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新核心
B版

大学英语

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快速阅读 1



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快速阅读

1



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前言

21世纪以来,我国相继出版了一批优秀的大学英语教材。如果说这些教材都是以趣味性、可思性、文学性和人文性为课文选材原则,提倡人文素质教育的话,那么《新核心大学英语》系列教材将在这些方面有一个新的突破。

一、教材编写依据

《新核心大学英语B版快速阅读》是以《新核心大学英语B版读写教程》为依托,从内容上对《新核心大学英语B版读写教程》做进一步推进,提倡科学素质教育,以content-based为编写原则,文章选材上偏向提高学术能力的科普性文章。

目前,我国大学英语教学不再是单单打基础的阶段,不再是单纯地为学语言而学语言,而是趋向于与某一方面的专业知识或某一个学科结合的发展方向结合起来,换句话说,大学英语应当与学生的专业内容结合起来,这样才能体现新时期语言教学中的“需求分析”原则。《新核心大学英语B版快速阅读》正是为了适应我国大学英语教学转型要求而编写的,是为了帮助大学生达到《大学英语课程教学要求》中阅读部分的一般要求、较高要求和更高要求而编写的一套具有鲜明时代特色的大学英语教材;是培养学生查阅学术文献能力的需要,培养学生在较短时间里通过快速阅读,查到自己所需要的信息。

二、教材结构框架

《新核心大学英语B版快速阅读》是《新核心大学英语》主干教材的配套教材,包括《新核心大学英语B版快速阅读 基础级》、《新核心大学英语B版快速阅读 1》、《新核心大学英语B版快速阅读 2》、《新核心大学英语

B版快速阅读3》四册。《新核心大学英语B版快速阅读》系列教材旨在培养学生语篇信息查找能力,训练学生快速阅读能力以及水平考试中阅读理解文章的能力。

每册分八个单元,每个单元分为四篇阅读材料,其中短篇两篇,长篇文章两篇。教材中每个单元所选阅读材料基本与《新核心大学英语B版读写教程》相应单元的主题内容一致,难度略低于《新核心大学英语B版读写教程》,短篇长度为300~500词,长篇文章长度为700~1 000词。阅读材料的内容突出知识性,涉及自然学科和人文学科,体裁以说明文和议论文为主。

三、教材使用说明

作为《新核心大学英语B版读写教程》的配套使用教材,我们建议《新核心大学英语B版快速阅读》每个单元的总学时数不少于2个课时,课内学时数不少于1个学时,学生课外自主阅读时间不少于1个学时。在每周大学英语课堂教学中教师根据具体授课进度、单元主题内容指定《新核心大学英语B版快速阅读》中相应的文章让学生进行阅读训练,教师也可以将本系列教材作为学生课后自主阅读的材料,学生课后自主阅读训练时间不少于1个学时,教师对学生自主学习过程进行监督与评价。

编者

2013年3月

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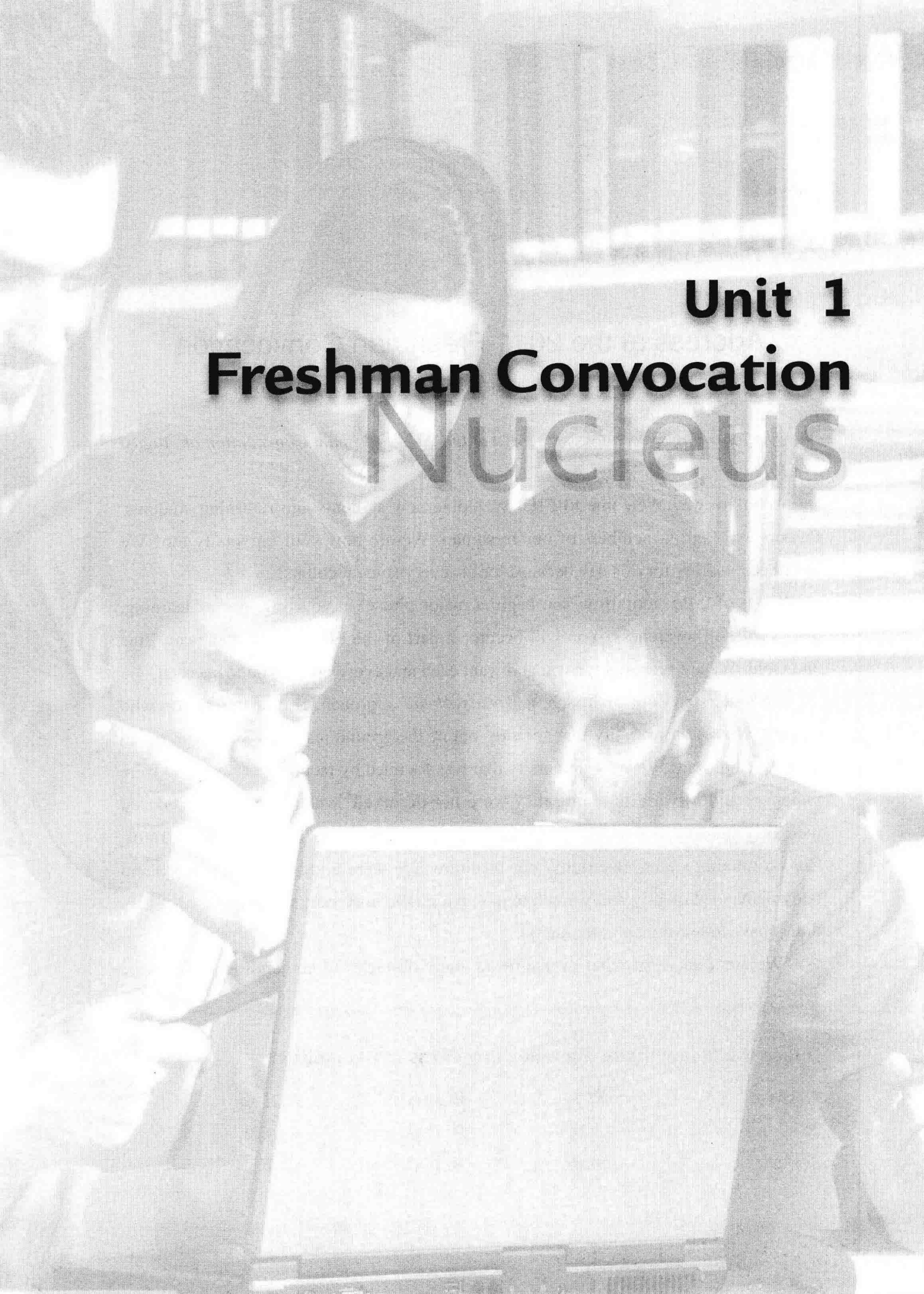
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A black and white photograph of three students in a library setting. A male student in the foreground is looking intently at a laptop screen. Behind him, a female student is also looking at the screen. To the left, another student is partially visible, looking towards the laptop. The background shows bookshelves filled with books.

Unit 1

Freshman Convocation

Nucleus

Passage 1

(Reading Time: 3 minutes)

Address at the 2011 Freshman Convocation

By Mark B. Rosenberg, Florida International University President

The following speech was presented at the 2011 Freshman Convocation on August 21, 2011.

Who are we? Welcome to FIU. Welcome new students and returning students. Parents and family members of our freshman: We are now your university too! We have been waiting for this day because for us, every student counts!

Class of 2015, tomorrow you begin a major **phase**¹ in your life; one of learning, discovery, self-awareness. You will become a part of the FIU Family: Panthers, Blue and Gold. We are prepared for you and want each and every one of you to succeed.

To understand our approach, a *Worlds Ahead* approach, I want to tell you who we are! We are a university that **sprung**² out of the ground just forty years ago on an abandoned airport. We are a university that was founded by faculty and staff who were visionary and forward-thinking; they were not **deterred**³ when they discovered that their first building, the control tower that you can find near the Towers Resident Halls, had no running water, electricity, nor furniture. We were a university whose student body demanded quality and wanted to attend a public university in Miami so that they didn't have to leave their community.

We are a university that overcame so many obstacles to be here today. We were

Guess the meanings of the following words in the context.

- | | | | |
|-----------|-------|-------|-------|
| 1. phase | A. 周期 | B. 阶段 | C. 方面 |
| 2. spring | A. 出现 | B. 跳跃 | C. 突出 |
| 3. deter | A. 抵挡 | B. 吓住 | C. 制止 |

told that we could not **enroll**⁴ freshman. We were told that we could never offer masters and doctoral degrees. We were told that only certain universities in the state could offer law and medicine and we could not. We were told that we would never have resident halls. We were told that we could not have intercollegiate (校际的) sports. We were told that we would never have a football team; it was only for the UFs, FSUs, and UCFs.

That was then. Today, we have all this and more. We have you! We are a university with a *Worlds Ahead* attitude. We are forward thinking, international, entrepreneurial (具有创业精神的), centrally located, family oriented, and community-centered. We are FIU! Welcome to FIU, your Worlds Ahead education! Are you in? (330 words)

Abridged and revised from

<http://www.google.com.hk/search?q=freshman+convocation+address&hl=zh-CN&newwindow=1&safe=strict&tbo=d&ei=GYkBUbiwF8mTiAfWroD4Dg&start=40&saN>.

4. enroll

A. 登记

B. 参加

C. 招收

Select the most appropriate answer for each of the following questions.

- FIU is a university that was built forty years ago on _____.
 A. a deserted field
 B. an abandoned airport
 C. a waste factory
 D. a high school
- It was discovered that the first building had no _____.
 A. running water
 B. electricity
 C. furniture
 D. all of the above
- Which of the following statements about FIU is NOT true according to the passage?
 A. The faculty and staff who founded FIU were visionary and forward-thinking.
 B. The control tower is near the Towers Resident Halls now.
 C. Their student body wanted to attend a public university in Miami so that they didn't have to leave their community.
 D. The founders of the university were deterred by the poor conditions of the campus.

4. It can be inferred from the passage that _____.
 A. FIU could not enroll freshman now
 B. FIU could not offer masters and doctoral degrees now
 C. FIU could have intercollegiate sports now
 D. FIU doesn't have a football team now
5. The passage mainly wants to tell us that _____.
 A. FIU is a university that overcame many obstacles to be here today
 B. FIU is the best university in the USA
 C. every student of FIU will succeed sooner or later
 D. FIU is a university with a long history

Passage 2

(Reading Time: 4 minutes)

U.S. Science Education: Rethinking How Kids Learn

The U.S. is becoming increasingly concerned over learning among the country's youth in areas of science and math. International testing has shown that American students fall behind foreign counterparts in a number of subjects. But is it just about the text and the test?

Students in Shanghai who took international exams for the first time **outscored**¹ every other school system in the world. In the same test, American students ranked 25th in math, 17th in science and 14th in reading. A 2009 study showed that U.S. students ranked 25th among 34 countries in math and science — behind states like China, Singapore, South Korea, and Finland.

Guess the meanings of the following words in the context.

1. outscore

A. 得分超过

B. 获胜

C. 进球

A report last month revealed that California is failing to provide high-quality science education to public elementary school students — just 10 percent of elementary classrooms provide regular hands-on science experiments, and fewer than half of surveyed school **principals**² think their students would receive high-quality science instruction in their respective schools.

President Barack Obama has made a call for improving science, technology, engineering and math education over the next decade through a number of partnerships and initiatives (倡议), and the U.S. Navy announced in June a plan to invest more than \$ 100 million in science and technology education by 2015.

“I want us all to think about new and creative ways to engage young people in science and engineering, whether it’s science festivals, robotic competitions, fairs that encourage young people to create and build and invent, to be makers of things, not just consumers of things,” Obama said during his 2009 address at a meeting of the National Academy of Sciences.

But what role do informal ways of learning contribute to science education? On Talk of the Nation, NPR’s Ira Flatow asks, how important are museums, TV shows and after-school clubs to teaching kids science?

“I think that what these opportunities do for children and adults is they help them understand at a deeper level some of the things that they have learned in school or they may get them excited about something that then they want to pursue in more depth in school,” Flatow is told. “But there’s definitely evidence in my work and the work of other people doing research on this area that these experiences can be **exceedingly**³ powerful.” (376 words)

Abridged and revised from

http://www.huffingtonpost.com/2011/11/14/us-science-education-reth_n_1093167.html

2. principal

A. 当事人

B. 校长

C. 主要演员

3. exceedingly

A. 超出地

B. 极其地

C. 胜过地

Select the most appropriate answer for each of the following questions.

1. Which of the following words can replace the underlined word “counterparts” in Paragraph 1?

A. Countries.	B. Subjects.
C. Schools.	D. Students.
2. A 2009 study showed that U.S. students ranked 25th among 34 countries in math and science, behind the following states EXCEPT _____.

A. China	B. South Korea
C. France	D. Singapore
3. The U.S. Navy announced in June a plan to invest more than \$ 100 million in _____ by 2015.

A. economy	B. science and technology education
C. industry	D. agriculture
4. By saying “to be makers of things, not just consumers of things”, Obama expects young people to _____.

A. produce more goods	B. consume various goods
C. take part in science festivals, robotic competitions and fairs	D. create and invent new things
5. We can infer from the passage that _____.

A. American students are not as clever as students in other countries	B. President Obama pays special attention to the country’s science education
C. informal ways of learning do no good to science education	D. museums, TV shows and after-school clubs are not important to teach kids science at all

Passage 3

(Reading Time: 8 minutes)

The Freshers’ Fair

The Freshers’ Fair usually takes place about a week after you begin your

university life and the Freshers' Fair offers freebies (免费东西), give-aways (赠品), advice and information. It is often a great opportunity for new students to **mingle**¹ with other freshers, current students, tutors, and representatives from the Student Union. All universities have clubs and societies and many of them use the Freshers' Fair as their opportunity to let you know what is on offer and enroll their new members. There is usually a wide range to choose from, including sports, drama, debating, groups for all the main religions, musical and literary genres and film clubs. You may also find that your course has a club or society for students studying your subject as well as groups for disabled and international students. Definitely, most students can find what they want since there are so many societies and clubs to choose from and there is really something for you.

Clubs and societies can be a great way of meeting new people in your first weeks and an ideal chance to try new activities and explore new interests. Remember that some of the clubs and societies on offer will be more established than others so if you like the sound of a club, ask if you can pop along to the initial get-together before you commit yourself! Make sure you aren't **pressurized**² into anything and use your **discretion**³. If clubs involve a membership fee, please think carefully before you commit to a regular payment, which may be very different from the ones for free — you may feel able to part with the cash in September but if a regular payment is coming out of your bank account every month, you may regret it later on.

The Freshers' Fair is a great way to find out about the services and facilities of your local city or town. There are often representatives from local entertainment, leisure facilities, restaurants, clubs, pubs, insurance agencies, travel agents, mobile phone companies, taxi services and **recruitment**⁴ agencies. They are there to promote

Guess the meanings of the following words in the context.

- | | | | |
|----------------|--------|-------|---------|
| 1. mingle | A. 交往 | B. 混淆 | C. 交织 |
| 2. pressurize | A. 说服 | B. 增压 | C. 迫于压力 |
| 3. discretion | A. 判断力 | B. 谨慎 | C. 能力 |
| 4. recruitment | A. 征兵 | B. 招聘 | C. 补充 |

offers **geared**⁵ towards students and some will be competitive and discounted deals, but remember they are interested in attracting new customers — think carefully about the pros and cons of any services before signing up. The university health care, counseling, welfare services and other agencies, all usually have stalls at the Freshers' Fair so you can get information and find out how to access support if you require it during your course. And if you miss a stall or need more information, don't panic, contact your Student Union to learn more or to find out how to get involved.

Getting the Most from the Fair

Do not wait until Freshers' Fair to make contact with your university or college's Disability Adviser / Learning Support Tutor. They are likely to be at their busiest then. Contact them before you arrive to get assistance with the necessary form filling which accompanies the issue of student ID cards and Student Union cards during Freshers' Fair.

Get in touch with them if you wish to arrange for someone to be your sighted guide at the Fair. Try to make the best use of the fair.

Robert's Experiences

Robert has just completed his second year studying History at the University of York. "Freshers' Fair is the main opportunity for these societies to sell themselves to first year students. It gave me an idea of the challenges I would face and how I would overcome them. Imagine a mass of students, **squeezed**⁶ into a medium-sized exhibition area, moving in every direction. I'd researched the societies I wanted to join. I knew their websites inside out, the joining fees and activities, but one vital piece of information is missing — where they were in the room. So I began to search the aisles (过道) from one end to the other — until I realized that there was little point in continuing and decided to ask somebody for help. The somebody I asked turned out to be a member of the political society I was planning to join. He was pleased to have recruited a new member. Once the membership form was filled in, he introduced me to others who in turn helped me to find my other societies. Not only had I plucked up (鼓

- | | | | |
|------------|-----------|----------|-------|
| 5. gear | A. 为……做准备 | B. 使……适合 | C. 改变 |
| 6. squeeze | A. 挤出 | B. 挤进 | C. 塞进 |

起) the courage to seek out help, but I now had my first network of acquaintances, who in future would recognize and help me.”

Meeting New Friends

Meeting new people and making new friends at University can be **nerve-wracking**⁷. We asked some third year undergraduate students for their advice about starting university for the first time. Most of them have mentioned the Freshers' Fair. (777 words)

Abridged and revised from

<http://www.doc88.com/p-140637262116.html>.

7. nerve-wracking A. 让人兴奋的 B. 愉快的 C. 令人伤脑筋的

A. Mark Y (for YES) if the statement agrees with the information in the passage; N (for NO) if the statement contradicts the information given in the passage; NG (for Not GIVEN) if the information is not given in the passage.

- _____ 1. If clubs involve a membership fee, students should think carefully before joining in for fear that they would regret later on.
- _____ 2. If you miss a stall or need more information, you should contact your classmates to learn more or to find out how to get involved.
- _____ 3. The political society that Robert joined in requires a membership fee.
- _____ 4. According to the last paragraph, many third year undergraduate students thought the Freshers' Fair was a great way to start university life.
- _____ 5. This passage tells us that the Freshers' Fair is only a great opportunity for university clubs and societies to enroll new members.

B. Complete the sentences with the information given in the text.

1. Freshers' Fair is a great opportunity for new students to _____ other freshers, current students, tutors, and representatives from the Student Union.
2. Clubs and societies can be a great way of meeting new people and an ideal chance to try new activities and _____.
3. At the Freshers' Fair, students can find out about _____ of the local city

or town.

4. Students should get in touch with Disability Adviser/Learning Support Tutor if they wish to arrange for someone to be their _____ at the Fair.
5. According to Robert, the Freshers' Fair gave him an idea of the _____ he would face and how he would overcome them.

Passage 4

(Reading Time: 8 minutes)

Top 10 Secrets of College Success

A new book, *The Secrets of College Success*, which is now available “wherever books are sold” offers 10 best tips for college success:

1. Take control. For many students, the most striking difference between college and high school is that at college there's no one there to stand over you and tell you what to do. Getting to class, doing the homework, getting your papers in on time — all of these are things you're going to have to do without a parent or teacher to beat on you. Step up to bat and take responsibility. You're in charge of this thing.

2. Audition¹ your professors. Many entering students think they should just take the “standard first-year program” their adviser hands them, and be done with it. But a far better idea is to go to the first class or two and assess the professor. Ask yourself: Is the material presented clearly and forcefully? Is the professor at least moderately engaging? Is this someone I feel I can learn from? If the answer to any of these questions is “no”, drop the class and find another.

3. Get to class. Most students have a “cutting budget”: the number of classes

Guess the meanings of the following words in the context.

1. audition

A. 观看

B. 试听

C. 参加