



# 高考英语 经典阅读 150篇

(2012 版)

刘决生 主编

尽现高考阅读理解测试热点  
指点命题方向 摆脱题海束缚



YZLI0890146221

精选近年全国各省市高考英语阅读理解典型真题

按选材范围分为人物经历篇、事件描述篇、科技说明篇、现象介绍篇、  
异域风情篇、广告信息篇、话题谈论篇和阅读新题型等八大板块  
典型的真题 权威的命题 明确的导向

上海科学技术出版社

中学英语经典试题 150 系列

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图书在版编目(CIP)数据

高考英语经典阅读 150 篇/刘决生主编. —7 版. —  
上海:上海科学技术出版社,2011.8  
(中学英语经典试题 150 系列)  
ISBN 978—7—5478—0954—9

I. ①高... II. ①刘... III. ①英语—阅读教学—高中—习题集—升学参考资料 IV. ①G634.415

中国版本图书馆 CIP 数据核字(2011)第 148209 号



上海世纪出版股份有限公司  
上海科学技术出版社 出版、发行

(上海钦州南路 71 号 邮政编码 200235)

新华书店上海发行所经销

苏州望电印刷有限公司印刷

开本 787×1092 1/16 印张 10

字数:250 千字

2005 年 12 月第 1 版

2011 年 8 月第 7 版 2011 年 8 月第 8 次印刷

ISBN 978—7—5478—0954—9/G·179

定价:22.00 元

本书如有缺页、错装或坏损等严重质量问题,  
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# 前言

2011 年高考, 全国各地共有 19 份高考英语试题各展风采。与教育部考试中心命制的 3 份全国卷(大纲全国卷 I、大纲全国卷 II 以及新课标全国卷。其中, 大纲全国卷 I 与新课标全国卷只有一篇阅读和短文改错不同)相比, 单独命题的省市, 如北京、上海、天津、重庆、湖北、湖南、山东、江西、安徽、福建、浙江、江苏、辽宁、广东、四川、陕西与海南等, 或者直接按照教育部考试中心的说明要求命题, 或者以其为指导, 结合当地的英语教学实际制定了相应的考试说明, 并据此命题反映当地特色的英语试题。其中, 广东、山东、海南、宁夏、江苏、天津、安徽、福建、浙江、辽宁、北京、黑龙江、吉林、湖南、陕西、河南、新疆、山西、江西等十九省市、自治区试题均为实施普通高中新课程改革后的高考试题; 上海市 2011 年高考已经是上海市二期课改全面实施以来的第三次考试。

综观全国各地高考英语试题, 我们不难发现, 高考英语阅读理解的分值比例最大。全国 19 份高考英语试题的阅读理解篇幅均为 5 篇左右, 浙江卷更是多达 6 篇(这还不包括浙江卷自选模块中的英语阅读), 并占了 50 分的比重(占总分 150 分的 1/3)。2011 年高考, 上海、浙江等多个省市英语阅读理解试题难度明显增加。由此可见, 高考英语阅读理解能力的提升, 对于高考英语学科获得高分极为关键。因此, 熟悉高考英语命题特点, 进行系统训练, 从而快速有效地提升英语阅读理解答题能力至关重要。

本书编者深入研究、参照教育部考试中心对近年高考英语阅读理解命题的权威分析, 同时结合各地最新试题, 撰写了一篇非常详细的高考英语阅读理解应试指导文章, 力图简明扼要地系统阐述高考英语阅读理解的命题特点, 为广大高中学生备战高考提供详细的答题策略指导。与众多模拟试题不同的是, 本书精选了最近 3 年全国各地高考英语阅读理解真题 150 篇(其中 2011 年各地高考真题 91 篇), 按照试题的选材范围分为人物经历篇、事件描述篇、科技说明篇、现象介绍篇、异域风情篇、广告信息篇、话题谈论篇和阅读新题型等八大板块。之所以全部采用各地最新高考真题, 是因为真题的典型性更强、命题方式更权威、导向更明确。全国各地高中各年级的学生都可以根据自己的实际情况选用。

本书在 2005 年初次出版, 之后每年再版、多次印刷, 得到了全国各地广大师生的充分肯定。为了满足广大师生的最新需求, 编者参照 2011 年各地高考英语阅读理解真题及时修订了本书, 力图以最新的内容奉献给读者。

本书编者既有毕业于华东师范大学外语学院从事高考英语测试专业研究的英语教育硕士, 又有多年奋战在高三英语教学一线的名师。李艳、杜文生、计风、吴静、唐珊、李冰、王冰燕、李玉明、张晴、张咏梅、黄娟、李丽、罗梅、向先群、汪金花、张四海、王丹、梅丽、向忠实和夏琼等同志参与了本书资料的收集和编写。作为《中学英语经典试题 150 系列》丛书中一种, 本书是 2012 版《高考英语经典语法与词汇 1500 题》《高考英语经典完形填空 150 篇》《高考英语经典写作 150 篇》和《最新高考英语阅读模拟精选 150 篇》的姊妹篇。上海科学技术出版社的编辑们为本书的出版付出了辛勤的劳动, 在此致谢。

由于编写时间有限, 书中不足之处还望读者不吝指出, 以便再版时及时修正。

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2011 年 7 月

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# 第一章

## 高考英语阅读理解命题特点与答题指导

教育部考试中心在对近年的高考英语阅读理解试题进行分析总结时指出, 阅读英语文章是我国考生接触英语的最主要途径。因此, 阅读理解应该在试卷中占较大的比重。

### 一、最新高考英语阅读理解命题特点

综观近年各地高考英语阅读试题, 它们有以下显著特点: 试题难度适中, 个别省份略有起伏; 文章选材符合《考试大纲》的基本要求, 保证了题材、体裁类型多样; 对阅读理解的几种技能考查比较全面; 个别省份篇章长度有增加, 阅读量略有增加; 文章内容积极健康, 兼具知识性、思想性与教育性。在 2011 年高考试题中, 主观性的阅读新题型占有一定的比例, 如天津卷与山东卷的阅读表达、湖南卷的简答题与填空题、安徽卷的任务型读写等; 上海市 2010 年高考也开始采用简答题型, 要求考生用 10 个以内的单词补充信息或概括内容。

从整体上看, 各省市的高考阅读理解试题都基本做到了以下三个方面: 第一, 阅读材料信息量大, 体现在 5 篇文章(或 6 篇文章)、题材与体裁的多样化方面; 第二, 文章有易有难, 搭配适度, 命题者注意到合理把握文章及句子的难度; 第三, 恰当控制生词的数量, 较好地处理合成词与派生词。每份试题的 5 篇文章(或 6 篇文章) 20 道题(或 25 道题) 都能合理地安排好文章细节判断题、词意或句意猜测题、文意理解判断题和根据文章推理判断题的题量与出现的顺序。命题者熔知识性、趣味性、实用性于一炉, 全方位、多侧面地对考生的阅读理解能力进行了比较科学的检测。

对选文的难度、选文的思想性、选文的时代性以及文章实用性的良好把握, 的确是一门很深的学问, 教育部考试中心高考英语命题组的高考英语阅读选材在这方面树立了一个非常好的榜样。最近几年, 阅读理解的难度系数都在 0.51 左右波动, 这是命题者经过多年的潜心研究, 对高考后的数据进行缜密分析, 透彻了解中学教学实际, 本着两个“有利于”(有利于高等学校选拔人才、有利于促进中学教学) 的基本原则, 站在英语测试学的角度上科学命制的结果。试题具备了科学的信度、效度与区分度。

教育部考试中心对高考阅读文章选材要求如下(摘自教育部考试中心的试题分析报告):

1. 阅读材料的主题要明确, 话题要新, 要有时代感。
2. 语言应地道, 条理清晰, 结构紧凑, 在时间顺序、空间顺序或逻辑推理上要有较大的复杂性。
3. 材料长短适宜。平均每篇短文 300 词左右, 但每篇文章要有足够的信息量, 以供设题

之用。其中,文章词量约占 2/3,试题词量约占 1/3。

4. 语言难易要适度。材料中的生词量应控制在 1%以内(由构词法形成的词不计为生词),避免短文中出现太多的汉语释义。每篇注释的词控制在 3 个以内。

5. 材料应具有真实性,原汁原味,选材新颖,避免选用广为流传和人所共知的材料,可涉及科普、社会、文化、政治、经济和生活等。

6. 体裁应多样化,应有叙述文、说明文、议论文、应用文等。每套试题最好有一篇考查搜寻特定信息的能力的广告、公告类材料,也可选用科普、新闻等体裁。

从阅读文章的题材角度看,2011 年各地高考阅读理解试题所选文章坚持了多样性和原汁原味相结合的原则,具有浓厚的时代气息。2011 年上海卷英语阅读试题就很具有代表性。

上海考试院发布的 2011 年高考英语试卷评析认为:“试题的选材上力求内容新颖、信息量大,主题涉及环境科学、教育、人与自然等诸多领域,突出了时代性与实用性。”“阅读第一篇让我们结识了作者那位尽其所能发挥其潜力的启蒙老师,这些不仅有利于考生去回味谋求自我发展的途径,也让教育者们去反思教育的根本目的以及学生潜能开发的必要性。”“阅读以图文并茂的方式介绍了座头鲸的科普知识,这些都是为了引导考生关注科学。”“简答题是有关机构内信息如何促进有效的人际沟通,配对题则是提醒人们在信息爆炸时代,如何增强对信息的判断力和甄别力,这些无不与我们的日常生活息息相关,这也引导考生在书本学习的同时,也要关注社会、关注生活。”

从阅读文章的体裁角度看,各地高考阅读理解试题选材覆盖了记叙文、应用文、说明文、议论文等多种文体,在体裁上达到了平衡,兼顾了应用性,同时多方面地考查了考生的英语阅读能力。2011 年各地高考的阅读理解题对我们以后的阅读训练有很大的启示,我们必须坚持语言学习为教育、生活服务方向,真正体现英语作为工具学科的作用。

## 二、高考英语阅读理解测试能力层次分类答题指导

### 1. 信息搜寻准确到位的能力

这类试题难度不大,属于基础题,考生只需搜寻到相关信息即可。以新课标全国卷 D 篇为例:

#### **Wanted, Someone for a Kiss**

We're looking for producers to join us in the second of London 100FM. You'll work on the station's music programmes. Music production experience in radio is necessary, along with rich knowledge of modern dance music. Please apply (申请) in writing to Producer Vacancies, Kiss 100.

#### **Father Christmas**

We're looking for a very special person preferably over 40, to fill our Father Christmas suit.  
Working days: Every Saturday from November 24 to December 15 and every day from December 17 to December 24 except Sundays, 10:30~16:00.

Excellent pay.

Please contact (联系) the Enterprise Shopping Center, Station Parade, Eastbourne.

#### **Accountants Assistant**

When you join in our Revenue Administration Unit, you will be providing assistance within all parts of the Revenue Division, dealing with post and other general duties. If you are educated to GCSE grade C level we would like to talk to you. This position is equally suitable for a school

leaver or for somebody who has office experience.

Wealden District Council.

### Software Trainer

If you are aged 24-45 and have experience in teaching and training, you could be the person we are looking for. You should be good at the computer and have some experience in programme writing. You will be allowed to make our decision, and to design courses as well as present them. Pay upwards of £15,000 for the right person. Please apply by sending your CV (简历) to Mrs. R. Oglivie, Palmlace Limited.

67. Who should you get in touch with if you hope to work in a radio station?

A. Producer Vacancies, Kiss 100. B. Mrs. R. Oglivie, Palmlace Limited.

C. The Enterprise Shopping Centre. D. Wealden District Council.

答案为 A。比较四则信息, 只有第一则与 work in a radio station 相关, 再根据第一则最后的信息 Please apply in writing to Producer Vacancies, Kiss 100 选择答案即可。

### 2. 对细节语义转换理解的能力

这类试题往往提供给考生有关数字、图表和文字描写等特定情景, 要求考生换个角度思考。“横看成岭侧成峰”, 其实只是叙述的角度与表述的语言不同。这类试题在阅读理解题中所占比例比较大。以 2011 年上海卷 A 篇第四段为例:

Most important, perhaps, Aunt Myrtle provided my first opportunity to write for publication. A writer herself for one of the black newspapers, she suggested my name to the editor as a “youth columnist”. My column, begun when I was fourteen, was supposed to cover teenage social activities—and it did—but it also gave me the freedom to write on many other subjects as well as the habit of gathering material, the discipline of meeting deadlines, and, after graduation from college six years later, a solid collection of published material that carried my name and was my passport to a series of writing jobs.

67. Aunt Myrtle recommended the author to a newspaper editor mainly to \_\_\_\_\_.

A. develop her capabilities for writing B. give her a chance to collect material

C. involve her in teenage social activities D. offer her a series of writing jobs

答案为 A。根据细节 Most important, perhaps, Aunt Myrtle provided my first opportunity to write for publication, 可以判断出 Aunt Myrtle 把作者推荐给报纸编辑的用意是要发展其写作潜能。

### 3. 对词义转换的理解能力

这类试题主要是测试对关键词或下划线单词、词组意思的理解。以 2011 年天津卷的 C 篇最后一段为例:

Ultimately, as Nancy points out, the level of success is not measured by how many people read a book, but by how many people are enriched by the process or have enjoyed speaking to someone with whom they would not otherwise have shared a word.

49. The underlined words “shared a word” in paragraph 5 probably mean “\_\_\_\_\_”.

A. exchanged ideas with each other B. discussed the meaning of a word

C. gained life experience D. used the same language

答案为 A。结合全文的意思和画线词组“共享一个单词”的中文信息, 可以猜测本词组与 A 项的意思一致, 即“彼此之间交换意见”。



#### 4. 对文章主旨、作者意图的分析能力

这属于较高层次的对思维能力进行测试的试题,包括测试想像思维、逻辑思维以及从局部到整体的概括思维能力等。

虽然一篇文章的细节内容可能很多,但是其核心意思都可以用简洁的一句或几句话概括,甚至三言两语即可。“归纳”和“概括”重点考查的是,在阅读理解文意的基础上对文章进一步分析和整理的能力,它可能要求归纳某一段落的思想内容,也可能要求对文章整篇中心做归纳,如给文章选择合适的标题等。不妨看看 2011 年北京卷 D 篇:

As the railroads and the highways shaped the American West in the past centuries, a new electrical generating (发电) and transmission (输送) system for the 21<sup>st</sup> century will leave a lasting mark on the West, for better or worse. Much of the real significance of railroads and highways is not in their direct physical effect on the scenery, but in the ways that they affect the surrounding community. The same is true of big solar plants and the power lines that will be laid down to move electricity around.

The 19<sup>th</sup> century saw land grants (政府拨地) offered to railroad companies to build the transcontinental railroads, leaving public land in between privately owned land. In much of the West, some of the railroad sections were developed while others remained undeveloped, and in both cases the landownership has presented unique challenges to land management. With the completion of the interstate highway system, many of the small towns, which sprang up as railway stops and developed well, have lost their lifeblood and died.

Big solar plants and their power lines will also have effects far beyond their direct footprint in the West. This is not an argument against building them. We need alternative energy badly, and to really take advantage of it we need to be able to move electricity around far more readily than we can now.

So trade-offs will have to be made. Some scenic spots will be sacrificed. Some species (物种) will be forced to move, or will be carefully moved to special accommodations. Deals will be struck to reduce the immediate effects.

The lasting effects of these trade-offs are another matter. The 21<sup>st</sup> century development of the American West as an ideal place for alternative energy is going to throw off a lot power and money in the region. There are chances for that power and money to do a lot of good. But it is just as likely that they will be spent wastefully and will leave new problems behind, just like the railroads and the highways.

The money set aside in negotiated trade-offs and institutions that control it will shape the West far beyond the immediate footprint of power plants and transmission lines. So let's remember the effects of the railroads and the highways as we construct these new power plants in the West.

70. Which is the best title for the passage?

A. How the Railways Have Affected the West

B. How Solar Energy Could Reshape the West

C. How the Effects of Power Plants Can Be Reduced

D. How the Problems of the Highways Have Been Settled

答案为 B。结合全文大意,文章始终围绕着开发太阳能对美国西部的影响这一话题展开。

#### 5. 推理判断能力

考查推理判断能力是对考生潜在能力的测试,阅读文章不完全是被动地“读”,而要主动

地“思”，探究文章之外的知识。根据文章内容进行推断时要有理有据：有时文章没有现成的结论，要根据文章内容进行合理推断想像；有时试题的题目在设计时对文章中的说法变换了叙述角度或表达方式，不能直接看出是否符合文章，需要在正确把握文意的前提下分析判断，从而推理出符合文章内容的正确选项。以 2011 年湖南卷 B 篇为例：

My father was chief engineer of a merchant ship, which was sunk in World War II. The book *Night of the U-boats* told the story.

### Memories

In September, 1940, my mother, sister and I went to Swansea, where my father's ship was getting ready to sail. We brought him a family photograph to be kept with him at all times and keep him safe.

Then I remember my mother lying face down, sobbing. She had heard from a friend that the ship had been sunk by a torpedo (鱼雷).

I can remember the arrival of the telegram (电报), which in those days always brought bad news. My grandmother opened it. It read, "Safe. Love Ted."

My most vivid memory is being woken and brought down to sit on my father's knee, his arm in a bandage.

He was judged unfit to return to sea and took a shore job in Glasgow for the rest of the war. For as long as I can remember, he had a weak heart. Mother said it was caused by the torpedoes. He said it was because of the cigarette, whichever, he died suddenly in his early 50s.

Ten years later I read *Night of the U-boats* and was able to complete the story.

### Torpedo

One torpedo struck the ship. Father was in the engine room, where the third engineer was killed. He shut down the engines to slow the ship making it easier for it to be abandoned.

By the time he got on deck (甲板) he was alone. Every lifeboat was gone except one which had stuck fast. When he tried to cut it free, it swung against the ship, injuring his hand and arm. He had no choice but to jump — still with the photograph in his pocket.

Three days later, he and other survivors were safe in Glasgow. All 23 with him signed the back of the photograph.

### A Toast

In my room is the book and the photograph. Often, glass in hand, I have wondered how I would have dealt with an explosion, a sinking ship, a jump into a vast ocean and a wait for rescue? Lest (以免) we forget, I have some more whisky and toast the heroes of the war.

61. We can infer that the mother and children went to Swansea \_\_\_\_\_.

A. to meet a friend

B. to see the father

C. to take a family photo

D. to enjoy the sailing of the ship

答案为 B。结合全文，我们可以推测出母亲带孩子去 Swansea 的目的是给孩子的父亲送行。文中 my father's ship was getting ready to sail 是重要提示。

高考英语阅读测试的内容比较全面，方式也多种多样，这里不再赘述。本书所提供的 150 篇最新高考英语阅读理解经典真题，是各地高考英语命题组专家们集体的智慧结晶，典型性强，很值得考生们逐题推敲、领会，从而把握高考英语阅读理解题的答题思路。

## 第二章

### 高考英语阅读理解经典真题 150 篇

#### 第一节 人物经历篇

##### Passage 1 (上海卷)

The teacher who did the most to encourage me was, as it happened, my aunt. She was Myrtle C. Manigault, the wife of my mother's brother Bill. She taught me in the second grade at all-black Summer School in Camden, New Jersey.

During my childhood and youth, Aunt Myrtle encouraged me to develop every aspect of my potential, without regard for what was considered practical or possible for black females. I liked to sing; she listened to my voice and pronounced it good. I couldn't dance; she taught me the basic dancing steps. She took me to the theatre — not just children's theatre but adult comedies and dramas — and her faith that I could appreciate adult plays was not disappointed.

My aunt also took down books from her extensive library and shared them with me. I had books at home, but they were all serious classics. Even as a child I had a strong liking for humor, and I'll never forget the joy of discovering Don Marquis's *Archy & Mehitabel* through her.

Most important, perhaps, Aunt Myrtle provided my first opportunity to write for publication. A writer herself for one of the black newspapers, she suggested my name to the editor as a "youth columnist". My column, begun when I was fourteen, was supposed to cover teenage social activities — and it did — but it also gave me the freedom to write on many other subjects as well as the habit of gathering material, the discipline of meeting deadlines, and, after graduation from college six years later, a solid collection of published material that carried my name and was my passport to a series of writing jobs.

Today Aunt Myrtle is still an enthusiastic supporter of her "favorite niece". Like a diamond, she has reflected a bright, multifaceted (多面的) image of possibilities to every pupil who has crossed her path.

1. Which of the following did Aunt Myrtle do to the author during her childhood and youth?

- A. She lent her some serious classics.      B. She cultivated her taste for music.

- C. She discovered her talent for dancing. D. She introduced her to adult plays.
2. What does *Archy & Mehitabel* in paragraph 3 probably refer to?
- A. A book of great fun. B. A writer of high fame.
- C. A serious masterpiece. D. A heartbreaking play.
3. Aunt Myrtle recommended the author to a newspaper editor mainly to \_\_\_\_\_.
- A. develop her capabilities for writing B. give her a chance to collect material
- C. involve her in teenage social activities D. offer her a series of writing jobs
4. We can conclude from the passage that Aunt Myrtle was a teacher who \_\_\_\_\_.
- A. trained pupils to be diligent and well-disciplined
- B. gave pupils confidence in exploiting their potential
- C. emphasized what was practical or possible for pupils
- D. helped pupils overcome difficulties in learning

### Passage 2 (新课标全国卷)

#### When Milk Arrived on the Doorstep

When I was a boy growing up in New Jersey in the 1960s, we had a milkman delivering milk to our doorstep. His name was Mr. Basille. He wore a white cap and drove a white truck. As a 5-year-old boy, I couldn't take my eyes off the coin changer fixed to his belt. He noticed this one day during a delivery and gave me a quarter out of his coin changer.

Of course, he delivered more than milk. There was cheese, eggs and so on. If we needed to change our order, my mother would pen a note — "Please add a bottle of buttermilk next delivery" — and place it in the box along with the empty bottles. And then, the buttermilk would magically appear.

All of this was about more than convenience. There existed a close relationship between families and their milkmen. Mr. Basille even had a key to our house, for those times when it was so cold outside that we put the box indoors, so that the milk wouldn't freeze. And I remember Mr. Basille from time to time taking a break at our kitchen table, having a cup of tea and telling stories about his delivery.

There is sadly no home milk delivery today. Big companies allowed the production of cheaper milk, thus making it difficult for milkmen to compete. Besides, milk is for sale everywhere, and it may just not have been practical to have a delivery service.

Recently, an old milk box in the countryside I saw brought back my childhood memories. I took it home and planted it on the back porch (门廊). Every so often my son's friends will ask what it is. So I start telling stories of my boyhood, and of the milkman who brought us friendship along with his milk.

1. Mr. Basille gave the boy a quarter out of his coin changer \_\_\_\_\_.
- A. to show his magical power B. to pay for the delivery
- C. to satisfy his curiosity D. to please his mother
2. What can be inferred from the fact that the milkman had the key to the boy's house?
- A. He wanted to have tea there. B. He was a respectable person.
- C. He was treated as a family member. D. He was fully trusted by the family.
3. Why does home milk delivery no longer exist?

- A. Nobody wants to be a milkman now. B. It has been driven out of the market.  
C. Its service is getting poor. D. It is forbidden by law.
4. Why did the author bring back home an old milk box?  
A. He missed the good old days. B. He wanted to tell interesting stories.  
C. He needed it for his milk bottles. D. He planted flowers in it.

### Passage 3 (北京卷)

#### “I Went Skydiving at 84!”

As a young girl growing up in the 1930s, I always wanted to fly a plane, but back then it was almost unheard of a woman to do that. I got a taste of that dream in 2001, when my husband arranged for me to ride in a hot air balloon for my birthday. But the experience turned out to be very dull. Around that time, I told my husband that I wanted to skydive. So when our retirement community (社区) announced that they were having an essay competition and the topic was an experience of a lifetime that you wanted to have, I decided to write about my dream.

In the essay, I wrote about my desire to skydive, stating George Brush Sr. did it at age 80. Why not me? I was just 84 and in pretty good health. A year went by and I heard nothing. But then at a community party in late April 2009, they announced that I was one of the winners. I just couldn't believe it. Inspired by this, I decided to realize my dream, even though some of my family members and my doctor were against it.

One June 11, 2009, nearly 40 of my family and friends gathered in the area close to where I would land while I headed up in the airplane. My instructor, Jay, guided me through the experience. The plane was the noisiest one I had ever been in, but I wasn't frightened — I was really just looking forward to the experience. When we reached 13,000 feet, Jay instructed me to throw myself out of the plane. When we first hit the air, the wind was so strong that I could hardly breathe. For a second I thought, “What have I gotten myself into?” But then everything got calmer. We were in a free fall for about a minute before Jay opened the parachute (降落伞), then we just floated downward for about five minutes. Being up in the clouds and looking at the view below was unlike anything I have ever felt — much better than the hot air balloon. I was just enjoying it.

Skydiving was really one of the greatest experiences of my life. I hope other people will look at me and realize that you don't stop living just because you are 84 years old. If there's something you want to experience, look into it. If it's something that is possible, make it happen.

1. What happened to the author in 2001?  
A. She flew an airplane. B. She entered a competition.  
C. She went on a hot air balloon ride. D. She moved into a retirement community.
2. The author mentioned George Bush Sr. in her essay to \_\_\_\_\_.  
A. build up her own reputation B. show her admiration for him  
C. compare their health condition D. make her argument persuasive
3. How did the author feel immediately after she jumped out of the plane?  
A. Excited. B. Scared. C. Nervous. D. Regretful.
4. What did the author enjoy most when she was skydiving?  
A. The beautiful clouds. B. The wonderful view.  
C. The company of Jay. D. The one-minute free fall.



## Passage 4 (天津卷)

In the fall of 1985, I was a bright-eyed girl heading off to Howard University, aiming at a legal career and dreaming of sitting on a Supreme Court bench somewhere. Twenty-one years later I am still a bright-eyed dreamer and one with quite a different tale to tell.

My grandma, an amazing woman, graduated from college at the age of 65. She was the first in our family to reach that goal. But one year after I started college, she developed cancer. I made the choice to withdraw from college to care for her. It meant that school and my personal dream would have to wait.

Then I got married with another dream: building my family with a combination of adopted and biological children. In 1999, we adopted our first son. To lay eyes on him was fantastic — and very emotional. A year later came our second adopted boy. Then followed son No.3. In 2003, I gave birth to another boy.

You can imagine how fully occupied I became, raising four boys under the age of 8! Our home was a complete zoo — a joyous zoo. Not surprising, I never did make it back to college full-time. But I never gave up on the dream either. I had only one choice: to find a way. That meant taking as few as one class each semester.

The hardest part was feeling guilty about the time I spent away from the boys. They often wanted me to stay home with them. There certainly were times I wanted to quit, but I knew I should set an example for them to follow through the rest of their lives.

In 2007, I graduated from the University of North Carolina. It took me over 21 years to get my college degree!

I am not special, just single-minded. It always struck me that when you're looking at a big challenge from the outside it looks huge, but when you're in the midst of it, it just seems normal. Everything you want won't arrive in your life on one day. It's a process. Remember: little steps add up to big dreams.

1. When the author went to Howard University, her dream was to be \_\_\_\_\_.  
A. a writer                      B. a teacher                      C. a judge                      D. a doctor
2. Why did the author quit school in her second year of college?  
A. She wanted to study by herself.                      B. She fell in love and got married.  
C. She suffered from a serious illness.                      D. She decided to look after her grandma.
3. What can we learn about the author from paragraphs 4 and 5?  
A. She was busy yet happy with her family life.  
B. She ignored her guilty feeling for her sons.  
C. She wanted to remain a full-time housewife.  
D. She was too confused to make a correct choice.
4. What does the author mostly want to tell us in the last paragraph?  
A. Failure is the mother of success.                      B. Little by little, one goes far.  
C. Every coin has two sides.                      D. Well begun, half done.
5. Which of the following can best describe the author?  
A. Caring and determined.                      B. Honest and responsible.  
C. Ambitious and sensitive.                      D. Innocent and single-minded.

### Passage 5 (重庆卷)

William Butler Yeats, a most famous Irish writer, was born in Dublin on June 13, 1865. His childhood lacked the harmony (和睦) that was typical of a happy family. Later, Yeats shocked his family by saying that he remembered “little of childhood but its pain”. In fact, he inherited (继承) excellent taste in art from his family — both his father and his brother were painters. But he finally settled on literature, particularly drama (戏剧) and poetry.

Yeats had strong faith in coming of new artistic movements. He set himself the fresh task in founding an Irish national theatre in the late 1890s. His early theatrical experiments, however, were not received favorably at the beginning. He didn't lose heart, and finally enjoyed success in his poetical drama.

Compared with his dramatic works, Yeats's poems attract much admiring notice. The subject matter includes love, nature, history, time and aging. Though Yeats generally relied on very traditional forms, he brought modern sensibility to them. As his literary life progressed, his poetry grew finer and richer, which led him to worldwide recognition.

He had not enjoyed a major public life since winning the Nobel Prize in 1923. Yet, he continued writing almost to the end of his life. Had Yeats stopped writing at age 40, he would probably now be valued as a minor poet, for there is no other example in literary history of a poet who produces his greatest works between the ages of 50 and 75. After Yeats's death in 1939, W. H. Auden wrote, among others, the following lines:

Earth, receive an honored guest:

William Yeats is laid to rest.

Let the Irish vessel (船) lie

Emptied of its poetry

1. Which of the following can describe Yeats's family?

A. It filled Yeats's childhood with laughter.

B. It was shocked by Yeats's choice.

C. It was a typically wealthy family.

D. It had an artistic atmosphere.

2. According to the passage, what do we know about Yeats's life?

A. Yeats founded the first Irish theater.

B. Yeats stuck to modern forms in his poetry.

C. Yeats began to produce his best works from the 1910s.

D. Yeats was not favored by the public until the 1923 Noble Prize.

3. What kind of feeling is expressed in W. H. Auden's lines?

A. Envy.

B. Sympathy.

C. Emptiness.

D. Admiration.

4. What is the passage mainly about?

A. Yeats's literary achievements.

B. Yeats's historical influence.

C. Yeats's artistic ambition.

D. Yeats's national honor.

### Passage 6 (大纲全国卷)

“I didn't hear them call my name,” explained Shelley Hennig to *Active Teens* (AT) as she talked about that exciting moment on national television when she won the honor of Miss Teen USA 2004.

“Are you ready?” is what she heard. Then she said, “I shook my head no, and then they said ‘yes’ and it was announced again.”

It was four days after that life changing moment for the seventeen-year-old high school student from Destrehan, Louisiana — she was still on cloud nine.

“I was so shocked! I never believed that it could actually really happen.” Present in the audience (观众) that day were: her mother and father, older brother, her friends, and her dance teacher.

Understanding why members of her family and her friends would be there, AT asked why her dance teacher had traveled so far to see her compete (比赛). “She’s always been my role model. I’ve danced with her since I was six. She’s been through so many difficulties and came through them all. I’ve learned to get over bad life’s experiences and learned how to move on because of her.”

One of those bad life’s experiences for Shelley happened three years ago when her brother Brad was killed in a drunk driving accident. He was 18. She found writing helped her get through the rough days. She said, “I write a lot about my brother. I write a lot, a lot, a lot...”

As Miss Louisiana Teen, she traveled around the state speaking to teens (青少年) about the dangers of drinking and driving. In her role as Miss Teen USA, Shelley will continue to speak to youth about safe driving, in addition to many other things to help the youth.

When AT asked Miss Teen USA if she had any advice for our readers, she said, “Don’t let anyone change you. Hang out with people that make you feel good about yourself. That way, it is easy to be yourself.”

1. What do the words “on cloud nine” in paragraph 2 probably mean?  
A. Frightened. B. Troubled. C. Very happy. D. Very angry.
2. Shelley takes her dance teachers as a role model mainly because she is \_\_\_\_\_.  
A. determined B. friendly C. strict D. experienced
3. How many children did the Hennigs have according to the text?  
A. 1. B. 2. C. 3. D. 4.
4. What did Shelley often do after she became Miss Louisiana Teen?  
A. She visited drunken drivers. B. She gave dance performances.  
C. She made speeches on safe driving. D. She helped other teens with their studies.
5. What suggestion does Shelley give to the teens?  
A. Be yourself with the support of friends. B. Meet friends whenever possible.  
C. Go easy on yourself and others. D. Have a good role model.

### Passage 7 (山东卷)

Arthur Miller (1915–2005) is universally recognized as one of the greatest dramatists of the 20<sup>th</sup> century. Miller’s father had moved to the USA from Austria Hungary, drawn like so many others by the “Great American Dream”. However, he experienced severe financial hardship when his family business was ruined in the Great Depression of the early 1930s.

Miller’s most famous play, *Death of a Salesman*, is a powerful attack on the American system with its aggressive way of doing business and its insistence on money and social status as indicators of worth. In *Willy Loman*, the hero of the play, we see a man who has got into double with his worth. Willy is “burnt out” and in the cruel world of business there is no room for sentiment: if he can’t do

the work, then he is no good to his employer, the Wagner Company, and he must go. Willy is painfully aware of this, and at loss as to what to do with his lack of success. He refuses to face the fact that he has failed and kills himself in the end.

When it was first staged in 1949, the play was greeted with enthusiastic reviews, and it won the Tony Award for Best Play, the New York Drama Critics Circle Award, and the Pulitzer Prize for Drama. It was the first play to win all three of these major awards.

Miller died of heart failure at his home in Roxbury, Connecticut, on the evening of February 10, 2005, the 56th anniversary of the first performance of *Death of a Salesman* on Broadway.

1. Why did Arthur Miller's father move to the USA?

- A. He suffered from severe hunger in his home country.
- B. He was attracted by the "Great American Dream".
- C. He hoped to make his son a dramatist.
- D. His family business failed.

2. The play *Death of a Salesman* \_\_\_\_\_.

- A. exposes the cruelty of the American business world
- B. discusses the ways to get promoted in a company
- C. talks about the business career of Arthur Miller
- D. focuses on the skills in doing business

3. What can we learn about Willy Loman?

- A. He treats his employer badly.
- B. He runs the Wagner Company.
- C. He is a victim of the American system.
- D. He is regarded as a hero by his colleagues.

4. After it was first staged, *Death of a Salesman* \_\_\_\_\_.

- A. achieved huge success
- B. won the first Tony Award
- C. was warmly welcomed by salesmen
- D. was severely attacked by dramatists

5. What is the text mainly about?

- A. Arthur Miller and his family.
- B. The awards Arthur Miller won.
- C. The hardship Arthur Miller experienced.
- D. Arthur Miller and his best-known play.

#### Passage 8 (福建卷)

Jacqueline Bouvier Kennedy Onassis was one of the most private women in the world, yet when she went to work as an editor in the last two decades of her life, she revealed (展现) herself as she did nowhere else.

After the death of her second husband, Greek shipping magnate (巨头) Aristotle Onassis, Jacqueline's close friend and former White House social secretary Letitia Baldrige made a suggestion that she consider a career (职业) in publishing. After consideration, Jacqueline accepted it. Perhaps she hoped to find there some idea about how to live her own life. She became not less but more interested in reading. For the last 20 years of her life, Jacqueline worked as a publisher's editor, first at Viking, then at Doubleday, pursuing (追求) a late-life career longer than her two marriages combined. During her time in publishing, she was responsible for managing and editing more than 100 successfully marketed books. Among the first books were *In the Russian Style* and