Tiger Global, an aggressive American hedge fund, which bets on promising markets rather than single startups, is also bullish. It holds a 12% stake in Missfresh and a smaller one in Dingdong.

【para7】As for broader appetite for Chinese e-grocers, it is about to be tested. In June both Missfresh and Dingdong unveiled plans for initial public offerings in New York. WM Tech is eyeing a flotation in Hong Kong. The three companies could raise a total of $2bn. That would be enough to keep them fresh for a while—but also to leave investors with indigestion. ■

【para1】生鲜市场 ： 疫情冲击之下，线下市场萧条，线上市场蓬勃发展

【para2】巨头抢滩①：电商三巨头（京东、阿里、拼多多）布阵物流系统抢占市场

【para3】巨头抢滩②：果蔬三巨头（每日优鲜、叮咚、物美）群雄割据生鲜市场

【para4】烧钱大战：基础设施不完善，利润如纸薄，大小企业烧钱抢客源

【para5】行业困境：前车之签小黄车，监管密切关注；工人流汗薪酬微薄

【para6】大环境喜人：国家完善基建，并乐见行业创造就业；资本财大气粗，烧钱不亦乐乎

【para7】赶一波上市潮：趁着电商化顺风车，每日优鲜、叮咚、物美三家公司准备上市融资保鲜。

15.5 Carmaking: Plugging away[74]

Chinese marques are at last making inroads into Western markets

[1] The failure of the first serious attempt by China's carmakers to conquer European markets, around 15 years ago, was self-inflicted. Their cars were terrible. The shabby quality of Brilliance's "BS" range (no joke) was matched with looks that scarcely merited the word "design". Since then the Chinese car industry has become the world's biggest and its products have improved immeasurably. It churns out more electric vehicles (EVs) than any other country, and many are anything but BS. It is also an EV-battery superpower.

[2] EV-friendly Europe is again in China's sights. Norway, where generous tax breaks mean that four out of five cars sold are fully electric, has served as a bridgehead. Now Chinese firms are launching a wider assault on the continent. In Berlin on October 7th Nio, a Tesla wannabe, showed off three new models. At the Paris motor show, which opens on October 17th, BYD and Great Wall Motors (GWM) will give more details of their plans for Europe.

[3] Scale at home has helped Chinese firms keep costs low. Their cheaper EVs are no filling the European market ill-served by Western carmakers, which have focused on higher-end rides. Chinese brands already accounted for nearly one in 20 EVs sold in western Europe in the first eight months of 2022, according to Schmidt Automotive, a consultancy. Around half of those sales, some 22,000 cars in 14 countries, were budget EVs from MG, a division of SAIC, a Chinese giant. GWM will soon aim at the same segment with its "Funky Cat" EV, from its Ora marque.

[4] The Chinese are trying to establish trusted brands, not always from scratch. Geely has owned Sweden's Volvo since 2010 and an affiliated investment vehicle owns 10% of Mercedes-Benz. Last month Geely bought 8% of Aston Martin, a struggling British sports-car firm. Its experience of making cars to European standards may be why its Polestar EVs, part of Volvo until 2017, sell nearly as well in Europe as mgs do. The U5 from Aiways, a five-year-old startup, was a finalist this year in the prestigious European Car of the Year contest. BYD's recent deal with Sixt, a German car-rental firm, to supply it

[74] 选文来源 The Economist-20221015期「Business」Carmaking: Plugging away

with 100,000 EVs by 2028 may help to familiarise motorists with its cars, including a small, cheap SUV.

[5] Competition will be tougher in the more lucrative premium segment, observes Matthias Schmidt of Schmidt Automotive. BYD's larger models cost about as much as similar Western cars. Fancier Chinese brands such as Nio, Xpeng and GWM's Wey may have missed their chance as Germany's premium carmakers belatedly roll out more upmarket EVs. And if they do too well, one industry boss notes, their European rivals can always plead for more protection. Politicians are in the mood to grant it.

【Para1】行业跃进：曾经，中国汽车征服欧洲市场失败。如今，中国是世界上最大的电动车制造国且质量优良。

【Para2】再次进攻：挪威成为了中国汽车制造商打进欧洲市场的跳板。蔚来、比亚迪、长城等制造商正蓄势待发。

【Para3】成本优势：国内规模经济让电动车制造维持低成本，得以在欧洲市场上独领风骚。

【Para4】品牌营造：中国车企通过收购、兼并外国传统车企，利用品牌效应打入欧洲市场。

【Para5】潜在风险：在高端市场中国车企并不占优，同时面临欧洲贸易保护风险。

15.6 E-commerce logistics: Formula races[75]

When it comes to delivery, Chinese tech titans take divergent routes

【para1】In 2019 Richard Liu told couriers working for JD.com that the Chinese e-commerce giant would cancel their base pay after a 2.8bn yuan ($438m) loss the previous year, its 12th consecutive one in the red. Riders would make only a commission on deliveries. If the company did not cut back on spending, Mr Liu warned, it would go bust in two years.

【para2】Far from collapsing, two years on JD Logistics, JD.com's delivery division, is on a roll, fuelled by a boom in Chinese e-commerce. Its parent company's revenues jumped by 39%, year on year, in the first quarter, to 203bn yuan. On May 26th Pinduoduo, an upstart rival that also offers customers delivery by JD Logistics couriers, reported quarterly sales of 22bn yuan, 239% higher than a year ago.

【para3】The State Post Bureau expects logistics companies to deliver more than 100bn parcels this year, twice as many as in 2018 (see chart). Overall spending on logistics in China is projected to hit 16trn yuan this year and surpass 19trn yuan by 2025. That would make it the world's largest market. The logistics business has also avoided the worst of the crackdown against Chinese big tech, which has seen the likes of Alibaba and Tencent (which owns a large stake in JD.com) taken to task by the Communist authorities over their growing power.

【para4】Domestic and foreign investors have been pouring money into the sector, say lawyers working on deals in the industry. JD Logistics has attracted investments from big private-equity groups such as Sequoia China and Hillhouse Capital. The market buzz around the firm is as frenetic as the pace at which its 190,000 workers fulfil and ferry orders. On May 21st it raised $3.2bn in Hong Kong's second-largest initial public offering this year. Its shares are scheduled to begin trading on May 28th. Its backers are betting that its Amazon-like approach of creating a fully integrated delivery network has more mileage than a similar offering from SF Express, a stodgier incumbent similar

[75] The Economist-20210529期「Business」E-commerce logistics: Formula races

to FedEx, or a rival model championed by Alibaba, which has plumped for a distributed system.

【para5】JD Logistics is the only large Chinese delivery service to grow out of an e-commerce parent. It became a separate entity from JD.com in 2017, in part so that it could take orders from other online retailers. It still delivers the bulk of JD.com's packages but a large chunk of its revenues now come from orders outside the group. By owning much of its technology, lorries and warehouses, and directly employing staff, the firm has been able to ensure faster delivery times while monitoring quality. It operates China's largest integrated logistics system, covering a good's entire journey and including a fully autonomous fulfilment centre in Shanghai and some driverless vehicles. The system can also flip into reverse, sending customer feedback to product designers that, JD Logistics claims, helps produce better products and strengthen brands.

【para6】Contrast that with Cainiao, in which Alibaba has a controlling stake. It does not own many of the logistics assets in its network. Instead it allows around 3,000 logistics companies employing some 3m couriers to plug into its platform. Its aim is to integrate and streamline the vast delivery resources that already exist across China, rather than build its own. The company has teamed up with most large logistics services—and taken investments from them as well. Alibaba, for its part, has bought minority stakes in several large operators as a means of exerting more influence over the industry. Cainiao is not publicly listed and does not disclose many operational details or, for that matter, how exactly it makes money.

【para7】In terms of revenues, both JD Logistics and Cainiao trail SF Express. It is similar to JD Logistics in operating an in-house network. It still leads the market in "time-definite" delivery, a service that requires couriers to pick up and drop off parcels on a rapid, predetermined timetable. Like FedEx in America but unlike JD and Cainiao it did not emerge from the tech industry, so lacks its rivals' technological chops.

【para8】Which model emerges victorious will ultimately depend on which can best control costs, thinks Eric Lin of UBS, a bank. JD Logistics may be forced to lower prices further as it attempts to get more business outside of JD.com. Analysts predict it could lose a combined 12bn yuan over the next three years, and turn a profit only in 2024. SF Express is spending heavily to try to match JD's and Cainiao's technological prowess. Its share price has fallen by around half since it issued a profit warning in April; it is expected to record a net loss of at least 900m yuan in the first quarter. Jefferies, an investment bank, points to SF Express's troubles as a clear sign of an ongoing price war.

【para9】In the long run Cainiao's asset-light model may enable it to keep spending in check. But for the time being it, too, is thought to be having trouble containing costs. Like its rivals it must fend off new specialist competitors offering cut-price services in areas like cold-chain and last-mile delivery. Average delivery prices in America have increased by about 5% annually in recent years, according to Bernstein, a broker. In China they have been falling at an average rate of 10% for the past decade. As China's online shoppers get their goods ever quicker, investors in Chinese logistics may need to brace for longer waiting times before their returns finally arrive.

【para1】由 2019 年京东取消快递员底薪事件引出话题 ：京东连年亏损，中国物流界价格战一触即发

【para2】一改亏损窘境，近两年京东物流鸿运当头，接入京东物流服务的拼多多销售额也蒸蒸日上

【para3】中国物流行业不仅市场规模巨大居世界首位，腾讯、阿里两位竞争对手遭遇重拳打击

【para4】京东物流深受中外投资者青睐，支持者坚信京东物流自营网络优于阿里的分布式物流系统

【para5】分析京东物流优势 ：脱胎于电商巨头京东，开放提供一体化供应链物流服务，在仓储及配送服务方面优势显著

【para6】对比菜鸟轻资产加盟模式 ：利用大数据资源，布置仓储，调配物流，提高物流快递转运的效率

【para7】分析另一物流“大佬”顺丰速运优劣势 ：保证快件准时到达，但科技略逊色

【para8】“轻”“重”模式谁能笑到最后？致胜法宝在于利用科技控制成本，打赢价格战（结合对京东和顺丰的利润预期用数据说话）

【para9】菜鸟模式优势显现还需时日，若想资本变现，还需假以时日

15.7 Pensions: Pillar talk[76]

China will roll out private, personal pensions. About time

【1】“Astonishing”, “spectacular”, “unprecedented”: China has won plaudits from the World Bank and other experts for the rapid expansion of its basic state pensions over the past dozen years. The number enrolled in these schemes (including one for urban employees) crossed 1bn in 2021. But the speedy construction of this first “pillar” of China’s pension system has not been matched elsewhere in the planned edifice.

【2】A second pillar is supposed to rest on firms, which can enroll employees in a company pension. But fewer than 29m people, less than 10% of the eligible workforce, had signed up for these “enterprise annuities” by the end of last year. China’s third pillar—personal pensions—is even stumpier. Although individuals in China save a lot, buying homes and other assets, they have little reason (or inclination) to set up personal pensions. To give them a nudge, China’s government launched pilot schemes in Shanghai, Fujian and part of Suzhou back in 2018. These schemes offered modest tax breaks to people willing to lock up their money in pension products offered by approved financial institutions. But take-up was disappointing and the third pillar has made little progress since.

【3】The delay is a pity, because China is not getting any younger. By the end of this decade, it will have more people aged 60 or above than America will have people. Many of these old folk face a precarious retirement, balanced only on the first pillar. And time is also running out for China’s younger cohorts. Well-designed pension products work best when people start contributing in their 20s, allowing them to make high-risk, high-return investments they should avoid later in life. But China’s population of 20-somethings peaked in the 1990s and has shrunk by almost 50m in the past ten years.

【4】The urgency is not entirely lost on China’s leaders. On April 21st the State Council, China’s cabinet, released a set of guidelines on private personal pensions, instructing ministries to launch more pilot projects, then roll out schemes nationwide. “There is not much meat on it,” says Nicholas Omondi of

[76] 5.20 经济学人外刊精读｜养老金，经济学人考研精读 2022-05-20 05:00 发表于山东

Z-Ben, a financial consultancy in Shanghai. But the announcement nonetheless sends a “strong message” to China’s rivalrous regulators “to get their act together and get this done”.

【5】If personal pensions do take off, they could have salutary effects on China’s investment habits and financial markets. At the moment, city-dwellers keep two-thirds of their wealth in housing, according to a survey in 2019 by Southwestern University of Finance and Economics. Too much of the rest is either in barren cash or “rolling from one end of the stockmarket to another”, as Mr Omondi puts it, “without much of a fundamental anchor”. In China “saving is not a problem”, says Yothin Jinjarak of the Asian Development Bank. “But where the savings go, that’s the question.”

【6】Well-run pension funds, with a longer-term horizon, could contribute to a better allocation of capital in China. That, in turn, would make future workers more productive—which they will need to be if they are to take care of themselves, their children and their elderly parents comfortably.

【7】But even if China’s authorities speedily approve these better financial mousetraps, will customers beat a path to them? The tax breaks on offer are not wildly tempting. People can deduct contributions of up to 12,000 yuan ($1,800) a year from their taxable income, according to the guidelines. That is about a quarter of average disposable income in urban China. But it is only 15% in a place like Shanghai. That will seem meagre to the city’s higher earners. And if funds keep a tight lid on risk, as they should in a contributor’s later years, returns may not look enticing to Chinese investors, says Janet Li of Mercer, a consultancy, given that people dislike locking up their money for decades.

【8】Thus, before Chinese households will invest enthusiastically in the third pillar, the government and industry will have to invest in educating them. As an example of what is required, Ms Li cites the animated videos prepared by the Insurance Asset Management Association of China. In one, a man sits behind a desk imagining all of his expenses—mortgage, children, car—and other burdens, such as elderly care. Even thinking about it turns his hair grey. The message is clear: if you fail to prepare for it, ageing will age you.

15.8 Work and Education[77]

Low school

China is improving its human capital. Gradually

【1】In their book “Invisible China”, published in 2020, Scott Rozelle and Natalie Hell of Stanford University tell the dispiriting tale of Wang Tao, who grew up on the edge of Zhengzhou, the capital of Henan province. Every year he took weeks off school to help his parents harvest rapeseed and watermelon from their small plot of land. He was a class monitor in middle school and studied diligently for entry into high school (which typically begins at age 15 or 16). But his grades fell a little short and his parents could not afford the extra entrance fee the school demanded. Instead he enrolled in a new vocational high school. But the teachers were wooden or mumbly and the students absent or sleepy. The maths teacher would sometimes stop by their dorms to sell cigarettes. Mr Wang dropped out in his first year.

【2】China’s education fever is widely reported; its educational failings less so. The book summed up China’s shortcomings with a striking statistic. Only 30% of its working-age population (aged 25-64) has a high-school education (academic or vocational) or better. Instead many Chinese workers dropped out after the compulsory nine years of schooling. Many older workers did not get even that far.

【3】That 30% figure is daunting but also dated. It was based on China’s “mini-census” in 2015. How much progress has the country made in the intervening years? An answer can be found in the detailed results of China’s full 2020 census, which were recently published. (The headline results were published last year.) The census shows that the percentage of 25- to 64-year-olds with a high-school education increased to 36.6% in 2020. That is still far below the g20 average (see chart). And it remains below the comparable figure for other emerging economies such as Brazil, Mexico, Turkey and South Africa. Indeed, the proportion of people aged 25 or above who went to high school is about 20 percentage points lower than you would expect given China’s

[77] 7.19 经济学人外刊精读 | 工作与教育，每日双语经济学人精读 2022-07-19 07:00 发表于山东

GDP per person, according to calculations by The Economist, based on data from the World Bank and UNESCO.

【4】Unfortunately, lifting this percentage is not just about educating the young well—building schools, training teachers and motivating them to impart knowledge, not cigarettes. It is also about waiting for poorly educated older cohorts to retire. Today's labour force includes people who were of high-school age in the first half of the 1970s. Even if China could wave a magic wand and get all pupils to complete high school from now on, it would take decades for these youngsters to shift the balance. According to our calculations, it would take until 2032 for the high-school educated to exceed 50% of the working-age population and until 2039 to surpass the G20 average of 64.4%. That is if we have got our high-school arithmetic right.

Questions：

1. Reading case 15.1, “This debate has shed light on the vulnerability of the EU’s technological and industrial base and raised awareness of potential risks related to China’s geopolitical aspirations”, Do you think that the EU’s technological and industrial base is vulnerable? and that China has great geopolitical aspirations?
2. In case 15.2, “A fifth of all rice grown globally now comes from hybrids that were his”. Is it a great contribution to the world?
3. In case 15.3, why do teenagers like TikTok? Do you think that the popularity of Tiktok shows that Chinese companies are welcomed in the world?
4. In case 15.4, “Tiger Global, an aggressive American hedge fund, which bets on promising markets rather than single startups, is also bullish. It holds a 12% stake in Missfresh and a smaller one in Dingdong”, what does that mean?
5. In case 15.5, how could Chinese car industry succeed in Europe? “And if they do too well, one industry boss notes, their European rivals can always plead for more protection. Politicians are in the mood to grant it”. So what’s the risk and what can be done in advance for preparation?
6. In case 12.6, “Overall spending on logistics in China is projected to hit 16trn yuan this year and surpass 19trn yuan by 2025. That would make it the world’s largest market”, comment.
7. In case 12.7, Why do foreign financial managers care about Chinese personal pensions?
8. In case 12.8, “it would take until 2032 for the high-school educated to exceed 50% of the working-age population and until 2039 to surpass the G20 average of 64.4%”, is that a great achievement? and how can we do better?

问题：

(1) 阅读案例 15.1 并回答，“这场辩论揭示了欧盟技术和工业基础的脆弱性，并提高了人们对与中国地缘政治抱负相关的潜在风险的认识”，你认为欧盟的技术和工业基础很脆弱吗？中国有远大的地缘政治抱负吗？

(2) 在案例 15.2 中，“目前全球种植的水稻中有五分之一来自他的杂交品种”，这是对全世界巨大的贡献吗？

(3) 在案例 15.3 中，你认为海外的青少年为什么喜欢抖音？抖音在海外受欢饮意味着中国企业受欢迎吗？

(4) 在案例 15.4 中，“激进的美国对冲基金 Tiger Global 也看好股市，它押注于有前途的市场，而不是单一的初创公司。它持有*每日生鲜*公司 12%的股份，以及更少一些的*叮咚*公司股份”，你认为这意味着什么？

(5) 在案例 15.5 中，为什么中国汽车行业能够在欧洲市场取得成功？“一位行业老板指出，如果他们做得太好，他们的欧洲竞争对手总是可以请求更多的保护。政客们都有愿意给予它”，所以风险是什么？我们能够提前做好准备吗？

(6) 在案例 15.6 中，“今年中国的物流总支出预计将达到 16 万亿元，到 2025 年将超过 19 万亿元。这将使它成为世界上最大的市场。”，请评价。

(7) 在案例 15.7 中，为什么国外的金融经理关系中国的个人养老金问题？

(8) 在案例 15.8 中，“到 2032 年，高中接受教育的人数将超过工作年龄人口的 50%，到 2039 年才能超过 20 国集团 64.4%的平均水平”，这是一个巨大的成就吗？我们怎样才能做得更好？

一、案例中的思政元素

① 热爱祖国：通过 8 个案例展示我国的科学家、企业和政府取得的巨大成就，向学生证明中国特色社会主义道路的正确性，激发学生的自豪感和爱国情怀。

② 立志进取：鼓励学生为实现中国民族伟大复兴的中国梦努力奋斗。

③ 谦虚谨慎：认识到尽管取得了巨大的成就，中国与发达国家还存在一定的距离，同时也面临很多新的问题和挑战，要谦虚谨慎，戒骄戒躁，继续奋斗。

二、采用的教学方法

（1）讲授法：教师讲授相关知识点。

（2）案例分析法：选择契合相关知识点的案例进行分析。

（3）小组讨论法：将学生课堂上分成小组对案例进行讨论，分别汇报讨论结果。

（4）问答法：在学生阅读相关案例材料后，请学生回答/抢答其中的经济学原理。

（5）翻转课堂：请学生自行组织对案例发表自己的观点和见解，并且以答辩的形式接受质询。

三、案例适用的范围

（包含案例适用的专业或课程、案例与专业课程思政的内在联系等）

案例名称	包含知识点	对应课程
15.1 EU: China, a major driver in the push for greater resilience and autonomy	地缘政治	政治经济学
15.2 Yuan Longping: To feed the world	比较优势	国际贸易学
15.3 TikTok	经济增长	发展经济学
15.4 Chinese e-grocers: Selling like hot cakes	新兴产业与市场	发展经济学
15.5 Carmaking: Plugging away	区位理论 投资风险评价	国际投资
15.6 E-commerce logistics: Formula races	垄断竞争市场	微观经济学
15.7 Pensions: Pillar talk	间接投资	投资学
15.8 Work and Education	人力资本	劳动经济学