




全国高等农林院校“十一五”规划教材

大学英语阅读教程

第四册

张彩华 主编



 中国农业出版社

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序

《大学英语课程教学要求》强调大学英语教学的目的之一是培养学生具有较强的阅读能力，使学生能以英语为工具，获取专业所需要的信息，并进一步提高英语水平打下较好的基础。为了提高学生综合阅读的能力，使其尽快达到大学英语课程教学要求，全国农业院校外语教学研究会组织编写了这一套《大学英语阅读教程》。

《大学英语阅读教程》共分四册，每册十个单元；每单元包括两个部分，第一部分阅读理解；第二部分完形填空或选词填空。本套教材具备以下特点：

1. 文章选材新颖：所有文章的选材均出自美国原版的时事新闻或畅销读物，内容新颖、语言生动、涉及中西文化、语言、教育、生活、人性、哲学、文学等方面，语言清新、活泼，文章有一定的趣味性、知识性和可思性。
2. 阅读跨度适中：针对不同级别的学生选择了不同难度及长度的阅读材料，使学生能够循序渐进地提高阅读能力。文章的篇幅分别为：第一册 300~400 词，第二册 400~600 词，第三册 600~800 词，第四册 800~900 词。
3. 问题设置合理：每篇文章都设置了不同的问题，包含了四级考试中涵盖的主旨题、推理题、细节题、词汇题、指代题等。主题是指掌握所读材料的主旨和大意；推理题是指根据所读材料进行一定的判断和推论；细节题是指对所读材料了解说明主旨和大意的事实和细节；词汇题是指某一个词或短语在所读材料中的意义；指代题是指它的指代意义或理解上下文的逻辑关系。
4. 解题技能详细：本教程在每篇文章的后面加注了很多的文化及背景知识的介绍，旨在使学生在了解中西方文化的基础上、扩大知识面，提高综合阅读能力。在解题技巧上着重强调运用上下文的语境，使学生学会通过句群、意群来提高阅读技巧。

《大学英语阅读教程》是全国农林院校十一五规划教材，由朱乐红教授

总主编并负责文稿的统筹整理和内容审定。本书为第四册,即大学英语阅读四级考试水准要求,可在教师指导下在大学二年级第二学期与教材同步配套使用,也可以作为学生课外自主学习的材料。

由于时间及水平因素所限,文稿虽经反复揣摩修改,可能仍有不妥或错漏处,恳请读者不吝指教。

编者

2008年4月16日

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Unit One

Part I Reading Comprehension

Directions: *There are 3 passages in this section. Each passage is followed by some questions. For each of them there are four choices marked A), B), C) and D). You should decide on the best choice.*

Passage One

People of color and the poor of this country are under attack, and they are losing. It is a fact that must move us toward collective action and a call for accountability on the part of our government. Forty years ago, Martin Luther King declared that the Vietnam War was, in actuality, a war on the American poor. He eloquently stated, "It seemed as if there was a real promise of hope for the poor — both Black and white — through the poverty programs. There were experiments, hopes, and new beginnings. Then came the buildup in Vietnam and I watched the program broken and eviscerated as if it were some idle political plaything of a society gone mad with war, and I knew that America would never invest the necessary funds or energies in rehabilitation of its poor so long as adventures like Vietnam continue to draw men and skills like some demonic destructive suction tube."

Looking at the current situation in our country the war in Iraq — we must come to a similar conclusion. Muhammad Ali's statement resonates today as it did during the Vietnam era: "If I thought going to war would bring freedom and equality to 22 million of my people,

they wouldn't have to draft me. I'd join tomorrow."

King articulates in later speeches that war is not the only activity that damages the foundation of the American dream for the most disfranchised — the poor and Black. It is aided and abetted by economic exploitation and racism. In essence, the poor and the Black are under attack by a triple threat.

With an eye on the past and a vision for the future, we have to look at the current political and social climate of this country with holistic criticism and calls for change. At this moment, we have spent \$384 billion on the war in Iraq. This summer we saw the dismantling of the historic *Brown v. Board of Education* court decision. This year we heard the housing bubble pop with one of the highest foreclosure rates in history. And today we feel the effects of having the largest disparities between the wealthy and the poor since the Great Depression, 78 years ago.

The exorbitant amount of money spent on the war in Iraq is draining our country's ability to provide quality anti-poverty programs to alleviate the growing economic stresses on the poor. In Massachusetts alone, \$12.9 billion has been spent on the war. With that same amount of tax revenue, Massachusetts could have had 1,338,788 scholarships for university students; 44,755 new affordable housing units; 966 new elementary schools, and a slew of new healthcare coverage for children and individuals. This war is happening at the cost of our most marginalized people and our future generations.

As a country, we need to look at the structural racism that persists in our legal system and public policies. Two years after Katrina, many homes are still not rebuilt. Individuals and families remain displaced. Promises made by our government have not been kept. Diversity policies in colleges are being eliminated and only three percent of the poorest of this country attend the wealthiest top

universities, even though more have appropriate qualifications. Only 30 percent of Blacks go on to college. Blacks are six times as likely as whites to have been imprisoned at some point in their lives. The weapon of structural racism in our legal and public policy system is incredibly destructive. It continues to limit the economic mobility of people of color.

Often not mentioned as a weapon in the arsenal of the war on the Black and poor, is the economic exploitation that is ingrained in our country. Poverty rates nationally have more than quadrupled in communities of color, compared to their white counterparts. For every \$1 of white wealth, Blacks have 15 cents. Less than half the Black population owns homes, and 40 percent of those homes have sub-prime mortgage loans. These loans offer low rates, but after an initial period, typically 1-3 years, the mortgage payments skyrocket, for some to levels twice that of the initial monthly payment. These predatory practices leave families with mortgages they cannot afford and homes that will eventually undergo foreclosure. We are currently dealing with the greatest foreclosure rates in recent business history.

Homeownership is a keystone of the American dream and accounts for the largest percentage of wealth held by families and individuals in this country. Due to the triple threat, it is receding further from the grasp of the poor and people of color. Exploitation is cleaving the American dream in half, creating two dreams — Black and white, rich and poor, economically secure and economically strapped.

There is a war going on, but it's not in Iraq, it's in this country. Not only is it a war on the poor and Black, but it's also a war against the foundation of equality and liberty that this country was built upon. The triple threat has begun and continues to shake the foundation of our country, leaving in its wake those who have voices

but are not heard. War, racism and economic exploitation continue to erode and destroy the path for the poor and Black to get merit for their work and obtain the wealth they deserve, promise of which our constitution holds out so enticingly.

Notes:

accountability n. 责任

eviscerate v. 除去主要部分

suction n. 抽水泵

rehabilitation n. 复原, 恢复

disfranchise v. 剥夺权利

abet v. 帮助, 支持

dismantle v. 终止, 废除

Brown v. Board of Education court decision 1954 年布朗诉教育委员会案的裁决 (标志着“合法的”种族隔离在美国的终结)

foreclosure n. 抵押品赎回权的丧失

exorbitant adj. 过高的, 昂贵的

Katrina n. 卡特里娜 (2005 年严重危及美国南部新奥尔良州的飓风)

1. Martin Luther King believed that the Vietnam War was actually a war on the American poor because _____.
 - A) all the casualties in the war were poor Americans
 - B) the anti-poverty programs were broken as a result of high war spending
 - C) the poor — both Black and white — were drawn to the war
 - D) the government plunged into a financial crisis
2. The word "draft" in Line 5, Para. 2 most probably means _____.
 - A) draw up
 - B) pull up
 - C) encourage
 - D) enlist
3. Which of the following is not included in the triple threat to the poor and the Black?
 - A) war
 - B) racism
 - C) disease
 - D) economic exploitation
4. Which of the following statement is true about USA in the time of Iraq war?

- A) The gap between the wealthy and the poor has been bridged.
 - B) Massachusetts established 966 new elementary schools.
 - C) Diversity policies in colleges are being kept and 50 percent of Blacks go on to college.
 - D) Many Blacks with mortgages they cannot afford are risking losing their homeownership.
5. The best title for this passage would be _____.
- A) Black Americans Under Attack
 - B) The Iraq War and USA
 - C) Racism in USA
 - D) Poverty Rates in USA

Passage Two

In March, I dreamed that I went to the most polluted place in the world and then to the cleanest. In the dream, I wore identical white outfits, which were then exhibited side by side in a stark white gallery. When I awoke, I resolved to enact my dream. It seemed like madness; I was preparing for my final show at the Royal College of Art in London and was intending to show work based on CT scans of an ancient Egyptian mummy. But the sense of "mission" was overwhelming. I jettisoned my original plans; this was to be it.

Research into the world's most polluted place pointed to Linfen, a city 485 miles (780km) south-west of Beijing, lying in a bowl in Shanxi province's coal-mining region. Linfen was named by the World Bank last year (2006) as having the worst air quality on earth. It features alongside Chernobyl in the Blacksmith Institute's list of the 10 most polluted places in the world and tops the list of most polluted cities compiled by China's own state environmental protection authority.

In contrast, Cape Grim, at the north-western tip of Tasmania, lays claim to both the cleanest air and water in the planet, largely due

to the Roaring Forties, the winds that sweep in over the Southern Ocean. It is home to the Australian government's baseline air pollution station, whose unique "Air Library" collects samples as a "pure air" yardstick for scientists worldwide. I wanted to bring back this clean air — as well as the filthy air — and quickly these plans began to preoccupy me.

Fresh air must surely be the most precious commodity of the future. Unlike the world's land and water, air cannot be owned — there are no borders to confine it. Yet we knowingly infect it and in doing so infect our neighbors across continents. To try to gauge the difference between the two places, I left on my adventure with two pre-evacuated glass flasks donated by the Australian government to collect the air, a personal air pump to amass particulates on filters, and canisters to bring back water samples. In addition, there were two white linen shirts, white jeans and white cotton shoes, from Zara and Marks & Spencer, outfits which would act as blank manuscripts on which the air of each place would inscribe itself.

I reached Linfen to find the sun shining — darkness hadn't descended at noon as was claimed in some reports. No one was even wearing a mask. Were they oblivious to the poisons they were ingesting? Despite the many citizens suffering from respiratory diseases, lead poisoning and disorders caused by high levels of arsenic in more than half of the city's well water, there was no discernible sign of crisis or discontent. When I asked about pollution, people simply shrugged their shoulders, as if the question were pointless.

In the streets, men were playing Go at makeshift tables, young and old shop staff were throwing themselves into a highly skilled game of shuttlecock football, children were skipping and men and women were busily kneading great wads of dough. The place throbbed with life. The streets, the walls and the oil drum "cookers" were caked in layers of filth and grime, and from time to time, great

wafts of odor, like rotten eggs, would roll over everything. At night I left my hotel window propped open in order to run my air pump filter to collect the particulates. As I lay in bed, I thought of the chemicals, the unseen enemy, filling my room.

After four days in Linfen, I set off for Cape Grim in Tasmania. Here the rubble and diggers and filth were replaced with Constable-style landscapes. The trees were the height of Linfen's tower blocks. Great stretches of beach lay empty, with only the occasional footprint in the sand to suggest any trace of human life. An hour's driving was only finally interrupted by a sign advertising bottled water: "Cape Grim, Home of the Purest Air and Water on Earth, Jim's Plains."

After I had captured the air from Cape Grim in my flask, I tried to talk to the locals in Smithton, the nearest town, a 20-minute drive away. I had hoped to document the parallel lives of people living in such different atmospheric conditions, but while my pristine clothes and air filters remained unblemished, so did the pages of my notebook. The Tasmanian reserve was daunting. Barely a soul was in the street. People were tucked away in their houses behind net curtains. Picket fences surrounded properties. Perfectly manicured gardens were adorned with plastic swans. I began to feel lonely, and, as the days passed, to yearn for the sense of community that had been so electrifying in the streets of Linfen.

Notes:

stark adv. 完全地

jettison v. 投弃, 放弃

Chernobyl 切尔诺贝利 (苏联欧洲部分中西部城市, 位于基辅西北偏北, 是 1986 年 4 月 16 日的一场核能大事故的所在地)

Blacksmith Institute 铁匠研究所 (总部位于纽约的国际环境研究机构, 该机构每年都会评定出当年的全球十大污染城市)