**Text1**

①In order to “change lives for the better” and reduce “dependency,” George Osborne, Chancellor of the Exchequer, introduced the “upfront work search” scheme. ②Only if the jobless arrive at the jobcentre with a CV, register for online job search, and start looking for work will they be eligible for benefit—and then they should report weekly rather than fortnightly. ③What could be more reasonable?

为了让生活变得更好，减少依赖，George Osborne引入了“预先工作搜索”计划。只需去工作重心注册一个在线工作搜索，开始找工作，他们就是津贴的候选者，他们应该每周而不是2周报告一次情况。有什么能比这更合理的吗？

upfront 预先的

fortnightly 两周 由fourteen nights简化而来

①More apparent reasonableness followed. ②There will now be a seven-day wait for the jobseeker’s allowance. ③“Those first few days should be spent looking for work, not looking to sign on,” he claimed. ④“We’re doing these things because we know they help people stay off benefits and help those on benefits get into work faster.” ⑤Help? ⑥Really? ⑦On first hearing, this was the socially concerned chancellor, trying to change lives for the better, complete with “reforms” to an obviously indulgent system that demands too little effort from the newly unemployed to find work, and subsidises laziness. ⑧What motivated him, we were to understand, was his zeal for “fundamental fairness”—protecting the taxpayer, controlling spending and ensuring that only the most deserving claimants received their benefits.

还有很多明显合理的措施。现在领取失业津贴有7天等待。“这几天必须用来找工作，而不是去注册”。“我们做这些事因为我们想帮助那些人远离津贴，帮助他们快速找到工作”。帮助？真的吗？第一次听，到这是一个关心社会的大臣，试图让生活变得更好，改革不需要努力就能依靠津贴生活的沉浸系统。他的动机是“公平的基础设施”，保护纳税人，控制花销和确保最应该收到津贴的人得到津贴。

zeal 热情

①Losing a job is hurting: you don’t skip down to the jobcentre with a song in your heart, delighted at the prospect of doubling your income from the generous state. ②It is financially terrifying, psychologically embarrassing and you know that support is minimal and extraordinarily hard to get. ③You are now not wanted; you are now excluded from the work environment that offers purpose and structure in your life. ④Worse, the crucial income to feed yourself and your family and pay the bills has disappeared. ⑤Ask anyone newly unemployed what they want and the answer is always: a job.

丢掉工作是伤心的：你不能蹦蹦跳跳唱着歌去工作中心，高兴与可以从慷慨的政府领到收入。失业在金融上是糟糕的，心灵上是尴尬的，你知道津贴渺小而且很难获得。你现在不被需要。你现在被排除在给你提供目的和结构的工作环境。更糟糕的是，那至关重要的帮助你和你的家庭的收入不见了。问一问任何失业的人他们想要什么？答案都是工作。

①But in Osborneland, your first instinct is to fall into dependency—permanent dependency if you can get it—supported by a state only too ready to indulge your falsehood. ②It is as though 20 years of ever-tougher reforms of the job search and benefit administration system never happened. ③The principle of British welfare is no longer that you can insure yourself against the risk of unemployment and receive unconditional payments if the disaster happens. ④Even the very phrase “jobseeker’s allowance” is about redefining the unemployed as a “jobseeker” who had no fundamental right to a benefit he or she has earned through making national insurance contributions. ⑤Instead, the claimant receives a time-limited “allowance,” conditional on actively seeking a job; no entitlement and no insurance, at ￡71.70 a week, one of the least generous in the EU.

但是在Osborneland看来，你的第一个直觉是陷入依赖——如果你能得到它就会是永恒的依赖——政府的支持太容易纵容你的错误。这是从未发生过。应该的津贴不再是让你抵御失业风险和如果灾难发生时无条件接受的了。“工作津贴”正在重新定义失业者为“工作寻找者”，他们没有权力享受津贴，而这一权力是他们通过缴纳国际保险赢得的。取而代之的是，申请人接受一份有时限的津贴，条件是去寻找工作；没有权力，没有保证，71.70一周，欧美最低标准。

21. George Osborne’s scheme was intended to

[A] motivate the unemployed to report voluntarily.

[B] provide the unemployed with easier access to benefits.

[C] encourage jobseekers’ active engagement in job seeking.

[D] guarantee jobseekers’ legitimate right to benefits.

22. The phrase “to sign on” (Para. 2) most probably means

[A] to register for an allowance from the government.

[B] to accept the government’s restrictions on the allowance.

[C] to check on the availability of jobs at the jobcentre.

[D] to attend a governmental job-training program.

23. What promoted the chancellor to develop his scheme?

[A] A desire to secure a better life for all.

[B] An eagerness to protect the unemployed.

[C] An urge to be generous to the claimants.

[D] A passion to ensure fairness for taxpayers.

24. According to Paragraph 3, being unemployed makes one feel

[A] insulted.

[B] uneasy.

[C] enraged.

[D] guilty.

25. To which of the following would the author most probably agree?

[A] Unemployment benefits should not be made conditional.

[B] The British welfare system indulges jobseekers’ laziness.

[C] The jobseekers’ allowance has met their actual needs.

[D] Osborne’s reforms will reduce the risk of unemployment.