

Magic



魔法英语 征服高考

阅读理解

风俗习惯

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Preface

前言

阅读理解是高考英语的重头戏,能否顺利通过此关将对英语成绩的提高有着举足轻重的影响。而提高阅读理解应试水平也绝非一蹴而就,要经过长时间有计划、有目的、大量的阅读实践,只有在大量的阅读中,才能建立语感,掌握正确的阅读方法,提高阅读技能。

为此,我们力邀全国重点名校数十位经验丰富的特高级教师精心编写了这套《魔法英语征服高考阅读理解》丛书,旨在通过精选大量最新、最优美和最具有代表性的阅读材料,透彻分析阅读理解文章的题型特点和解题技巧,帮助大家强化达标训练,最终征服高考阅读理解,获取理想的英语高分。

本套丛书按照高考中常见的热点题材归类,分为《文化教育》、《时事新闻》、《历史地理》、《文学艺术》、《风俗习惯》、《体育休闲》、《名人轶事》、《政治经济》八册,最大限度地覆盖了高考阅读中的各类题材,集指导性、方向性与能力培养为一体,与最新高中英语教材相配套,是广大中学生朋友课外阅读、高考备考的理想用书。

本套丛书具有如下鲜明的特色:

主旨明确:旨在帮助读者轻松愉快且迅速高效地掌握阅读技能,提高阅读速度和答题准确率。

难度适当:所选的文章和题目的难度等于或略高于高考阅读理解全真试题的难度。





Preface

前言

题材广泛:涉及诸多领域,文化教育、时事新闻、历史地理、文学艺术、风俗习惯、体育休闲、名人轶事、政治经济八大类,几乎囊括了阅读理解的各类题材。

内容新颖:内容均选自国内外最新出版的英文报刊、杂志,紧跟社会热点、焦点,鲜活的材料体现出强烈的时代感。

信息量大:紧密联系生活实际,800篇300—500词的短文,完全突破高中阶段的阅读数量。

英语阅读能力的提高并非难事,只要方法对路,肯下功夫,广猎素材,注重积累,就一定能跨越这一难关——《魔法英语征服高考阅读理解》丛书将是你的最佳选择!

编者



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UNIT

1

Passage 1

难度等级



In Finland(芬兰), most houses have sauna(蒸气浴). The sauna is a small wood hut or a room with a furnace(炉子) inside. Stones piled over the furnace are heated redhot. After the stones are heated, the sauna is used for taking a sauna bath.

The temperature in the sauna is sometimes over 190 degrees. People taking a sauna both sit or lie on a wood platform in the hot, dry air. The hot air makes them perspire(出汗). From time to time, they pour water on the hot stones to make clouds of steam.

People in the sauna beat themselves with branches from a birch tree. They do this to make themselves perspire more. Then they wash with soap and water. After washing, they cool off in cold water.

The sauna is often built near a lake, and people go from the hot sauna into the cool water. If it is winter, they may roll in the snow. After cooling off, they rest.

In Finland, most families take a sauna bath at least once a week. For Finns, the sauna bath is more than a way to get clean. It is a way to relax and enjoy themselves.

1. Before people take a sauna bath, _____.

☐ A water should first be boiled over the furnace

☐ B they should be prepared to build the sauna

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- ☒ C they should first do some exercises
- ☒ D stones should be piled over the furnace and heated red-hot
2. The hot air in the sauna comes from _____.
☒ A the boiling water over the furnace
☐ B a pipe in the wall
☒ C the hot stones on which water is poured
☐ D the wood platform on which people sit or lie
3. People in saunas beat themselves with branches so as to _____.
☐ A make fun of themselves ☐ B protect the skin
☒ C make themselves feel even hotter ☐ D cool off quickly
4. The sauna is often built near the lake because _____.
☐ A people can go into the cool water easily
☐ B people would have a swim before taking a sauna
☒ C they can have a good rest by the side of the lake
☐ D they can get water easily and pour it on the hot stones
5. For the most of people in Finland, the sauna is _____.
☐ A a way to relax themselves ☐ B a way to enjoy themselves
☒ C a way to get clean ☐ D both A and B

Passage 2

难度等级



The people of La Gomera can carry on a long-distance conversation by whistling(吹口哨). For ordinary conversation they speak Spanish. But when they need to speak over a distance, an ordinary speech is impossible, they use silbo, which is the name of whistled form of speech.

La Gomera is very mountainous. Although it is a small island, walking from one place to another may be a slow and difficult job. That is why the silbo is so useful to the islanders there. A message can easily be whistled over a couple of miles, while to travel that same distance on foot might take an hour.



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Unit 1.....

A good whistler can be heard and understood five miles away. His whistling can be heard even farther away when there is little or no wind. I was told that the record is about nine miles. Anyone who has heard a first-class whistler will agree that this figure is quite possible.

Each whistler has his own way of whistling, just as he has his own way of speaking. You can recognize him by his whistling just as you would recognize him by the way he spoke. Anything that can be said in Spanish can be whistled and understood perfectly. This is true partly because the Spanish language has such a simple sound system (发音系统). The silbo would not work nearly so well with English.

- The islanders use the silbo to talk to each other when _____.
☒ A they are tired
☐ B they get together
☐ C they are far away from each other
☐ D they don't want to speak Spanish
- We can infer that the silbo is used on La Gomera as a result of _____.
☐ A the size of the island
☐ B the mountainous areas
☐ C the language spoken there
☐ D the long distance between the places
- The writer seems to think that what is said about the record of the whistling distance is _____.
☒ A quite true
☐ B not true
☐ C uncertain
☐ D known to all
- You can recognize the whistler because _____.
☐ A each whistler sounds different
☒ B you understand what he means
☐ C he will tell you who he is
☐ D he is not far from you
- By whistling, the whistler on the island can express _____.
☒ A most of what he wants to say

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- ☐ B some of what he wants to say
☐ C almost everything he wants to say
☒ D anything he wants to say

Passage 3

难度等级



The Mississippi is a romantic(传奇的) river whose relationship with man goes back beyond its discovery by the Spaniards in the 16th century. Indians used the river as a highway and as a source of food, and it was they who gave it its name —“misi” meaning “great” and “sipi” meaning “water”.

When the length of its great tributary(支流), the Missouri, is added to it, the Mississippi becomes the third longest river in the world. From the source of the Missouri to the tip of the delta(三角洲), it is 2,480 miles long. Its head waters have been compared to a healthy, thick-branched tree, healthy because its main branches, or tributaries, are navigable(可通航的) for most of their length.

The Indians paddled(划桨) up and down the river in their canoes. The first streamer was launched(下水) in 1810. It had a single great paddle-wheel at the stern, and was known as a “paddle-wheeler.” Throughout the 19th century these unique ships were queens of the Mississippi. They have become part of American history and American literature. The noted writer, Mark twain, immortalized(使不朽的) the river in his greatest novel, *Huckleberry Finn*, and Oscar Hammerstein immortalized it in his song, *Old Man River*, which was made popular all over the world by the great black American singer and actor, Paul Robeson.

1. The Mississippi was discovered by the _____.

- ☐ A Americans
☒ C Spaniards

☐ B Indians

☐ D queens of the Mississippi

2. Indians gave _____ the name “misi and sipi” meaning “great water”.



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Unit 1

- ☐ A The Mississippi ☐ B The Missouri
☐ C The tributary ☐ D The delta
3. Because most of the Mississippi's length can be navigated, it has been compared to a _____.
☐ A branch ☐ B river ☐ C paddle ☐ D tree
4. During _____ the single paddle-wheel ships were queens of the Mississippi.
☐ A the 16th century ☐ B the 19th century
☐ C the 17th century ☐ D the 15th century
5. _____ wrote the great song *Old Man River*.
☐ A Mark Twain ☐ B Hammerstein
☐ C Paul Robeson ☐ D Huckleberry Finn

Passage 4

难度等级



In China, if you are not married by the time you are 30, you are in for trouble; social blame and pressure from family and friends can get you down. And if you are a woman it's even worse.

Many young people get married simply to get other people off their backs (免受到别人的指责). This is a serious compromise (妥协) with their ideals (理想). One ends up not marrying the ideal partner.

There are, however, a few young people who refuse to compromise. If they can't find a good marriage partner, they say, they would rather not marry at all.

34-year-old Wang is a University lecturer in English. She says she would not describe herself as bachelorette (独身主义者) but simply a woman who hasn't come across the right man yet. She has sharp comments for the way in which the old generation looks at marriage.

"Many people think marriage is a duty — to your parents, family and society. Nobody cares whether your marriage is happy or not." She said, "I think this is quite wrong and I intend to live and act according to my own will."

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Happily for her, her parents are open-minded and don't put pressure on her. But the same does not apply to her friends. They are constantly trying to get her together with some young man or another. She always refused politely.

1. According to the writer, the main idea of this passage is that _____.
☐ A marriage is a duty to society
☐ B people should get married before 30 years old
☐ C late marriage should be respected
☐ D women should get married earlier than men
2. Miss Wang refuses to get together with some young man or another because _____.
☐ A she doesn't think he is the right man she wants
☐ B he is either too old or too young
☐ C he is either impolite or little learned
☐ D he doesn't know English
3. In the first paragraph the underlined words "in for" refers to _____.
☐ A interested in
☐ B satisfied with
☐ C worried about
☐ D possible to suffer
4. Which is NOT true according to this passage?
☐ A In China, one will face social blame and family pressure if one hasn't got married at the age of 30.
☐ B Miss Wang won't compromise with her ideal in marriage.
☐ C Miss Wang's parents are always worried about her marriage.
☐ D Miss wang wants to marry a worthy young man.
5. If marriage is regarded as a duty to society, _____.
☐ A everybody will be happy and satisfied
☐ B nobody will pay attention to whether you are happy or not in your family life
☐ C you can easily find a deal partner
☐ D young people will have nothing to worry about in marriage



Passage 5

难度等级



When Americans consider families, many of them think of a “traditional family”. A traditional family is one in which both parents are living together with their children. The father goes out and works and the mother stays home and rears the children. The biggest change in families in the United States is that most families today do not fit this image. Today, only one out of three American families is a “traditional family” in this sense.

The most common type of family now is one in which both parents work outside the home. In 1950, only 20 percent of all American families had both parents working outside the home. Today, it is 60 percent. Even women with young children are going back to work. About 51 percent of women with children younger than one year old now work outside the home.

Another big change is the increase in the number of families that are headed by only one person, usually the mother. Between 1970 and 1988, the number of single-parent families more than doubled — from 3.8 million to 9.4 million. In 1988, nearly one out of every four children under 18 lived with only one parent. Some families look even less like the typical traditional family. They may consist of a couple of one race who have adopted children of another race, or from another country. In many states, single people may also adopt children. Some people take in foster (抚养) children — children whose parents cannot take care of them.

Another change is that families in the United States are getting smaller. In the mid-1700s, there were six people in the average household. Today the average household contains between two and three people.

One recent change is that the number of marriages is rising. The number of babies born also has been climbing steadily for the past 10 years. Many experts see these trends as a sign that Americans are returning to the values of marriage and family.

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To understand why these changes are happening, we ought to know the history of the family in the United States.

1. From the passage we know that the biggest change in American families is that
 - A people's concept of "traditional family" changes.
 - B women are more financially independent than they used to be.
 - C the size of a family becomes smaller and smaller.
 - D more and more parents do not live together with their children.
2. All of the following statements are true according to the passage except that
 - A we may find members of different nationalities in an American family.
 - B it is possible in the US that unmarried people may also have children.
 - C most American women will work soon after they deliver children.
 - D it is common that there is no father or mother in an American family.
3. In paragraph four, household means _____.
 - A family
 - B a place to live
 - C home
 - D all family members
4. It can be inferred from the last part of the passage that
 - A now the American birth rate is rising.
 - B American families are getting bigger.
 - C Americans will return to their traditional family.
 - D now Americans appreciate their traditional family.
5. The paragraph following this passage will most probably discuss _____.
 - A the American family pattern
 - B the typical traditional family
 - C the history of American family
 - D the American concept of family

答案与解析

Passage 1



桑拿浴是一种很好的洗浴方式,对于芬兰人来说,它不仅是一种放松自己的办法,也是一种享受。

1. D 细节题。在洗蒸汽浴前,必须干什么? 文章第一段“stones piled over the



furnace are heated red hot.”证明 D 项正确。

2. **C** 细节题。洗桑拿浴时,湿热的空气从哪里来?第二段末尾“... they pour water on the hot stones to make clouds of steam.”告诉我们 C 项正确。
3. **C** 细节题。第三段第一句说出了这种行为,第二句告诉了我们原因:“They do this to make themselves perspire more.”之所以人们用桦树枝条抽打自己,是为了让自己更热起来,达到“蒸汽”的效果。
4. **A** 细节题。第四段整段说明了为什么人们会把洗桑拿的场所定在近湖的地方,主要是为了方便人们进入湖中凉快。“The sauna is often built near a lake, and people go from the hot sauna into the cool water.”因此 A 选项为正确项。
5. **D** 归纳题。如果单独选择 A 项或 B 项,过于片面,只有将 A 和 B 结合起来才够全面。也符合文章最后一段的大意。

Passage 2



说话当然是很普遍的交流方式,但 La Gomera 人在特定的环境中会用特殊的交流方式来表达自己的想法——whistling(一种以吹口哨的方式交谈的语言)。

1. **C** 细节题。我们可以从原文第一段第三句“*But when they need to speak over a distance, an ordinary speech is impossible, they use silbo, which is the name of whistled form of speech.*”直接找到答案,可见只有他们在离得很远时才用这种方式来交谈。故应选 C 项。
2. **B** 推理题。silbo 这种语言的产生是什么原因?文中第三段开场“*La Gomera is very mountainous. Although it is a small island, walking from one place to another may be a slow and difficult job.*”推测到,由于这个地方山区很多,而且如果人们想从此地到彼地是相当困难的,所以伴随着这种特殊地理环境——mountainous 产生了这种语言,唯 B 项可选。
3. **A** 细节题。题目问在通过吹口哨递送语言这一行为中创造记录一事,作者持何种态度?可以在第三段末尾找到证据:“*Anyone who has heard a first-class whistler will agree that this figure is quite possible.*”除此之外,文章第二、三段全部举例来证明人们甚至可以在相距好几公里内听得懂彼此表达之意一事是千真万确的,故选 A 项。
4. **A** 推理题。Each whistler has his own way of whistling, just as he has his own way of speaking. You can recognize him by his whistling just as you would recognize him by the way he spoke. 就像我们说话一样,我们是通过不同人的声音来判断这个人是哪个人,并不是因为他离你近(not far from you)或是你能听懂那种语

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言(you understand what he means)等原因,可选项为 A。

5. **D** 细节题。你只需对文章最后一段“Anything that can be said in Spanish can be whistled and understood perfectly.”一句把握准确即可。此句中有两个关键词,一个是“anything”,一个是“perfectly”。符合这两个要点的只有 D 项。

Passage 3



本文介绍了世界第三大河流——神秘而富有传奇色彩的密西西比河。

1. **C** 细节题。第一段第一句“The Mississippi is a romantic river whose relationship with man goes back beyond its discovery by the Spaniards in the 16th century.”给出了答案。
2. **A** 细节题。从第一段最后一句“Indians used the river as a highway and as a source of food, and it was they who gave it its name — “misi”, meaning “great” and “sipi” meaning “water”. ”可知答案。
3. **D** 细节题。从第二段最后一句“ Its head waters have been compared to a healthy, thick-branched tree, healthy because its main branches, or tributaries, are navigable for most of their length.”可知答案。
4. **B** 细节题。第三段第三句“Throughout the 19th century these unique ships were queens of the Mississippi.”明确给出了答案。
5. **B** 这仍是一道细节题。文章最后一句“The noted writer, Mark twain, immortalized the river in his greatest novel, *Huckleberry Finn*, and Oscar Hammerstein immortalized it in his song, *Old Man River*. . .”给出了答案。

Passage 4



这篇文章描述了婚姻观念在中国与其他国家的不同。或许在其他西方国家,三十岁还未结婚算不了什么奇怪的事情,但对于中国人则不然。

1. **C** 主旨题。通读全文之后不难看出,婚姻并不是一种社会义务。文章中也未向读者暗示女人应该比男人早婚或所有的年轻人必须要完婚。因此, A、B、D 三项明显错误,故选 C。
2. **A** 细节题。文章第四段的“ She says she would not describe herself as bachelorette but simply a woman who hasn't come across the right man yet.”与选项 A 语意相符。故 A 项正确。
3. **D** 细节题。作者在第一段第一句中明确解释了“in for trouble”短语的含义:“social blame and pressure from family and friends can get you down. And if you



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Unit 1.....

- are a woman it's even worse.”而选项中以 D 项恰巧吻合了该句语义。故选 D。
4. **C** 排除题。A、B、D 项表达的意义均在原文中显而易见。而 C 项中“Miss Wang's parents are always worried about her marriage.”与原文中“Happily for her, her parents are open-minded and don't put pressure on her.”却语义相近。故选 C。
5. **B** 推理题。正如原文中王小姐所言“Many people think marriage is a duty... Nobody cares whether your marriage is happy or not.”故选 B。

Passage 5



从过去到现在,美国人的“traditional family”的家庭观念发生了很大的变化。文章从几个方面阐述了这种变化。

1. **B** 细节辨析题。答案在文中的第一段可以找到。文中“The biggest change in families in the United States is that most families today do not fit this image.”一句话中,“this”指的上句“父亲出去工作而母亲在家养育孩子”。故 B 为正确答案。
2. **C** 综合题。难度较大,若要一个选项一个选项仔细思考,细节较多,且都归纳总结。最好的办法是排除法,先找出明显错误或正确的一个选项,逐一排除。
3. **A** 词义辨析题。如果丢开选项让你去猜,下面的每一个选项都很有可能被猜中。所以,要解此题必须详细阅读文章。此处的“household”可以通过这句话的上一句中的“Another change is that families in the United States are getting smaller.”中的“families”找到答案。
4. **D** 细节辨析题。题目中“... can be inferred from...”意为“可以归纳出……”的意思。A 与 B 项较为简单,可分别在文中第四段第五段的首句中找到答案。C 项与文章第一段(主旨段)相矛盾。排除以上三项,只有 D 项为正确答案。
5. **C** 下文预测题。会做此题的前提是脑中对此篇文章必须要有清晰的思路。当然,除了读懂上文之外,文章中的关键句也是很重要的。此文最后一段“要明白这些变化为什么会发生,我们就不得不了解一下有关美国家庭的历史。”,分明是一个承上启下的转折句,而且它所转向的方向很清楚。

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UNIT 2

Passage 1

难度等级 ★

Americans think a great deal about time. They constantly refer to time and the value of keeping busy. From childhood, they learn to value time, and their language shows this thought with it. As children, they are taught to be on time for something important and to do work on time and so on. They learn that the piece of committing a crime (犯罪) is to do time (服刑期) in prison. When they are having a good time, they say that time flies, they say sadly of someone whose days are numbered that he is living on borrowed time. From the time of its beginning, American English has shown this thought with time.

- Americans _____.
☐ A have enough time to think
☐ B like to waste time
☐ C like to make good use of time
☐ D hate to be the servants of the clock
- From childhood, Americans _____.
☐ A know how to use time well
☐ B are taught how to learn the language
☐ C think little about time
☐ D keep busy every day
- When they are children, Americans _____.
☐ A begin to work in a factory
☐ B are taught in a school
☐ C go to school in time
☐ D are taught to be on time for everything
- They say that time goes fast when they _____.