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# 大学英语快速阅读教程(上)

## 3. 快速阅读的必要性

据专家调查统计分析,人们获取信息的感官有五个(视觉、听觉、嗅觉、触觉和味觉)。其信息来源比例分别为:83%来自于视觉,11%来自于听觉,3.5%来自于嗅觉,1.5%来自于触觉,1%来自于味觉。在信息高度发展的时代,阅读仍是人们获取信息的主要方法。

随着科学技术日新月异的发展和我国对外交流的日趋频繁,浩如烟海的情报资料急待阅读或翻译介绍。新的形势对各类专业人员提出了更高的要求,要求他们以最快的速度,阅读尽可能多的英文书刊,这就要求人们必须具备快速阅读的能力。一个大学生如果掌握不了英语快速阅读的技能,势必无法获得大量的信息,对其学习、科研以及娱乐都会造成障碍。自己无法快速获得最新信息,就会落伍,甚至被时代所抛弃。此外,由于快速阅读可在短时记忆(short-term memory)内更快地储存更多的信息,这样可避免阅读过程中“只见树木不见森林”的现象,使读者很快地掌握文章的语篇结构,看到文章的全貌,从而加速对文章的理解。对于把英语作为一门外语来学习的中国大学生来说,快速阅读还能帮助他们增加阅读量并在大量阅读的过程中扩大词汇量和增强语感,使他们的综合语言能力得到进一步的提高。

近二十年,快速阅读在美国、西欧日趋盛行,大、中、小学都增设了快速阅读课,社会上也普遍开设了各种快速阅读训练班,以适应社会经济发展的需要。相比之下,我国教育界的快速阅读教学还仅仅是开始,还没有受到应有的重视。

我国大学英语决策部门逐渐认识到快速阅读在英语学习和工作中的重要地位,并采取了一些措施提高大学生的快速阅读能力。全国大学英语四、六级考试改革项目组和全国大学英语四、六级考试委员会对具有较大影响力的全国大学英语四级考试题型进行了全面改革,特别突出的一点是增加了快速阅读的内容。从此以后,英语快速阅读不再是可有可无的一项语言技能,各院校必将投入更大的人力、物力,以提高学生的快速阅读能力。

## 4. 快速阅读的方法

### 1) 略读(Skimming)

略读即简略地阅读,是一种选择性阅读法,指以一目十行的速度扫视全文,了解作者所阐明的的问题,初步摸清文章的脉络,掌握全文的中心思想和主要细节。略读时,注意力应该放在与全文主题有关,能提供主体信息的关键词、短语和句子上。文章的正副标题、段落划分、斜体字、大写字母、破折号等等都有利于了解文章的组织结构和全文的主题。另外,也应该仔细阅读文章的首段和尾段以及各段的段首句和段尾句。略读有两个特点:一是有意地忽

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**For questions 1–8, mark**

Y (for YES) if the statement agrees with the information given in the passage;

N (for NO) if the statement contradicts the information given in the passage;

NG (for NOT GIVEN) if the information is not given in the passage.

- \_\_\_\_\_ 1. According to the author, binational marriages are not as stable as the more conventional sort.
- \_\_\_\_\_ 2. My love for my wife is as romantic as it was back when we were first getting to know each other.
- \_\_\_\_\_ 3. A happy marriage depends on romantic love.
- \_\_\_\_\_ 4. It is the sense of responsibility that constitutes the strength of a marital bond.
- \_\_\_\_\_ 5. In America each couple more often handles his or her own money, so do we.
- \_\_\_\_\_ 6. Even if the couple has the same nationality, communication between husband and wife does require a good match of educational backgrounds.
- \_\_\_\_\_ 7. My son could speak both English and Malay.
- \_\_\_\_\_ 8. With the development of the world economy, the number of binational marriages will rise undoubtedly.

**For questions 9–15, complete the sentences with the information given in the passage.**

- \_\_\_\_\_ 9. No statistics could show that binational marriages have a higher propensity to \_\_\_\_\_ than the more conventional sort.
- \_\_\_\_\_ 10. I don't eat pork at home as well as in public among my friends, because I can't bear \_\_\_\_\_ behavior.
- \_\_\_\_\_ 11. If you marry a person of a different nationality, sometimes you have to make certain \_\_\_\_\_.
- \_\_\_\_\_ 12. In our marriage, I have learned patience and \_\_\_\_\_ from my wife and she has learned independence from me.
- \_\_\_\_\_ 13. If the spouse has a good match of educational backgrounds, \_\_\_\_\_ can be settled easily.
- \_\_\_\_\_ 14. My wife has graduated from a university in the US, so she would understand me when I mentioned about the Internet, \_\_\_\_\_, etc.
- \_\_\_\_\_ 15. National \_\_\_\_\_ are not obstacles of true love.

## Text C

## *Don't Be Chicken about Speaking-English*

As we were visiting in our home with a Chinese friend, my wife, Faye, was hurrying from the table to the kitchen and back again, bringing us food and refreshments, I remarked that she was acting like a “mother hen” taking care of our needs. As a mother hen gathers her young chicks close to her and even under her wings to protect them from danger, so a mother seeing to every need of her children and husband might sometimes be referred to as a “mother hen.”

Our Chinese friend was amused and possibly a little shocked by my use of “mother hen”. She said that in China this expression would not be complimentary. We told her that in American English it is complimentary, though perhaps somewhat humorous.

This led me to think of another animal term, this one applied to a pretty girl. She might be referred to as a cute “chick”. In this usage, “chick” is complimentary, because it would be used only to refer to someone the speaker thought of as good looking. We were surprised to learn from a Chinese friend that in Chinese chick is a bad term meaning a prostitute (妓女).

Perhaps you are puzzling over the “chicken” in the title of this article. Let us explain. To be “chicken” is to be fearful. That’s why we say, “Don’t be chicken about speaking English.” The only way you will learn to speak English well is to speak it. Of course you will make mistakes, but what you are trying to say will usually be understood, although you may have to repeat it to a native English speaker until he or she understands. So “don’t be chicken”—SPEAK!

There are other chicken expressions used in American English. Another common one is “running around like a chicken with its head cut off.” This usually describes someone who is overly busy, someone who seems to be running from one thing to another without stopping or accomplishing very much.

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- \_\_\_\_\_ 10. Few Chinese students participate in campus-wide \_\_\_\_\_ activities to make contact with a diverse lot of American people.
- \_\_\_\_\_ 11. Chinese students would widely \_\_\_\_\_ the phenomenon that they could not get to know the country from its inside.
- \_\_\_\_\_ 12. Chinese students are poor, so they have to depend on the \_\_\_\_\_ fund.
- \_\_\_\_\_ 13. According to the author, Chinese students could afford to take part in most \_\_\_\_\_ social events.
- \_\_\_\_\_ 14. The ultimate role for any Chinese student in the United States is to \_\_\_\_\_ the cultural differences between these two countries.
- \_\_\_\_\_ 15. A Chinese student's knowledge is \_\_\_\_\_ to China's continued economic construction.

# Unit 6

**Directions:** *In this unit, you will have 15 minutes to go over each passage quickly, and then do the exercises after each passage.*

## Text A

### ***Clothes Make the Man***

“Clothes make the man”, runs the old proverb. If you believe that, you might feel that clothing enhances appearance, increases independence, allows for function, and provides comfort. What’s more, clothing that is neat and clean, fits well, and feels good can boost anyone’s morale.

People express their personality in many ways, including through their clothing, hair style, and accessories. That’s why clothes often define the person. Clothes can indicate personality, status, and attitude to life. A man may have worn a beard all his life, a woman may have worn makeup, If their ability to choose their appearance is taken away, then an opportunity for independence or individuality vanishes. Keeping some familiar clothes and personal articles helps them retain some sense of self-control over what is happening. Research shows that when a woman dresses for success, it does not guarantee success, but if she dresses poorly or inappropriately, it almost always ensures failure.

Our clothes are very much part of our personality. Clothing protects people from humidity, heat, and cold, and helps them feel physically comfortable. Clothing at the same time gives the wearer a sense of well-being. It tells something about the person. Clothing also affects the way others see, think of, and react to the person. A person can be comfortable or uncomfortable wearing a certain garment or type of clothing in a social situation. Social comfort may be involved when a person wishes to “make an impression” through the clothing he or she wears. So, clothes should be carefully chosen so as not to reveal what is within.

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aroused educators' attention yet.

- \_\_\_\_\_ 2. A well-rounded study based on 22,000 questionnaires sent to former graduate students who were enrolled in 24 universities seemed to support educators' viewpoint.
- \_\_\_\_\_ 3. Though dropping out of their education at the Ph.D. level, most dropouts are now engaged in work which conformed to their academic field.
- \_\_\_\_\_ 4. The dropouts, according to the report, often earn much less compared to those who went on to finish their doctorates.
- \_\_\_\_\_ 5. It was thought that dropouts at the Ph.D. level wasted the university resources and precious faculty time.
- \_\_\_\_\_ 6. Some dropouts didn't complete their Ph.D.s because they could not afford it.
- \_\_\_\_\_ 7. Nearly 25 percent of the dropouts didn't complete their Ph.D.s out of their academic reasons.
- \_\_\_\_\_ 8. According to the passage, it is still difficult to have dropouts back to school.

**For questions 9–16, complete the sentences with the information given in the passage.**

- \_\_\_\_\_ 9. Educators greatly worried about the high rate of dropouts among the doctor of philosophy \_\_\_\_\_.
- \_\_\_\_\_ 10. The extent of the loss of talent in Ph.D. level was greatly out of expert \_\_\_\_\_.
- \_\_\_\_\_ 11. The dropouts rate, according to the questionnaire research, was found to be \_\_\_\_\_ percent.
- \_\_\_\_\_ 12. Nearly 75 per cent of the dropouts claimed their non-completion of Ph.D.s not for the \_\_\_\_\_ reason.
- \_\_\_\_\_ 13. Based on the research, the dropouts are almost at the same \_\_\_\_\_ levels with those who completed their doctorates.
- \_\_\_\_\_ 14. Lack of \_\_\_\_\_ was marked by 19 per cent among the most important personal reasons for dropouts who didn't complete their Ph.D.s.
- \_\_\_\_\_ 15. The principal reason for dropping out was lack of \_\_\_\_\_.
- \_\_\_\_\_ 16. Two per cent dropouts in \_\_\_\_\_, as the research indicated, were receiving \$20,000 and even more annually.



Just at that moment, the small puppy left in the bedroom began to yelp (吠).

"My puppy! My puppy!" yelled the little boy as he ran out from behind his grandmother.

I just about fell over when I saw that the small child also had a cleft lip and palate. The boy ran past me as fast as he could, down the hallway to where the puppy was still yelping. When the three of us made it to the bedroom, the small boy was holding the puppy in his arms. He looked up at his grandmother and said, "Look, Grandma. They found homes for all the puppies except the pretty one, and he looks just like me."

The schoolteacher turned to us, "Is this puppy available?"

"Yes," I answered. "That puppy is available."

The little boy, who was now hugging the puppy, chimed in (插话), "My grandma told me this kind of puppies are real expensive and that I have to take real good care of it."

The lady opened her purse, but I reached over and pushed her hand back down into her purse so that she would not pull her wallet out. "How much do you think this puppy is worth?" I asked the boy. "About a dollar?"

"No. This puppy is very, very expensive," he replied.

"More than a dollar?" I asked.

"I'm afraid so," said his grandmother.

The boy stood there pressing the small puppy against his cheek. "We could not possibly take less than two dollars for this puppy," Judy said, squeezing my hand. "Like you said, it's the pretty one."

The schoolteacher took out two dollars and handed it to the young boy. "It's your dog now, Jeffery. You pay the man."

Still holding the puppy tightly, the boy proudly handed me the money. Any worries I'd had about the puppy's future were gone.

The image of the little boy and his matching pup stays with me still. I think it must be a wonderful feeling for any young person to look at themselves in the mirror and see nothing, except "the pretty one."

(1128 words)

I hope you don't want it back," he said seriously. Seeing the question in our eyes, he continued, "When you came with the puppy on Friday, my neighbor Frank was at the hospital. He'd been out in the yard working and had started having chest pains, so his wife took him to the hospital. Frank never did come home. He died of a massive coronary (心脏病) Friday afternoon. It was a terrible shock for his family, and I decided not to bother them until things had settled down a bit. Yesterday, I brought the puppy over and knocked on their door. Frank's eldest daughter came out. I told her that her father had ordered a puppy and since he hadn't been home, that I'd taken delivery on it for him. I said I didn't know what to do with the little dog now that "things had changed" at their house."

The daughter just couldn't believe it. She said, "My father ordered a puppy? This is Dad's puppy?" Then she reached out and I gave her the pup. She hugged that little dog real tight, stuck her face in its fur and just began to cry.

"I wasn't sure what to say, so I just stood there. After a while, she looked up at me and thanked me. She said, "You don't know what this means to me. I'm so glad to have my father's dog." The puppy was wiggling around, trying to kiss the daughter any way it could and her face was just lit up with love."

Amazed at the story I turned to my husband, "We can't take Blue back now."

The man nodded in agreement. "Folks, some things are just meant to be. I'd say that puppy is in exactly the right place. "

(1076 words)

### For questions 1–8, mark

Y (for YES) if the statement agrees with the information given in the passage;  
N (for NO) if the statement contradicts the information given in the passage;  
NG (for NOT GIVEN) if the information is not given in the passage.

- \_\_\_\_\_ 1. We were rather satisfied with the family which was about to adopt the puppy.

You never spoke of your failures—of course, you had failures and disappointments, but you didn't talk about them; you just got on with the job. This doesn't mean that you aren't compassionate (怜悯的) in the face of other people's failures and disappointments: it means you don't indulge (纵容) in self-pity, and that you don't encourage anybody else to. If I feel let down, if I am hurt by what is said or written about me, and I sometimes am, I don't think it right to bemoan (哀悼) my fate in public. Or to worry about it in private. It's harder to feel this way when other people are hurt on one's account, one's family or one's friends. But tomorrow is a new day, and how one deals with that is what really counts."

Did she think that a person might display so much self-control that he or she might put people off, seem to be a cold fish, which would be a shortcoming in a political leader? She answered: "I don't think it would be the self-control that would put people off. I think people recognize the difference between a person who is self-controlled and a person who is a cold fish. Cold fish people put one off, and a cold fish would not be effective in politics, because politics —what I mean by politics—is about helping people to live a better life."

Margaret was a precocious (早熟的) political activist. In the general election of 1935, when she was ten, she carried lists of those who had voted from the interviewers standing outside the polling booth (投票站) to the party committee room so that those who had not yet voted could be rounded up and persuaded to turn out. She took notes from her father to colleagues on the council. In local elections, when her mother was working in the Conservative Party committee rooms, she ran messages.

(1158 words)

### For questions 1–8, mark

Y (for YES) if the statement agrees with the information given in the passage;  
N (for NO) if the statement contradicts the information given in the passage;  
NG (for NOT GIVEN) if the information is not given in the passage.

- \_\_\_\_\_ 1. Mrs. Muriel Cullen told us that Margaret Thatcher was greatly influenced by her father.

# Unit 9

**Directions:** *In this unit, you will have 15 minutes to go over each passage quickly, and then do the exercises after each passage.*

## Text A

### *Borrowing a Match*

You might think that borrowing a match upon the street is a simple thing. But any man who has ever tried it will assure you that it is not, and will be prepared to swear on oath to the truth of my experience of the other evening.

I was standing on the corner of the street with a cigar that I wanted to light. I had no match. I waited till a decent, ordinary man came along. Then I said:

“Excuse me, sir, but could you oblige me with the loan of a match?”

“A match?” he said, “Why, certainly.” Then he unbuttoned his overcoat and put his hand in the pocket of his waistcoat. “I know I have one,” he went on, “and, I’d almost swear it’s in the bottom pocket—or, hold on, though, I guess it may be in the top—just wait till I put these parcels down on the sidewalk.”

“Oh, don’t trouble,” I said, “It’s really of no consequence.”

“Oh, it’s no trouble. I’ll have it in a minute. I know there must be one in here somewhere,”—he was digging his fingers into his pockets as he spoke—“but you see this isn’t the waistcoat I generally...”

I saw that the man was getting excited about it. “Well, never mind,” I protested. “If that isn’t the waistcoat that you generally—why, it doesn’t matter.”

“Hold on, now, hold on!” the man said, “I’ve got one of the cursed things in here somewhere, I guess it must be in with my watch. No, it’s not there either. Wait till I try my coat. If that confused tailor only knew enough

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- \_\_\_\_\_ 5. The reason why the man searched for his match a long time was that the day was so dark.
- \_\_\_\_\_ 6. The man often abuses his children at home.
- \_\_\_\_\_ 7. After a moment's groping, the man found out the match from his pockets.
- \_\_\_\_\_ 8. At last, the author was enraged by the man's groping for a match.

**For questions 9–15, complete the sentences with the information given in the passage.**

- \_\_\_\_\_ 9. The author swore a (n) \_\_\_\_\_ to let readers believe that borrowing a match on the street was not simple.
- \_\_\_\_\_ 10. The man put his hand in the pocket of his \_\_\_\_\_ to find a match the author asked.
- \_\_\_\_\_ 11. The man cursed that the \_\_\_\_\_ should make a more pocket for him on his coat.
- \_\_\_\_\_ 12. The man threw down his walking-stick and \_\_\_\_\_ at his pockets.
- \_\_\_\_\_ 13. Finally, when the man asked the author to help him hold up the tail of his overcoat, he said surely the match was in his \_\_\_\_\_.
- \_\_\_\_\_ 14. While the author protested, the man suddenly gave a grunt of \_\_\_\_\_.
- \_\_\_\_\_ 15. Out of angry, the author pushed the man under the wheels of a(n) \_\_\_\_\_ and ran.

### Text B

#### *Waiter from Hell*

Remember when eating out was a relaxing experience? Someone else cooked for you, served you and cleaned up after you. All you had to do was chew, swallow and pay. No longer, though. Today you feel like a laboratory rat who has to struggle through a maze every time it wants a chunk of cheese.

“Good evening,” the maitre d’hotel (餐厅领班) said, “Table for four?”

“Yes, thank you.”

15. In writing, the author uses an electric \_\_\_\_\_ instead of a word processor.

## Text D

### *The Unlucky Number*

Today it is still widely believed that breaking a mirror, whether or not one is looking into it at the time, is a very bad omen. Some people say that seven years' bad luck will inevitably follow the accident.

The fact of the "seven" is a remnant (遗迹) of the belief that the ancients had in the mystical power of numbers; seven is composed of four and three, and the Greeks of old had always regarded these two numbers as especially lucky.

The number seven occurs frequently in man's history; the Hebrew (西伯来语的) verb to swear means literally "to come under the influence of seven things"; there were seven days in a week, and so on. It is no accident that long service leave in many government departments is taken every seven years.

It is therefore not difficult to understand why seven years of bad luck came to be associated with the breaking of a mirror.

Primitive people believed that when a man saw his own image in a pool of water, or in any other reflecting surface, what he saw was not merely a reflection of himself, but rather his soul staring back at him.

The idea that the soul could be separated from the body at any time without causing death, and that it could sometimes be seen as a reflection or shadow, was a widely-held belief in many early communities around the world.

If the separated soul or spirit remained unharmed, the body that it normally belonged to was safe; but injury of any kind to one's soul meant the inevitable onset of misfortune or evil or even death.

These ancient beliefs are the basis of many of our superstitions concerning the mirror. Many mothers will not allow their baby to see itself

mainder coming from private sources.

Although federal dollars are the smallest share of public school funding, these dollars are still vital to school systems that are usually financially strapped (穷困的) and sometimes in dire (可怕的) need of additional revenue.

(574 words)

**For questions 1–8, mark**

**Y (for YES)** if the statement agrees with the information given in the passage;

**N (for NO)** if the statement contradicts the information given in the passage;

**NG (for NOT GIVEN)** if the information is not given in the passage.

- \_\_\_\_\_ 1. State government has been the largest source of public school funding since the twentieth century.
- \_\_\_\_\_ 2. The programs such as curricula, textbook selection, graduation requirements, teacher and administrator certification, etc. are decided by local education departments.
- \_\_\_\_\_ 3. In the Northeast, the state bears more of the funding responsibility.
- \_\_\_\_\_ 4. Educating students to learn values and norms is also the mission of public schools.
- \_\_\_\_\_ 5. Public schools are expected to offer students a variety of forms of recreation and entertainment.
- \_\_\_\_\_ 6. Many of Thomas Dye's statements now have been delivering in public schools as parents and society expected.
- \_\_\_\_\_ 7. Private sources which come from non-government organizations are one of the funds in the public school education.
- \_\_\_\_\_ 8. Funds from national government contribute little to school education.

**For questions 9–15, complete the sentences with the information given in the passage.**

- \_\_\_\_\_ 9. Until the 19th century, \_\_\_\_\_ governments have born most of the funding responsibility.
- \_\_\_\_\_ 10. Local school districts are in charge of many \_\_\_\_\_ operations of the public schools.
- \_\_\_\_\_ 11. In New Hampshire, local school systems pay the \_\_\_\_\_ share of the funding responsibility.

tionists have still failed to devise anything more efficient and reliable than examinations. For all the pious claim that examinations test what you know, it is common knowledge that they more often do the exact opposite. They may be a good means of testing memory, or the knack (诀窍) of working rapidly under extreme pressure, but they can tell you nothing about a person's true ability and aptitude (天资).

As anxiety-makers, examinations are second to none. That is because so much depends on them. They are the mark of success or failure in our society. Your whole future may be decided in one fateful day. It doesn't matter that you weren't feeling very well, or that your mother died. Little things like that don't count: the exam goes on. No one can give of his best when he is in mortal terror, or after a sleepless night, yet this is precisely what the examination system expects him to do. The moment a child begins school, he enters a world of vicious competition where success and failure are clearly defined and measured. Can we wonder at the increasing number of "drop-outs": young people who are written off (勾销) as utter failures before they have even embarked on a career? Can we be surprised at the suicide rate among students?

A good education should, among other things, train you to think for yourself. The examination system does anything but that. What has to be learnt is rigidly laid down by a syllabus, so the student is encouraged to memorize. Examinations do not motivate a student to read widely, but to restrict his reading; they do not enable him to seek more and more knowledge, but induce cramming (突击式学习). They lower the standards of teaching, for they deprive the teacher of all freedoms. Teachers themselves are often judged by examination results and instead of teaching their subjects, they are reduced to training their students in exam techniques which they despise. The most successful candidates are not always the best educated; they are the best trained in the technique of working under force.

The results on which so much depends are often nothing more than a subjective assessment by some anonymous examiner. Examiners are only human. They get tired and hungry; they make mistakes. Yet they have to mark stacks of hastily scrawled scripts (潦草的笔迹) in a limited amount of time. They work under the same sort of pressure as the candidates. And their word carries weight. After a judge's decision you have the right of appeal, but not



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after an examiner's. There must surely be many simpler and more effective ways of assessing a person's true abilities. Is it cynical (愤世嫉俗的) to suggest that examinations are merely a profitable business for the institutions that run them? This is what it boils down (归纳) to in the last analysis. The best comment on the system is this illiterate message recently scrawled on a wall: "I were a teenage drop-out and now I am a teenage millionaire."

(588 words)

### For questions 1-8, mark

Y (for YES) if the statement agrees with the information given in the passage;

N (for NO) if the statement contradicts the information given in the passage;

NG (for NOT GIVEN) if the information is not given in the passage.

- \_\_\_\_\_ 1. Though progress has been made in every field of study, the methods of testing remain unchanged.
- \_\_\_\_\_ 2. Examinations failed to tell people a person's true ability.
- \_\_\_\_\_ 3. The fate of students may be decided by examinations.
- \_\_\_\_\_ 4. According to the author, the most importance of a good education is to train students to think on their own.
- \_\_\_\_\_ 5. Examinations can motivate a student to read widely.
- \_\_\_\_\_ 6. If a teacher can teach students to get good results in the examination, he/she will be regarded as a good teacher.
- \_\_\_\_\_ 7. The most successful people are those who are usually drop-outs.
- \_\_\_\_\_ 8. Examiners often carry more pressure than candidates.

### For questions 9-15, complete the sentences with the information given in the passage.

- \_\_\_\_\_ 9. Examinations may be a good means of testing people's \_\_\_\_\_.
- \_\_\_\_\_ 10. Because examinations can mark the success or failure in our society, they are the best \_\_\_\_\_.
- \_\_\_\_\_ 11. As soon as a child enters school, he enters a world of \_\_\_\_\_.
- \_\_\_\_\_ 12. \_\_\_\_\_ are considered as complete failures before they have even begun a career.