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魔法英语



English

征服高考

阅读理解

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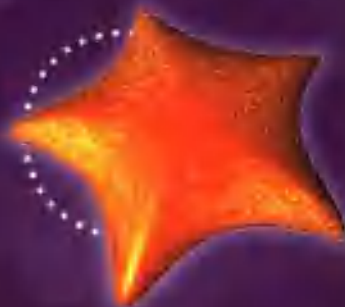
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历史地理

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MAGIC ENGLISH 总主编/薄冰



魔法英语 征服高考

阅读理解

历史地理

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致读者

在新的世纪,国内英语教学正发生着日新月异的变化,广大教师和学生对中学英语教辅读物出版创新的呼声也此起彼伏;中学英语教辅需要精品,需要品牌,需要从更远、更新的角度重新打造!魔法英语的出现,为中学英语教辅的历史翻开了新的一页。

美国 AT&T 国际语言研究中心、英国剑桥国际语言研究院等国内外十多所英语教育研究机构积极参与,北京四中、黄冈中学、华东师大附中、清华大学附中等国内几十所重点中学鼎力协助,一百多位英语教育专家及知名特高级教师联手缔造……魔法英语,已悄然走在中学英语教辅的最前沿,成为一个全新的中学英语教辅品牌!一个真正由专家打造的具有国际品质的中学英语教辅品牌!

魔法英语横空出世,骤然引起广大教师和学生的关注,得到社会各界读者的厚爱,这对我们实在是一种莫大的鼓励。我们本意旨在给中学生提供一个崭新的学习平台,为每位读者所付出的时间和期待提供丰厚的回报。在这里,最不能释怀的是我们对中学英语教育的敏锐察觉和积累,我们力求通过不断的努力,让“魔法英语——解放中学生的英语,让英语学习变得如此简单”的思想光芒,照耀每位读者!

我们与读者的心是相通的,同广大一线教师的心是相通的。现在,我们付出的每一份努力,都得到了广大教师和读者的支持和肯定。面对这些勉励和关怀,我们将会以百倍的努力来报答。未来我们会做得更好!这是我们的目标,也是我们不变的承诺。

魔法英语愿做中学生学习英语的最佳助手,最贴心的朋友!让魔法英语伴随着我们的幸福、快乐和回忆,一起成长!



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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 ★

Millions of stars are travelling about in space. A few form groups which journey together, but most of them travel alone. And they travel through a universe so large that one star seldom comes near to another. For the most part each star makes its journey in complete loneliness like a ship on an empty ocean. The ship will be well over a million miles from its nearest neighbor. From this it is easy to understand why a star seldom finds another anywhere near it.

We believe, however, that some two thousand million years ago, another star wandering through space, happened to come near our sun. Just as the sun and the moon raise tides on the earth, so this star must have raised tides on the surface of the sun. But they were very different from the small tides that are raised in our oceans; a large tidal wave must have travelled over the surface of the sun, at last forming a mountain so high that we cannot imagine it. As the cause of the disturbance came nearer, so the mountain rose higher and higher. And before the star torn to pieces and threw off small parts of itself into space.

These small pieces have been going round the sun ever since. They are the planets.

1. Millions of stars are B.

- A following a regular path in space
- B moving about without a fixed course
- C seldom wandering about in the universe

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- ☐ always travelling together
2. Some two thousand million years ago, the mountain of the sun was raised probably because B.
- ☐ a large tidal wave of a star travelled over the surface of the sun
- ☐ another star happened to come near the sun
- ☐ the sun and the moon raised the tides on the earth
- ☐ the star moved away from the sun
3. The article suggests that D.
- ☐ our earth exists before the sun
- ☐ how space formed
- ☐ no one knows where the earth comes from
- ☐ our earth used to be a high mountain on the sun
4. The expression "the cause of the disturbance" refers to C.
- ☐ the large tidal wave
- ☐ the powerful tidal pull
- ☐ the star coming near the sun
- ☐ one of the sun's planets
5. In this article, the writer mainly wants to tell the readers _____.
- ☐ that the universe is so large that we cannot imagine it
- ☐ how the high mountains were formed on the sun
- ☐ why the tides over the surface of the sun were so powerful
- ☐ where the planets in the universe came from

Passage 2

难度等级 ★★

A very rapid increase in the number of ships sailing between American and European ports began almost immediately after the end of the war of 1812 in order to meet the new needs for the regular rapid transportation of mail, light goods, and passengers. It was the increase in emigration (移民) to America that for the first time made the carrying of passengers across the Atlantic more

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Unit 1

advantages than the transportation of heavy goods. A new type of sailing ships, the packet, appeared to meet this new demand, and the extent of the demand very soon caused strong competition among several packet lines. The earliest of these was the Black Ball Line opened in New York in 1816, only a year after the war. The service of the famous line started with four of the new fast packets each of 400 to 500 tons; the Pacific, the Amity the James Cooper, and the William Thompson. During the first twenty years of service, the average time from New York to Liverpool was 23 days and the average trip back to New York took 40 days. By the middle of the century, packets had increased in size between 909 and 1,000 tons, and their speed had increased. The Red Jacket once sailed from New York to Liverpool in 13 days 11 (1/2) hours. The Mary Whitebridge took 4 (1/2) hours off this record on the run from Baltimore to Liverpool. Such speeds were far greater than the average of from 19 to 21 days to Liverpool and from 30 to 35 homeward to New York, but the packets had still set a new record for transoceanic (crossing an ocean) travel. No wonder that steamships, the first of which tried to compete with the packets in 1838, only began to replace them in the 1850s.

1. The fastest Trans-Atlantic sailing by a packet mentioned in the passage was from _____.
☐ A Liverpool to New York ☐ B New York to Liverpool
☐ C Liverpool to Baltimore ☐ D Baltimore to Liverpool
2. Which of the following was most important in the development of the fast packets?
☐ A The increased demand for the transportation of all kinds of goods.
☐ B The increase of the number of people who wanted to move to America.
☐ C The new needs for the rapid transportation of mail, light goods and passengers.
☐ D Many people traveled between European and American ports.
3. The shortest time of the transportation crossing the Atlantic we can find out from the passage is 13 days and _____.
☐ A 11.5 hours ☐ B 7.5 hours ☐ C 7 hours ☐ D 4.5 hours
4. From the passage we can infer the writer's feeling about the packet is one of the following. Which one do you think is the best answer?
☐ A It is not surprising that the steamship was not used until it replaced the packet

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in 1850s.

- B The packet was so nice that steamship could not replace it until many years later.
- C The packet was not good and so the advanced steamship was used instead of it finally.
- D Although the packet was very nice, it would be totally replaced by the advanced ships.

Passage 3

难度等级 ★ ★

Not only farmers but scientists have studied weather forecasting. People, for many centuries and in all countries, have studied the weather and tried to make weather forecasts. Sometimes distant objects such as hills and tall trees seem to be very clear and near. This is a sign of much water-vapor in the air, and therefore a rain will probably come.

When distant sounds (such as the noise from a train, birds singing, or people shouting) are very clearly heard, then wet and stormy weather is on the way.

Rings round the sun is a sign of coming rain.

Many people feel the coming of wet weather in their bones. Their joint(关节) aches. Some birds fly high if fine weather is coming, but they fly very near the ground if rainy weather or a storm is on the way. This is probably because the insects, which they are hunting, fly low at that time. If you see a rainbow during rainy weather, this is a sign that the weather will clear up and become fine. Such rainbows come in the evening. If the stars twinkle clearly at night, fine weather will continue. If a mist appears in the early morning, just about sunrise, the day will be warm.

If the sunset is mostly red in color, the following day will be fine. When big cumulous clouds(积云) appear at sunset, the bad weather will follow the next day.

If cirrus clouds remain quite still, fine weather will come. If a rainbow appears in the morning, then rainy weather will probably come. Most of the above sayings have been made up by people who have used their eyes and their brains to forecast the weather.



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Unit 1

1. Some birds fly high if fine weather is coming, because _____.
☐ A they like fine weather
☐ B they can fly high when fine weather is coming
☐ C they fly high to catch insects
☐ D they feel very happy
2. When big cumulous clouds appear at sunset, then the weather will _____ the next day.
☐ A be fine ☐ B be bad ☐ C be windy ☐ D be cloudy
3. Weather will be fine if _____.
☐ A you see rings round the sun
☐ B you see the distant objects very clear and near
☐ C you feel pain in your bones
☐ D the stars twinkle clearly at night
4. If you see a rainbow during rainy weather, it shows that the weather will clear up and become fine. This because _____.
☐ A there is much water-vapor in the air
☐ B there is not much water-vapor in the air
☐ C there is not any water-vapor in the air
☐ D there are all kinds of water-vapor in the air
5. In this passage "wet weather" means _____ weather.
☐ A cloudy ☐ B rainy ☐ C windy ☐ D dry

Passage 4

难度等级 ★★

If you ask people to name the one person who had the greatest effect on the English language, you will get answers like "Shakespeare", "Samuel Johnson", and "Webster", but none of these men had any effect at all compared to a man who didn't even speak English — William the conqueror.

Before 1066, in the land we now call Great Britain lived peoples belong-

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ing to two major language groups. In the west — central region lived the Welsh, who spoke a Celtic language, and in the north lived the Scots, whose language, though not the same as Welsh, was also Celtic. In the rest of the century lived the Saxons, actually a mixture of Anglos, Saxons, and other Germanic and Nordic people, who spoke what we now call Anglo-Saxon (or Old English), a Germanic language. If this state of affairs had lasted, English today would be close to German.

But this state of affairs did not last. In 1066 the Normans led by William defeated the Saxons and began their rule over England. For about a century, French became the official language of England while Old English became the language of peasants. As a result, English words of politics and the law come from French rather than German. In some cases, modern English even shows a distinction between upper-class French and lowerclass Anglo Saxon in its words. We even have different words for some foods, meat in particular, depending on whether it is still out in the fields or at home ready to be cooked, which shows the fact that the Saxon peasants were doing farming, while the upper-class Normans were doing most of eating.

When Americans visit Europe for the first time, they usually find Germany more “foreign” than France because the German they see on signs and advertisement seems much more different from English than French does. Few realize that the English language is actually Germanic in its beginning and that the French influences are all the result of the man’s ambition(野心).

1. The two major languages spoken in what is now called Great Britain before 1066 were: _____
☐ A Welsh and Scottish ☐ B Nordic and Germanic
☐ C Celtic and Old English ☐ D Anglo-Saxon and Germanic
2. Which of the following groups of words are, by inference, rooted in French?
☐ A president, lawyer, beef ☐ B president, bread, water
☐ C bread, field, sheep ☐ D folk, field, cow
3. Why does French appear less foreign than Germany to Americans on their first visit to Europe?
☐ A Most advertisements in France appear in English.



- B They know little of the history of the English language.
 C Many French words are similar to English ones.
 D They know French better than German.
4. What is the subject discussed in the text?
- A The history of Great Britain.
 B The similarity between English and French.
 C The rule of England by William the conqueror.
 D The French influences on the English language.

Passage 5

难度等级 ★ ★ ★

Wandering through the street of downtown Boston, one can understand why this city — the capital of Massachusetts — has been nicknamed (取绰号) the Cradle of Liberty. Along a marked path called the Freedom Trail, visitors come upon landmarks of the Revolutionary War and the early history of the United States. Members of the Massachusetts Bay Colony founded Boston in 1630 on a peninsula (半岛) where the Charles River flows into a sheltered bay of the Atlantic Ocean.

The wealth of historic places in Boston sparks (激发) a visitor's imagination. It was at the Old South Meetinghouse that the Boston Tea Party of 1773 was planned. The Boston Massacre (大屠杀) (1770) took place opposite the Old Statehouse. A visit to Faneuil Hall brings to mind the fiery speeches of colonists who wanted their independence.

During the 19th century Boston was a leader in religion, literature, and social reform. Christian Science was established at the Mother Church in Boston, and Kings Chapel was the birthplace of American Unitarianism (一位论派).

Today a modern city hall looks out on a city that is a busy seaport as well as a center of industry, commerce, and finance. Boston's major industries include publishing, food processing (加工), and the manufacture of electronics equipment, leather goods, textiles (纺织品), and machineries.



At the same time, Boston maintains its position of leadership in education and culture. Students still attend the famous Boston Public Latin School, which five signers of the Declaration of Independence attended. It was founded in 1635 and is one of the oldest free public schools in the United States. Harvard University, in nearby Cambridge was founded in 1636. Other institutions of higher education in the Boston area are the Massachusetts Institute of Technology, Tufts University Boston University, Boston College, Brandeis University, Wellesley College, and Simmons College.

Boston provides many opportunities for enjoyment of museum and library collections, music, and the theater (戏剧艺术). Plays that are bound (必然的) for Broadway in New York City often try out in Boston. The Boston Symphony Orchestra and the Boston Pops Orchestra are world-famous. Sports are not neglected (忽视). The city has professional teams in baseball, hockey, and basketball. To many New Englanders, Boston still seems to deserve another of its old nicknames — the Hub of the Universe.

1. According to the first paragraph, which statement is incorrect?
 - A Boston is one of the oldest cities in America.
 - B Boston lies in a peninsula.
 - C Boston was nicknamed the Cradle of Liberty.
 - D Boston wasn't founded until the sixteenth century.
2. Which of the following events did not take place in the eighteenth century?
 - A The Boston Massacre.
 - B The establishment of Christian Sciences
 - C The Boston Tea Party.
 - D The speeches made for independence.
3. Which of the following is not included in the major industries of today's Boston?
 - A Finance and commerce.
 - B Publishing and food processing.
 - C Leather goods and textiles.
 - D Machinery and electronics.
4. Which of the following statements is correct?
 - A Boston Public Latin School was founded by five signers.
 - B Cambridge is another university in Boston.
 - C Public Latin School is a free school.