

新思路

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大学英语

阅读进阶

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为适应我国高等教育发展的新形势,推动大学英语教学改革,提高大学英语教学质量,培养符合新时期国家和社会发展需要的合格人才,教育部于2005年9月下旬公布了大学英语四六级考试改革的新题型,2006年又进行了修订。2013年12月,大学英语四六级考试的试卷结构和测试题型再次作出调整。改革和调整后的大学英语四六级考试阅读理解部分包括词汇理解、长篇阅读和仔细阅读等测试内容,分别以选词填空、匹配和多项选择题型方式呈现,快速、准确地获取信息是测试的重点。

2015年,教育部推出《大学英语教学指南(讨论稿)》(以下简称《指南》),作为全国各高校实施大学英语教学的重要依据。为了便于各高校确定教学目标并组织教学,《指南》提出大学英语的教学以“培养学生的英语应用能力,增强跨文化交际意识和交际能力,同时发展自主学习能力,提高综合文化素养,使他们在学习、交往、社会活动和未来工作中能够有效地使用英语,满足国家、社会、学校和个人发展的需要”作为我国大学英语教学的总体目标,并将大学英语教学的具体要求分为三个层次:基础、提高、发展。根据这些层次的要求,我们希望分层培养学生的阅读能力,使其逐渐提高阅读速度,在阅读篇幅较长、难度略低的材料时,阅读速度达到每分钟100个单词,能就阅读材料进行略读和寻读;能借助词典阅读本专业的英文教材;能基本读懂国内英文报刊,掌握中心意思,理解主要事实和有关细节;能读懂工作、生活中常见的应用文体的材料;能在阅读中使用有效的阅读方法。

依据《指南》的总体目标和具体规定,结合大学英语四六级考试的最新要求,我们组织了大批多年在教学一线的大学英语教师,历时数年,精心编写了《新思路大学英语阅读进阶》,以期通过长期、系统的阅读实践,循序渐进地提高大学生的英语阅读水平,从而提高他们的英语综合应用能力。

《新思路大学英语阅读进阶》全套分为四册,教材在选材长度、题型设计和阅读速度等方面参考了《指南》和大学英语四六级考试的相关要求,以帮助学生培养对英语文章阅读的兴趣,熟悉题型,逐渐提高阅读能力。

《新思路大学英语阅读进阶》全套教材的编写融科学性、系统性与创新性于一体,创造性地以主题为基本的编写单元,从一名大学生的视角设计了从入学直至大学毕业可能经历到的大学学习和生活的方方面面;选材贴近中国大学生的生活,注重趣味性、知识性、信息性和创新性,题材广泛,内容丰富,涉及语言、文化、文学、科普、体育、科技、法律、管理、社会焦点等方面,此外还选取了应用文体裁的文章。全套教材四册的编写遵循了由易到难、由浅到深的基本原则,阅读文章的长度从第一册的300至500个单词逐渐过渡到第四册的900至1200个单词。

本书为《新思路大学英语阅读进阶》系列教材的第三册,共12个单元,每单元由4篇阅读

短文组成，涉及的主题包括经济、婚姻家庭、法律、人物、建筑、娱乐、热点追踪、国家地理、社会生活、环境、时事政治、文学艺术等12项；所选短文长度介于700至1000个单词，生词不超过短文词汇总量的3%，练习形式参照大学英语四级考试阅读部分新题型编写，主要为选择题、判断题、匹配题、选词填空题和简短回答问题等，建议标准阅读速度为每分钟120个单词。

我们在编写本书的过程中参考了大量资料，在此向这些著作的作者们深表感谢。同时，囿于水平，书中错漏在所难免，敬请广大读者和同仁不吝指正。

编者
2016年1月

C o n t e n t s

Unit 1	Economy	
Passage 1	Taxes in America	1
Passage 2	Auto Industry	4
Passage 3	Chinese Tourism Market	7
Passage 4	China's Economy on Fast and Sound Track	9
Unit 2	Marriage and Family	
Passage 1	More than a Love Letter	12
Passage 2	Parents Embarrass Their Kids	15
Passage 3	A Childhood Lived between Two Worlds	18
Passage 4	Obama's Views on Gay Marriage "Evolving"	20
Unit 3	Legal Life	
Passage 1	Nature and Terminology about Contract Law	23
Passage 2	American Court System	27
Passage 3	Law: Definition, Classification, and Source of the American Legal System	30
Passage 4	The American Patent System	33
Unit 4	Character Introduction	
Passage 1	Alan Greenspan: the Most Powerful Guy	35
Passage 2	Who Brings the Beauty to You?	38
Passage 3	Lawrence W. Levine	42
Passage 4	William Shakespeare	45
Unit 5	Architecture	
Passage 1	Global Truths	47
Passage 2	A Higher Education	49
Passage 3	Positive Energy	53
Passage 4	Olympic Stadium with a Design to Remember	57

Unit 6	Media	
	Passage 1	College Media Literacy Courses 60
	Passage 2	A Brief History of Newspapers 64
	Passage 3	Impact of World Financial Crisis on the Media Industry 67
	Passage 4	Online Radio 71
Unit 7	Hot Issues	
	Passage 1	Australia's Sporting Success 73
	Passage 2	Babylon Ruins Reopen in Iraq, to Controversy 76
	Passage 3	Flu? What Flu? 80
	Passage 4	Tuition Plan 83
Unit 8	National Geography	
	Passage 1	Canada: My Adventure Cruise to Baffin Island 85
	Passage 2	The Finest Brazilian White Sand Island 88
	Passage 3	Energy from the Earth 91
	Passage 4	Caring for Elderly Parents Catches Many Unprepared 95
Unit 9	Social Life	
	Passage 1	Living on the Moon 98
	Passage 2	How to Get More Privacy from Your Parents 100
	Passage 3	Domestic Violence Is a Serious, Widespread Social Problem in America 103
	Passage 4	Are NBA Stars Out of Bounds off the Court? Do Some NBA Stars Play by Their Own Rules off the Court? 106
Unit 10	Environmental Protection	
	Passage 1	Keep Our Seas Clean 110
	Passage 2	Environmental Issues 114
	Passage 3	China Issues White Paper on Environmental Protection 118
	Passage 4	Memorandum 122
Unit 11	Current Affairs and Politics	
	Passage 1	Iraqi Refugees in Arizona 126
	Passage 2	The Bay of Bengal, in Peril from Climate Change 130
	Passage 3	Obama's China Policy 133
	Passage 4	Expanded Property Tax Trials Predicted 137

Unit 12	Literature	
Passage 1	“Write,” He Said	139
Passage 2	A Murder Is Solved, a Sleuth (侦探) Is Born	142
Passage 3	Famous Scholar Yu Qiuyu	146
Passage 4	The Hunger Games	150

Key		152
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Passage 1

Taxes in America

Directions: In this section, you are going to read a passage with ten statements attached to it. Each statement contains information given in one of the paragraphs. Identify the paragraph from which the information is derived. You may choose a paragraph more than once. Each paragraph is marked with a letter.

A) In the United States, when you get your *paycheck* (薪水) at the end of the first pay period at a new job, it's always interesting to see your net pay. Most of us expect more than we get. By the time you get your check, it has been cut up like a pizza, with several entities taking a piece of the pie. The entities that take money differ from person to person, company to company and state to state. However, almost every income earner has to pay federal income tax.

B) Taxes have always left a sour taste in the mouth of American citizens. This national hatred for taxes dates back to the tax burden placed on the American colonies by Great Britain. Colonists were taxed for every consumer goods, from tea and tobacco to legal documents. This "taxation without representation" led to many revolts, such as the Boston Tea Party, in which colonists dumped tea into the Boston Harbor rather than pay the tax on it.

C) Although the American colonists fought for independence from British rule and British taxes, once the United States government formed, its main source of *revenue* (税收) was derived from the same items that were taxed by Great Britain. In 1812, in an effort to support an expensive war effort, the U.S. government *imposed* (征税, 强加) the first sales tax, which was placed on gold, silverware, jewelry and watches. In 1863, the federal government collected the first income tax. This *graduated tax* (累进税) was similar to the income tax we pay today. Those who earned \$600 to \$10,000 per year paid at a rate of 3 percent. A higher rate was paid by those who earned in excess of \$10,000. A flat-rate tax was imposed in 1867. Five years later, in 1872, the national income tax was *abolished* (废止) altogether.

D) Inspired by the Populist Party's 1892 campaign, Congress passed the Income Tax Act of 1894. The income tax

was short-lived, as the U.S. Supreme Court struck it down only a year after it was passed. The justices wrote that, in their opinion, the income tax was *unconstitutional* (违反宪法的) because it failed to *abide by* (遵守) a constitutional guideline. This guideline required that any tax *levied* (征收) directly on individuals must be levied in proportion to a state's population.

E) In 1913, the income tax became a permanent part of the U.S. government. Congress avoided the constitutional roadblock mentioned above by passing a constitutional amendment. The 16th Amendment reads, "the Congress shall have power to lay and collect taxes on incomes, from whatever source derived, without *apportionment* (分摊) among the several states, and without regard to any *census* (人口普查) or *enumeration* (调查)."

F) Since the 16th amendment was passed in 1913, there has been no shortage of people proposing new tax systems since then. If you follow presidential campaigns, there are usually talks from some of the candidates on revising the tax system. Here's a quick look at two of these alternative tax plans.

G) We currently use a graduated tax, in which the percentage you pay in taxes varies based on your income. Under a flat tax system, you pay a flat rate on your income. In other words, there is a single tax

bracket (分类) for all taxpayers. A common percentage thrown out for a flat-tax system is 17 percent. This is the rate proposed by former presidential candidate Steve Forbes and U.S. Representative Dick Armey. Supporters of a flat-tax system say that it would do away with the complicated tax code and tax forms. You would merely add up wage, salary and pension income, subtract any personal *allowances* (津贴, 补助) and pay 17 percent of your taxable income.

H) Critics of the flat tax say that it would favor the wealthy and could put a higher tax burden on those who make less money. Under Dick Armey's proposed flat tax, the group who would benefit the most is wealthy Americans who now pay upward of 33 percent in federal income tax.

I) Even more controversial than the flat tax is the idea of abolishing the federal income tax entirely by abolishing the 16th amendment. In place of an income tax, some propose the use of a national sales tax. Alan Keyes, who ran unsuccessfully for the 2000 Republican presidential nomination, is one of the biggest supporters of doing away with a federal income tax. Keyes has argued that a national sales tax would put more money back into the pockets of the consumers, letting them decide how to spend their own money. Opponents have said that replacing the income tax with a national sales tax would put a heavy burden on the less wealthy,

who buy a lot of the products that would be taxed. Another problem facing a national sales tax is that it would probably double the current taxes on consumer goods, and could force local and state governments to initiate or increase state income taxes.

J) Taxes are a bitter subject in almost every country. The American tax system is a huge machine with a tax code that seems

more complex than rocket science. America has one of the most complicated tax systems in the world, and it grows more complex every year. In the end, whether you agree with paying taxes or not, you probably have April 15 circled on your calendar, embedded in your brain and on your list of dreaded days.

(931 words)

- _____ 1. The income tax became an eternal part of the federal government because Congress passed an amendment in the early of 20th century.
- _____ 2. To support the Union Army, Congress passed tax laws in both 1861, 1862 and the office of Commissioner of Internal Revenue was established by the Tax Act of 1862, which stated that the commissioner would have the power to levy and collect taxes.
- _____ 3. The tax system in the United States has long been a campaign issue in the presidential elections and some candidates have proposed new tax systems.
- _____ 4. The flat tax would need only one form, which applies the same tax rate to every taxpayer regardless of income bracket.
- _____ 5. The United States government collected the first sales tax as early as in 1812.
- _____ 6. The critics of the flat tax system argue that the wealthy people in the United States would be most benefited rather than people with low income.
- _____ 7. In this article, we will take a look at the history of income taxes in the United States and consider two alternative tax plans that are often discussed.
- _____ 8. American tax system is one of the most complex tax systems in the world and will become more complicated in the future.
- _____ 9. The national sales tax was supported by former presidential candidate Alan.
- _____ 10. In history, Great Britain put heavy tax burden on the American colonists.

Passage 2

Auto Industry

Directions: In this section, you are going to read a passage with ten statements attached to it. Each statement contains information given in one of the paragraphs. Identify the paragraph from which the information is derived. You may choose a paragraph more than once. Each paragraph is marked with a letter.

A) It's a moment to be remembered in China's auto industry, marking half a century of independent motor manufacturing in China. A week-long auto fair, the third of its kind in Changchun, was held to mark the 50th birthday of China's auto industry. Nine international automobile giants including Volkswagen, Daimler Chrysler AG, Mercedes-Benz, Citroen, Toyota, Volvo and Fiat, as well as major Chinese automotive *conglomerates* (联合企业) were all in attendance at the fair, bringing with them their latest models for display. Auto fairs large and small become a stage for car manufacturers to promote sales and display their new models. Music, performances and beautiful girls take the *limelight* (众人注目的中心) on these occasions. For car owners, enthusiasts and potential buyers, they also become a place to check out their favorite fashions.

B) In 1953, China established the First Automotive Works in northeast city of Changchun in Jilin Province, marking

the start of China's own auto industry. At the same time, Tsinghua University began to award the country's first degrees in Automobile Engineering. The First Automotive Works was then a typical enterprise, turning out "Jie Fang" motor cars and trucks. That was the starting *phase* (阶段) of China's auto industry. The second phase lasted from the Cultural Revolution to the time before China's opening up. The Second Automotive Works and the Capital Automotive Works were established, manufacturing heavy trucks for combat readiness. The third phase came after China's opening up. This period of auto manufacturing centers on international cooperation and aims to *offset* (弥补) the imbalance between heavy and light auto production. Passenger cars are being developed very fast. Technology transfer, especially in the production of passenger cars, is the feature of the time. We set up many joint ventures and achieved good result in mass production. This is a histori-

cal leap forward.

C) The total output of the auto industry was only 500,000 cars in 1990. While in the first quarter of this year, the entire industry produced over 1 million vehicles. In the course of becoming a global manufacturing center, the auto industry has become the driving force for China's modernized industry. The latest research from China's National Bureau of Statistics shows that auto production has become the country's fifth largest manufacturing sector. The figures suggest that China will become the fourth largest auto manufacturing country in the world after the U.S., Japan and Germany. China's auto industry began to display strength on the international stage, drawing auto giants worldwide to transfer their technologies, manufacture cars or set up joint ventures in China.

D) Consumption became the powerhouse of production in the market situation and provided the internal drive for the industry to grow. Study of international car market demonstrates that cars become affordable to ordinary families when the average price is two to three times their annual income. The *ratio* (比率) of private car purchasing is surging in China's auto market. Family cars are in *vogue* (流行). This is also of milestone significance because the auto industry relies on the market, a mass market for growth. Car sales have been brisk so far this year in China's major cities. As the

income of China's urban population keeps growing, the automobile has become one of the most important commodities in personal consumption. For young people living in Beijing or Shanghai, owning a car is almost an essential part of their career advancement. The truth is, ordinary Chinese have already become the chief driving force in the nation's booming car market. Today, the automobile has become for many Chinese families, a daily necessity. The latest statistics show that car purchases by individuals accounted for nearly 80 percent of China's auto sales in the first quarter of this year. Vois, a Toyota model, became a best seller as soon as it rolled off the production line. *Time-honored* (历史悠久的) brands are often big sellers.

E) After-sale services in auto markets are developing rapidly. Auto dealers and stores have set up all over the country, offering customers convenient environments for purchasing. Local governments also laid out corresponding promotion plans. Major cities regard cars not only as a means of transport, but as sport as well. Beijing has one or two markets specializing in auto sports activities. It shows that auto related industries are developing very fast. Next comes car culture. Customers are spending a lot on auto sound systems and car *customizing* (改装). Some may spend 100,000 yuan buying a car, and more than that sum on customizing their new car. Auto information is becoming a large industry all over the country.

F) There are basically three ways of purchasing a car: cash, *installment* (分期付款) or credit loans. Purchasing on loans is a rather new concept for most Chinese people. According to car dealers, credit loans account for 20–30 percent of all car sales in Beijing. This is not much compared with industrialized countries. Generally, that figure is 50–80 percent in those countries. But more and more people begin to identify with this method of consumption. With China's economy on the fast track, a rich middle class is taking shape and growing rapidly. They are mostly young, open-minded and confident about their future.

They dare to spend, even tomorrow's money.

G) To many people in China, cars are still a status symbol. Owning a car not only means freedom of mobility, but also shows that you have entered the class of the *nouveau* (新近产生的) richness and are keeping up with the trend. For the majority of people in China, cars are still a luxury. But many of them are beginning to dream about owning a car. With more and cheaper cars available on the market, their dream may soon become a reality.

(989 words)

- _____ 1. China established its own auto industry, the First Automotive Works in Jilin Province.
- _____ 2. Nowadays cars are not only a means of transport but also a status symbol to many people in China.
- _____ 3. Many auto dealers and stores have been established to provide after-sale services throughout the country.
- _____ 4. The consumption by ordinary Chinese has become the main driving force in our car market.
- _____ 5. The figures from China's National Bureau of Statistics show that auto production has been the country's very important manufacturing sector.
- _____ 6. The week-long auto fair held in Changchun marked half a century of independent motor manufacturing in China.
- _____ 7. Our country's first degrees in Automobile Engineering were awarded by Tsinghua University in 1950s.
- _____ 8. The fair was a special occasion and moment full of great music, performance, beautiful girls and enthusiasts of cars.
- _____ 9. There are three ways of purchasing a car: cash, installment or credit loans. More than 50 percent of all car sales in industrialized countries are credit loans.
- _____ 10. Cars are considered as a means of transport as well as a sport in major cities in China.

Passage 3

Chinese Tourism Market

Directions: In this section, there is a passage with ten blanks. You are required to select one word for each blank from a list of choices given in a word bank following the passage. Read the passage through carefully before making your choices. Each choice in the bank is identified by a letter. You may not use any of the words in the bank more than once.

A Japanese travel agency recently got approval from the Chinese authorities to set up a totally foreign-funded company in China, the first of its kind so far. China boasts a large population and vast geographical areas. They are natural *catalysts* (催化剂) for the development of its tourism industry. Thanks 1 China's opening-up policies, the tourism sector is being turned into a *vanguard* (先锋) in helping the country make 2 economic progress. Some experts believe that the development of China's tourism market will help the 3 of the world's tourism industry. Given the accelerated process toward a more open policy and environment, local travel services should be prepared. Competition for even small pieces of the tourist pie will be 4.

Given the ever more open policy laid out by China for its tourism sector, Jalpak International Corporation becomes

the 5 and lucky bird to get the benefit. *Affiliated* (附属的) with the Japan Airlines Group, the company to be set up in Beijing will have some 600,000 U.S. dollars in registered capital and will focus 6 *inbound* (入境的) travel in China. Last year, Jalpak brought 25,000 tourists to China through its Beijing office. With an expected schedule by year end, it will organize many more Japanese tour groups to China and take a bigger share in the country's tourism market.

As the Chinese tourism market 7 at high speed, a good environment is being created to further drive its development. More products in the tourism sector are coming forward to 8 the increasing demand from both the domestic market and 9. Accompanying the market expansion, fiercer competition is unfolding in waves. The green light to allow the setup of

foreign-funded travel agencies now shines brightly in the eyes of the local companies and demands their attention. The local travel agencies do have their own advantages in the competition with their foreign competitor, for example, their 10 with the country's geographic conditions

and human characteristics. However, compared with the sustainable strength of many big foreign companies, the local ones have a lot to catch up. Fortunately, there is time left, though it is limited.

(368 words)

A) recovery	B) on	C) converted	D) receiving	E) to
F) scale	G) fierce	H) familiarity	I) meet	J) expands
K) compare	L) purchase	M) further	N) abroad	O) early

Passage 4

China's Economy on Fast and Sound Track

Guided by a scientific outlook on development, China's economy is moving on a fast, sound track. The national economy has been growing rapidly for five years *on end* (连续) with a GDP volume exceeding 21 trillion yuan and ranks fourth in the world. There is a higher quality of development as central revenue increased; *corporate* (企业) performance was enhanced; agricultural production was boosted; and the income for urban and rural residents was enlarged. The nation possesses a stronger economic framework with the completion of the Three Gorges Dam, the opening of the Qinghai-Tibet Railway, and the beginning of the south-north water diversion project. Society is marching towards a comprehensively well-off one. We beat off the SARS epidemic, strengthened social construction, improved the nation's ecology, and improved people's standards of living.

China has gone through a rocky road in the last five years. When we had just stepped out of the shadow of the Asian financial crisis and the threat of five-year *deflation* (通货紧缩), we met SARS head on.

When we beat off SARS and regained the trend of fast economic growth, we found ourselves facing a situation of overheated investment in certain sectors and an overall tight supply of coal, electricity, oil, and transportation. When we reversed the situation through *macro-regulations* (宏观调控), we faced excessive growth in investment, credit and foreign trade surplus.

To prevent the fast-growing economy from overheating, a series of macro-regulation measures were launched this year. Of these, financial policies included issuing central bank notes, raising *deposit reserve ratios* (存款准备金率), and raising deposit and loan interest rates. By now, positive results have been seen. During the first half of this year, *fixed assets* (固定资产) investment grew 25.9 percent year on year, with the growth rate dropping back 3.9 percentage points. The relationship between investment and consumption has improved and consumption has contributed more to economic growth.

Related authorities also *endeavored* (尽力, 努力) to control high energy consumption and high pollution sectors; and