



小马新托福备考系列



TOEFL iBT

新

阅读真题解析

托福

ETS 官方模考 TPO 真题解析



马骏 编著

- ➡ 真题实战及考点透析
- ➡ ETS官方文章分类阅读
- ➡ 题目详解+TPO中文译文

机械工业出版社

ETS 真题



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托福(TOEFL)阅读真题解析

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新 阅读真题解析 托福

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真题实战及考点透析



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前 言

本书与《小马机经》一样，继续坚持“ETS的材料是最佳备考材料”这一原则。《小马机经》为大家提供的是——新托福阅读文章学术内容准备；本书为大家提供的是——新托福阅读真题及题型、题目、全文的详细解析。

文章全部取自 ETS：

- (1) ETS 新托福官方指南 (OG)；
- (2) ETS 网上自测题；
- (3) ETS 网上在线练习 (TPO)

本书特点：

(1) 全部 37 篇文章按照话题分成四类：地理天文类 13 篇；人体生理心理类 4 篇；生物类 6 篇；历史人文类 14 篇。话题分类方便了读者按照话题选择文章，可以更深入的熟悉某类题材文章的特点，另配合使用《小马机经》效果更佳。

(2) 每篇文章由 4 部分构成：

第一部分：新托福阅读文章原文、题目及选项答案——供读者做题使用；

第二部分：题目详细解析——提供解题时所需对应的相关原句及题型、题目的详细解析；

第三部分：文章段落解析——提供文章中的每一段内容的总概述、难句分析及词汇总结；

第四部分：中文参考译文——便于读者全面理解文章；

(3) 所有文章均是 ETS 的真题，故推荐的使用流程是：

第一步：做题（用书里的部分材料做不限时的做题训练，剩下的部分做限时的做题训练）

第二步：结合每道题目的详解，分析每道题目。

第三步：开始精读，分析文章，可参考文章段落解析。

第四步：做英文转换成中文的翻译，力求自己独立完成，最后再参考文章的参考译文。

最后祝到家取得好成绩。

马 骏

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地理天文类

Passage 1 (from OG) DESERT FORMATION

The deserts, which already occupy approximately a fourth of the Earth's land surface, have in recent decades been increasing at an alarming pace. The expansion of desertlike conditions into areas where they did not previously exist is called desertification. It has been estimated that an additional one-fourth of the Earth's land surface is threatened by this process.

Desertification is accomplished primarily through the loss of stabilizing natural vegetation and the subsequent accelerated erosion of the soil by wind and water. In some cases the loose soil is blown completely away, leaving a stony surface. In other cases, the finer particles may be removed, while the sand-sized particles are accumulated to form mobile hills or ridges of sand.

Even in the areas that retain a soil cover, the reduction of vegetation typically results in the loss of the soil's ability to absorb substantial quantities of water. The impact of raindrops on the loose soil tends to transfer fine clay particles into the tiniest soil spaces, sealing them and producing a surface that allows very little water penetration. Water absorption is greatly reduced; consequently runoff is increased, resulting in accelerated erosion rates. The gradual drying of the soil caused by its diminished ability to absorb water results in the further loss of vegetation, so that a cycle of progressive surface deterioration is established.

In some regions, the increase in desert areas is occurring largely as the result of a trend toward drier climatic conditions. Continued gradual global warming has produced an increase in aridity for some areas over the past few thousand years. The process may be accelerated in subsequent decades if global warming

resulting from air pollution seriously increases.

There is little doubt, however, that desertification in most areas results primarily from human activities rather than natural processes. The semiarid lands bordering the deserts exist in a delicate ecological balance and are limited in their potential to adjust to increased environmental pressures. Expanding populations are subjecting the land to increasing pressures to provide them with food and fuel. In wet periods, the land may be able to respond to these stresses. During the dry periods that are common phenomena along the desert margins, though, the pressure on the land is often far in excess of its diminished capacity, and desertification results.

Four specific activities have been identified as major contributors to the desertification processes: overcultivation, overgrazing, firewood gathering, and overirrigation. The cultivation of crops has expanded into progressively drier regions as population densities have grown. These regions are especially likely to have periods of severe dryness, so that crop failures are common. Since the raising of most crops necessitates the prior removal of the natural vegetation, crop failures leave extensive tracts of land devoid of a plant cover and susceptible to wind and water erosion.

The raising of livestock is a major economic activity in semiarid lands, where grasses are generally the dominant type of natural vegetation. The consequences of an excessive number of livestock grazing in an area are the reduction of the vegetation cover and the trampling and pulverization of the soil. This is usually followed by the drying of the soil and accelerated erosion.

Firewood is the chief fuel used for cooking and heating in many countries. The increased pressures of expanding populations have led to the removal of woody plants so that many cities and towns are surrounded by large areas completely lacking in trees and shrubs. The increasing use of dried animal waste as a substitute fuel has also hurt the soil because this valuable soil conditioner and source of plant nutrients is no longer being returned to the land.

The final major human cause of desertification is soil salinization resulting from overirrigation. Excess water from irrigation sinks down into the water table. If no drainage system exists, the water table rises, bringing dissolved salts to the surface. The water evaporates and the salts are left behind, creating a white crustal layer that prevents air and water from reaching the underlying soil.

The extreme seriousness of desertification results from the vast areas of land and the tremendous numbers of people affected, as well as from the great difficulty of reversing or even slowing the process. Once the soil has been removed by erosion, only the passage of centuries or millennia will enable new soil to form. In areas where considerable soil still remains, though, a rigorously enforced program of land protection and cover-crop planting may make it possible to reverse the present deterioration of the surface.

Paragraph 1: The deserts, which already occupy approximately a fourth of the Earth's land surface, have in recent decades been increasing at an alarming pace. The expansion of desertlike conditions into areas where they did not previously exist is called desertification. It has been estimated that an additional one-fourth of the Earth's land surface is threatened by this process.

1. The word threatened in the passage is closest in meaning to

- A. Restricted.
- B. Endangered.
- C. Prevented.
- D. Rejected.

Paragraph 3: Even in the areas that retain a soil cover, the reduction of vegetation typically results in the loss of the soil's ability to absorb substantial quantities of water. The impact of raindrops on the loose soil tends to transfer fine clay particles into the tiniest soil spaces, sealing them and producing a surface that allows very little water penetration. Water

absorption is greatly reduced; consequently runoff is increased, resulting in accelerated erosion rates. The gradual drying of the soil caused by its diminished ability to absorb water results in the further loss of vegetation, so that a cycle of progressive surface deterioration is established.

2. According to paragraph 3, the loss of natural vegetation has which of the following consequences for soil?

- A. Increased stony content.
- B. Reduced water absorption.
- C. Increased numbers of spaces in the soil.
- D. Reduced water runoff.

Paragraph 5: There is little doubt, however, that desertification in most areas results primarily from human activities rather than natural processes. The semiarid lands bordering the deserts exist in a delicate ecological balance and are limited in their potential to adjust to increased environmental pressures. Expanding populations are subjecting the land to increasing pressures to provide them with food and fuel. In wet periods, the land may be able to respond to these stresses. During the dry periods that are common phenomena along the desert margins, though, the pressure on the land is often far in excess of its diminished capacity, and desertification results.

3. The word delicate in the passage is closest in meaning to

- A. Fragile.
- B. Predictable.
- C. Complex.
- D. Valuable.

4. According to paragraph 5, in dry periods, border areas have difficulty

- A. Adjusting to stresses created by settlement.
- B. Retaining their fertility after desertification.
- C. Providing water for irrigating crops.
- D. Attracting populations in search of food and fuel.

Paragraph 6: Four specific activities have been identified as major contributors to the desertification processes: overcultivation, overgrazing, firewood gathering, and overirrigation. The cultivation of crops has expanded into progressively drier regions as population densities have grown. These regions are

especially likely to have periods of severe dryness, so that crop failures are common. Since the raising of most crops necessitates the prior removal of the natural vegetation, crop failures leave extensive tracts of land devoid of a plant cover and susceptible to wind and water erosion.

5. The word progressively in the passage is closest in meaning to

- A. Openly.
- B. mpressively.
- C. Objectively.
- D. Increasingly.

6. According to paragraph 6, which of the following is often associated with raising crops?

- A. Lack of proper irrigation techniques.
- B. Failure to plant crops suited to the particular area.
- C. Removal of the original vegetation.
- D. Excessive use of dried animal waste.

7. The phrase devoid of in the passage is closest in meaning to

- A. Consisting of.
- B. Hidden by.
- C. Except for.
- D. Lacking in.

Paragraph 9: The final major human cause of desertification is soil salinization resulting from over irrigation. Excess water from irrigation sinks down into the water table. If no drainage system exists, the water table rises, bringing dissolved salts to the surface. The water evaporates and the salts are left behind, creating a white crustal layer that prevents air and water from reaching the underlying soil.

8. According to paragraph 9, the ground's absorption of excess water is a factor in desertification because it can

- A. Interfere with the irrigation of land.
- B. Limit the evaporation of water.
- C. Require more absorption of air by the soil.
- D. Bring salts to the surface.

9. All of the following are mentioned in the passage as contributing to desertification EXCEPT

- A. Soil erosion.

- B. Global warming.
- C. Insufficient irrigation.
- D. The raising of livestock.

Paragraph 10: The extreme seriousness of desertification results from the vast areas of land and the tremendous numbers of people affected, as well as from the great difficulty of reversing or even slowing the process. Once the soil has been removed by erosion, only the passage of centuries or millennia will enable new soil to form. In areas where considerable soil still remains, though, a rigorously enforced program of land protection and cover-crop planting may make it possible to reverse the present deterioration of the surface.

10. Which of the sentences below best expresses the essential information in the highlighted sentence in the passage?

Incorrect choices change the meaning in important ways or leave out essential information.

A. Desertification is a significant problem because it is so hard to reverse and affects large areas of land and great numbers of people.

B. Slowing down the process of desertification is difficult because of population growth that has spread over large areas of land.

C. The spread of deserts is considered a very serious problem that can be solved only if large numbers of people in various countries are involved in the effort.

D. Desertification is extremely hard to reverse unless the population is reduced in the vast areas affected.

11. It can be inferred from the passage that the author most likely believes which of the following about the future of desertification?

A. Governments will act quickly to control further desertification.

B. The factors influencing desertification occur in cycles and will change in the future.

C. Desertification will continue to increase.

D. Desertification will soon occur in all areas of the world.

Paragraph 7: (A) The raising of livestock is a major economic activity in semiarid lands, where grasses are generally the dominant type of natural vegetation. (B) The consequences of an excessive number of livestock grazing in an area are the reduction of the vegetation cover and the trampling and

pulverization of the soil. (C) This is usually followed by the drying of the soil and accelerated erosion. (D)

12. Look at the four squares [] that indicate where the following sentence can be added to the passage.

This economic reliance on livestock in certain regions makes large tracts of land susceptible to overgrazing.

Where would the sentence best fit?

13-14. Directions: An introductory sentence for a brief summary of the passage is provided below. Complete the summary by selecting the THREE answer choices that express the most important ideas in the passage. Some answer choices do not belong in the summary because they express ideas that are not presented in the passage or are minor ideas in the passage. This question is worth 2 points.

Many factors have contributed to the great increase in desertification in recent decades.



Answer Choices

1. Growing human populations and the agricultural demands that come with such growth have upset the ecological balance in some areas and led to the spread of deserts.

2. As periods of severe dryness have become more common, failures of a number of different crops have increased.

3. Excessive numbers of cattle and the need for firewood for fuel have reduced grasses and trees, leaving the land unprotected and vulnerable.

4. Extensive irrigation with poor drainage brings salt to the surface of the soil, a process that reduces water and air absorption.

5. Animal dung enriches the soil by providing nutrients for plant growth.

6. Grasses are generally the dominant type of natural vegetation in semiarid lands.

Key:

1. B
2. B
3. A

4. A
5. D
6. C
7. D
8. D
9. C
10. A
11. C
12. B
- 13-14. 1 3 4

◆ 题目详解

1. The word threatened in the passage is closest in meaning to (Vocabulary Question)

- A. Restricted.
- B. Endangered. (✓)
- C. Prevented.
- D. Rejected.

相关原句:

It has been estimated that an additional one-fourth of the Earth's land surface is threatened by this process. (Paragraph 1)

本题解析:

threatened 意为“受威胁的，处于危险中的”，与 endangered 意思相近，指地球上四分之一土地处于沙漠化的威胁中。因此选择 B。

2. According to paragraph 3, the loss of natural vegetation has which of the following consequences for soil? (Factual Information Question)

- A. Increased stony content.
- B. Reduced water absorption. (✓)
- C. Increased numbers of spaces in the soil.
- D. Reduced water runoff.

相关原句:

the reduction of vegetation typically results in the loss of the soil's ability to absorb substantial quantities of water. (Paragraph 3)

本题解析:

原句明确指出植被减少将导致土壤吸收水分能力下降 (the loss of the soil's ability to absorb substantial quantities of water)，即 B 选项 reduced water absorption。

3. The word delicate in the passage is closest in meaning to (Vocabulary Question)

- A. Fragile. (✓)
- B. Predictable.
- C. Complex.
- D. Valuable.

相关原句:

The semiarid lands bordering the deserts exist in a delicate ecological balance and are limited in their potential to adjust to increased environmental pressures. (Paragraph 5)

本题解析:

delicate 意为“精致的, 脆弱的”, 与 fragile 同意, 指半干旱地区土地处于很脆弱的生态平衡中, 适应环境压力的能力有限。因此选择 A。

4. According to paragraph 5, in dry periods, border areas have difficulty (Factual Information Question)

- A. Adjusting to stresses created by settlement. (✓)
- B. Retaining their fertility after desertification.
- C. Providing water for irrigating crops.
- D. Attracting populations in search of food and fuel.

相关原句:

The semiarid lands bordering the deserts exist in a delicate ecological balance and are limited in their potential to adjust to increased environmental pressures. (paragraph 5)

本题解析:

本句指出沙漠周边地区 (border areas) 适应环境压力的能力有限 (are limited to increased environmental pressures)。注意, 本段的环境压力来源于人口激增 (population expanding), 正与 A 选项中 settlement (定居) 吻合。因此选择 A。

5. The word progressively in the passage is closest in meaning to (Vocabulary Question)

- A. Openly.
- B. impressively.
- C. Objectively.
- D. Increasingly. (✓)

相关原句:

The cultivation of crops has expanded into

progressively drier regions as population densities have grown. (Paragraph 6)

本题解析:

progressively 意为“逐渐地, 渐进地”, progressively drier regions 意为“逐渐干燥的地区”, 与 increasingly (愈发地) 吻合。因此选择 D。

6. According to paragraph 6, which of the following is often associated with raising crops? (Factual Information Question)

- A. Lack of proper irrigation techniques.
- B. Failure to plant crops suited to the particular area.
- C. Removal of the original vegetation. (✓)
- D. Excessive use of dried animal waste.

相关原句:

Since the raising of most crops necessitates the prior removal of the natural vegetation. (Paragraph 6)

本题解析:

necessitate 意为“使……必须”, 即作物种植 (raising crops) 必须先除掉原有植被 (the prior removal of the natural vegetation), 因此选择 C。

7. The phrase devoid of in the passage is closest in meaning to (Vocabulary Question)

- A. Consisting of.
- B. Hidden by.
- C. Except for.
- D. Lacking in. (✓)

相关原句:

Since the raising of most crops necessitates the prior removal of the natural vegetation, crop failures leave extensive tracts of land devoid of a plant cover and susceptible to wind and water erosion. (Paragraph 6)

本题解析:

devoid of 意为“缺乏……”, 与 lacking in 同义。本题答案也可从前句推出: 前句指出作物种植必须先除掉原有植被, 因此可推出作物种植失败将会遗留下大片失去植被的土地, 因此选择 D。

8. According to paragraph 9, the ground's absorption of excess water is a factor in desertification because it can (Factual Information Question)

- A. Interfere with the irrigation of land.
- B. Limit the evaporation of water.

- C. Require more absorption of air by the soil.
- D. Bring salts to the surface. (✓)

相关原句:

Excess water from irrigation sinks down into the water table. If no drainage system exists, the water table rises, bringing dissolved salts to the surface. (Paragraph 9)

本题解析:

相关句指出过量灌溉带来的水 (excess water from irrigation) 渗入地下, 如没有排水道, 则地下水位上升, 将溶解的盐带到土壤表层 (bringing dissolved salts to the surface)。因此选择 D。

9. All of the following are mentioned in the passage as contributing to desertification EXCEPT (Negative Factual Information Question)

- A. Soil erosion.
- B. Global warming.
- C. Insufficient irrigation. (✓)
- D. The raising of livestock.

相关原句:

The final major human cause of desertification is soil salinization resulting from over irrigation. (Paragraph 9)

本题解析:

段落首句指出过度灌溉 (over irrigation) 会导致沙漠化, 逻辑取非可得出灌溉不足 (insufficient irrigation) 不是沙化的原因。文章 2、4、7 段分别说明土壤腐蚀 (A. Soil erosion)、全球变暖 (B. Global warming)、过度放牧 (D. the raising of livestock) 导致了沙漠化, 排除方法亦可得出答案 C。

10. Which of the sentences below best expresses the essential information in the highlighted sentence in the passage? (Sentence Simplification Question)

- A. Desertification is a significant problem because it is so hard to reverse and affects large areas of land and great numbers of people. (✓)
- B. Slowing down the process of desertification is difficult because of population growth that has spread over large areas of land.
- C. The spread of deserts is considered a very serious problem that can be solved only if large numbers of people in various countries are involved in the effort.

D. Desertification is extremely hard to reverse unless the population is reduced in the vast areas affected.

相关原句:

The extreme seriousness of desertification results from the vast areas of land and the tremendous numbers of people affected, as well as from the great difficulty of reversing or even slowing the process. (Paragraph 10, highlighted sentence)

本题解析:

本句指出沙漠化的严重性主要是由于 (result from): 1) 波及地区和人口广泛 (the vast areas of land and the tremendous numbers of people affected); 2) 难以逆转的状态 (the great difficulty of reversing or even slowing the process)。因此选择 A。

需注意该句两个“from”表明了两个并列的原因。

11. It can be inferred from the passage that the author most likely believes which of the following about the future of desertification? (Inference Question)

- A. Governments will act quickly to control further desertification.
- B. The factors influencing desertification occur in cycles and will change in the future.
- C. Desertification will continue to increase. (✓)
- D. Desertification will soon occur in all areas of the world.

相关原句:

The deserts, which already occupy approximately a fourth of the Earth's land surface, have in recent decades been increasing at an alarming pace. It has been estimated that an additional one-fourth of the Earth's land surface is threatened by this process.

Once the soil has been removed by erosion, only the passage of centuries or millennia will enable new soil to form. In areas where considerable soil still remains, though, a rigorously enforced program of land protection and cover-crop planting may make it possible to reverse the present deterioration of the surface.

本题解析:

本题较难, 需联系首尾两段。文章开篇便指出沙漠已经 (already) 覆盖地球四分之一的面积, 并且近年来沙漠化以惊人的速度扩张 (at an alarming

pace), 使得又一四分之一的土地 (an additional one-fourth of the Earth's land surface) 面临威胁。文章结尾时总结到: 土壤一旦被腐蚀, 只有数百甚至上千年后 (only the passage of centuries or millennia) 才能新生; though 理解为“虽然”, 作者意图说明虽然在那些土壤尚存的地方通过保护可能 (may make it possible to reverse) 可以制止恶化, 但其实这句话还有言外之意, 即那些已经腐蚀严重的地区前景就很不乐观了。综上, 作者对沙漠化前景持悲观态度, 认为沙化会继续扩张。因此选择 C。

12. Look at the four squares [] that indicate where the following sentence can be added to the passage. (Insert Text Question)

This economic reliance on livestock in certain regions makes large tracts of land susceptible to overgrazing.

Where would the sentence best fit?

[A] The raising of livestock is a major economic activity in semiarid lands, where grasses are generally the dominant type of natural vegetation. This economic reliance on livestock in certain regions makes large tracts of land susceptible to overgrazing. [B] (✓) The consequences of an excessive number of livestock grazing in an area are the reduction of the vegetation cover and the trampling and pulverization of the soil. [C] This is usually followed by the drying of the soil and accelerated erosion. [D] (Paragraph 7)

本题解析:

插入句中“economic reliance”对应上句“economic activity, certain regions”对应上句“semiarid lands”, “overgrazing”对应下句“The consequences of an excessive number of livestock grazing”。因此插入句应放在第一句与第三句之间, 选择 B。

13-14. Directions: An introductory sentence for a brief summary of the passage is provided below. Complete the summary by selecting the THREE answer choices that express the most important ideas in the passage. Some answer choices do not belong in the summary because they express ideas that are not presented in the passage or are minor ideas in the passage. This question is worth 2 points. (Prose Summary Question)

Many factors have contributed to the great increase in desertification in recent decades.



Answer Choices

1. Growing human populations and the agricultural demands that come with such growth have upset the ecological balance in some areas and led to the spread of deserts. (✓)

2. As periods of severe dryness have become more common, failures of a number of different crops have increased.

3. Excessive numbers of cattle and the need for firewood for fuel have reduced grasses and trees, leaving the land unprotected and vulnerable. (✓)

4. Extensive irrigation with poor drainage brings salt to the surface of the soil, a process that reduces water and air absorption. (✓)

5. Animal dung enriches the soil by providing nutrients for plant growth.

6. Grasses are generally the dominant type of natural vegetation in semiarid lands.

本题解析:

正确答案应陈述文章主要内容——导致土壤沙漠化近年来迅速扩张的原因。

1. 第五、六段指出人口激增和相应的食物需求导致了生态失衡, 从而促进沙化恶化。“Expanding populations are subjecting the land to increasing pressures to provide them with food and fuel.” 1 正确。

2. 迷惑选项。文章指出气候干旱是土壤沙化严重的原因之一, 但并未说明气候干旱化导致作物种植失败。2 错误。

3. 第七、八段指出过度放牧和燃料收集是沙化继续恶化的原因。

“The consequences of an excessive number of livestock grazing in an area are the reduction of the vegetation cover and the trampling and pulverization of the soil.”

“The increased pressures of expanding populations have led to the removal of woody plants so that many cities and towns are surrounded by large areas completely lacking in trees and shrubs.” 3 正确。

4. 第九段指出过度灌溉导致土壤盐化, 进而沙漠化。“Excess water from irrigation sinks down into the water table. If no drainage system exists, the water table rises, bringing dissolved salts to the surface. The

water evaporates and the salts are left behind, creating a white crustal layer that prevents air and water from reaching the underlying soil. ” 4 正确。

5. 可从文章中推出动物粪便对土壤有积极作用。“The increasing use of dried animal waste as a substitute fuel has also hurt the soil because this valuable soil conditioner and source of plant nutrients is no longer being returned to the land.”

但注意单纯地谈及动物粪便的作用并非导致沙化的原因，将动物粪便作为燃料从而使土壤缺乏养料来源才是正确原因。5 错误。

6. 细节信息，并非沙化原因。6 错误。
因此选择 1, 3, 4。

◆ 段落解析

● 段落 1:

段落概述:

本段概述了地球沙漠化的定义与其迅速扩张的现状。

难句分析:

1. The deserts, which already occupy approximately a fourth of the Earth's land surface, have in recent decades been increasing at an alarming pace.

短语: at an alarming pace: 以惊人速度……;

主干: the deserts have been increasing…;

释义: 已经占据地球四分之一表面的沙漠, 近年来正以惊人速度扩张。

2. The expansion of desertlike conditions into areas where they did not previously exist is called desertification.

短语: desertlike conditions: 类沙漠状况;

主干: the expansion of desertlike conditions is called desertification;

释义: 本句给出沙漠化定义, 即类沙漠状况向先前未出现类似情况的地区扩张的现象被称为沙漠化。

本段词汇:

occupy	v. 占据
approximately	adv. 大约
desertification	n. 沙漠化

● 段落 2:

段落概述:

本段讲述沙漠化的主要形成原因: 天然植被的丧失与接踵而来的由风蚀或水蚀作用导致的土壤腐蚀; 文章接着简单描述了沙漠化的两种形成情况。

难句分析:

1. Desertification is accomplished primarily through the loss of stabilizing natural vegetation and the subsequent accelerated erosion of the soil by wind and water.

短语: stabilizing natural vegetation: 固定的自然植被。

主干: desertification is accomplished through the loss of vegetation and the erosion of soil.

释义: 即沙漠化主要 A. 自然原因: A1. 天然植被的丧失以及接踵而来的由风蚀或水蚀作用导致的土壤腐蚀。

2. In some cases the loose soil is blown completely away, leaving a stony surface.

释义: 沙漠化形成情况之一: 疏松土壤被风完全吹走, 留下石化表面。

3. In other cases, the finer particles may be removed, while the sand-sized particles are accumulated to form mobile hills or ridges of sand.

短语: finer particles: 较细小的沙粒。

释义: 沙漠化形成情况之二: 细小土壤颗粒被除去, 而沙状大小的颗粒不断积累, 形成可移动小沙丘或沙岗。

本段词汇:

vegetation	n. 植被
subsequent	adj. 接着的
stony	adj. 石化的
particle	n. 颗粒
mobile	adj. 可移动的
ridge	n. 岗, 岭

● 段落 3:

段落概述:

本段紧接上段提出的植被原因, 详细描述了由于植被减少导致土壤蓄水能力下降, 从而加剧水土流失, 沙漠化表面逐渐形成的循环过程。

难句分析:

1. Even in the areas that retain a soil cover,

the reduction of vegetation typically results in the loss of the soil's ability to absorb substantial quantities of water.

短语: a soil cover; 表层土壤。

主干: the reduction of vegetation results in the loss of ability to absorb water.

释义: 即使是那些仍保留有表层土壤的区域, 植被减少也通常会导致土壤蓄水能力下降, 以致不能储蓄足够水量。

2. The impact of raindrops on the loose soil tends to transfer fine clay particles into the tiniest soil spaces, sealing them and producing a surface that allows very little water penetration.

短语: fine clay particles; 细小的泥土颗粒;

water penetration; 水分渗透;

transfer...into...; 将……移动到……。

主干: the impact of raindrops tends to…。

释义: 即雨水降落在疏松表土上, 将性状良好的泥土颗粒移动到细小的沙间空隙中, 进而将其封住, 形成一种几乎不能吸收水分的表面。

3. The gradual drying of the soil caused by its diminished ability to absorb water results in the further loss of vegetation, so that a cycle of progressive surface deterioration is established.

分句: “by its diminished ability to absorb water” 修饰 “the gradual drying of the soil”, 指出土壤干燥是由于蓄水能力下降导致的。

主干: the drying of the soil results in loss of vegetation, so that a cycle is established.

释义: 即蓄水能力下降产生的土壤干燥化将导致进一步的植被流失, 这样, 土壤表面的渐进性腐蚀循环过程便形成了。

本段词汇:

retain	v. 保留
substantial	adj. 充足的
clay	n. 黏土, 泥土
seal	v. 密封
runoff	n. 径流

●段落 4:

段落概述:

本段指出沙漠化加剧的另一自然原因: A2. 某些地区的气候变迁——趋于更加干燥和炎热。

难句分析:

1. In some regions, the increase in desert areas is occurring largely as the result of a trend toward drier climatic conditions.

短语: a trend toward drier climatic conditions; 气候趋于干燥。

释义: 即一些地区沙漠化加剧主要是由于当地气候趋于干燥。

2. Continued gradual global warming has produced an increase in aridity for some areas over the past few thousand years.

短语: an increase in aridity; 干旱的加剧。

主干: global warming has produced an increase in aridity.

释义: 即过去几千年来, 持续的全球变暖导致了一些地区干旱的加剧。

3. The process may be accelerated in subsequent decades if global warming resulting from air pollution seriously increases.

分句: if global warming resulting from air pollution seriously increase; 条件从句, 指出气候干旱趋势将会加剧的条件: 如果空气污染导致的全球变暖持续不断恶化的话 (if global warming seriously increase)。

主干: the process may be accelerated if global warming increases.

释义: 如果空气污染导致的全球变暖持续不断恶化的话, 气候干旱这一趋势将在近几十年内加速。

本段词汇:

aridity n. 干旱

●段落 5:

段落概述:

本段指出沙漠化加剧的最主要原因: B. 人类活动, 进而描述了 B1. 人口扩张导致土地产出压力过大, 从而在干旱年间难以为继, 沙化出现。

难句分析:

1. There is little doubt, however, that desertification in most areas results primarily from human activities rather than natural processes rather than natural processes.

主干: desertification results from human activities.

释义: 本段主旨句, 即大多数地区土壤沙化都是由于人类活动而非自然原因导致的。

2. The semiarid lands bordering the deserts exist in a delicate ecological balance and are limited in their potential to adjust to increased environmental pressures.

短语: a delicate ecological balance: 脆弱的生态平衡状态;

be limited in: 在……方面能力有限;

increased environmental pressures: 加剧的环境压力。

主干: the semiarid lands exist in...and are limited...

释义: 沙漠周边的半干旱土地处于脆弱的生态平衡状态中, 它们适应不断增加的环境压力的能力很有限。

3. Expanding populations are subjecting the land to increasing pressures to provide them with food and fuel.

短语: expanding populations: 人口增多。

subject to: 征服……使其……。

释义: 人为原因之一: 人口激增导致土地必须承受提供食物和燃料的压力。

4. During the dry periods that are common phenomena along the desert margins, though, the pressure on the land is often far in excess of its diminished capacity, and desertification results.

短语: desert margins: 沙漠周边地区;

far in excess of: 远远超过;

diminished capacity: 减弱的能力。

主干: during..., the pressure is far in excess...and desertification results.

释义: 在沙漠周边经常发生的干旱时期, 土地所承受的压力远远超过了它的脆弱能力, 这就导致了沙漠化。

本段词汇:

border	n. 邻接
margin	n. 边界

●段落 6:

段落概述:

本四段指出了另外四个导致沙化的人为原因: 过度种植, 过度放牧, 燃料收集, 过度灌溉, 并详细描述了 B2 过度种植的危害。

难句分析:

1. Since the raising of most crops necessitates

the prior removal of the natural vegetation, crop failures leave extensive tracts of land devoid of a plant cover and susceptible to wind and water erosion.

短语: crop failure: 作物歉收;

devoid of: 缺乏;

susceptible to: 易受……影响;

分句: “devoid of a plant cover and susceptible to wind and water erosion” 作为定语修饰 land。

主干: Since..., crop failures leave tracts of land...

释义: 由于作物种植必须要求除去原有植被, 这样作物种植失败便遗留下大片缺乏植被、易受风蚀水蚀的土地。

本段词汇:

overcultivation	n. 过度种植
overgrazing	n. 过度放牧
overirrigation	n. 过度灌溉
density	n. 密度
tract	n. 道, 片(土地)
susceptible	adj. 敏感的

●段落 7:

段落概述:

本段详细描述了 B3 过度放牧导致植被锐减、土壤粉碎进而沙漠化的过程。

难句分析:

1. The consequences of an excessive number of livestock grazing in an area are the reduction of the vegetation cover and the trampling and pulverization of the soil.

短语: an excessive number of: 过量的……;

trampling and pulverization of the soil: 土壤的踩踏和粉碎。

主干: the consequences are...and ...。

释义: 指出过度放牧的结果: 植被锐减, 土壤践踏和粉碎。

本段词汇:

livestock	n. 家畜
trampling	n. 践踏
pulverization	v. 粉碎

●段落 8:

段落概述:

本段描述了 B4 燃料采集导致的土壤植被破坏

和土壤质量下降。

难句分析:

1. **The increasing use of dried animal waste as a substitute fuel has also hurt the soil because this valuable soil conditioner and source of plant nutrients is no longer being returned to the land.**

短语: dried animal waste: 干燥的动物粪便;
soil conditioner: 土壤养分调节剂。

主干: the use of dried animal waste also hurt the soil because...

释义: 大量使用干燥动物粪便作为替代燃料同样对土壤造成损伤, 因为这样土壤的优化剂和植物养分来源就不能回归土地了。

本段词汇:

substitute *n. / v.* 替换物

● 段落 9

段落概述:

本段主要描述由于 B5 过度灌溉导致的土壤盐化, 进而发生的沙化现象。

难句分析:

1. **The water evaporates and the salts are left behind, creating a white crustal layer that prevents air and water from reaching the underlying soil.**

短语: a white crustal layer: 白色地壳表层。

分句: creating a white crustal layer that prevents air and water from reaching the underlying soil: 结果状语从句, 说明过度灌溉的后果。

释义: 水分蒸发后盐分被留下, 在土壤表层形成白色覆盖层, 它阻止空气和水分接触下层土壤。

本段词汇:

salinization *n.* 土壤盐化
drainage *n.* 排水道
water table *n.* 水位
crustal *n.* 地壳

● 段落 10:

段落概述:

本段总结了土壤沙漠化的严重后果, 指出土壤恢复的困难性, 提出了加强土壤保护和植被覆盖的建议。

难句分析:

1. **The extreme seriousness of desertification results from the vast areas of land and the tremendous numbers of people affected, as well as from the great difficulty of reversing or even slowing the process.**

主干: the seriousness of desertification results from..., as well as from...

释义: 土壤沙漠化之所以后果严重就是因为: 1) 它波及范围广, 影响人口数目大; 2) 它难以被制止。

2. **Once the soil has been removed by erosion, only the passage of centuries or millennia will enable new soil to form.**

短语: the passage of centuries or millennia: 数以百年甚至千年的过程;

释义: 一旦土壤被腐蚀, 需要数以百年甚至千年的过程来使新土壤形成。

3. **In areas where considerable soil still remains, though, a rigorously enforced program of land protection and cover-crop planting may make it possible to reverse the present deterioration of the surface.**

短语: cover-crop planting: 作物覆盖种植法。

主干: in areas where..., a program of... may make it possible to...

释义: 注意, 本句有言外之意, 需准确理解: 在那些土壤尚存的地区通过土地保护和覆盖作物种植可能能够减缓恶化 (但对于已经腐蚀严重的地区来说, 前景就不甚乐观了)。

本段词汇:

reverse *v.* 反转
millennia *n.* 千年
rigorously *adv.* 严格地
enforced *adj.* 被执行的

◆ 全文翻译

沙漠的形成

沙漠已经占据了地球表面约四分之一的土地, 近几十年仍在以惊人的速度扩张。沙漠化就是指沙状环境向非沙化区域蔓延的过程。据估计, 地球表