

巧学巧练教研中心
BEST SMART METHOD

中学生英语学习方略及提高训练丛书

高中英语 阅读理解300篇

ENGLISH
READING PASSAGES

300 篇

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内蒙古科学技术出版社

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前 言

《中学生英语学习方略及提高训练》丛书，编写前我们认真分析、研究并归纳了近几年各地的高考试卷，将英语考试中出现的新题型及其精髓融会贯通于本套丛书之中，本套丛书的编写目的是帮助同学们迅速提高应试能力，在英语考试中取得优异成绩。

近年来，我国英语教学形式发展很快，教育部新制订颁发的《国家基础教育阶段英语课程标准》，对英语教学，特别是英语的阅读能力和英语课外阅读量提出了新的要求，单纯依靠教材已不能完全满足当前高中学生扩大英语阅读量的需求，而且不同地区、不同学校及不同年级也对英语阅读提出了不同的要求，因此我们编写了这本《高中英语阅读理解 300 篇》。

期盼教师和同学们能喜爱并使用本套丛书，特别希望本套丛书能使广大考生获益，在考试中取得高分，书中凡有疏漏不当之处，敬请指正为盼。

编 者

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文化教育



When Joe Bates was twelve years old, he lost interest in school. He stopped listening in his classes. Some of his teachers began to consider him a problem.

But a few of Joe's teachers thought that Joe might have lost interest in schoolwork because he already understood it. They proposed that Joe try taking a university class in computer science. Joe did. He was the best student in the class. Later tests showed that his intelligence and knowledge were far greater than most children of his age. He entered the university when he was thirteen, about four years earlier than most children. And by the time he was in his early twenties, Joe was teaching computer science at a university.

Joe's story shows what can happen when a child's unusual ability is recognized. Sadly, however, not all gifted children get this recognition. And educational experts say unusually gifted children may waste their abilities if they do not get help to develop them.

Studies show that almost twenty percent of the students who fail to complete high school in the United States are gifted children.

This is because gifted children can have special problems as well as special abilities. Teachers may not recognize their abilities, or may not know how to keep them interested. Or they may consider such students to be trouble-makers or rebels. Gifted children may feel lonely or different because they do not know other children who share their interests.

Educators say there are more than two million gifted children in the

United States today. But they say fewer than half are taking part in special education programs designed for them.

So, around the country, parents, educators and business leaders have formed groups to create and support programs for the gifted. There also is a national organization to support such programs.

One of the most successful programs is held every summer at John Hopkins University in the state of Maryland, where Joe Bates went to school. It started in 1980 when educators saw that there must be many children like Joe.

At first, only 100 children took part, now more than 1,000 children between the ages of nine and sixteen are students in the summer program.

The John Hopkins program provides studies in math and science. It also has classes for children with unusual ability in language and writing. The children study the same subject every day for several weeks. It could be biology, or history, or English literature. In those few weeks, they learn as much as in a normal nine-month school year.

William Durden, the director says the program succeeds because it permits children to make progress more quickly than in a traditional program. And the children get to meet others like themselves.

Multiple Choice:

1. Joe Bates stopped listening in his classes because _____.
 - A. he lost interest in school
 - B. he hated those teachers who considered him a problem
 - C. he had already understood what he was taught
 - D. he wanted to take a university class
2. When a child's unusual ability is recognized, _____.
 - A. he can do whatever he likes
 - B. he will no longer be considered to be a trouble-maker or rebel
 - C. he may make more success than most children of his age
 - D. he will certainly take part in a special education program
3. According to the passage, the most important thing is _____.

- A. to recognize and develop gifted children's unusual abilities
 - B. to design and support special education programs for gifted children
 - C. to help gifted children get to meet others who share their interests
 - D. to encourage gifted children instead of treating them as a problem when they lose interest in school
4. Quite some gifted students fail to complete high school in the United States because _____.
- A. they take part in traditional education programs
 - B. their unusual abilities are not recognized
 - C. their teachers don't know how to keep them interested in schoolwork
 - D. they have special problems
5. Which of the following statements is true of the John Hopkins program?
- A. The John Hopkins program provides studies in math and science, but a normal school doesn't
 - B. Gifted children can learn as much in the John Hopkins program as in a normal school within nine months.
 - C. The John Hopkins program permits gifted children to learn at their own speed.
 - D. Joe Bates once took part in the John Hopkins program.



Last April, 15-year-old Rei Iwasaki stopped her piano and flute lessons and began to study every day of the week. Her parents paid to send her to a "cram school". She wanted very much to pass her exams.

In February she did pass an all-day, five-subject examination and entered the high school she hoped to enter.

Thirteen-year-old Akio Yoshiwara wasn't so lucky. Unable to take the pressure of the exams, he hanged himself in February. He left a suicide note which said, "I did my best in this dear life, but it's no good."

Suicides are now a common part of life among students in Japan. The

cause is the incredible pressure of the “examination hell”.

Even a number of teachers are committing suicide each year. When some students broke windows in a school near Tokyo, the principal blamed himself and wrote the following note: “The incidents were due to the lack of appropriate measures by the principal and I apologize. I am very tired.” He then killed himself.

The Japanese educational system is much different from the American system. It is perhaps the most regimented school system in any of the industrialized nations.

Boys and girls wear uniforms and go to school six days a week—240 days a year compared to 180 in the U. S. Ninety-five percent graduate from high school compared to seventy-five percent in the U. S.

Students don't ask questions in class but only listen respectfully to the teachers. And every few years students are tested to see which school they will enter next. There is stiff competition for the “best” schools.

The result is a well-informed, disciplined student, ideal for factory and company work and excellent at learning specialized skills. But there is little fun in education, little creativity and the incredible pressure of “examination hell”.

Multiple Choice:

1. From the passage we can learn that in Japan _____.
 - A. more teachers than students committed suicide
 - B. even a principal committed suicide
 - C. students rather than grownups committed suicide
 - D. suicide was the natural result of examinations
2. Pressure of the exams _____.
 - A. could only push certain students to be successful
 - B. never fails to make students successful
 - C. could hardly help students to learn anything
 - D. seems the only measure to teach students
3. Which of the following statements is NOT true?

- A. The cram school did help quite a few students pass the exams.
 - B. The 13-year-old boy hanged himself as his apology was not accepted.
 - C. Wearing school uniforms is nothing wrong.
 - D. Some students killed themselves as they were totally disappointed.
4. According to the writer of the passage, the Japanese educational system is _____.
- A. much better than that of U. S. A.
 - B. just wonderful.
 - C. good compared with that of industrialized nations
 - D. by no means perfect
5. The topic for this passage should be _____.
- A. Cases of Suicide
 - B. Japanese Students Suffer from Pressure
 - C. Education Systems in Japan and U. S. A.
 - D. The Japanese Educational System



About 35% of all high school graduates in America continue their education in an institution of higher learning. The word college is used to refer to either a college or a university. These institutions offer four year programs that lead to a Bachelor of Arts (B. A) or Bachelor of Science (B. S) degree. Some students attend a junior college (providing only a two-year program) for one to two years before entering a four-year college as a sophomore or junior.

It is generally easier to be accepted at a state university than at a private one. Most private schools require strict entrance examinations and a high grade point average (GPA), as well as specific college prep classes in high school. Private schools cost considerably more than state colleges, and famous private schools are very expensive. Poorer students can sometimes attend, however, by earning scholarships. Some college graduates go on to earn advanced masters or doctoral degrees in grad (graduate)

Since college costs are very high, most students work at part-time jobs. Some have fulltime jobs and go to school part-time. Often some will take five or more years to complete a four-year program because of money/job demands on their time.

Multiple Choice:

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We gather a great deal of incidental knowledge from pets. If we look after them properly we learn what they like and dislike. We do not set out to gain this knowledge purposely, but in tending to our pets we gain it by the way. It is got without our realizing it.

In keeping our dog or cat we learn about various diseases that can affect them, and the cures for these diseases. We learn how much sleep they need and what kind of food keeps them healthy. In looking after our fish we learn about the composition of water. We get to know what kinds of fish can live peacefully together and what kinds are *hostile* to each other. We learn that animals, fish and birds have a lot of things in common with human beings.

If children keep pets their general education is helped by this kind of incidental knowledge. One little incident after another in which their pets are involved adds to their store of learning. It is a more interesting form of learning than that given in the biology lesson in school.

People who keep pets should have a sense of responsibility towards them. Children, too, should be taught to be responsible. Pets are completely dependent on their owners and the owners should respond to this dependence by looking after them. Irresponsible behavior towards pets is a form of cruelty.

In deciding to keep a pet we take on a task, we make ourselves responsible for providing proper food and shelter for the pet. In a crowded city like Hongkong, where there is so little room for the exercise required by larger pets, we should think twice before undertaking the responsibility of keeping one.

Multiple Choice:

1. In keeping pets, we learn that _____.
 - A. pets like human beings
 - B. pets share what we have
 - C. pets and human beings have many things identical

- D. human beings gather a great deal of incidental knowledge
2. For children _____.
A. keeping pets widens their general knowledge
B. keeping pets adds to their trouble
C. all kinds of knowledge are obtained by keeping pets
D. incidental learning is more important than general knowledge
3. In keeping pets, responsibility means _____.
A. depending on them B. taking care of them
C. responding to them D. teaching them
4. In the last paragraph, the word "twice" can best be replaced by _____.
A. later B. two times C. first D. carefully
5. In Hong Kong, it is not proper to keep large pets because _____.
A. they eat a lot
B. they rely too much on people
C. there is little space for them to move around
D. the responsibility is too great



In recent years there is a 4.5 percent increase in the number of college students studying foreign languages in the United States. That is encouraging news; however, many Americans still regard foreign language study as an academic pursuit rather than as a means of communicating with non-English-speaking people.

In these days of fast travel and communication, it is impossible for people in one part of the world to be completely isolated from the rest of humanity. Events in one country may directly affect the citizens of another country thousands of miles away. It is important for people in different countries to be able to communicate with each other.

It is not unusual for Europeans to be bilingual and even trilingual, but most Americans speak only English. Of course, it is true that Americans are geographically isolated from much of the rest of the world, but that

makes it even more important that they try to learn as much about other cultures as possible. One of the best ways to learn about other cultures is to study foreign languages.

Unfortunately, Americans have earned a bad reputation on this point. When they travel abroad they expect people from other countries to be able to understand English and are surprised and even annoyed when they don't. Yet they have little patience with foreigners they meet who don't speak English well. Is this reasonable?

Multiple Choice:

1. According to the passage, the study of foreign languages in the United States is quite _____.
A. surprising
B. satisfactory
C. encouraging
D. disappointing
2. The problem is that _____ in the United States.
A. not enough people are learning foreign languages.
B. people are not bilingual or trilingual
C. people are not learning foreign languages to communicate with foreigners
D. people from other countries are all learning English
3. Which of the following statements is NOT true?
A. It's hard to learn about other cultures without learning their languages.
B. Culture is not necessarily related to the language.
C. Communication is the purpose of learning foreign languages.
D. Europeans have done better than Americans in foreign language learning.
4. The writer of the passage feels that _____.
A. Americans should use English only
B. Americans cannot depend on English only
C. Americans are hopeless as they don't want to learn foreign languages.
D. Europeans are hopeless though they learn languages well



Dear Editor:

Why do newspapers carry so many advertisements for electronic equipment? Last Sunday I counted ads for seven kinds of televisions and thirteen kinds of radios in the Atlanta Journal. Besides that, there were pages and pages of ads for Citizens' Band radios and tape recorders.

Don't you realize what electronic equipment is doing to our daily life? Everywhere you go you may hear loud music and advertisements over radios; this continual noise is ruining our ears. Husbands don't talk to wives any more; they're always watching the news or a ball game. Children ruin their eyes (not to mention their minds) with endless hours of watching not only the programs for children but those for grown-ups as well. And worse, hidden microphones find out about our private lives, and computers keep records of personal information about us.

Enough is enough! I think you should limit the amount of advertising of electronic equipment in the Atlanta Journal, otherwise it will make life unbearable for us all.

Jason Collins
Atlanta, Georgia

Multiple Choice:

1. Atlanta Journal is the name of _____.
 - A. a department store
 - B. a shop that sells electronic equipment
 - C. a local newspaper
 - D. a hotel where the writer stayed
2. What problem does Jason Collins think radio causes?
 - A. It has too many programs for advertising.
 - B. It makes husbands talk little to wives.
 - C. It gives too much loud music.
 - D. Its noise does harm to our ears.

3. Electronic equipment causes all the following problems except that _____.
- A. personal information is given to strangers
 - B. children ruin their eyes
 - C. news of the world is given to all citizens
 - D. family members don't talk to each other
4. It is not mentioned but implied (暗示) that _____.
- A. some kinds of electronic equipment invade our private lives
 - B. watching too much television ruins children's eyes
 - C. some kinds of electronic equipment cause social problems
 - D. television has bad effects on both grown-ups and children
5. Jason Collins is upset about _____.
- A. advertisements
 - B. newspapers
 - C. noise
 - D. electronic equipment



Work is a part of living—my grandparents understood that. They lived and worked on a farm that has been in my family for 150 years. They raised chickens for eggs, pigs and cattle for meat. Cows were kept for milk and the cream from which Grandma made butter and cheese. What little yard they had became a garden.

The Depression, therefore, didn't make much change in their lives. But it did bring an unending flow of men out of work, drifting from job to job, to the farm. The first to show up at the door of the kitchen was a man in rags. He took off his hat and quietly explained that he hadn't eaten for a while. Grandpa stood watching him a bit, then said, "There's a stack of firewood against the fence behind the barn. I've been needing to get it moved to the other side of the fence. You have just about enough time to finish the job before lunch."

Grandma said a surprising thing happened. The man got a shine in his eyes and he hurried to the barn at once. She set another place at the table