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# 1

UNIT

## Mind the gap

### Unit overview

In the past several decades, China has accomplished remarkable feats in various fields, which the international community describes as “miracles,” and these feats have undoubtedly benefited Chinese millennials.

The author of the first reading passage describes her visit to a famous entrepreneur in Zhongguancun, which offers a glimpse into China’s transformation from a low-cost manufacturing economy to an innovation-driven powerhouse. Once home to the sprawling electronics markets, Zhongguancun now houses many high-tech start-ups and R&D companies. This shift reflects China’s position as a major driving force for innovation, which can be attributed to its favorable policies, increased investment in education, science, and technology, and the ability to produce tangible results such as technological breakthroughs and high-tech products. China aims to transition from “made in China” to “created in China,” prioritizing quality and branding. The author concludes that China is poised to lead in the era of innovation, and anyone who says China doesn’t innovate should take a closer look.

The author of the second reading passage focuses on the societal transformations that have benefited Chinese millennials. These millennials are unique in that most of them are the only-child in the family. On the one hand, they are the sole focus of their parents’ and grandparents’ love and financial support. On the other hand, they have to look after their aging parents and even grandparents. They grow up in a time of economic prosperity with access to computers and the Internet, so they are more ambitious, confident, and globally aware. Moreover, their consumer behavior has and will continue to have a significant impact on China and the rest of the world.

These two reading passages display the marked changes that have taken place in China, which profoundly influence other countries and their perceptions of China. Reading them helps us better understand our country and boosts our confidence.

# Reading 1

## Get ready to read

### Teaching tips

Before watching the video clip, T can ask Ss to think about the changes that have taken place in China based on their personal experience. This activity can facilitate Ss' understanding of the video clip and help them contrast their own perceptions of China with those of foreigners.

### Scripts

Dear Mom and Dad,

Time flies! Nearly 30 years have passed. I still remember vividly the day I arrived in Xiamen in 1988. After the long flight from Los Angeles to Hong Kong, we took an 18-hour overnight boat trip up the coast to Xiamen. The customs people looked at us suspiciously when they saw our piles of luggage but when we said we'd be students of Xiamen University, they smiled broadly and said welcome to Xiamen — your new home. It was far different than life back home, than we had imagined. Electricity was sometimes out for days at a time, as was the water. Many things were difficult here, but it was because the country was changing rapidly and still working on improving many of the systems, regulations, etc. In 1992, I became Fujian Province's first foreigner to get permanent residence (P.R.).

Many people asked why I wanted P.R. and I explained that future opportunities were in China. Over the past years, I had written dozens of articles and books about China and its changes. I bought a 15-passenger high-ceiling van in 1993. We finished our 40,000 km drive around China in three months. And sure enough, China was changing in every corner of the country. It's all because of the reform and opening-up policies since 1978.

Nowadays after 40 years' development, China has changed a lot, such as the amazing high-speed trains. The first time I took it was from Xiamen to Fuzhou with my wife and sons. It was so fast and so smooth that we did not feel like we were traveling at all. It is amazing that China now has one of the best highway and rail systems in the world.

I studied Chinese martial arts — kung fu — for a few years, but today my favorite is probably Chinese puppets and of course Chinese tea. Our family loves preparing *Gongfu Cha*.

China is so charming. It is impossible to imagine how it will be in the next 40 years and I want to stay and become part of it.

Yours,  
Bill Brown

## Reference answers

### Watch for information

- |                               |                 |
|-------------------------------|-----------------|
| 1) boat trip                  | 2) Electricity  |
| 3) foreign permanent resident | 4) three months |
| 5) fast and smooth            | 6) Chinese tea  |

### Watch and discuss

- One of my high school English teachers is from the United States. His experience is quite similar to Bill Brown's. He first set foot in China in the early 2000s. He told us that in terms of living standards, Chinese families were lagging behind at that time. For example, few Chinese families owned private cars or personal computers. Trains ran slowly compared with today's high-speed trains. Traveling to foreign countries was a luxury for most Chinese people. However, in the past two decades, dramatic changes have taken place. He thinks that China has outrivalled the United States in many respects. For example, life in China is smarter than that in the United States. Some mobile payment apps bring much convenience to people's daily lives. As Bill Brown mentions at the end of the letter, my high school English teacher also feels that China is so charming that he wants to stay and become part of it.

- I have never heard any foreigner talking about their experience in China, but I read a news report titled "Past and present — China through the lens of a foreigner". In this news report, a collection of photographs by British photographer Mike Emery is shared to illustrate China's transformations.

In 1980, Emery traveled to Shanghai. He was one of the first foreigners to see inside China as the country embarked on its historic reform and opening-up period. In 2019, the 70th anniversary of the founding of the People's Republic of China, Emery revisited China, astounded by the unimaginable transformations that had taken place in the country and in the life of its people. The following are some contrasting examples mirroring the past and the present of China.

- In 1980, cars were out of reach for ordinary Chinese people and bicycles were

everywhere, earning China the accolade — the “kingdom of bicycles.” Today, “four wheels” prevail over bicycles in urban streets. Meanwhile, China is investing heavily in high-speed railways, new energy vehicles, and autonomous vehicles, taking the lead in global auto technology innovation.

- In 1980, eating in restaurants was a luxury for most people in China. Today, not only have dining experiences changed, but the way people pay has also changed, with mobile payment apps replacing cash and credit cards as the main mode of payment.
- In 1980, public spaces available for outdoor exercise were quite limited, so people usually exercised on the open ground between buildings. Today, whether early in the morning or late at night, one can see people dancing, running, or exercising in beautiful parks.
- Decades ago, curricula were very basic in kindergartens across China. Today, kindergartens are usually well-equipped and there are a wide range of classes available, such as music, drawing, and dance.

## Reading passage

### Language points

1. **Mistakenly, I took the wrong lift and, as if tripping through a wormhole, found myself in the Beijing of the past century. (Para. 1)**

**as if:**

1) in a way that makes it seem that sth. is true or that sth. is happening 好像；仿佛

*e.g. She had known Sara only a day or two and yet she acted as if she were her best friend.*

2) used to emphasize that sth. is not true or will not happen 仿佛，好像（用于强调某事不是真的或不会发生）

*e.g. She said she'd never speak to me again. As if I cared.*

In physics, a wormhole is a hypothetical tunnel that is believed to connect widely separated regions of space-time. Here, “as if tripping through a wormhole” means “as if transported into a different time.”

*e.g. Watching his high school highlights is a bit like tripping through a wormhole that transports one from 2023 to 2012.*

2. **In the late 1990s, Zhongguancun, now sometimes referred to as China's Silicon Valley, was largely known for its electronics markets sprawling along the neighborhood. (Para. 2)**

Here, “now sometimes referred to as China's Silicon Valley” is a past participle phrase

used to modify Zhongguancun. It is the equivalent of “which is now sometimes referred to as China’s Silicon Valley,” providing additional information about Zhongguancun in order to help readers get a better understanding of Zhongguancun.

And “sprawling along the neighborhood” is a present participle phrase used to modify “its electronics markets.” It is the equivalent of “that / which sprawl along the neighborhood.”

3. **Standing amid the glittering office complex, which is home to some of the most promising high-tech start-ups and R&D companies, you can hardly imagine what it was like only a few decades ago. (Para. 3)**

Here, “standing amid the glittering office complex” is a present participle phrase. It is the equivalent of “when you stand amid the glittering office complex.”

**be home to / be the home of:** be a place where sb. / sth. can be found

*e.g.* • *The wetland is home to a variety of wildlife, especially birds.*

- *The Louvre Museum in Paris, the home of the iconic Mona Lisa, is one of the most visited art museums in the world, attracting millions of tourists each year.*

4. **Foreign brands reigned supreme in the mobile phone sector, e-commerce was just a glimmer in an entrepreneur’s eye, and the potential of the Internet was only vaguely realized. (Para. 6)**

Here, “e-commerce was just a glimmer in an entrepreneur’s eye” is a metaphorical way of saying that e-commerce was only a faint idea or concept in the mind of an entrepreneur. The expression implies that e-commerce had not yet been developed and that it only existed as a vision or potential future development.

5. **Innovation is leading China to ride the wave of digitalization and evolve into a global tech hub. (Para. 10)**

Here, the phrase “ride the wave of digitalization” means “take advantage of or benefit from the ongoing trend of digitalization.” In this context, it implies that innovation makes China take advantage of digital technologies, tools, and practices to transform its economy, industries, and society. As a result, China is positioning itself as a global technology hub.

6. **The world celebrates Silicon Valley as a center of innovation, but many Chinese executives, particularly from China’s growing technology sector, feel increasingly convinced that they can compete head-to-head, engineer by engineer, with the best in Silicon Valley or other innovation hubs. (Para. 12)**

**Paraphrase:** Silicon Valley is globally recognized as an innovation hub, yet many Chinese executives, especially those in the expanding tech industry, have become more confident in their ability to directly rival the top talent in Silicon Valley or other innovation centers individually.

7. **Indeed, the country has more than its share of world-class companies that are increasingly rising in rankings on size, growth, and, most significantly, innovation. (Para. 13)**

**Paraphrase:** In fact, the country has an impressive number of world-class companies. These companies are improving their rankings in terms of size, growth, and, most importantly, innovation.

## Reference answers

### Read and understand

#### Global understanding

- |                        |                      |
|------------------------|----------------------|
| 1) manufacturing       | 2) reigned supreme   |
| 3) E-commerce          | 4) vaguely           |
| 5) innovation          | 6) global technology |
| 7) high-speed railways | 8) digitalization    |
| 9) created in China    | 10) Chinese brands   |

#### Detailed understanding

1. F    2. T    3. T    4. F    5. T    6. NG

### Read and think

#### Clear up the misconception

To clear up the misconception among some people in Silicon Valley that China clones their ideas, I would present evidence of China's latest developments in high-speed railways.

China's high-speed rail network is the largest and most advanced in the world, spanning over 42,000 kilometers by the end of 2022. Our country has developed and implemented cutting-edge technologies in train design, rail infrastructure, and operational systems. These innovations have allowed our country to build a world-class high-speed rail network in just over a decade. These high-speed trains, designed and manufactured by Chinese companies, are capable of operating at a speed of up to 350 km/h and are among the world's fastest bullet trains. They also feature state-of-the-art technologies for energy efficiency, safety, and passenger comfort.

In addition to its achievements in train design and infrastructure, our country has also made remarkable strides in integrating advanced technologies like 5G, artificial intelligence, and big data into its high-speed rail operations.

Moreover, our country has promoted its high-speed rail technology in other countries, such as Indonesia and Hungary, showcasing its expertise and innovation in the global market. Chinese firms have also collaborated with international partners to develop railway infrastructure and systems in countries like Russia and Thailand.

All these can serve as compelling evidence that our country, as a driving force in global innovation, has the potential to reshape the technology landscape across various sectors.

### Vision of “created in China”

As a student majoring in industrial design, I think I can make many contributions toward fulfilling the goal of “created in China.”

First, in terms of design, I will integrate sustainability and environmental considerations into products, supporting the development of eco-friendly products that reduce waste and minimize the environmental impact. This focus on sustainability can help differentiate Chinese products in the global market and contribute to the “created in China” image.

I will also engage in interdisciplinary cooperation with students and professionals in other fields, such as engineering, materials science, and medical science, to develop groundbreaking products that push the boundaries of industrial design. This collaborative approach will help to foster innovation and contribute to the “created in China” vision.

Second, in terms of industrial production, I will work closely with manufacturers. I can develop and refine production processes, ensuring that my designs are efficiently translated into high-quality products. This collaboration can help to improve the overall production quality and promote the “created in China” brand.

By leveraging my industrial design expertise and working collaboratively with other disciplines and manufacturers, I can make contributions to China’s transition from “made in China” to “created in China.”

## Read and practice

### Synonyms

- |             |               |
|-------------|---------------|
| 1. dogged   | 2. profound   |
| 3. evolved  | 4. feat       |
| 5. hub      | 6. mistakenly |
| 7. envision | 8. impetus    |

### Similar words

- |                         |                |
|-------------------------|----------------|
| 1. A. wondered / wonder | B. wander      |
| 2. A. glimmer           | B. glitters    |
| 3. A. transmit          | B. transformed |

- |                   |               |
|-------------------|---------------|
| 4. A. evolve      | B. resolve    |
| 5. A. consecutive | B. consistent |
| 6. A. consent     | B. consensus  |

## Language in use

1. it is always packed with tourists
2. from a broad spectrum of courses
3. is home to the largest digital community in the world
4. a major driving force for human progress
5. is poised to become a global export hub for electric vehicles
6. The ability to translate knowledge into action rapidly

## Banked cloze

- |                 |               |
|-----------------|---------------|
| 1) burgeoning   | 2) feat       |
| 3) largely      | 4) defined    |
| 5) innovation   | 6) hubs       |
| 7) increasingly | 8) ranked     |
| 9) impetus      | 10) committed |

## Read and translate

The “Made in China 2025” strategy is referred to as the Chinese version of “Industry 4.0.” The key to the new industrial revolution is to make the shift from “made in China” to “created in China” and to “intelligent manufacturing in China.” If China wants to move up the global industry chain, it has to transform itself from the world’s manufacturing factory to the world’s innovation base. This means developing independent core technology to accelerate the growth of emerging sectors, including new-generation information technology, biotechnology, new energy, and aerospace technology.

## Read and write

### Step

①

### Words and expressions describing changes, trends, and percentages:

1. According to the Global Innovation Index 2021 released by the World Intellectual Property Organization, China ranks 12th, moving up two places from 14th in 2020, and maintaining momentum for nine consecutive years. (Para. 7)
2. According to official data, Chinese investments in R&D have

burgeoned since the turn of the century, increasing more than ten times since 2000 and reaching a high of 2.4 percent of GDP in 2020. (Para. 8)

3. Indeed, the country has more than its share of world-class companies that are increasingly rising in rankings on size, growth, and, most significantly, innovation. (Para. 13)

## Step

2

**Words and expressions describing changes and trends:**

An upward trend:

rise (v. / n.), ascend (v.), climb (v.), grow (v.) / growth (n.), expand (v.) / expansion (n.), increase (v. / n.), upswing (n.), surge (v. / n.), boom (v. / n.), spike (v. / n.), soar (v.), skyrocket (v.), hike (v. / n.), go up (phr. v.), be on the rise (phr. v.), be on the increase (phr. v.), rocket (from ...) to ... (phr. v.), shoot up (phr. v.), jump (from ...) to ... (phr. v.), reach a peak (at ...) (phr. v.), hit / reach a record / all-time high (at ...) (phr. v.)

A downward trend:

decrease (v. / n.), fall (v. / n.), decline (v. / n.), drop (v. / n.), slide (v. / n.), dive (v. / n.), descend (v.), sink (v.), reduction (n.), downswing (n.), plunge (v. / n.), slump (v. / n.), plummet (v.), tumble (v. / n.), be on the decline (phr. v.), be on the decrease (phr. v.), be on the wane (phr. v.), fall from a peak to a trough (phr. v.), fall to a trough of ... (phr. v.), hit a record / all-time low (at ...) (phr. v.), bottom out (at ...) (phr. v.)

No upward or downward trend:

level off / out (at ...) (phr. v.), flatten out (at ...) (phr. v.), remain steady / stable (at ...) (phr. v.), stay constant (at ...) (phr. v.), be firmly settled / fixed / positioned (at ...) (phr. v.), plateau (at ...) (v.), hit / reach a plateau (at ...) (phr. v.)

An alternating up-and-down trend:

fluctuation (n.), fluctuate around ... / between ... and ... (phr. v.), move in a seesaw fashion (phr. v.), seesaw (up and down) (phr. v.), oscillation (n.), oscillate around ... / between ... and ... (phr. v.), bounce up and down (like a yo-yo) (phr. v.)

**Words and expressions describing the degree of changes (Take “increase” as an example):**

a(n) dramatic / sharp / huge / enormous / steep / substantial / considerable / significant / marked / remarkable / moderate / slight / marginal / minimal / rapid / swift / steady / gradual increase

increase dramatically / sharply / hugely / enormously / steeply /  
substantially / considerably / significantly / markedly / remarkably /  
moderately / slightly / marginally / minimally / rapidly / swiftly / steadily /  
gradually

### Words and expressions describing percentages:

account for / take up / occupy ... percent

be at ... percent

fall / increase by ... percentage points

#### Step

3

The given graph presents information about average monthly wages (US dollars) in China, Indonesia, Mexico, Thailand, and Vietnam between 1990 and 2016. As is shown in the graph, there is, on the whole, an upward trend in terms of average monthly salaries in these countries, with the exception of Mexico.

China stands out with its unrivaled growth in average monthly wages. In 1990, China's average monthly wages were virtually the lowest among the five countries. There was a steady increase from around 50 dollars to roughly 250 dollars between 1990 and 2006. The following decade witnessed a marked upswing. In 2016, the average monthly wages skyrocketed to approximately 860 dollars, over 17 times as high as the wages in 1990.

In comparison, in Indonesia, Thailand, and Vietnam, there was almost a stable upward trend between 1990 and 2016, with slight fluctuations in certain years. Their average monthly wages in 2016 were slightly below 200 dollars, around 400 dollars, and slightly over 200 dollars respectively. In sharp contrast, average monthly wages bounced up and down during this period in Mexico. It is not difficult to see that they hit a trough at just over 200 dollars in 1995. Though there was an almost steady growth after that and the average monthly wages reached about 500 dollars in 2006 and 2007, they again dropped to just under 400 dollars in 2016.

## Translation of the passage

### 从“中国制造”到“中国创造”

2022年9月底，我去中关村拜访了一位著名企业家。我从后门走进了他的办公大楼。但我坐错了电梯，仿佛穿越了一条时空隧道，我来到了上个世纪的北京。

在二十世纪九十年代末，现在有时被称为中国硅谷的中关村以遍布杂乱无章的电子市场而广为人知。那里有几栋高楼，你可以在开阔的开放楼层间闲逛，那里到处是摊位，出售各种科技设备，包括影碟机、手机、相机、电视、USB数据线、打印机等。其中大多数

都是在中国制造或组装的。

如今，中关村的电子市场大多已经消失了。在闪闪发光的办公大楼中有一些最具前景的高科技初创企业和研发公司。站在那里，你几乎无法想象几十年前那里的样子。

这里依然有一些守旧者，所以你很容易像我一样误入一部旧电梯，发现自己被键盘和打印机包围。然而，这种对比也提醒着你中国的变化有多快。“硅谷的一些人仍然觉得中国只会照搬他们的创意，但这种观念已过时了。现在我认为中国是创新的主要驱动力，许多西方企业正在效仿中国。”一位来往于中美之间的投资者说。

目前，过去的中国与未来的中国共存。但渐渐地，吸引世界关注的不再是中国的工厂和仓库，而是创新驱动的中国。中国在人工智能和无人机等领域的实力不断增强，势将重塑全球技术的未来。国际社会将中国的巨大发展和成就称为“奇迹”。这些奇迹背后的动力是什么？这就是我要去拜访这位企业家的原因。

他告诉我，二十世纪九十年代的中国科技格局是如今的年轻人无法想象的。外国品牌称霸手机领域，电子商务只是创业者的一个模糊想法，互联网的潜力也仅仅得到了初步认识。

然而，在短短几十年的时间里，中国就完成了从低成本制造业经济向高价值、创新驱动型经济转型这一令人瞩目的壮举。根据世界知识产权组织发布的“2021年全球创新指数”，中国排名第12位，比2020年的第14位上升了两位，而且连续九年保持上升势头。

“中国崛起为创新中心并非一蹴而就。”这位企业家说。“这可以归因于中国三十多年来持续有利的创新政策，以及中国大幅增加的教育、科学、技术方面的支出。”根据官方数据，自本世纪初以来，中国在研发方面的投入迅速增长。自2000年以来，研发投入增长了十倍以上，而且在国内生产总值中，它的占比在2020年创了新高，达到了2.4%。

更重要的是，中国具备将支持创新的政策和创新投入转化为切实成果的能力，如技术突破和高科技产品。经过多年的努力，中国现在在航天技术、高速铁路、5G技术、人工智能和深海探测领域处于世界领先地位。从长远来看，其中一些创新可能对经济和工业产生深远影响，就像电力和计算机的发明改变了人类生活一样。

“创新正在引领中国乘着数字化浪潮发展成为全球科技中心。中国正设想从‘中国制造’转向‘中国创造’，从‘中国速度’转向‘中国质量’，从‘中国产品’转向‘中国品牌’。”他补充道。

采访结束后，我大约晚上七点左右走出大楼，发现办公大楼依然灯火通明，可能有许多员工正在努力研发中国的下一个重大创新。

几周前，我和一群中国高管谈论他们最近的硅谷之行时，他们一致表示对中国充满信心，这也就不足为奇了。“硅谷所取得的成就的确令人赞叹，但现在我认为中国具有最大的潜力。”一位高管说。全世界都在赞扬硅谷是创新中心，但许多中国高管，特别是来自中国不断壮大的科技产业的那些高管，越来越坚信他们可以与硅谷或其他创新中心的精英进行一对一正面交锋。

确实，中国拥有很多世界级公司，它们在规模、发展速度和最重要的创新方面的排名不断上升。凭借大量的资本投入、受过良好教育且雄心勃勃的劳动人口、敢作敢为的精神、令人瞩目的企业以及坚忍不拔的进取精神，中国必将引领创新时代。

下次有人告诉你中国没有创新能力时，建议他们更加仔细地看看。

## Reading 2

### Get ready to read

#### Scripts

People are categorized into generations depending on when they were born. For today's video we're gonna focus on people born in the US. As of now, there are five living generations: the traditionalists, also known as the silent generation, the baby boomers, Generation X, millennials, or Generation Y, and finally Gen Z, or centennials.

The start and end years of these generations are just approximations of course. What's more important is the collective experiences people born within these years share.

The traditionalist generation who are now age 73 and older has a wide range of collective experiences. Some are old enough to remember one or both of the world wars. Most traditionalists value hard work, commitment, and practicality, and they don't like to be wasteful. That's not to say other generations don't share these values. It's just that the scarcity of resources during these times helped to create a culture of doing whatever it took to survive. They also tend to be more respectful of authority — that is the “always respect your elders” generation which you might recognize in your older relatives.

Traditionalists gave birth to the baby boomers who were of course part of the huge birthrate increase following the Second World War. Boomers changed a lot about American society, particularly advertising and marketing. Since they were such a large part of the population, they did a lot of the spending and had a great impact on the economy. This generation started out liberal when they were involved in all the political and social movements, but they then grew more conservative as they aged.

Gen X got to experience the aftermath of all the changes the boomers made. With both parents now entering the workforce, Gen X kids had less adult supervision than previous generations, which caused them to be more peer oriented. The use of computers also took off during these years, making Gen X more entrepreneurial than their parents and grandparents. The collective experiences of Gen X made them much more cynical and disaffected as teens and young adults than boomers or traditionalists had ever been. Music also defined a lot of this generation with the invention of music videos and the popularization of hip-hop and rap.

Millennials have been the topic of much debate. Other generations complain that millennials are selfish, addicted to their phones, lazy, impatient, overly sensitive, weak-willed, and the name-calling goes on and on. While it's true that some millennials share these traits, the same can be said of literally anyone else in the world. In fact, the technological advances of the digital age have made millennials much more group

oriented than their predecessors, which accounts for their social progressiveness.

Centennials were born into an environment where digital devices were widespread and readily available so they have a very different relationship with them than previous generations. In fact, 40 percent of centennials surveyed said that reliable Wi-Fi connection is more important to them than reliable bathrooms. Such digital savvy lends itself to the entrepreneurial spirit mentioned earlier with Gen X, so Gen Z also tends to value collaboration more in both school and work.

Millennials and centennials share the most similarities and collective experiences out of all the living generations, so there's a lot of debate about the exact range for each of them. The technological immersion that marks the turn of the century and defines the younger generations has definitely affected how they communicate. Everything online happens pretty much immediately. So millennials and centennials tend to expect other things to happen quickly, too — especially responses to texts and emails. It's also led to a specific sort of humor in Gen Y and Z that completely confuses older generations.

But when it comes down to it, generational lines don't really matter. They're just stuff we made up to help define ourselves better. But really you can define yourself and your generation however you want. So what defines your generation? What are some collective experiences people share in the place you're from?

### Watch for information

- |                    |                     |
|--------------------|---------------------|
| 1) commitment      | 2) wasteful         |
| 3) more respectful | 4) advertising      |
| 5) liberal         | 6) peer oriented    |
| 7) music           | 8) group oriented   |
| 9) progressiveness | 10) digital devices |

### Watch and discuss

- The post-00s generation is one of the buzzwords in China when it comes to “generational location.” It refers to the generation born in the 2000s and I am one of them. Mass media tends to attribute some stereotypes to my generation. For example, we are labeled as self-centered and over-mature — sometimes behaving like adults and not waiting for our parents to teach us anything. We are growing up in the era of the Internet and most of us are thus digital-savvy. However, I don't think we are self-centered or over-mature. We do care a lot about people around us and we still rely much on our parents for suggestions. As for digital literacy, I believe that we are more

knowledgeable compared to the preceding generations. Anyway, we are digital natives who cannot live without digital or electronic devices.

- I'd like to talk about the post-70s generation as my parents belong to this generation. The post-70s generation grew up in a time of fundamental changes, since the reform and opening-up policy was introduced in the 1970s. In their childhood, China's economy was far from developed and many families still lived at the subsistence level. Some of the post-70s generation had to drop out of school to help their family make a living. A very small number of high school students could attend university. This harsh environment shaped their characteristics: persistence, diligence, tolerance, thriftiness, and self-reliance. My parents embody these characteristics.

## Reading passage

### Language points

#### 1. Dawn of the Chinese millennials (title)

Here, “dawn” is used in a literary way, meaning “start or beginning.”

*e.g.* The founding of the People's Republic of China in 1949 marked the dawn of a new era for the Chinese nation.

#### 2. Did something happen that led to this outpouring? (Para. 2)

In this sentence, the “that” clause that modifies the subject “something” is separated by “happen.” This is to balance the sentence by bringing the subject closer to the predicate.

#### 3. Born and raised as the country's wealth was rapidly growing, they benefited enormously from economic and social reforms. (Para. 4)

Here, “born and raised as the country's wealth was rapidly growing” is a past participial phrase, giving the reason why “they benefited enormously from economic and social reforms.” Past participles enable us to provide information in a more economical way in written texts, particularly in a literary, academic, or journalistic style. Moreover, past participles can be placed at the beginning, middle, and end of a sentence.

The following are some common ways in which past participles are used.

- e.g.*
- Given good health, I hope to finish the work this year. (To provide a condition)
  - Greatly interested, I asked how he understood this new theory. (To give the reason)
  - Henry, filled with pride, walked toward the stage to receive his award. (To add information about the subject of the sentence)

4. All sorts of characteristics are **attributed to** millennials such as being tech-savvy, progressive, environmentally minded, and globally aware. (Para. 6)

**attribute sth. to sb. / sth.:**

1) believe or say that sb. or sth. has a particular quality 认为…具有…的特性

*e.g.* People are attributing qualities to me that I just don't have.

2) believe or say that a situation or event is caused by sth. 把…归因于…

*e.g.* She attributes her success to hard work and a little luck.

**minded**

1) The word “minded” can be combined with adverbs to form compound adjectives indicating that someone is interested in a particular subject or is able to think in a particular way.

*e.g.* commercially / academically / politically / technically minded

2) It can be combined with adjectives to form compound adjectives, meaning “having the kind of mind specified.”

*e.g.* strong-minded / narrow-minded / feeble-minded / high-minded

3) It can be combined with nouns to form compound adjectives, meaning “conscious of the value or importance of the thing specified.”

*e.g.* career-minded / tradition-minded / sports-minded

5. One study shows that consumption by young Chinese spenders under the age of 35 **accounts for** 65 percent of consumption growth. (Para. 7)

**account for:**

1) form a particular amount or part of sth. 占（一定数量或比例）

*e.g.* This accounts for 12 percent of all the accidents.

2) be the reason why sth. happens 解释；说明

*e.g.* More people are streaming live sports, which may account for some of the decline in television ratings.

3) give an explanation for sth. bad that has happened, esp. sth. you are responsible for 对（尤指所负责之事）作出解释（或说明）

*e.g.* He could not account for the time spent away from his post.

6. Therefore, what's most important for a product is to have the ability to speak to a millennial's aspirations and sense of identity, of which being a global citizen and having pride in China are important factors. (Para. 8)

**Paraphrase:** Thus, it is most important for a product to express a millennial's ambitions and sense of identity. And being a global citizen and having pride in China are two important features of these millenials.

## Reference answers

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### Read and understand

#### Global understanding

1. E    2. D    3. C    4. G

#### Detailed understanding

1. B    2. C    3. A    4. D    5. A    6. D    7. C    8. D

### Read and think

#### Labels for different generations

##### Step

①

I don't think these labels are suitable for millennials, though there is some truth in some descriptions. I do agree that millennials have some defining features. For example, they are tech-savvy, progressive, and globally aware because they were brought up in an era marked by high technology and globalization. They are entrepreneurial and confident because they were born and raised in the period when China's economy grew rapidly and entrepreneurship was actively and strongly encouraged. They are entitled and sheltered because most of them are the only child in their family and therefore the apple of their parents' or grandparents' eyes. However, I don't think they are lazy. Millennials are subjected to much pressure from study and work. Just like the preceding generations, they have to work hard to achieve success. Moreover, they are not self-centered at all. Much of their work involves teamwork, so they need to learn to be cooperative and understanding.

##### Step

②

I think one of the contributing factors for the defining characteristics of each generation has much to do with the economy. For example, thanks to financial abundance, millennials and the post-00s generation are eager to experience what's new and trendy and they tend to follow the motto of "see now and buy now" and "live for now." In contrast, the post-60s generation was brought up in the times of resource deficiency, so their spending behavior is more conservative. They tend to purchase what they need and save as much money as possible. In addition, science and technology may also account for different labels for different generations. A survey reveals that baby boomers tend to have strong interpersonal skills because they grew up writing letters and making phone calls, unlike today's younger generations who grow up with the more widespread use of modern technology. It also indicates that baby boomers are still

in the habit of writing heartwarming and upbeat notes to their friends, associates, neighbors, and even casual acquaintances. Millennials, however, are more accustomed to communicating with others in a digital way. They are inclined to think that hand-written notes are sentimental and even insincere.

## Global citizenship

### Step

1

To my way of thinking, a global citizen is someone who identifies with being a part of an emerging world community and tries to shape its values and practices, someone who fights for justice because they have a vision of a better world, and someone who values environmental protection, gender equity, sustainable worldwide economic growth, poverty alleviation, etc.

### Step

2

The following is a list of things the university can do to nurture students' global awareness.

#### 1. Make international enrollment possible

More international students mean a more culturally diversified campus. In such an environment, students are able to obtain a global experience on campus through the interaction with international students. This may help them adopt a more tolerant and inclusive attitude and appreciate the charm of different cultures.

#### 2. Inspire students to pursue opportunities abroad

Studying abroad is definitely one of the most effective ways to develop intercultural competencies. The university can encourage students to participate in exchange programs and sponsor these exchange programs if possible. This will provide students with first-hand information about a wider world.

#### 3. Enrich the academic curriculum

The university can run a full spectrum of liberal education courses so as to equip students with different ways of learning and thinking. For example, courses about cross-cultural communication may help students learn about different cultures; courses about global governance may acquaint students with the value of concerted efforts to tackle global challenges.

#### 4. Organize volunteer activities

A global citizen should be willing to commit their time to helping others. I think students can start from doing volunteer activities

in local communities. This will help students foster empathy and cultivate a sense of responsibility, which are also key to global awareness.

## Read and practice

### Meaning in context

- |                 |                |
|-----------------|----------------|
| 1. considerable | 2. navigate    |
| 3. attributing  | 4. capacity    |
| 5. spontaneous  | 6. outpourings |

### Word building

- |                        |                    |
|------------------------|--------------------|
| 1. A. Consumption      | B. consumers       |
| 2. A. individuality    | B. individualistic |
| 3. A. progress         | B. progressive     |
| 4. A. aspiring         | B. aspirations     |
| 5. A. evolution        | B. evolved         |
| 6. A. entrepreneurship | B. entrepreneurial |

### Language in use

1. In contrast to city / urban life
2. reminisce about their happy college days
3. are suffering from an economic downturn
4. to benefit enormously from an explosion of trade
5. repeated exposure to new information
6. being the sole focus of media attention

## Read and translate

中国的千禧一代出生在一个经济快速发展的时期，这是一个充满机会和乐观主义精神的时代。他们是中国消费激增的主要驱动力。但是，他们巨大的影响力不仅仅体现在购物方面。与前几代人相比，他们接受了更好的教育，其中超过百分之二十五的人拥有学士学位或更高学历。他们正在改变旅游、教育等各个经济领域。而且，他们也愿意冒险。2017年，20多万学生加入了创业大军。随着中国经济的顺利发展，年轻一代正在利用各行业中的机会，如高端时尚行业 and 在线蔬菜销售。

### Additional activity

- Step 1** Conduct interviews with three people in your preceding generation to explore the characteristics of their consumer behavior, education, leisure activities, etc. It would be a good idea to interview people of different occupations.
- Step 2** Summarize the information by selecting and reporting the main features.
- Step 3** Write an essay entitled “Chinese youngsters then and now.” In your essay, you should compare and contrast your generation with the preceding generation and analyze the possible reasons for the similarities and differences.

### Translation of the passage

#### 中国千禧一代的来临

当迎接新年的钟声敲响午夜12点的时候，我注意到各个年龄段的中国人突然都在社交媒体上晒出了他们18岁时的照片。他们追忆似水年华，叹息时光飞逝。

出于好奇，我向同事们了解这种现象。是什么导致了这种现象的涌现？这抑或是一年一度的仪式，就像大家都在新年来临之时唱《美好往昔》一样？

这原来是一次人们自发的活动，他们惊叹那些2000年出生的人今年就年满18岁成年了。这个活动最终演变成了人们分享自己18岁的照片。

除了觉得自己老了之外，我开始思考，与他们的父母和祖父母相比，一个18岁的中国人是如何拥有现代中国所赋予他们的所有优势的，包括成长为世界公民的可能性。他们是中国1978年开始的改革开放的第一代受益者。他们的父母经历了苦难和贫穷，但他们却不一样，他们从未经历过经济衰退。事实上，从1979年到2010年，中国国内生产总值的年均增长率接近10%。他们出生和成长于中国财富迅速增长的时期，因此从经济和社会改革中受益匪浅。同时，因为他们大多是家中的独生子女，集父辈与祖父辈的宠爱与经济支持于一身，所以他们的消费能力也比过去几代人都要强。

和父母相比，他们的受教育程度也更高，全球意识也更强。他们中大约有四分之一的人是大学毕业或接受过更高的教育，而他们的父辈中仅有3%的人受过同等教育。他们是天生的数字原住民，对信息了如指掌。他们也更加世故老练，有机会接触到国际文化和思想，并享受现代的健康生活方式。他们往往更具有个性、创业精神和自信心。1990年后出生的年轻人往往频繁更换工作。然而，他们要照顾日渐衰老的父母甚至祖父母，压力也相当大。由于他们大多数是家中的独生子女，在应对自己生活的同时，他们还面临着—项艰巨任务——确保老一辈人的健康和幸福。不过，总体来说，他们对未来非常乐观积极，因为他们对中国日益提高的世界地位充满信心。

在澳大利亚，我们称这些年轻人为“千禧一代”或“Y一代”。人们认为千禧一代具有各种特点，比如精通科技、思想进步、有环保意识和全球意识。然而，他们也被认为是

以自我为中心的、享有权利的、受庇护的，甚至懒惰的一代。俗话说，每一代人都觉得一代不如一代。不管情况如何，中国的千禧一代是非凡的一代人，他们在很多方面影响着中国和世界，例如，在消费行为方面的影响。

中国的千禧一代自然是一个庞大的市场。一项研究显示，35岁以下的中国年轻人的消费额占消费增长的65%。此外，从2016年到2021年，这些千禧一代的消费额预计将以每年11%的速度增长，这相当于35岁以上消费者的两倍。三年后，年轻一代的消费额有望占到总消费额的69%，而老一代的消费额仅占31%。

这些千禧一代想要什么样的产品和服务呢？另一项研究表明，中国的千禧一代在优质体验和产品上消费最多。因此，一个产品最重要的是要能够表达千禧一代的愿望和自我认同感，其中全球公民的身份和民族自豪感是他们身上的重要特征。此外，和大多数年轻人一样，中国的千禧一代也更愿意花钱买一些东西，让生活更加舒适和方便。他们希望这些产品和服务能够快速送达到他们手上，因此，他们促进了中国电子商务的繁荣。他们普遍热衷于体验新潮的东西。“即看即买”、“活在当下”也许就是如今一些中国千禧一代所秉承的信条。

几天后，我设法找到了一张我18岁时在墨尔本读12年级时的照片，然而，分享自己老照片的热潮在那时已经过去了。中国的千禧一代在继续前行，这就是这些年轻人的行动速度。要想引起他们的注意，我们也需要像他们一样快速前行。

## Unit project

### Reference answers

We live in a time of unprecedented change and growth, as China emerges as a global leader in technology, innovation, and economic development. Amid this transformation, the role of young people in China today in shaping our country's future has never been more critical.

The youth of today are the leaders, innovators, and change-makers of tomorrow. With access to an immense wealth of knowledge and resources, we have the power and the responsibility to drive our nation forward. What are the expectations and aspirations that come with being part of this new era? In this video themed on "Chinese youth in the new era," particularly in terms of their responsibilities, we're happy to invite four college students to share with us their ideas.

**Student 1:** In this new era, we, the young people in China, must strive to excel in our studies and also acquire a wide range of skills and knowledge. This will enable us to make meaningful contributions to national rejuvenation. We must not limit ourselves to traditional subjects but rather seek out expertise and knowledge in the emerging sectors as well. By doing so, we can prepare ourselves to meet the demands of a

rapidly evolving economy and to make a significant impact in our chosen fields.

**Student 2:** In my eyes, innovation and entrepreneurship are at the core of this new era.

We young people have the creative energy and drive to develop groundbreaking technologies, products, and services that will shape the future of our country and the world. We must not be afraid to take risks, to challenge the status quo, or to dream big. Our ambition and determination will play a vital role in transforming China from a manufacturing-based economy to one driven by innovation and knowledge.

**Student 3:** From where I stand, we must take our responsibility to protect the environment and promote sustainable practices. Climate change is one of the most pressing challenges of our time, and as the youth of today, we must take urgent action to address it. By engaging in eco-friendly behaviors, advocating for environmental policies, and participating in conservation efforts, we can help ensure a sustainable future for our nation and the planet.

**Student 4:** From my perspective, we must embrace our role as global citizens. In an increasingly interconnected world, it is vital that we learn about other cultures, engage in international exchanges, and collaborate with peers from around the globe. This cross-cultural understanding and cooperation will contribute to global progress and foster a sense of unity that transcends borders and differences.

Chinese youth in the new era have both a unique opportunity and responsibility to shape the future of our country. Through learning, innovation, environmental protection, and global citizenship, we can play a significant role in ensuring the sustained growth and success of China. Let us rise to the challenge and work together to build a brighter future for all.