

英语专业考研 英美文化 知识点串讲



孔令香 主编

权威专家倾力打造
直击考试命脉 破解命题规律
考研之路伴你扬帆远航

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英语专业考研

英美文化

知识点串讲

本书由两部分组成。第一部分为英美文化知识串讲，第二部分为英美文化知识测试题。本书旨在帮助考生系统地掌握英美文化知识，提高应试能力。本书内容翔实，重点突出，是考生备考的必备参考书。

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内 容 提 要

本书为英语专业考研专业课辅导书,由英国文化和美国文化两部分组成,主要介绍了英国和美国的地理地貌、起源及历史,以及两个国家的经济发展、政治体制、司法和法律、卫生保障、宗教信仰、教育制度、节假日等内容,每部分各十一章,共二十二章。每章内容精简凝练、要点明确、紧扣考点。

本书专为英语专业考研学生设计,同时也适用于各高校英语专业英美概况课程和专业八级人文知识部分的学习和备考。

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前 言

本书专为英语专业考研学生设计,同时也适用于各高校英语专业英美概况课程和专业八级人文知识部分的学习和备考。目前,国内英美文化方面的教材众多,其中以余志远的《英语国家概况》、朱永涛的《英语国家社会与入门》最具代表性,也最受大家认可和欢迎。为满足不同读者的考试和学习需求,本书主要参考的是余志远的《英语国家概况》(外语教学与研究出版社)一书,但此教材在美国宗教、英国小说等方面讲解不太多,因此又参考了朱永涛的《英语国家社会与入门》(高等教育出版社)及其《英美文化基础教程》(外语教学与研究出版社)。

本书由两部分组成。第一部分为英国文化,第二部分为美国文化,每部分各十一章,共二十二章。每个章节包括本章的高频考点总结、高校历年真题、参考答案。考点和真题的结合便于考生既能全面把握考点,避免遗漏要点,又能根据真题题型把握命题规律,有所侧重地复习。比如,如果考点以选择题的形式出题,记住该考点即可;但如果是以论述题或简答题的形式出题,那就需要考生对该考点进行认真梳理和总结,力求准确判断命题方向,以尽量少丢分。

值得注意的是,本书中有些章节提供的历年真题数量较多(如地理、历史、政治、教育和经济等章节),这是因为它们是各高校重点考查的章节,建议广大考生予以重点复习。反之,提供历年真题较少的章节,其考查频率相对较低,建议考生适当减少对其的复习时间。最后,建议考生尤其要注意各章节中所涉及到的典型或者标志性的事件和文件等,它们往往是高频考点。

总之,本书精简凝练,要点明确,紧扣考点,有助于考生短时间内系统的掌握英美文化知识,也便于考生梳理复习笔记,达到事半功倍的效果。

衷心希望本书能助您一臂之力,也期待您对本书提出宝贵的意见!

编 者



**The United Kingdom of Great Britain
and Northern Ireland**



The United States of America

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Part One The United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland

Chapter 1 Geography

I . Names of the country and its different parts(国家名称及其组成部分)

Official name: the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland(英国官方名称:大不列颠和北爱尔兰联合王国)

Location: It is situated in the British Isles, which lie off the northwest coast of the European continent.

Constituents: It consists of England, Scotland, Wales, Northern Ireland, and hundreds of small islands.

Capital: London is its national capital, lying on the bank of the River Thames in southeast England.

British Empire(大英帝国)

About 100 years ago, due to its imperialist expansion, Britain ruled an empire which had 1/4 of the world's people and 1/4 of the world's land area. It had colonies in North America, Asia, Africa and Australia.

The Commonwealth of Nations(英联邦)

But the two world wars greatly weakened Britain, so Britain Empire changed into a Commonwealth: The Commonwealth of Nations, commonly known as the Commonwealth (also, the British Commonwealth), is an intergovernmental organisation of 53 member states that were mostly territories of the former British Empire. It is a free association of independent countries that were once colonies of Britain. It was founded in 1931, and has 50 member countries until 1991. The Commonwealth has no special powers. The decision to become a member of the Commonwealth is left to each nation.

1. England

General introduction: England is the largest, most populous and wealthiest division of the United Kingdom, which accounts for about 53% of the country's total area. That's maybe why many people improperly use "England" to refer to the whole United Kingdom.

Mountains: The highest peak of England, Scafell (978m), is in the Lake District in north-west England. The Pennines, a range of hills running from North Midlands to the Scottish border, are the principal mountain chain, known as "the backbone of England".

Capital: London is the capital of England, and its famous architectures are as follows.

Tower Bridge is a bridge on the Thames River in London, near the Tower of London, one of the city's principal landmarks.

Scenic spots(名胜):

Tower of London, located on the northern bank of the Thames River, was built about 1078.

The Big Ben: Named for Sir *Benjamin* Hall, the Chief Commissioner of Works when the bell was cast in 1856, Big Ben is the great bell in the clock tower on the eastern end of the Houses of Parliament in London.

Westminster Abbey is the best-known church in England. It was begun in 1245 for King Henry III, and the French Gothic influence can be seen in the flying buttresses and the window tracery in particular.

2. Scotland

General introduction: In the north of Great Britain(大不列颠) is Scotland, which consists of three fairly clearly-marked regions: the southern uplands, the central plain, and the Highlands. More than 80% of the population of Scotland lives in the central plain and the strip of east coast extending northwards from it.

Mountain: Ben Nevis, the highest mountain in Britain (1,343m), is located here in Scotland.

Capital: Edinburgh is the capital of Scotland, and it is called "the Athens of the north". The annual Edinburgh Festival of the arts is internationally famous.

3. Wales

General introduction: Most of Wales is mountainous. It is the smallest of the

British mainland, but is larger than Northern Ireland.

Mountain: Snowdonia (1,085m) (斯诺登尼亚山峰) in the northwest is the highest mountain in Wales.

Capital: Cardiff is the capital of Wales, and it is the only part of Britain with a high proportion of industrial villages.

4. Northern Ireland

It takes up one fifth of Ireland.

Belfast is the capital of Northern Ireland.

II. Climate(英国气候)

It has a favorable maritime climate (海洋性气候). Winters are mild, not too cold; summers are cool, not too hot; steady throughout the year; small range of temperature. Britain has a steady reliable rainfall throughout the whole year.

III. People(人民)

The English are Anglo-Saxons, but Scots, Welsh and Irish are Celts.

	English	Welsh	Scots	Irish
Origin	Anglo-Saxons	Celts	Celts	Celts
Language	Southern: BBC (except Cockney); Northern: broader.	Welsh, an ancient Celtic language; English	Gaelic, old Celtic language of the Scots; English	Irish, a form of Gaelic; English

1. The English

The English are Anglo-Saxons, but Scots, Welsh and Irish are Celts. During the fifth century when the Roman Empire fell, the Germanic Angles and Saxons invaded the conquered Britain. The Germanic conquerors gave England its name "Angle" land. During the 9th century Britain was invaded by the Danes or Vikings and in 1066 by the Norman French. It is from the union of Norman Conquerors and the defeated Anglo-Saxons that the English people still bear the trace of their ancestors.

2. The Welsh

The Celts of Wales defended their freedom for 1,000 years and were not conquered by the English until 1536.

Welsh is an ancient Celtic language. It was given equality with English for all official use in Wales in 1965.

3. The Scots

Some Germanic Angles (盎格鲁人) settled in the Scottish lowlands and in the borderlands between Scotland and England, but they never invaded the Highlands, where the Scots remained safe in their mountain glens and on their islands. Scots are proud that the English never conquered them.

4. Irish

Irish, often called Erse, is a form of Gaelic. It is official first language of the Republic of Ireland and English is the second.

5. Immigrants

Since WWII about three million immigrants have come to Britain to live and find work. They are mainly from the West Indies (西印度群岛), India (印度) and Pakistan (巴基斯坦).

历年真题

I. Multiple choice.

1. Among the following statements about Britain, which is NOT true? (吉林大学 2005)
 - A. It is located off the coast of the northwestern part of the continent of Europe.
 - B. It is mainly a Protestant country.
 - C. There are no Catholics at all in the nation.
 - D. It is smaller than New Zealand in area.
2. The British Isles, a group of islands off the coast of Northwestern Europe, contain two countries, namely, _____. (吉林大学 2006)
 - A. France and Britain
 - B. Scotland and Britain
 - C. Ireland and Britain
 - D. Wales and Scotland
3. _____ is the capital of Scotland since the 15th century built around the rocky ridge on which its fortified castle stands. (吉林大学 2006)
 - A. Cardiff
 - B. Edinburgh
 - C. Glasgow
 - D. Manchester
4. Ben Nevis, the highest mountain in Britain, is located in _____. (吉林大学 2007)

- A. England
C. Wales
- B. Scotland
D. Northern Ireland
5. The north and the northwest of England are mainly _____. (吉林大学 2007)
- A. farm land
C. highland
- B. lowland
D. marshland
6. Which of the following people are the ancestors of the Irish? (首都师范大学 2008)
- A. The Celts.
C. The Danes.
- B. The Romans.
D. The Anglo-Saxons.
7. Irish is a kind of the old _____ language. (北京航空航天大学 2008)
- A. Anglo-Saxon
C. Latin
- B. Gaelic
D. Roman
8. Which of the following people are the ancestors of the Welsh? (首都师范大学 2007)
- A. The Anglo-Saxons.
C. The Danes.
- B. The Romans.
D. The Celts.
9. The modern Welsh are the descendants of the _____. (吉林大学 2007)
- A. Romans
C. Normans
- B. Celts
D. Danes
10. Most of the people in Britain _____ (吉林大学 2005)
- A. live in the central lowland of Scotland
B. descend from the Normans
C. speak a language of Germanic origin
D. carry the blood of the Vikings
11. Which of the following is true about the British Commonwealth? (北京航空航天大学 2009)
- A. Members of nations are joined together politically.
B. The Commonwealth has special powers.
C. The decision to become a member of the commonwealth is made by Britain.
D. It is a free association of independent countries that were once colonies of Britain.
12. The Pennines, a range of _____, are known as “_____”. (吉林大学 2006)
- A. mountains, backbone of England
B. Hills, highest peaks of Wales

C. highlands; Kingdom of animals

D. lowlands; nicest place in Scotland

13. The English people and the English language were born from the union of _____. (北京航空航天大学 2009)

A. the Angles and the Saxons

B. the Germanic conquerors and the Norman French

C. the Vikings and the Norman French

D. the Norman conquerors and the defeated Anglo-Saxons

II . Fill in the blanks.

The English are _____, but Scots, welsh and Irish are _____. During the fifth century when the Roman Empire fell, the Germanic _____ and _____ invaded the conquered Britain, the Germanic conquerors gave England its name “_____” land. During the 9th century Britain was invaded by the _____ or Vikings and by the _____. (北京航空航天大学 2004)

参 考 答 案

I . Multiple choice.

1—5 C C B B C 6—10 A B D B B 11—13 D A D

II . Fill in the blanks.

Anglo-Saxon; Celts; Angles; Saxons; Angel; Danes; Norman French

Chapter 2 The Origins of a Nation(5000 BC—1066)

I . Early Settlers (5000 BC—55 BC)(早期定居者)

1. The Iberians

The first known settlers of Britain were the Iberians, who came to Britain, probably from the Iberian Peninsula, now Spain, at about 3000BC.

The Long barrows(史前纪念碑) in Wiltshire and Dorset were their communal burial mounds(古坟).

More dramatic monuments were henges(史前英格兰人的圆形石结构). Among them, the most important was Stonehenge(巨石阵) in Wiltshire, which may have religious and political significance.

2. The Beaker Folk

At about 2000 BC they come from the areas now known as Holland and the Rhineland.

They took the name from their bell-shaped(钟形)drinking vessels with which they were buried in crouching positions in individual graves.

They brought with them the art of pottery making, the ability to fashion bronze tools and the custom of individual burial.

They built hill forts, with Maiden Castle(梅登城堡)as one of the finest examples.

3. The Celts

The Celts began to arrive about 700 BC and they came to Britain in three main waves.

The first wave were the Gaels, who started to come about 600BC. The second wave were the Brythons(布立吞人), who started to come about 400 BC. The Belgae came about 150 BC. Among them, the Belgae(贝尔格族) were the most industrious(勤劳的) and vigorous of the Celtic tribes.

The Celtic tribes are ancestors of Highland Scots, the Irish and the Welsh, and their languages are the basis of both Welsh(威尔士语)and Gaelic.

The Celts' religion was Druidism (human sacrifices). The Druids(the wise men, astrologers and soothsayers)performed their rite in woods by the light of the moon.

II . Roman Britain (55BC—410AD)(罗马征服时期的英国)

1. Roman Conquest

Roman Conquest: British recorded history begins with the Roman invasion. Julius Caesar invaded Britain for the first time in 55BC. He returned the following year. The successful invasion did not take place until nearly a century later, in AD 43, headed by the Emperor Claudius. And they pulled out(退出)in AD 410.

2. Reasons for never a total occupation

Britain was under the Roman occupation for nearly 400 years, but for two reasons it was never a total occupation(完全占领). First, some parts of the country resist; second, Roman troops were often withdrawn from Britain to fight in other parts of Roman Empire. The Romans failed to conquer the tribes of Scotland.

The achievements made by the Romans: The Romans built a network of towns, mostly walled; between large towns the Romans constructed a network of prior and secondary roads; the Romans made good use of Britain's natural resources, mining lead, iron and tin, and manufacturing pottery; the Romans also brought the new religion, Christianity, to Britain.

3. Reasons for limited Roman influence

The Romans always treated the Britons as a subject people of slave class. Never during the 4 centuries did the Romans and Britons intermarry. The Romans had no impact on the language or culture of ordinary Britons. (首先,罗马人把不列颠人当作奴隶阶级的属民来对待。其次长达四个世纪的统治中罗马人和不列颠人从未通婚。最后,罗马人也未影响普通不列颠人的语言和文化。)

III . Anglo-Saxons (446—871)(盎格鲁撒克逊人)

1. Anglo-Saxons and the found of Heptarchy

The Anglo-Saxons were three tribes of the Germanic people who originally lived in the northwest of modern Germany. In the mid-5th century a new wave of invaders, Jutes, Saxons, and Angles came to Britain. They were three Teutonic tribes.

Heptarchy: The leader of Jutes, Hengist, became the King of Kent in 449. Then the Saxons established their kingdoms in Essex, Sussex and Wessex from the end of 5th century to the beginning of the 6th century. The Angles settled in East Anglia, Mercia and Northumbria. These seven principal kingdoms of Kent, Essex, Sussex, Wessex, East Anglia, Mercia and Northumbria have been given the name of Heptarchy.

2. Religion

The Anglo-Saxons brought their own Teutonic religion to Britain. Christianity soon disappeared, except among the Celts of Cornwall, Wales, Scotland and Ireland. In 597, Pope Gregory I sent St. Augustine, the Prior of St. Andrew's Monastery in Rome, to England to convert the heathen (异教的) English to Christianity. In 597 St. Augustine became the first Archbishop of Canterbury. He was remarkably successful in converting the king and the nobility, but the conversion of the common people was largely due to the missionary activities of the monks in the north.

3. Achievements made by Anglo-Saxons

The Anglo-Saxons laid the foundations of the English state. Firstly, they divided the country into shires(郡), which the Normans later called counties(县), with shire courts and shire reeves, or sheriffs(郡治安官), responsible for administering law(执法). Secondly, they devised the narrow-strip, three-field farming system which continued until the agricultural revolution in the 18th century. Thirdly, they also established the manorial system(庄园制). Finally, they created the Witan(council or meeting of the wisemen 智者)to advise the king, the basis of the Privy Council(枢密院) which still exists today.

IV. The Viking(北欧海盗)and Danish(丹麦人)Invasions(入侵)

1. The Viking(北欧海盗)and Danish Invasions: The Norwegian(挪威的)Vikings and the Danes from Denmark(丹麦)attacked various parts of England from the end of the 8th century. They became a serious problem in the 9th century, especially between 835 and 878. Alfred, King of Wessex, was strong enough to defeat the Danes and came to a relatively friendly agreement with them in 879. The Danes gained control of north and east of England, i. e. "the Danelaw", while Alfred, king of Wessex, rule the rest.

2. Alfred's achievements("Alfred the Great" 阿尔弗雷德大帝):

Alfred, known as "the father of the British navy"(英国海军之父), founded a strong fleet which first beat the Danes at sea, then protected the coasts and encouraged trade. He also reorganized the *fyrð* (the Saxon army), making it more efficient. Moreover, he translated Bede's *Ecclesiastical history of the English People* 《英国人民的教会史》into English. As a learned man himself, he encouraged learning in others, established schools and formulated a legal system. This, as well as his admirable work with the army and the navy, makes him worthy of his title "Alfred the Great".

V. The Norman Conquest (1066) (诺曼征服)

1. The Norman Conquest

King Edward (1042—1066) is said to have promised the English throne to William, Duke of Normandy. But, on his deathbed, four men laid claim to (声称有权获得) the English throne: the King of Norway, the Duke of Normandy (William), two brothers of Edward's Queen (Tostig and Harold Godwinson). Finally, when Edward died, the Witan(贤人会议) chose Harold as king.

On October 14, 1066, at a battle on Senlac Field (near Hastings) Harold was killed (the battle of Hastings 黑斯廷斯战役). Anglo-Saxon England perished with Harold's death.

On Christmas in 1066, William was crowned King of England in Westminster Abbey by the Archbishop of York.

Faced with Saxon risings in the north, William took swift and brutal action in what has been called the “harrying of the north”.

2. Significance of the Norman Conquest

The Norman Conquest (诺曼征服) of 1066 is perhaps the best-known event in English history. William the Conqueror confiscated (没收) almost all the land and gave it to his Norman followers. He replaced the weak Saxon rule with a strong Norman government. So the feudal system (封建制度) was completely established in England. Relations with the Continent (欧洲大陆) were opened, and civilization and commerce were extended. Norman-French culture, language, manners, and architecture were introduced (引入). The Church was brought into closer connection with Rome, and the church courts (教会法庭) were separated from the civil courts (民事法庭、世俗法庭).

历年真题

I . Multiple Choice

1. The Celts religion was _____. (北京航空航天大学 2008)
- A. Christianity B. Druidism
- C. Roman Catholicism D. Islam
2. Who were the ancestors of the English and the founders of England? (吉林大学)

A. The Anglo-Saxons.
B. The Normans.
C. The Vikings.
D. The Romans.

3. In Britain today, in terms of ethnic origin, the English people carry the blood of _____ . (吉林大学 2007)

4. In which of the following years did Julius Caesar invade Britain? (首都师范大学 2008)

5. Which of the following names of kings is often followed by “the Great”? (首都师范大学 2008)

6. Who introduced Christianity into Britain? (北京交通大学 2007)

7. _____ was the first Archbishop of Canterbury who was remarkably successful in converting the British king and the nobility of Christianity. (北京航空航天大学 2008)

8. British recorded history begins with _____ . (北京航空航天大学 2009)

9. _____ was the king killed in the battle of Hastings. (北京航空航天大学 2008)

- A. Edward I B. William I
C. Alfred D. Harold

1. The _____, the _____, the _____, three tribes of Germanic people came to invade England in the middle of the fifth century. (吉林大学 2007)