

Directions:

Read the following four texts. Answer the questions after each text by choosing A, B, C or D. Mark your answers on the **ANSWER SHEET**. (40 points)

Text 1

In an essay entitled "Making It in America," the author Adam Davidson relates a joke from cotton country about just how much a modern textile mill has been automated: The average mill has only two employees today, "a man and a dog. The man is there to feed the dog, and the dog is there to keep the man away from the machines."

Davidson's article is one of a number of pieces that have recently appeared making the point that the reason we have such stubbornly high unemployment and declining middle-class incomes today is largely because of the big drop in demand because of the Great Recession, but it is also because of the advances in both globalization and the information technology revolution, which are more rapidly than ever replacing labor with machines or foreign workers.

In the past, workers with average skills, doing an average job, could earn an average lifestyle. But, today, average is officially over. Being average just won't earn you what it used to. It can't when so many more employers have so much more access to so much more above average cheap foreign labor, cheap robotics, cheap software, cheap automation and cheap geniuses. Therefore, everyone needs to find their extra – their unique value contribution that makes them stand out in whatever is their field of employment.

Yes, new technology has been eating jobs forever, and always will. But there's been an acceleration. As Davidson notes, "In the 10 years ending in 2009, [U.S.] factories shed workers so fast that they erased almost all the gains of the previous 70 years; roughly one out of every three manufacturing jobs – about 6 million in total – disappeared."

There will always be change – new jobs, new products, new services. But the one thing we know for sure is that with each advance in globalization and the I. T. revolution, the best jobs will require workers to have more and better education to make themselves above average.

In a world where average is officially over, there are many things we need to do to support employment, but nothing would be more important than passing some kind of G. I. Bill for the 21st century that ensures that every American has access to post-high school education.

21. The joke in Paragraph 1 is used to illustrate ____.

- [A] the impact of technological advances
- [B] the alleviation of job pressure
- [C] the shrinkage of textile mills
- [D] the decline of middle-class incomes

22. According to Paragraph 3, to be a successful employee, one has to ____.
- [A] work on cheap software
 - [B] ask for a moderate salary
 - [C] adopt an average lifestyle
 - [D] contribute something unique
23. The quotation in Paragraph 4 explains that ____.
- [A] gains of technology have been erased
 - [B] job opportunities are disappearing at a high speed
 - [C] factories are making much less money than before
 - [D] new jobs and services have been offered
24. According to the author, to reduce unemployment, the most important is ____.
- [A] to accelerate the I.T. revolution
 - [B] to ensure more education for people
 - [C] to advance economic globalization
 - [D] to pass more bills in the 21st century
25. Which of the following would be the most appropriate title for the text?
- [A] New Law Takes Effect.
 - [B] Technology Goes Cheap.
 - [C] Average Is Over.
 - [D] Recession Is Bad.