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UNIT

Practice to perfection

奋斗者在汗水汇集的江河里，将事业之舟驶向理想的彼岸。

在不久的将来，你将从校园踏入职场，开始书写人生新篇章。工作中，通过持续学习和探索，你会不断获取新知识、掌握新技能，在热爱的领域深耕不辍，最终实现自身的社会价值。当然，你也可能面临挫折与挑战，这些经历将锤炼你的意志，助你塑造更为坚韧的性格。

本单元，你将通过阅读选篇走近故宫修表师的工作，感受“择一事，终一生”的工作态度，体会新时代的工匠精神。你还将通过观看视频了解明代哲学家王阳明“知行合一”的思想精髓，从中获得对学习、生活和工作的启示。

Reading

Pre-reading

Suppose you were a recruiter working at the Palace Museum and would like to hire an antique restorer. Write down the job description and requirements for the position.

| Job description | Job requirements |
|-----------------|------------------|
| 1 _____ | 1 _____ |
| 2 _____ | 2 _____ |
| 3 _____ | 3 _____ |

Choosing one thing for a lifetime

personality /ˌpɜːsə'næləti/ *n.*
个性; 性格

trait /treɪt/ *n.* (某人性格中的) 特性,
品质

The Book of Rites 《礼记》(儒家经典之一, 秦汉以前各种礼仪论著的选集)

¹ In China, dedication to one's job or duty has been one of the most highly regarded **personality traits** for thousands of years, and today it remains a core value in our society.

² The Chinese equivalent “敬业” first appeared in **The Book of Rites**, one of China's earliest and most important collections of texts





Wang Jin and the antique clocks to be restored

describing social forms, administration, and **ceremonial** rites.

Initially, the phrase was used to describe the students' approach to their studies. Over generations, the concept has grown into an **inherent** attitude toward one's job or duty. When we are dedicated, we demonstrate respect for our profession, **passion** for what we do, and a sense of responsibility for our actions. This shared attitude has created a society where individuals devote themselves to bettering the world around them.

- 3 The Chinese people value dedication, and there are many good examples of it. One of them is Wang Jin, an **antique** clock **restorer** at the Palace Museum.
- 4 Wang Jin began working at the Palace Museum when he was 16 years old. At first, he worked as an **apprentice**, learning essential professional skills. Day in and day out, he gradually developed a deep reverence for cultural relics. The work is **tedious**, and his hands are **soaked** in **kerosene** all day long. However, Wang Jin remembers his master's words, "I would rather risk harm to my hands than to the cultural relics," and approaches his work with the **utmost** respect.
- 5 Wang Jin's work is extremely delicate and intricate, and it often takes several months or a whole year for an old clock to "come alive again" in his hands. Among the **timepieces** he has restored, the **gilt** bronze clock with bird and magic-trick **automatons** is

ceremonial /ˌserə'məʊniəl/ *a.*

礼仪的; 仪式的

initially /ɪ'nɪʃəli/ *ad.* 起初

inherent /ɪn'hɪərənt/ *a.* 内在的; 固有的

passion /'pæʃən/ *n.* 热爱

antique /æn'ti:k/ *a.* (家具、珠宝等) 古董的

restorer /rɪ'stɔːrə/ *n.* 做修复工作的人

apprentice /ə'prentɪs/ *n.* 学徒

tedious /'tiːdiəs/ *a.* 枯燥乏味的

soak /səʊk/ *v.* 浸; 泡

kerosene /'kerəsi:n/ *n.* 煤油

utmost /'ʌtməʊst/ *a.* 最大的

timepiece /'taɪmpɪ:s/ *n.* 钟; 表

gilt /gɪlt/ *a.* 镀金的

automaton /ɔː'tɒmətən/ *n.* 自动操作装置; (尤指) 机器人

complicated /'kɒmplɪkeɪtɪd/ *a.*

结构复杂的

mechanism /'mekənɪzəm/ *n.*

机械装置; 机件

disrupt /dɪs'rʌpt/ *vt.* 扰乱; 使混乱

memorize /'meməraɪz/ *vt.* 记住;

熟记

breathe (new) life into sth. 给某

物注入(新的)活力

monotonous /mə'nɒtənəs/ *a.*

单调的; 乏味的

mundane /mʌn'deɪn/ *a.* 单调的;

平凡的

immense /ɪ'mens/ *a.* 巨大的

prolong /prə'lɒŋ/ *vt.* 延长

estimate /'estɪmeɪt/ *vt.* 估计

unwavering /ʌn'weɪvərɪŋ/ *a.* 坚定的;

毫不动摇的

artisan /,ɑ:tɪ'zæn/ *n.* 工匠; 手艺人

frequently mentioned by him. The clock consists of over a thousand individual parts and has **complicated** moving **mechanisms**. The clock is unique and without any reference drawings, and it is recognized by the ancient clock industry as one of the most complex timepieces. During its restoration, Wang Jin knew that one single wrong step could **disrupt** the delicate balance of the structure and, together with his apprentice, he spent a whole year studying it inside and out and **memorizing** every detail of the mechanisms, finally **breathing new life into** this exquisite clock.

6 Working on such intricate models day after day may appear **monotonous** to some people, but Wang Jin has dedicated himself to his craft for more than 40 years. In his words, “It’s true that this is a **mundane** job in the eyes of many people, but in my opinion, every timepiece is unique. I find great satisfaction and **immense** joy when a timepiece is restored successfully.”

7 Wang Jin takes on each new challenge as it comes, always hoping to “**prolong** the life” of timepieces so that they can be appreciated by future generations. He **estimates** that he has worked on over 300 pieces, and remembers the names and details of each one. Every restoration offers a fresh opportunity for him to learn and perfect his craft, and demonstrates his exceptional skill set and **unwavering** commitment. Wang Jin hopes to continue his job as long as his health permits, and as long as there remains a demand for restoration.

8 While many compare him to great **artisans** in history who devoted their lives to their craft, Wang Jin doesn’t consider himself extraordinary. In his view, every



The gilt bronze clock with bird and magic-trick automatons



industry can represent the spirit of **craftsmanship**. “It’s easy to choose one thing, but it’s hard to **stick to** it for a lifetime,” he says. Both the profound **allure** of the cultural relics and the sense of responsibility and fulfillment in restoring these artifacts have **motivated** him to **persevere** for decades without wavering.

9 In our society, there are individuals who work solely for earning a living, or are motivated only by their personal interests and career goals. However, there are others who view work not only as **a means to an end** but as a responsibility, **obligation**, and even a way of life. Just as exemplified by Wang Jin with his dedication to the restoration of timepieces, true commitment lies in **perceiving** work as a vehicle for **fulfilling** social responsibilities and at the same time achieving self-realization.

10 Happiness does not fall from the sky, nor do dreams come true with a **magic wand**. To **actualize** our aspirations and **forge** a promising future, dedication is indispensable. When we are committed to what we do, our daily work **ceases** to seem like a chore and brings meaningful fulfillment to our life.

craftsmanship /'kra:ftsmənʃɪp/
n. 手艺; 技艺

stick to 坚持

allure /ə'ljʊə/ n. 魅力; 吸引力

motivate /'məʊtɪveɪt/ vt. 激励

persevere /pɜ:siə'viə/ vi. 锲而不舍;
坚持不懈

a means to an end 达到目的的方式

obligation /'ɒblə'geɪʃən/ n. 义务;
职责

perceive /pə'si:v/ vt. 看待; 理解

fulfill /fʊl'fɪl/ vt. 履行; 执行

magic wand /wɒnd/ n. 魔杖

actualize /'æktʃʊəlaɪz/ vt. 实现

forge /fɔ:dʒ/ vt. 构筑; 促成

cease /si:s/ v. 停止

Global understanding

Check (✓) the statement that best summarizes the text.

- A Dedication is an important quality and Wang Jin’s lifelong dedication to the intricate art of antique clock restoration is a good example of it.
- B China’s enduring reverence for dedication is rooted in historical texts and particularly embodied by artisans working in the field of antique clock restoration.
- C Wang Jin’s mastery of restoring intricate and unique timepieces helps him achieve self-realization.

Detailed understanding

Answer the following questions by filling in the blanks.

1 Where does the concept of “敬业” first appear?

The concept of “敬业” first appeared in 1) _____. At the beginning, it referred to the way students approached their studies. Over time, this idea evolved into an inherent attitude toward one’s 2) _____.

2 What was Wang Jin’s work like as an apprentice?

He studied essential professional skills and had to spend a long time 3) _____ in kerosene.

3 How did Wang Jin restore the gilt bronze clock with bird and magic-trick automatons?

Given that a single mistake could disrupt the delicate 4) _____, Wang Jin, together with his apprentice, dedicated an entire year to thoroughly examining it and memorizing every detail of the mechanisms, finally 5) _____ into this exquisite clock.

4 Why has Wang Jin dedicated himself to his craft for so long?

He finds 6) _____ when a timepiece is restored successfully, and hopes that the timepiece can be appreciated by future generations. The profound 7) _____ of the cultural relics is also a driving force behind his enduring commitment for many years.

5 What can we learn from Wang Jin’s story?

As demonstrated by Wang Jin’s unwavering dedication to timepiece restoration, true commitment lies in perceiving work as a vehicle for 8) _____ and achieving self-realization. When we are committed to what we do, our daily work brings meaningful 9) _____ to our life.



Higher-order thinking

Skilled workers are the main force underpinning China's manufacturing sector and innovation drive. Among us, there are many individuals, like Wang Jin, who integrate their skills into their work, applying their craftsmanship to achieve excellence and drive high-quality development in various fields. What admirable qualities do you think they possess? Can you tell a story about the spirit of craftsmanship in China?

Language focus

Complete the following sentences with the correct form of the expressions in the box.

breathe new life into the spirit of craftsmanship prolong the life
stick to a means to an end

- 1 Despite setbacks and obstacles along the way, she was determined to _____ her chosen career path in the arts.
- 2 Learning a new language is not merely _____, but a tool to unlock deep cultural understanding and appreciation.
- 3 The practice of passing down oral histories from generation to generation helps _____ of a culture.
- 4 _____ is evident in every meticulously hand-carved detail of the artisan's wooden sculptures.
- 5 The recent revival of traditional Chinese art forms and practices has _____ Chinese culture, attracting both domestic and international audiences.



Viewing

Pre-viewing

Write down what you know about Wang Yangming by using the following clues.



What he is: _____

What his achievements are: _____

What his famous sayings are: _____



Wang Yangming and his legacy:
Unity of knowledge and action



Video



Notes

Master Yangming: 阳明先生。王守仁曾筑室于故乡阳明洞中，世称之“阳明先生”。

Vocabulary

New words

literati /ˌlɪtəˈrɑːti/ *n.* 文人学士

advocate /ˈædvəkeɪt/ *v.* 主张

posthumously /ˈpɒstjəməsli/ *ad.* 于死后

scholarly /ˈskɒləli/ *a.* 博学的；有学问的

injustice /ɪnˈdʒʌstɪs/ *n.* 不公正

bandit /ˈbændɪt/ *n.* 土匪

rebel /ˈrebəl/ *n.* 造反者；反叛者

correspondence /ˌkɒrəˈspɒndəns/ *n.* 关系；

联系

underlie /ˌʌndəˈlaɪ/ *vt.* 作为…的原因；构成…的

基础

implementation /ˌɪmpləmenˈteɪʃən/ *n.* 实施；

执行

enrich /ɪnˈrɪtʃ/ *vt.* 使丰富；强化

upright /ˈʌpraɪt/ *a.* 正直的

pragmatic /præɡˈmætɪk/ *a.* 务实的；重实效的

Phrases

on a par with 与…不相上下；与…水平相当

bring about 引起

Proper nouns

Confucian Temple 孔庙（祭祀孔子的祠庙）



Viewing and understanding

Watch the video and decide on the best choice for each question.

- 1 Which of the following is one of the three great accomplishments that ancient Chinese literati aimed to achieve?
 - A. Recording great ideas.
 - B. Setting moral examples.
 - C. Spreading good traditions.
 - D. Studying great works of literature.
- 2 Which of the following is not Wang Yangming's title?
 - A. Lawyer.
 - B. General.
 - C. Statesman.
 - D. Philosopher.
- 3 What helped lay a solid foundation for Wang Yangming's philosophical thinking?
 - A. His studies in various schools.
 - B. His work as a government official and military general.
 - C. His philosophical discussions with previous Chinese thinkers.
 - D. His early childhood experiences and scholarly family background.
- 4 How did Wang Yangming argue about the relationship between knowledge and action?
 - A. Action tests knowledge.
 - B. Action is the natural use of knowledge.
 - C. There are people who know but do not act.
 - D. One must have knowledge before acting upon it.
- 5 What can today's young people learn from the unity of knowledge and action?
 - A. To act consciously.
 - B. To be more pragmatic.
 - C. To be dedicated to their work.
 - D. To seek their own moral pursuits.

Higher-order thinking

“Unity of knowledge and action” is one of Wang Yangming’s key philosophical ideas. How do you understand this philosophical idea? How do you think you can achieve the unity of knowledge and action in your academic studies and future work?

Language focus

Translate the following sentences into English with the words and expressions in parentheses.

- 1 在参加技能大赛的众多选手中, 他以高超的技艺脱颖而出。(stand out)

- 2 她对工作的投入与其导师不相上下, 最终以自己在该领域的卓越技能和专业知识而闻名。
(on a par with)

- 3 尽管面临重重阻碍, 他仍然致力于倡导自己的道德教义, 努力通过自己的思想给社会带来积极的变化。(advocate; bring about)

- 4 今天, “己所不欲, 勿施于人” 仍然是处理人际关系的指导原则。(serve as a guiding principle)

- 5 为了帮助学生有效规划职业道路, 学校对学生的职业兴趣进行了调查, 并举办了一系列讲座。
(carry out)



Unit task

The three-episode documentary *Masters in the Forbidden City* uncovers the secret of restoration technology for antiquities. It also shows the spirit of craftsmanship. Today, we can admire exquisite objects from the past thanks to the efforts of a group of people at the Palace Museum who repair and restore them.

You are working as an intern at the Palace Museum, where there will be an exhibition based on the documentary *Masters in the Forbidden City*. You are responsible for giving a presentation to international visitors. The content could include clock restoration, and insights into the inner world and daily life of cultural relic restoration experts. The following points are for your reference.

- Antique clock restorer Wang Jin's daily work
- The story behind restoring the gilt bronze clock with bird and magic-trick automatons
- The reason why Wang Jin loves his work
- The significance of dedication in one's work

