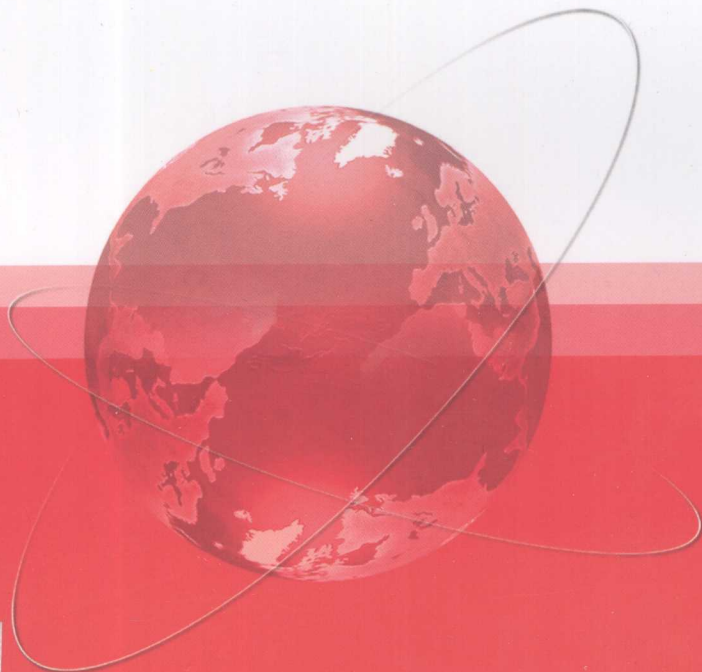




21世纪高职高专规划教材

(外语类)

英美概况



齐智英 主编

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配电子教案

21 世纪高职高专规划教材 (外语类)

英美概况

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机械工业出版社

本教材依据高等职业教育的培养目标,体现“实用为主,够用为度”的高职英语教学理念,并以比较的视角进行编写,便于学生学习和掌握。全书共分十单元,内容包括英国、美国的历史、地理、政治、经济、文化、教育和社会生活等方面的基本知识。

本教材可作为三年制、二年制高等职业技术学院、高等专科学校、成人教育学院等大专层次的英语专业教材,也可作为广大自学者及英语爱好者的自学用书。

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前 言

随着高职教育在我国的大力普及和推广，高职英语教学也越来越受到重视，高职英语教育的改革力度日益加大，并取得了很大成绩，特别是优秀的高职英语教材层出不穷。但我们在近几年的高职英语教学实践中发现，所选教材《英美概况》大多突出内容的系统性和完整性，往往会出现学时不够、教学难度大等问题。因此，我们结合当前高职英语的实际教学需要编写了这本教材。

本教材的特点是：①体现“实用为主，够用为度”的高职英语教学理念，适合高职高专英语专业（商务英语、旅游英语、应用英语）学生和具有同等英语水平的英语学习者使用。②力图符合高职高专学生的实际情况，内容选择最基本的、最实用的英美国家文化背景知识。③以比较的视角进行编写，使学生可以在学习过程中有比较地掌握知识。④英文表达浅显易懂，便于阅读。⑤试图体现学生自主学习的教学思想，每章课后有注释，方便学生自学。⑥每课课后都附有解释题、讨论题和填空题，有助于学生对知识的掌握。

本教材共有10个单元，每单元可用6个学时完成，也可以根据具体教学情况自行安排。

本教材由齐智英担任主编，王冕、罗芳担任副主编，教材的第1、2单元由齐智英编写；第3、4单元由李舒瑜编写；第5单元由陈慧丽编写；第6、9单元由王冕编写；第7、8单元由罗芳编写；第10单元由姚红编写。在编写过程中，我们曾得到高保杰先生、英国专家 Steven Luscombe 先生的热情帮助。他们为编写工作提出了许多宝贵的建议，并不辞辛苦通审了全书。

由于编写时间和水平有限，本书错误或疏漏之处在所难免，不妥之处，敬祈指导。

编 者

CONTENTS

前 言

Unit One Introduction	1
1.1 Names of the UK and the USA	1
1.2 Population of the UK and the USA	3
1.3 Language of the UK and the USA	11
1.4 Main Cities of the UK and the USA	13
Exercises	22
Unit Two Geography	24
2.1 Locations of the UK and the USA	24
2.2 Climate of the UK and the USA	25
2.3 Rivers and Mountains of the UK and the USA	27
Exercises	31
Unit Three Beginnings of the UK and the USA	33
3.1 Beginnings of the UK	33
3.2 Beginnings of the USA	36
Exercises	45
Unit Four British and American Economy	47
4.1 Features of the British and American Economy	47
4.2 British and American Industry	50
4.3 British and American Agriculture	53
4.4 British and American Trade and Finance	55
Exercises	59
Unit Five British and American Culture	61
5.1 British and American Literature	61
5.2 British and American Radio and Television	65

VI

5.3 Sports in Britain and America	68
5.4 British and American Scenic Spots	72
Exercises	81
Unit Six British and American Education	83
6.1 Present Education System of the UK and the USA	83
6.2 Elementary and Secondary Education of the UK and the USA	84
6.3 Higher Education of the UK and the USA	90
Exercises	97
Unit Seven British and American Social Life	99
7.1 British and American Characters and Customs	99
7.2 British and American Holidays and Festivals	106
7.3 British and American Religions	110
Exercises	115
Unit Eight British and American Political Systems	117
8.1 Political System of the UK and the USA	117
8.2 Legislative Body of the UK and the USA	120
8.3 Executive Body of the UK and the USA	125
8.4 Judicial Body of the UK and the USA	129
Exercises	135
Unit Nine British and American Foreign Relations	137
9.1 British Foreign Relations	137
9.2 American Foreign Relations	141
Exercises	148
Unit Ten Significant Events of the UK and the USA	150
10.1 Significant Events Before World War I	150
10.2 Significant Events in the Two World Wars	156
10.3 Significant Events in the Postwar	159
Exercises	170
Appendixes	172

Appendix 1	Counties of the UK	172
Appendix 2	Prime Ministers of the UK	175
Appendix 3	Presidents of the USA	178
References	180

Unit One

Introduction

1.1 Names of the UK and the USA

1.1.1 Names of the UK

The United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland is the official name of the political union between England, Scotland, Wales and Northern Ireland. When people refer to it, they often use different names such as Britain, Great Britain, England, the British Isles, the United Kingdom or the UK. Strictly speaking, Great Britain, England and the British Isles are all geographical names. The British Isles are made up of hundreds of islands, the largest two of which are Great Britain and Ireland. The island of Great Britain comprises England, Scotland and Wales.

Mediaeval Wales was rarely united but was under the rule of various native principalities. England and Scotland had existed as separate sovereign and independent states with their own monarchs and political structures since the 9th century. In 1282, King Edward I of England (1272–1307) finally conquered the last remaining native Welsh principalities. Two years later the Statute of Rhuddlan¹ formally established Edward's rule over Wales. To appease the Welsh, Edward's son (later Edward II), born in Wales, was made Prince of Wales on February 7, 1301. The tradition of bestowing the style "Prince(ess) of Wales" on the heir of the British Monarch continues to the present day.

The state began to take its present shape with the Acts of Union in 1707, which united the crowns and Parliaments of England (including Wales) and Scotland to create the Kingdom of Great Britain. A further Act of Union in 1800 joined the Kingdom of Great Britain and the Kingdom of Ireland to create the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Ireland. In 1922, the Irish Free State gained independence, leaving Northern Ireland as part of the United Kingdom. In 1927, Britain changed its formal title to "The United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland", usually shortened to "the United Kingdom", "the UK" or "Britain".

1.1.2 Names of the USA

The United States of America is a federal constitutional republic comprising fifty states² and the District of Columbia.

Christopher Columbus, an Italian, is believed to be the first European to land in the territory of the United States. On November 19, 1493, he arrived at Puerto Rico, and made first contact with the native Americans. Following his steps, Amerigo Vespucci, another Italian explorer, discovered the continent of South America. The newly-found continent was later named after him and become known as America. Since it was the first time for the Europeans to set foot on this land, they called it the New World, while Europe and the rest the Old World.

After the discovery, more Europeans sailed to the New World. Spaniards established the earliest European colonies on the mainland, in the area they named Florida. French fur traders established outposts of New France around the Great Lakes and eventually, France claimed much of the North American interior as far south as the Gulf of Mexico. The first successful British settlements were the Virginia Colony in Jamestown in 1607 and the Pilgrims' Plymouth Colony in 1620. And other English colonies sprang up all along the Atlantic coast, from Maine in the north to Georgia in the south. Beginning in 1614, the Dutch established settlements along the lower Hudson River, including New Amsterdam on Manhattan Island. The small settlement of New Sweden, founded along the Delaware River in 1638, was taken over by the Dutch in 1655.

As more and more people arrived in the New World, more and more disputes arose over territory. Many wars were fought in the 17th and 18th centuries. Soon, the two countries with the largest presence were England and France. They fought for control of North America in what Americans call the French and Indian War (1754 – 1763). At last, England won the war and got control of Canada, as well as keeping control of all the English colonies. By 1674, the British had won the former Dutch colonies in the Anglo-Dutch Wars; the province of New Netherland was renamed New York. With the 1729 division of the Carolinas³ and the 1732 colonization of Georgia, the thirteen British colonies that would become the United States of America were established, which were Massachusetts, New Hampshire, Connecticut, Rhode Island, New York, New Jersey, Pennsylvania, Maryland, Delaware, Virginia, North Carolina, South Carolina and Georgia.

These American colonists believed that they had a right to govern themselves.

More and more, they believed that they shouldn't have to pay so much in taxes to England. As more and more Americans voiced their concerns over higher and higher taxes, a conflict began to build. The result was the Revolutionary War, which ended in American victory. A new nation—the United States of America was born after the war.

The full name of the country was first used officially in the Declaration of Independence, which was the “unanimous Declaration of the thirteen united states of America” adopted by the “Representatives of the United States of America” on July 4, 1776. The current name was finalized on November 15, 1777, when the Second Continental Congress adopted the Articles of Confederation, the first of which states, “The Stile of this Confederacy shall be ‘The United States of America’”. Common abbreviations of the United States of America include the United States, the US, and the USA. Colloquial names for the country include America and the States. Columbia, a once popular name for the Americas and the United States, was derived from Christopher Columbus. It appears in the name District of Columbia.

1.2 Population of the UK and the USA

1.2.1 Population of the UK

At the 2001 UK Census, the United Kingdom's population was 58,789,194, the third largest in the European Union (behind Germany and France), the fifth largest in the Commonwealth and the twenty-first largest in the world. This had been estimated up to 60,587,300 by the Office for National Statistics in 2006. In the August of 2006, it was confirmed that the UK's population had reached 60 million, then rapidly increased to 60.2 million, largely from net immigration, but also because of a rising birth rate and increasing life expectancy.

The population of the UK is very unequally distributed over the four parts of the UK: England more or less constantly makes up 84% of the total population, Wales around 5%, Scotland roughly 8.5%, and Northern Ireland less than 3%.

The UK's overall population density is one of the highest in the world. England is by far the most densely populated part of the UK. In 2003, it had a higher population density of 383 people per square kilometer compared with Wales (142), Northern Ireland (125) and Scotland (65). The most densely populated areas of England are the major cities and metropolitan areas of London and the South East, South and

West Yorkshire, Greater Manchester and Merseyside, the West Midlands, and the conurbations on the rivers Tyne, Wear and Tees. London has the highest population density with 4,700 people per square kilometer—far higher than any of the English regions, while the South West has the lowest density (210 people per square kilometer).

The lands now constituting the United Kingdom have historically been subject to many invasions and migrations, especially from Scandinavia and the continent including Roman occupation for several centuries. Present day Britons are descended mainly from the varied ethnic stocks that settled there before the 11th century. The pre-Celtic⁴, Celtic, Roman, Anglo-Saxon, and Norse influences were blended in Great Britain under the rule of Normans, Scandinavian Vikings who had lived in northern France (Normandy). Since 1945, international ties forged by the British Empire have contributed to substantial immigration, especially from Africa and South Asia. And most recently, the accession of new EU members in 2004 has fuelled more immigration from continental Europe. As of 2001, 13.1% (5.2% white, 7.9% non-white) of the UK population identified themselves as an ethnic minority. According to the 2001 Census, the ethnic composition of the United Kingdom was:

Ethnic group	Population	% of total
White British	50,366,497	85.7%
White Irish	691,232	1.2%
White (other)	3,096,169	5.3%
Mixed race	677,117	1.2%
Indian	1,053,411	1.8%
Pakistani	747,285	1.3%
Bengali	283,063	0.5%
Other Asian (non-Chinese)	247,644	0.4%
Black Caribbean	565,876	1.0%
Black African	485,277	0.8%
Black (others)	97,585	0.2%
Chinese	247,403	0.4%
Other	230,615	0.4%

In contrast with some other European countries, high foreign-born immigration is contributing to a rising population of the UK, accounting for about half of the population increase between 1991 and 2001. The latest official figures of 2006 show net im-

migration to the UK of 191,000 (591,000 immigrants and 400,000 emigrants) up from 185,000 in 2005 (overall, there was a loss of 126,000 Britons and a gain of 316,000 foreign citizens). Only one in six were from Eastern European countries. They were outnumbered by immigrants from New Commonwealth countries. Immigration from the Indian subcontinent, mainly fuelled by family reunion, accounted for two-thirds of net immigration. By contrast, at least 5.5 million British-born people are living abroad. The most popular emigrant destinations were Australia, Spain, France, New Zealand and the USA.

1.2.2 Population of the USA

The US population trails only China and India, and ranks the third in the world in terms of population size. The Census Bureau of US counts its population every 10 years. When the first census was taken in 1790, the new nation had only 3.9 million inhabitants. According to the 2000 Census, the population of the USA was 281,421,906, of which an estimated 217 million (77.1%) were White; 36.4 million (12.9%) were Black or African American; Asians and Pacific Islanders numbered 12.7 million (4.5%); American Indian and Alaska Native population was about 4 million (1.5%); and 35.3 million (13%) were of Hispanic origin. On October 17, 2006, the US population estimated by the US Census Bureau was 300,000,000.

The United States has long been known as a country of immigrants. There are several waves of immigration over the course of United States history. The first wave began with the colonists of the 17th century and reached a peak just before the Revolutionary War in 1775. The second wave of immigrants occurred between 1820 and 1870. Almost 7.5 million newcomers entered the USA. The third wave, between 1881 and 1920, was the largest wave of immigration. Almost 23.5 million people poured into the USA. The most recent wave of immigration has taken place since the passing of the Immigration Act in 1965, which abolished quotas based on national origins and produced major changes in patterns of immigration.

America is a "melting pot", because so many people from all over the world make up its population. Strictly speaking, the only indigenous Americans are the American Indians who were living here long before the first waves of settlers came over from Europe. Today the trend is toward multiculturalism, not assimilation. The old "melting pot" metaphor is giving way to new metaphors such as "salad bowl" and "mosaic", i. e. mixtures of various ingredients that keep their individual characteristics. Immigrant populations within the United States are not being blended together in

one “pot”, but rather are transforming American society into a truly multicultural mosaic.

Native Americans

When Spain’s Christopher Columbus “discovered” the New World in 1492, about 1.5 million Native Americans lived in what is now the continental United States, although estimates of the number vary greatly. Mistaking the place where he landed for the India, Columbus called the Native Americans “Indians”.

During the next 200 years, people from several European countries followed Columbus across the Atlantic Ocean to explore America and set up trading posts and colonies. Native Americans suffered greatly from the influx of Europeans. The transfer of land from Indians to Europeans—and later Americans—was accomplished through treaties, wars, and coercion, with Indians constantly giving way as the newcomers moved west. In the 19th century, the government’s preferred solution to the Indian “problem” was to force tribes to inhabit specific plots of land called reservations. Some tribes fought to keep from giving up land they had traditionally used. In many cases the reservation land was of poor quality, and Indians came to depend on government assistance. Poverty and joblessness among Native Americans still exist today.

The territorial wars, along with Old World diseases to which Indians had no immunity, sent their population plummeting, to a low of 350,000 in 1920. Some tribes disappeared altogether; among them were the Mandans of North Dakota, who had helped Meriwether Lewis and William Clark in exploring America’s unsettled northwestern wilderness in 1804–1806. Other tribes lost their languages and most of their culture. Nevertheless, Native Americans have proved to be resilient. Today they number 2.78 million (1% of the total US population), and only about one-third of Native Americans still live on reservations.

African Americans

Among the flood of immigrants to North America, one group came unwillingly. These were Africans, 500,000 of them were brought over as slaves between 1619 and 1808, when the importing of slaves into the United States became illegal. The practice of owning slaves and their descendants continued, however, particularly in the agrarian South, where many laborers were needed to work the fields.

The process of ending slavery began in the April of 1861 with the outbreak of the American Civil War between the free states of the North and the slave states of the South, 11 of which had left the Union. On January 1, 1863, midway through the war, President Abraham Lincoln issued the Emancipation Proclamation, which abol-

ished slavery in those states that had seceded. Slavery was abolished throughout the United States with the passage of the Thirteenth Amendment to the country's Constitution in 1865.

Even after the end of slavery, however, American blacks were hampered by segregation and inferior education. In search of opportunity, African Americans formed an internal wave of immigration, moving from the rural South to the urban North. But many urban blacks were unable to find work; by law and custom they had to live apart from whites, in run-down neighborhoods called ghettos.

In the late 50's and early 60's of the 20th century, African Americans, led by Dr. Martin Luther King, used boycotts, marches, and other forms of nonviolent protest to demand equal treatment under the law and an end to racial prejudice.

A high point of this civil rights movement came on August 28, 1963, when more than 200,000 people of all races gathered in front of the Lincoln Memorial in Washington, D. C. , to hear Dr. King say: "I have a dream that one day on the red hills of Georgia the sons of former slaves and the sons of former slave-holders will be able to sit down together at the table of brotherhood. . . I have a dream that my four little children will one day live in a nation where they will not be judged by the color of their skin, but by the content of their character." Not long afterwards the US Congress passed laws prohibiting discrimination in voting, education, employment, housing, and public accommodations.

Today, African Americans constitute about 13.4% of the total US population. In recent decades blacks have made great strides, and the black middle class has grown substantially. In 2002, 50.8% of employed blacks held "white-collar" jobs— managerial, professional, and administrative positions rather than service jobs or those requiring manual labor. In 2003, 58.3% of all black high school graduates enrolled in college within one year. For whites, the college participation rate in 2003 was 66.1%. The average income of blacks is still lower than that of whites, however, and unemployment of blacks — particularly of young men — remains higher than that of whites. And many black Americans are still trapped by poverty in urban neighborhoods plagued by drug use and crime.

Asian Americans

Prior to 1924, US laws specifically excluded Asian immigrants. People in the American West feared that the Chinese and other Asians would take away jobs, and racial prejudice against people with Asian features was widespread. The law that kept out Chinese immigrants was repealed in 1943, and legislation passed in 1952 allows

people of all races to become US citizens. The 2000 US Census recorded 11.9 million people who reported themselves as having either full or partial Asian heritage, were 4.2% of the US population. The largest ethnic subgroups are Chinese (2.7M), Filipinos (2.4 M), Asian Indians (1.9M), Vietnamese (1.5M), Koreans (1.2M), and Japanese (1.1M). The Asian American population is heavily urbanized, with nearly three-quarters of Asian Americans living in metropolitan areas with population greater than 2.5 million. Asian Americans are concentrated in the largest US cities, with 40% of all Asian Americans living in the metropolitan areas around Los Angeles, San Francisco, and New York City. Half of all Asian Americans (5.4M) live in Hawaii or the West Coast, mostly in California (4.2M). Census data shows that Asian American populations are developing in major metropolitan areas away from the West Coast with visible communities in areas such as Baltimore-Washington Metropolitan Area and Greater Houston, to name the largest examples.

Most Asian Americans are doing well in the United States. According to the 2005 Current Population Survey Annual Social and Economic Supplement, Asian American households had the highest median income at \$57,518.

The Chinese American community is the largest ethnic group of Asian Americans, comprising of 22.4% of the Asian American population. They constitute 1.2% of the United States as a whole. In 2006, the population of Chinese Americans numbered approximately 3.6 million.

The first Chinese immigrants arrived in 1820 according to US government records. Fewer than 1,000 arrived before the 1848 California Gold Rush, which drew the first significant number of laborers from China who performed menial work for the gold prospectors. There were 25,000 immigrants by 1852 and 105,465 by 1880, and most of them lived on the West Coast. The early Chinese immigrants had done great contributions to the development of the US such as building Western half of the trans-continental railroad, building levees in the Sacramento River Delta, developing and cultivating much of the Western US farmland.

In 1882, the Congress passed the Chinese Exclusion Act which stopped Chinese immigration for 10 years. In 1902, Chinese immigration was stopped for an indefinite period. It was not canceled until 1943 during the Second World War, when China became an ally to the United States.

Many Chinese Americans are doing fine today. A 2001 survey of Americans' attitudes toward Asian Americans and Chinese Americans found several positive perceptions of Chinese Americans: strong family values (91%); honesty as business people

(77%); high value on education (67%). The under-mentioned are some of the notable Chinese Americans who have made significant contributions to the American society politically, artistically or scientifically:

Anna Chen Chennault (陈香梅)—journalist, notable in American public life; also, wife of Claire Chennault who is a general of the US Air Force, Flying Tigers Group

An Wang (王安)—computer engineer and inventor; co-founder of Wang Laboratories

Bruce Lee (李小龙)—martial artist, kung fu actor

Charles Wang (王嘉廉)—founder, CEO and chairman of Computer Associates

Chen Ning Yang (杨振宁)—1957 Nobel Prize laureate in Physics

Chien-Shiung Wu (吴健雄)—female scientist

Daniel Chee Tsui (崔琦)—1998 Nobel Prize laureate in Physics

Dr. David Ho (何大一)—AIDS researcher

David S. C. Chu (朱思九)—the former Undersecretary of Defense for Readiness

Elaine Lan Chao (赵小兰)—the US Secretary of Labor in the Cabinet of President George W. Bush

Feng-hsiung Hsu (许峰雄)—IBM developer of Deep Blue Robot, which beat World Chess Champion Garry Kasparov in 1997

Flossie Wong-Staal(黄以静)—virologist and AIDS researcher

Gary Locke (politician) (骆家辉)—former Democratic Governor of Washington, Commerce Secretary

Henry C. Lee(李昌钰)—forensic scientist

Henry Yang (杨祖佑)—chancellor, UC Santa Barbara

James Wong Howe (黄宗霑)—nominated for ten academy awards for cinematography, winning twice (1955, 1963)

John Liu Fugh(傅履仁)—the first Chinese American officer to be promoted to the rank of General in the US Army, and the Army's first Chinese American Judge Advocate General

Kim Ng (伍佩琴)—baseball executive

Lucy Liu(刘玉玲)—film/television actress (Charlie's Angels, Kill Bill)

Matthew K. Fong(邝杰灵)—former Republican State Treasurer of California

Maya Lin (林璠)—architect (Vietnam Veterans Memorial)

Michelle Kwan (关颖珊)—female figure skater