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# 英语专业新题型

# 巅峰突破

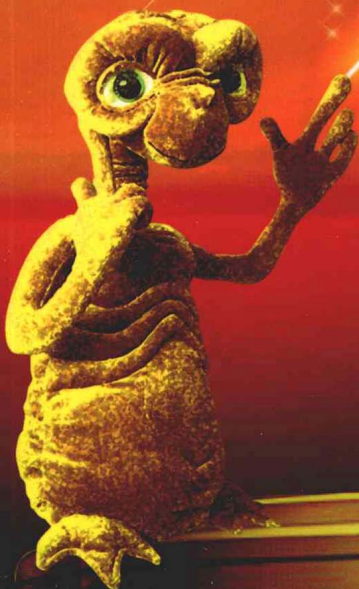
# 8

## 级

## 阅 读

本书主编连续多年命中阅读与写作主题

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英语专业新题型巅峰突破

## **英语专业新题型巅峰突破·8 级阅读**

主 编: 史志康 曾 甲

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# 前言

## Preface

为了帮助广大考生在新大纲出台之后,能够轻松取得英语专业八级考试的高分,我们组织专业人员编写了此书。

### 一、题目:

根据新版教学大纲编写,按专业英语八级考试的形式,将 100 篇阅读理解汇编成 25 个 Test(分为“技能实战篇”、“强化提高篇”、“考前冲刺篇”等 3 章),每个 Test 均为 20 道题(4 篇文章)。

二、文章难易程度编排:由易到难、循序渐进,以便考生有效突破阅读难关。

### 三、解释为该书最显著的特点:

1. 为便于考生理解原文、提高翻译水平以及实际运用英语的能力,我们为每篇短文提供了中文内容大意。

2. 选择项均给出答题依据,帮助考生构建良好的解题思维。

通过每天 1 个 Test(4 篇阅读)的做题练习,举一反三,25 天(100 篇)有效突破英语八级阅读难关,轻轻松松提高英语阅读水平。

本书所选的例题、译句和解释都已经过反复推敲、实践,但不当之处在所难免,敬请广大读者,同行专家不吝指正,以便改进。

编 者



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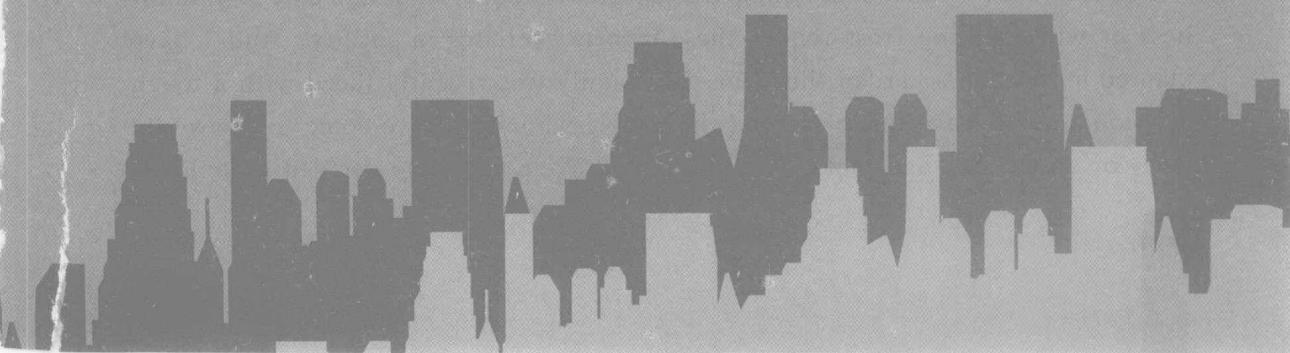
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# 技能实战篇





# Test 1

## TEXT A

As I write, a gentle, much needed rain is falling this morning. It has been a dry spring here in Vermont. So dry in fact, that the Spring Peepers were late enough in coming that many thought that these amazing little frogs would fail to bless us with their song this year. But they came, and I can't fault them for being tardy. In almost any seasonal wetland in the state these frogs can be heard. They are a sign of spring, and of rebirth and renewal.

It is late June and the mountain snow has left the higher slopes of the mountains. Folks have planted their gardens, even though there is still the threat of frost. Yes, it is almost July, yet in the evenings here, the thermometer can still sometimes dip into the low-thirties this time of year. My family planted our garden during the last weekend of May, and frost came twice since then, luckily not a killing frost. But others were not so lucky. There is a very ambitious gardener in the village that lost most of his non-hardy plants this year. There is a saying in this state: "If you don't like the weather, wait five minutes." This spring has demonstrated the validity of this old saw. Twice this spring it has been warm enough in the day that my family went swimming, but there was frost on the ground the next morning.

I enjoy the juxtaposition of the vagaries of the climate and the steady rhythms of life here. Folks have been tending to the chores of spring for generations, knowing full well that they really can't depend upon the hand that nature will deal them. Planting a garden in Vermont amounts to an act of faith. Will our sweat and toil be rewarded by abundance enough to share with our friends and extended families, or will a killing frost render these efforts exercises in futility? And I have planted more than a garden this year. My family was recently faced with a tough decision, do we leave this place and the people whom we have come to know and love, or do we stay and make a commitment? Well, we have decided that this is

where we will make our stand.

Along with our little garden, this year we have planted ourselves. And this is no less an act of faith than the one mentioned above. Will my family be blessed with that which is needed to grow and flourish. We have no way of knowing this...but we do have faith. The rain has stopped and the sun is shining. Strong winds have blown the cloud cover away. It is a beautiful day. Vermont gardening.

There is another saying among farmers here: "there is no better fertilizer than a farmer's footprints." To me this means that which is planted must be revisited often. The garden must be nurtured and tended. It must be cared for with love. It seems to me that this applies to our lives as well. Hopes and dreams and aspirations must be revisited often lest we lose sight of the things that are really important to us. Commitments must be tended to as carefully as any garden plot. But as with gardening, there are no guarantees. But there is faith, and today is a beautiful day.

- 1 The frogs are late in showing up in Vermont because \_\_\_\_\_.  
 A. people there don't welcome them  
 B. the weather there is not agreeable  
 C. they prefer to stay in other places  
 D. winter has not gone yet
- 2 In the second paragraph, the author seems to indicate that \_\_\_\_\_.  
 A. people shouldn't have planted their gardens in June  
 B. he was too lucky to have missed a killing frost  
 C. the present temperature seems to be a little lower than usual  
 D. he regrets that he didn't believe in the old saying
- 3 The author's attitude towards planting gardens is all EXCEPT \_\_\_\_\_.  
 A. joyful                      B. hopeful                      C. realistic                      D. ecstatic
- 4 In the passage, \_\_\_\_\_ is likened to planting a garden.  
 A. fulfilling ambition                      B. making a contribution  
 C. having faith                      D. offering a guarantee

## TEXT B

For one brief moment, after years of fear and loathing, America seemed ready to make peace with the SAT. When the University of California several years ago threatened to treat the test like a bad batch of cafeteria food and tell applicants not to buy it, the College Board junked the bewildering analogy questions

(Warthogs are to pigs as politicians are to what?), created a writing section (including producing an essay), added tougher math questions and more reading analysis—and had everybody talking about the new-and-improved SAT.

Then the first students to take SAT. The Sequel were seen stumbling out of the testing centers as if they had just run a marathon, and all the happy talks ended. With the three hours and 45 minutes stretching to five hours with breaks and instructions, it got worse. Nobody is sure how, but moisture in some SAT answer sheets caused pencil marks to bleed or fade, producing more than 5,000 tests with the wrong scores. Even after that was fixed, several universities reported a sharp drop in their applicants' average scores, which many attributed to exhaustion, and more colleges told applicants they would no longer have to take the SAT.

All of which stoked interest in the ACT, the SAT's less famous and less feared rival based in Iowa City, Iowa. The shorter test is now becoming a welcome alternative for many high schoolers who no longer see a need to endure the usual SAT trauma. "I think the ACT is a true player in the college-admissions game these days," says Robyn Lady, until recently a college counselor at Thomas Jefferson High School for Science and Technology. Although most Jefferson students still take the SAT, the number of ACTs there has tripled in the last two years. It's a shift that, if it continues, could change the balance of entrance-test power, since the Fairfax County, Va., magnet sends more kids to the Ivy League than almost any other U.S. school. The SAT, with a maximum 2,400 points, and the ACT, with a maximum 36 points, are scored differently, but otherwise are no more different from each other than American football differs from the Canadian version. Students usually do equally well on each. The SAT's new 25-minute essay is required, while the ACT's essay is optional. The SAT is three hours and 45 minutes long. The comparable ACT is three hours and 25 minutes. The SAT has three sections: critical reading, math and writing. The ACT has math, science, reading and English sections, plus optional writing. The ACT with the writing test costs \$ 43, more than the SAT's \$ 41.50, but the ACT is only \$ 29 without the writing section.

Several high-school guidance counselors say they assume the ACT, with 1.2 million test takers in the class of 2005 compared with 1.5 million for the SAT, will eventually catch up, in part because so many educators are advising their students to try both. Wendy Andreen, counselor at Memorial Senior High School in Houston—where the SAT has been supreme—says she tells students every year they should take both tests to be safe, and many are beginning to listen, with ACTs up



18 percent since 2002. Deb Shaver, director of admissions at Smith College, says counselors are steering students to the ACT “because there is less hysteria surrounding the ACTs, and students feel less stressed about taking the test.”

The mistakes made in the scoring of the October 2005 SAT by Pearson Educational Measurement, the College Board’s subcontractor, have not been forgotten, counselors say. The SAT suffered from damaging news stories as details of the errors came out bit by bit. In the end, 4,411 students had scores reported to colleges that were lower than they actually earned and had to be corrected; 17 percent of the corrections were for more than 40 points. College Board president Gaston Caperton apologized, saying the mishap “brings humility, and humility makes us more aware, empathetic and respectful of others.” But many counselors, who often complain about the New York City-based nonprofit’s influence over their students’ futures, say they have their doubts. “I think the College Board sees this as a purely technical problem that they can solve through purely technical means,” says Scott White, a counselor at Montclair (N. J.) High School. “I don’t think they appreciate the damage that was done to their already shaky credibility.”

- 5 The analogy of SAT to bad cafeteria food indicates that \_\_\_\_\_.  
 A. the SAT is undesirable                      B. the SAT should be replaced  
 C. the SAT’s keepers are blamed              D. the SAT’s critics are praised
- 6 “The happy talk” in the second paragraph probably refers to \_\_\_\_\_.  
 A. the suggestion that the SAT should be reformed  
 B. the idea that the SAT will be improved  
 C. the concept that the SAT will be substituted  
 D. the belief that the SAT has been improved
- 7 Which of the following statements is NOT true of the ACT?  
 A. Many students now prefer to take the ACT.  
 B. The ACT could hardly be the SAT’s adversary.  
 C. The ACT has taken the lead over the SAT.  
 D. Some people think highly of the ACT.
- 8 Many American educators now tend to \_\_\_\_\_.  
 A. sit on the fence in the dispute              B. be slightly critical of the SAT  
 C. be in favor of the ACT                      D. be strongly critical of the SAT
- 9 The mistake made in the scoring of the October 2005 SAT has led to \_\_\_\_\_.  
 A. more or less a crisis of trust

- B. the resignation of head of the Board
- C. an experience of humiliation
- D. the breakdown of computer systems

10 The best title for the passage might be “\_\_\_\_\_”.

- A. The Shaky Credibility
- B. Repeated Promises of Reform
- C. Can the SAT Be Made Better?
- D. Can the ACT Take Down the SAT?

## TEXT C

In large part as a consequence of the feminist movement, historians have focused a great deal of attention in recent years on determining more accurately the status of women in various periods. Although much has been accomplished for the modern period, pre-modern cultures have proved more difficult: sources are restricted in number, fragmentary, difficult to interpret, and often contradictory. Thus it is not particularly surprising that some earlier scholarship concerning such cultures has so far gone unchallenged. An example is Johann Bachofen's 1861 treatise on Amazons, women-ruled societies of questionable existence contemporary with ancient Greece.

Starting from the premise that mythology and legend preserve at least a nucleus of historical fact, Bachofen argued that women were dominant in many ancient societies. His work was based on a comprehensive survey of references in the ancient sources to Amazonian and other societies with matrilineal customs—societies in which descent and property rights are traced through the female line. Some support for his theory can be found in evidence such as that drawn from Herodotus, the Greek “historian” of the fifth century B. C., who speaks of an Amazonian society, the Sauromatae, where the women hunted and fought in wars. A woman in this society was not allowed to marry until she had killed a person in battle.

Nonetheless, this assumption that the first recorders of ancient myths have preserved facts is problematic. If one begins by examining why ancients refer to Amazons, it becomes clear that ancient Greek descriptions of such societies were meant not so much to represent observed historical fact—real Amazonian societies—but rather to offer “moral lessons” on the supposed outcome of women's rule in their own society. The Amazons were often characterized, for example, as the

equivalents of giants and centaurs, enemies to be slain by Greek heroes. Their customs were presented not as those of a respectable society, but as the very antitheses of ordinary Greek practices.

Thus, I would argue, the purpose of accounts of the Amazons for their Greek recorders was didactic; to teach both male and female Greeks that all-female groups, formed by withdrawal from traditional society, are destructive and dangerous. Myths about the Amazons were used as arguments for the male-dominated status quo, in which groups composed exclusively of either sex were not permitted to segregate themselves permanently from society. Bachofen was thus misled in his reliance on myths for information about the status of women. The sources that will probably tell contemporary historians most about women in the ancient world are such social documents as gravestone, wills, and marriage contracts. Studies of such documents have already begun to show how mistaken we are when we try to derive our picture of the ancient world exclusively from literary sources, especially myths.

- 11** The primary purpose of the passage is to \_\_\_\_\_.  
 A. compare competing new approaches to understanding the role of women in ancient societies  
 B. investigate the ramifications of Bachofen's theory about the dominance of women in ancient societies  
 C. explain the burgeoning interest among historians in determining the actual status of women in various societies  
 D. criticize the value of ancient myths in determining the status of women in ancient societies
- 12** All of the following are stated by the author as problems connected with the sources for knowledge of pre-modern cultures EXCEPT \_\_\_\_\_.  
 A. partial completeness  
 B. restricted accessibility  
 C. limited quantity  
 D. tendency toward contradiction
- 13** It can be inferred from the passage that the probable reactions of many males in ancient Greece to the idea of a society ruled by women could best be characterized as \_\_\_\_\_.  
 A. confused and dismayed  
 B. wary and hostile  
 C. curious but fearful  
 D. cynical and disinterested
- 14** The author suggests that the main reason for the persisting influence of Ba-



choven's work is that \_\_\_\_\_.

- A. feminists have shown little interest in ancient societies
- B. reliable information about the ancient world is difficult to acquire
- C. ancient societies show the best evidence of women in position of power
- D. historians have been primarily interested in the modern period

**15** The author's attitude toward Bachofen's treaties is best described as one of \_\_\_\_\_.

- A. qualified approval
- B. profound ambivalence
- C. pointed disagreement
- D. unmitigated hostility

## TEXT D

The idea of hunting down and shooting an animal for sport strikes many people as barbaric. That is doubly true of trophy hunting, where the goal is not food but a handsome head or set of antlers for the wall. Sad it may be, but the balance of evidence is that trophy hunting can help conserve threatened species and their habitats, so for people who care about the fate of wildlife, the real question is not whether to allow hunting, but how to manage it.

Done properly, trophy hunting can provide a source of jobs and income, and thus give local communities a reason to protect wildlife and habitats that might otherwise be sacrificed to rural villagers' need to put meat on the table. Countries that can attract jeep loads of camera-toting tourists can get along without trophy hunting; Kenya does not need it, for example. But it comes into its own in marginal habitats that lack lush diversity, such as the arid scrubland of Botswana, and in countries with the uncertain political climates of Zimbabwe and Pakistan.

Done wrongly, of course, trophy hunting provides none of these benefits, as foreign operators fly in, shoot, and fly out again with wallets full of cash, leaving little or no benefit to the local economy. Finding a balance between profit for the hunt operator and benefits to conservation is one of the biggest challenges facing the regulators of hunting.

Another challenge is emerging that needs to be kept under close attention: while there is little chance these days of species being driven towards extinction by legal trophy hunting, biologists are just becoming aware that hunters may harm their prey populations in more subtle ways. They may inadvertently be taking the most genetically fit animals. Clearly, nations that opt to allow trophy hunting have



# 试题精讲

## TEXT A

### 内容大意

本文主题是种植庭园。开篇提到今年佛蒙特州的春天非常干旱,雨蛙姗姗来迟。虽然有遭受霜冻的危险,但人们还是早早地就开始在庭园中种植作物。接下来表达了自己对在佛蒙特州生活的喜爱之情。指出人们种植的不仅仅是庭园,在种植庭园的同时也一并种下了希望;哪怕庭园没有好的收成,希望仍可以带来美好的明天。

### ◎ 试题分析

- 1** B) 细节题。在佛蒙特州雨蛙姗姗来迟的原因是什么? (Lines 2~4, Para. 1) **So dry in fact, that the Spring Peepers were late enough in coming that many thought that these amazing little frogs would fail to bless us with their song this year.** 天气如此干燥,以至于雨蛙都姗姗来迟,使得许多人认为这些神奇的小东西今年不会再用它们的歌声祝福我们了。(Lines 5~6, Para. 1) **They are a sign of spring, and of rebirth and renewal.** 雨蛙象征着春天,万象更新。故排除 A。倒数第二句 **In almost any seasonal wetland in the state these frogs can be heard.** 雨蛙几乎生活在每个季节性的湿地上。这也说明了雨蛙喜欢潮湿的环境,干旱是它们没有到来的原因, C 没有依据。第二句 **It has been a dry spring** 指出现在是佛蒙特州的春天,排除 D。
- 2** C) 推断题。(Lines 3~4, Para. 2) **Yes, it is almost July, yet in the evenings here, the thermometer can still sometimes dip into the low-thirties this time of year.** 是的,快到七月份了,然而在这个季节,到了晚上有时气温只有华氏 30 多度(相当于摄氏零度)。可以判断这里现在的气温比正常情况偏低。(Lines 2~3, Para. 2) **Folks have planted their gardens, even though there is still the threat of frost.** 尽管有霜冻的危险,人们还是在继续种植庭园。无法从文中得出 A: 选项 B(他太走运了,没有躲开一次大霜冻),逻辑矛盾,排除。古老的谚语“**If you don't like the weather, wait five minutes.**”作者肯定了该谚语的正确性,但没有表达后悔之意,排除 D。
- 3** D) 态度题。作者对种植庭园的态度不正确的是哪项? (Line 1, Para. 3) **I enjoy the juxtaposition of the vagaries of the climate and the steady rhythms of life here.** 我很享受这里气候的变化无常与生活节奏的稳定平和并存的情形。可见作者对在佛蒙特州种植庭园感到快乐, A 正确。(Lines 2~4, Para. 3) **Folks have been tending to the chores of spring for generations, knowing full well that they really can't depend upon the hand that nature will deal them.** 人们世代代习惯了春天劳作,很清楚地知道他们不能仅仅依赖自然赋予的运气。可见作者种植庭园的态度非常务实, C 正确。③ (Lines 4~5, Para. 4) **The rain has stopped and the sun is shining. Strong winds have blown the cloud cover away. It is a beautiful day. Vermont gardening.** 雨停了,艳阳高照。风吹散了积云,这是多么美好的一天。佛蒙特州的园艺。可见作者内心对种植庭园充满了希望, B 正确。选项 D 的 *ecstatic*(欣喜若狂的)属于过度推断,故为答案。



- 4 A)推断题。文章中,什么被比做种植庭院?(line 2~6, Para.5)The garden must be **nurtured and tended**. It must be **cared for** with love. 庭园需要料理和照看,需要关爱。It seems to me that this applies to our lives as well. Hopes and dreams and aspirations must be revisited often lest we lose sight of the things that are really important to us. Commitments must be tended to as carefully as any garden plot. 对我而言,这也适用于生活。我们必须经常审视一下自己的希望、梦想、抱负,以免忽略了那些对我们至关重要的东西。可见作者将实现人生理想的过程比做种植庭园。末段提到了 Commitments(承诺) must be tended to as carefully as any garden plot. 但没有提到“contribution”,排除 B。

## TEXT B

### 内容大意

本文探讨了 ACT 考试能否代替 SAT 考试的问题。篇首提到几年前人们对于 SAT 的质疑随着大学委员会对该考试进行的改革而逐渐平息,接着指出在第一批考生参加新的 SAT 考试后,发现变得更差,人们又重新开始关注 SAT。近几年,随着 ACT 考试的升温,很多老师建议学生为保险起见,两个考试都参加。通过对两者的比较发现,2005 年 SAT 考试出现的评分错误开始动摇人们对它的信任,认为改革并不成功。

- 5 A)推断题。(Lines 2~4, Para.1)When the University of California...threatened to treat the test like a bad batch of cafeteria food and tell applicants **not to buy it**. 加州大学威胁说要将 SAT 当做变了质的食物一样扔掉,让申请者们不要参加该考试。可见该考试受到置疑,不再受到欢迎,A 符合文意。
- 6 D)语义理解题。(Lines 1~2, Para.2) Then the first students to take SAT. The Sequel were seen **stumbling out of the testing centers**...and all the happy talks ended. 在第一批参加了新 SAT 考试的考生从考场出来后,……那些 happy talks 都停止了。而且 (Line 7, Para. 1) ...everybody talking about the **new-and-improved** SAT. 说明对 SAT 进行改革之后,所有的人都很乐观,认为 SAT 有了改进,D 符合文意。
- 7 细节题。关于 ACT 考试,下列哪个结论是错误的?(Line 1, Para.3) ...the SAT's less famous and less feared rival 提到 ACT 是 SAT 的对手,但没那么有名,不足为惧,B 符合文意。(Lines 3~4) I think the ACT is a **true player** in the college-admissions game these days. 指出 ACT 是此游戏中“真正的玩家”,受到肯定,D 符合文意。(Line 6) ...the number of ACTs there has tripled in the last two years 表明“人数翻了三倍”,A 符合文意。只有 C 未提及。
- 8 A)态度题。(Lines 1~3, Para.4) Several high-school guidance counselors say they assume the ACT...will eventually **catch up**. 指出 ACT 最终会“赶上”SAT,(Lines 5~6) ...she tells students every year they should **take both tests to be safe**. 要求“学生两个考试都参加”,可见这些人对 SAT 和 ACT 是不偏不倚的中立态度,故 A 为答案。
- 9 A)细节题。(Lines 3~4, Para.5) The SAT suffered from damaging news stories as details of the **errors came out** bit by bit. 提到由于评分错误,出现了大量关于 SAT 的负面新闻。(Lines 12~13) I **don't think** they appreciate the damage that was done to their already shaky credibility. 提到人们的质疑,可见该委员会的声誉已经受到了影响,A 符合文意。
- 10 D)主旨题。开篇提到几年前人们对 SAT 的质疑随着大学委员会对该考试进行的改革而逐渐平息。但是在第一批考生参加新 SAT 考试,发现其变得更糟之后,人们开始关注 ACT。近几年,ACT 升温趋势明显,很多老师建议学生参加两种考试,这样更保险。最后指出 2005 年 SAT 考试出现的计分错误开始动摇人们对大学委员会的信任。可见全文主旨是探讨 ACT 是否能够取代 SAT,D 为答案。本文只在最后提到 shaky credibility,A 不是主旨。文章没有着重介绍 SAT