

高校英语跟踪阅读系列教材

大学英语 跟踪阅读

(第三版)

丛书主编 姜毓锋 郭红

4

EXTENSIVE
READING
SERIES
(3RD EDITION)

清华大学出版社



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(3RD EDITION)

大学英语 ④
跟踪阅读 (第三版)

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内 容 简 介

《大学英语跟踪阅读》(第三版)依据《大学英语课程教学要求》的精神,在同名书第二版的基础上修订而成,分为4册。本册17个单元,每单元由10篇阅读理解文章及不同形式的练习题构成。在编写过程中,力求所选文章依据难易梯度设置,各篇词汇分布均匀,尽可能覆盖《大学英语课程教学要求》中规定的词汇和各项语言基础知识。每篇阅读文章之前均提供了文章字数,供学生及时评估阅读速度和效率,逐步提高阅读理解能力。本次修订主要订正了第二版书中的个别错误,更换了少量难度或主题不甚理想的文章或习题,将文中的生词进行了重新全面排查和注释。本教程既可作为独立的大学英语阅读教材使用,也可配合大学英语主干教材使用。

本教程的目标读者为高等院校在校学生,大学英语四、六级备考人员及英语水平相当的其他人士。

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第三版前言

《大学英语跟踪阅读》系列教材自出版以来，得到了广大英语学习者和教师的普遍认可与喜爱。经过使用，其良好的跟踪效果已得到证明。承蒙广大读者的关爱和清华大学出版社的鼎力支持，《大学英语跟踪阅读》系列教材得以再版发行，在此编写组向读者和出版社致以最衷心的感谢。

然而，一套好的教材要想保持长久的生命力，需要不断进行修订和完善。为使《大学英语跟踪阅读》适应新时期外语教学的要求，在本次修订中，根据教育部《大学英语教学课程要求》，按照当前社会需求，结合前两版的使用情况，我们广泛征求、听取了读者和教师的意见和建议，认真加以研讨，不吝人力财力，集思广益，对本书进行了修订与改进，调整了部分内容，使要求更为合理，适应面更为广泛。

《大学英语跟踪阅读》在第三版修订时更换了部分篇章，修改了疏漏之处，选材时特别重视筛选新兴学科和内容新颖的文章，绝大部分文章选自近5年来出版和发表的知识面广、科学性强、趣味性浓的英语读物，内容涉及语言、文化、习俗、伦理、信息、科学和社会焦点等诸多方面，读来津津有味、妙趣横生，能够帮助学生拓宽见闻，增长知识，达到融语言知识学习、文化意识提高与批判性思维能力的培养为一体的目的。所选文章大部分出自名家之手，语言规范，思想深刻，情景交融，使学生读起来心领神会，易于吸收理解。在内容安排上力求由简而繁、由浅入深、循序渐进，既能满足基础阶段英语学习者的要求，又能满足中、高级阶段英语学习者进行提高阅读理解能力的要求。

修订后的《大学英语跟踪阅读》系列教材秉承持续跟踪的特色，在总体框架和教学定位不变的前提下，对版式和内容进行了修改，更新和增加了部分内容，使之更加切合现行大学英语教学的需要。

本书在编写过程中参考了国内外相关资料，在此一并表示深深的谢意。

尽管全书编写人员在修订时作了大量的工作和努力，但由于水平和经验有限，不足之处在所难免，敬请广大使用者及同行批评、指正，使之臻于完善。

《大学英语跟踪阅读》编写组
2014年3月

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Passage 541

Words: 258

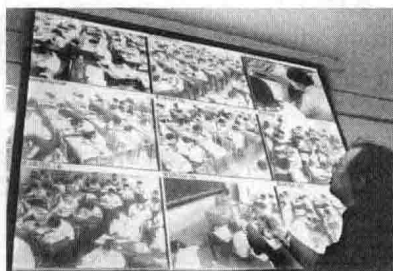
Monday

Time Spent: _____

Date: ____/____/____ (D/M/Y)

Score: ____/5

Examinations



Examinations have come to exercise (施加) so great an influence in the modern age that it may be difficult to take a view of them unclouded by prejudices (成见). Those who pass examinations have an interest in encouraging their use and in emphasizing their advantages. Those who fail may be in danger of accepting a pessimistic view of their own abilities which could affect their whole future. Here lies a great danger, for even in society in which everyone would be given an equal chance, no means of selection can be tolerated which depresses the ambition of those rejected. There was little disgrace (不光彩) in failing in an examination at a time when only a small elite (杰出人物) was involved. Nowadays nearly every one is examined and graded at one level or another, and opportunity for promotion is becoming steadily more available to those who pass the tests.

Examinations are important, but what is regrettable is that there is a tendency to put aside that which is not to be estimated by examinations. Moral excellence and strength of character, though encouraged in schools by tradition, come second to examination technique when a pupil applies for an entrance to the next stage of education. But we must bear in mind that it is the defects (缺点) in personal qualities rather than a lack of knowledge which are responsible for failures in life.

Reading Comprehension



1. A pessimistic view of one's own abilities will _____ those who did not do well in

the examination.

- A. be useful to
- C. do harm to

- B. be helpful to
- D. have little effect on

2. Those who favor the examinations are probably the ones that _____ the examinations.

- A. thought little of
- C. attached no importance to

- B. failed in
- D. succeeded in

3. _____ have at least experienced some sorts of examinations in his life.

- A. All people
- C. Some people

- B. Most people
- D. Few people

4. After one has graduated from a university, examinations _____.

- A. will be meaningless to him
- B. will have nothing to do with him
- C. will give him no trouble again
- D. still play an important role in his life

5. The fact that moral excellence and strength of character can't be estimated by examinations is _____ in examinations.

- A. the only defect
- C. one of the defects

- B. an important advantage
- D. one of the advantages

Passage 542

Words: 228

Monday

Time Spent: _____

Date: ____ / ____ / ____ (D/M/Y)

Score: ____ / 5

Is the Octopus a Human Killer?



The octopus's (章鱼) reputation as a human-killer isn't simply an exaggeration — it is a total myth. The octopus can indeed be a deadly hunter but only of its natural prey clams, mussels (贻贝), crabs, lobsters and an occasional sick or unwary fish have reason to be frightened of this multi-armed predator, but a person is much too large to interest even the biggest octopus. Even a giant among octopi is much smaller than most people imagine. Far from being large enough to engulf a submarine, as monster octopi in movies have been known to do, the

largest octopi, found on the Pacific coast, weigh around 110 pounds and grow to a diameter of no more than ten feet.

The hard, parrot-like beak (嘴) of an octopus is not used for attacking deep-sea divers, but for cutting open crabs and lobsters. Indeed, the octopus possesses such a tiny throat that it cannot

swallow large pieces of meat. It feeds instead by pouring digestive juices into its victims, and then sucking up the soupy remains. A clam or scallop (扇贝) that finds itself in the grasp of an octopus has only a short time to live. But human beings are perfectly safe. Still, people rarely care to venture close enough to these timid creatures to get a good look at them.

Reading Comprehension



- This passage is mainly about _____.
 - the horrors of the octopus
 - the largest octopus in the world
 - octopi and their behavior
 - the octopus's deadly hunting method
- It is implied but not stated in the passage that _____.
 - people have groundless fears about the octopus
 - the octopus is not interested in human beings because they are too large for it
 - the octopus is afraid of human beings
 - the octopus is a very vicious sea animal
- Which of the following statements is TRUE? The octopus _____.
 - usually uses its eight tentacles to tear its prey into pieces before eating it up
 - always catches sick and careless fish
 - never attacks people
 - can engulf submarines
- The hard beak of the octopus is used for _____.
 - attacking deep-sea divers
 - cutting up large pieces of meat
 - cutting open its prey
 - defending itself
- From the passage, we can conclude that _____.
 - the octopus is not dangerous to man, as many people believe it to be
 - people often fear creatures that are not dangerous to them
 - the octopus only hunts its natural prey
 - things described in movies are not to be believed

Passage 543

Words: 233

Tuesday

Time Spent: _____

Date: ____/____/____ (D/M/Y)

Score: ____/5

Honeybee's Life in a Colony

Honeybees cannot live alone. Their body structure and instincts equip them for life in a

colony or community, where they have a complex social organization and the various duties are divided among the individuals according to physical fitness and age. An individual worker bee cannot reproduce itself. While it may continue to live if forcibly isolated from its mates, it fails to care for itself adequately, and soon dies. Most insects have the ability to hibernate (冬眠) in winter, but the honeybee seems to have lost this. Since at low temperatures the bee will die, it must have the ability to make its own environment, so far as temperature is concerned. This makes a colony necessary to the bees in winter, so that they may collectively warm each other. Efficiency, if not necessity, demands that the work of the colony be divided, and such a division of labor tends to enhance the need to maintain the colony, the physical structure of the honeybee is further suited for the defense of the entire colony rather than for its own defense. The bee's barbed sting is used only once and is made more effective by the fact that it is left behind in the victim. With the loss of the sting however, the bee dies. This kind of defensive weapon is not of service to the individual, but to the community.



Reading Comprehension



1. According to the passage, bees are fitted for communal life by virtue of their _____.
 - A. flexibility and initiative
 - B. independence and endurance
 - C. intelligence and sensitivity
 - D. instincts and form
2. According to the passage, a worker bee may survive for a short time even if it is _____.
 - A. deprived of its sting
 - B. denied access to oxygen
 - C. isolated from other bees
 - D. exposed to a wide range of temperatures
3. It can be inferred from the passage that at one time bees had the ability to _____.
 - A. increase their activity in lower temperatures
 - B. leave cold climates during winter
 - C. remain dormant through periods of cold weather
 - D. construct insulated (孤立的) hives
4. According to the passage, bees differ from most other communities of insects in their need to _____.

- A. reproduce in large numbers
 - B. control the temperature where they live
 - C. divide the work of their colonies
 - D. have a complex defense system
5. According to the passage, the honeybee's sting is particularly effective because it _____.
- A. has many potential uses
 - B. can kill several victims at once
 - C. is located in the rear of the bee's body
 - D. remains with the bee's victim

Passage 544

Tuesday

Date: ____/____/____/ (D/M/Y)

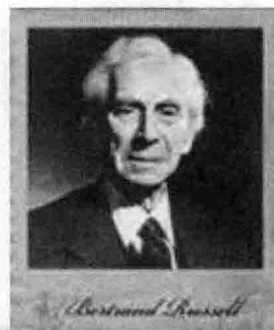
Words: 271

Time Spent: ____

Score: ____/5

How to Grow Old?

Some old people are oppressed by the fear of death. In the young there is a justification for this feeling. Young men who have reason to fear that they will be killed in battle may justifiably feel bitter in the thought that they have been cheated of the best things that life has to offer. But in an old man who has known human joys and sorrows, and has achieved whatever work it was in him to do, the fear of death is somewhat abject (可怜的) and ignoble (可耻的). The best way to overcome it — so at least it seems to me — is to make your interests gradually wider and more impersonal, until bit by bit the walls of the ego recede (退去), and your life becomes increasingly merged in the universal life. An individual human existence should be like a river — small at first, narrowly contained within its banks, and rushing passionately past boulders and over waterfalls. Gradually the river grows wider, the banks recede, the waters flow more quietly, and in the end, without any visible break, they become merged in the sea, and painlessly lose their individual being. The man who, in old age, can see his life in this way, will not suffer from the fear of death, since the things he cares for will continue. And if, with the decay of vitality, weariness increases, the thought of rest will be not unwelcome. I should wish to die while still at work, knowing that others will carry on what I can no longer do, and content in the thought that what was possible has been done.



Reading Comprehension



- [illegible]

Passage 545

Words: 298

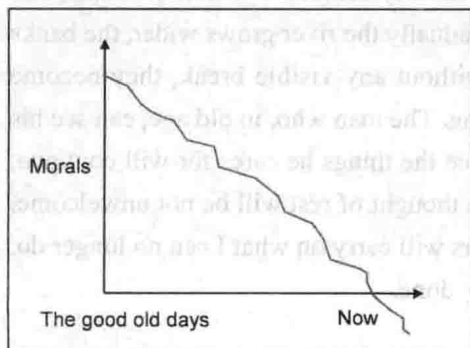
Wednesday

Date: 04/01/2024 / 01/04/2024 / (D/M/Y)

Time Spent:

Score: /5

Are Moral Standards Declining?



The decline in moral standards — which has long concerned social analysts — has at last captured the attention of average Americans. And Jean Bethke Elshtain, for one, is glad.

The fact that ordinary citizens are now starting to think seriously about the nation's moral climate, says this ethics (伦理学) professor at the University of Chicago, is reason to hope that new ideas will come forward to improve it.

But the challenge is not to be underestimated. Materialism and individualism in American society are the biggest obstacles. “The thought that ‘I’m in it for me’ has become deeply rooted in the national consciousness,” Ms. Elshtain says.

Some of this can be attributed to the disintegration of traditional communities, in which neighbors looked out for one another, she says. With today’s greater mobility and with so many couples working, those bonds have been weakened, replaced by a greater emphasis on self.

In a 1996 poll of Americans, loss of morality topped the list of the biggest problems facing the U.S.. And Elshtain says the public is correct to sense that: Data show that Americans are struggling with problems unheard of in the 1950’s, such as classroom violence and a high rate of births to unmarried mothers.

The desire for a higher moral standard is not a lament (挽歌) for some nonexistent “golden age,” Elshtain says, nor is it a wishful (一相情愿的) longing for a time that denied opportunities to women and minorities. Most people, in fact, favor the lessening of prejudice. Moral decline will not be reversed until people find ways to counter the materialism in society, she says. “Slowly, you recognize that the things that matter are those that can’t be bought.”

Reading Comprehension



- Professor Elshtain is pleased to see that Americans _____.
 - have adapted to a new set of moral standards
 - are longing for the return of the good old days
 - have realized the importance of material things
 - are awakening to the lowering of their moral standards
- The moral decline of American society is caused mainly by _____.
 - its growing wealth
 - the self-centeredness of individuals
 - underestimating the impact of social changes
 - the prejudice against women and minorities
- Which of the following characterizes the traditional communities?
 - Great mobility.
 - Concern for one’s neighbors.
 - Emphasis on individual effort.
 - Ever-weakening social bonds.
- In the 1950’s, classroom violence _____.
 - was something unheard of
 - was by no means a rare occurrence
 - attracted a lot of public attention