

中学英语标准化考试辅导丛书

英语阅读理解与练习

编 著 刘永科 张玉民

审 订 吕志士

MET

学 术 书 刊 出 版 社

G633.61-24
5
中学英语标准化考试辅导 11 4

英语阅读理解与练习

编 著 刘永科 张玉民

审 订 吕志士

学 术 书 刊 出 版 社

中学英语标准化考试辅导丛书

英语阅读理解与练习

编著 刘永科 张玉民

审订 吕志士

学术书刊出版社出版(北京海淀区学院南路 86 号)

新华书店北京发行所发行 各地新华书店经售

北京平谷大北印刷厂印刷

*

开本:787×1092 毫米 1/32 印张:4.25 字数:99 千字

1989 年 9 月第一版 1989 年 9 月第一次印刷

印数:1-13 000 册 定价:2.00 元

ISBN 7-80015-553-X G·115

前 言

本书为供中学生使用的英语课外阅读材料,具有相当水平的其他英语爱好者亦可阅读。

该书是本着开阔读者视野,丰富英语知识,提高阅读能力的原则编写的。

所选文章共50篇。所选材料包括五种类型:

- 一、名人传记轶事;
- 二、科普读物;
- 三、英美习俗及语言背景知识;
- 四、讽刺与幽默小品;
- 五、小小说。

所选文章语言规范,深浅适度。在所选的每篇之后附有一定数量的阅读理解考查题(题型以“多项选择”和“判断正误”两种为主)。书的最后附有正确答案。考虑到读者的实际阅读水平,有些文章做了适当的语言加工和中文注释。总之,每篇文章均经过悉心甄选。

编 者

1989年10月

Contents

Preface	(1)
---------------	-----

Part I Profiles and Anecdotes of Famous Men

More About Abraham Lincoln	(1)
The General and the Corporal	(4)
A Famous Name	(7)
More About Madam Curie	(9)
More About Galileo	(11)
Stories of John Baird—Inventor of TV	(13)
Archimedes	(16)
The Story of Hans Christian Andersen	(18)
More About Daniel Defoe and His "Robinson Crusoe"	(20)
More About Charles Dickens	(22)
More About Mark Twain	(24)
An Anecdote of Napoleon	(26)
How Did Columbus Discover America	(29)

Part II Popular Science Reading

The Seasons and Your Intelligence	(31)
A Dream Laboratory	(33)
About Comets	(35)
Left or Right	(37)
Fly Spy	(39)
A Very Fantastic Idea	(41)
Why Did the Lizard's Tail Disappear	(43)

Trees	(46)
Our Body	(49)
About Volcanoes	(51)
The Sea	(53)

Part III Customs or Conventions of the

English speaking Countries &

Background of English

Different Names About Britain	(55)
How Did Uncle Sam Become a Symbol of the U. S.	(57)
The Money System of the United States	(59)
American Holidays	(61)
Politeness in Britain	(63)
"Do's and Don'ts" in Greetings and in Addressing People	(65)
What Do Names Mean	(68)
About English	(71)
Colorful Language	(75)
Idioms with Animals	(78)
White Elephant	(80)

Part IV Satirical & Humorous Essays

A Glimpse at the West	(82)
My Watch—after Mark Twain	(84)
An Advertisement	(87)
Can a Fortune —teller Tell Your Fortune	(89)
Two Foolish Men	(91)

Three Men at the Station	(93)
A Similar Notice	(95)
I Made a Mistake	(98)
Good Advice	(101)
The Love Letter	(103)

Part v Ministories & Other Readings

A Special Physical Examination	(105)
Miss Evand, of Boston ,America—A true story of the ship "Titantic"	(109)
A Patriotic Girl	(113)
Careless Carlos	(116)
A Strange Noise	(120)

Part I Profiles and Anecdotes of Famous Men

More About Abraham Lincoln

When Abraham Lincoln took office in March of 1861, James C. Buchanan (詹姆斯·C·布坎南) said to him, "If You are as happy on entering the white House as I am leaving it, you are the happiest man in this country." Difficult times lay ahead for Lincoln, and both men knew it. Seven Southern States had already left the Union; four more states would soon follow them. The start of the Civil War was only weeks away.

Many people doubted Lincoln's ability to pull the Union together. He was then just a country lawyer. He had only a few years of schooling, and he had served one term in Congress (国会). His only real fame came from a series of debates over slavery. Lincoln's firm stand against slavery helped him win the Republican nomination (共和党提名) for President.

Lincoln did keep the Union together by the only way possible—winning the war. He slowly built the North's army into a powerful fighting force. By such acts as freeing the slaves, Lincoln won wide support.

In 1865, he began his second term. He hoped to bring the South back into the Union without bitterness on either side. Six weeks later he was murdered, his great task still unfinished.

The following is detailed information about Lincoln's death.

On April 14th, after a very busy day, the President and his wife

went to see the performance of a play at Ford's Theatre in Washington.

In an inn near the theatre was a 25—year—old unsuccessful actor named John Wilkes Booth. He was a supporter of the defeated South—though he had not fought for her. As the play was going to start again after the interval, Booth entered the theatre and walked slowly towards the President's box and opened the door. The sound of a shot broke in on the play, and Booth leaped from the box onto the stage and hurried out through an exit door. Smoke was seen coming from the President's box and the theatre was filled with shouting, madly excited people. Soldiers hurried in to clear the building, and Lincoln, Shot through the head, was carried unconscious (昏迷不省) to a house across the road from the theatre, and laid on the bed. He never recovered consciousness and died next morning.

Make the best choice

1. The situation was very difficult when Lincoln took his office because _____.
 - A. the Civil War broke out
 - B. he was not qualified for his job
 - C. more and more Southern States would rebel and leave the Union
 - D. the majority of the people did not support him
2. Lincoln's firm stand against slavery _____.
 - A. made the Southern slave owners give up their own
 - B. made it possible for him to be elected President
 - C. helped him build up a powerful fighting force

D. gave him a chance to win the war

3. Lincoln was famous for _____.

- A. his bravery
- B. rich experience in the government of the country
- C. his fiery speeches against slavery
- D. being one of the presidents of the U. S.

4. Lincoln's leading achievement as President was that _____.

- A. he worked for the people heart and soul
- B. he was firmly against slavery
- C. he was a warm—hearted and honest leader
- D. he reunited the nation and did away with slavery

5. Lincoln was murdered _____.

- A. in his car
- B. at home
- C. in the White House
- D. in a theatre

The General and the Corporal

George Washington was the first President of the United States.

It was he who led the armies during the long war which brought the American people independence and made America a free country. He was a great man, not only in great things, but also in little ones. He was never too great to do a kindness. He was never too high to stoop (降尊) to those who were lower than he and in need of help.

One day, when his army was in camp, Washington walked out alone in a long overcoat that hid his uniform, and so the soldiers among whom he passed did not know that he was the general.

At one place there was a corporal (下士) with his men building a breastwork (胸墙) of logs. They were just about to lift a very heavy log when Washington came up.

log when Washington came up.

"Heave ho!" (用力拉啊!) cried the little corporal. "Up with it, men! Up with it!" But he did not put a hand to it himself. They lifted with all their might. The log was almost in its place, but it was so heavy they could not move it any farther.

The corporal shouted again, "Heave ho! Up with it!" The men were not able to do more; their strength was almost gone; the log was about to fall.

Then Washington ran up, and with his strong arms gave them the help they so much needed. The big log was lifted on the breastwork, and the men looked their thanks at the stranger who had been so kind.

"Why don't you take hold and help your men?" Washington asked the corporal.

"Why don't I? Don't you see that I am the corporal?"

"Oh, indeed," said Washington, as he unbuttoned his overcoat, and showed the uniform which he wore. "Well, I am the general, and the next time you have a log too heavy for your men to lift, send for me!"

You can imagine how the little corporal felt when he saw that it was General Washington who was standing before him. It was a good lesson for him, and there are little men still living who may learn a good lesson from the story.

Make the best choice

1. ____ was the first President of the US.
 - A. Abraham Lincoln
 - B. Ronald Reagan
 - C. George Washington
 - D. Jimmy Carter
2. ____ he was a great man, Washington was ready to do a kindness.
 - A. Because
 - B. Though
 - C. Even if
 - D. Since
3. The soldiers didn't know _____.
 - A. who was the general
 - B. who was Washington

C. what the general was

D. the man was Washington

4. The corporal was _____.

A. too little to do the heavy job

B. too weak to help his men

C. feeling that he was such an officer that he was ashamed of giving help

D. too shy to do a kindness

5. The little corporal felt _____ when he knew it was General Washington who was standing before him.

A. glad

B. proud

C. sorry

D. mad

A Famous Name

Some names have become famous because they are always associated with important things. One of these names is that of Alfred Nobel(阿佛列·诺贝尔), who established the famous Nobel Prize.

Nobel was born in Sweden in 1833. He became an engineer and an inventor. He was particularly interested in explosives (炸药). These were very dangerous in those days, and Nobel's own brother was killed in an explosion in their factory.

In 1867 Nobel invented dynamite (甘油炸药). This was a very powerful explosive, but unlike the others it was safe to handle. The invention made Nobel a very wealthy man.

However, he was never particularly happy. He realized that his invention was being used for warlike purposes, and that thousands and perhaps hundreds of thousands were being killed and injured in wars with his explosives.

When he died in 1896 he left over £ 3 million to be spent on setting up five prizes each year. These prizes were to be given to people who had made outstanding contributions to peace, to science and to literature.

These Nobel Prizes became famous and because of them we still remember the name of Nobel.

True or false

- () 1. The famous Nobel Prizes were established by a Swedish engineer and physicist named Alfred No-

bel.

- () 2. Nobel was unhappy because he discovered that the explosives he invented were used to kill and injure people in wars.
- () 3. The Nobel Prizes consist of three kinds of prizes.
- () 4. People who have made outstanding contributions to peace, to science and to literature can be awarded the Nobel Prizes.
- () 5. Only a few people know about the Nobel Prizes.

More About Madam Curie

Marie was born in 1867. she lived in Poland, where her father was a teacher. when Marie was quite young, she loved nothing better than to spend hours reading books. But she was thin and weak, so her mother often asked her to leave her lessons and play out in the sun.

Marie's mother died when she was only ten. From then on, Marie knew that she would have to work hard at her lessons if she wanted to be successful in her life. She studied very hard and won top honours at her school.

Marie and her elder sister thought about studying in France. It seemed difficult for their father to get enough money to send them there.

It was Marie who thought of a plan; she thought that she would teach at home and send her money to her elder sister. Marie's sister promised that after studying in Paris, she would get money and send it to Marie for her to study there.

Marie worked very hard for six years to pay for her sister's studies. At last her sister was married and could not give her much help.

Again Marie worked. she studied in a small room without heat or light. she lived on bread and tea most of the time, but all she ever thought about was her mathematics and science.

It was in Paris that she met and married Pierre Curie.

Together they made their experiments in an old wooden house that was too cold and damp to their health. They knew that some ele-

ments in the world had a strange power that could go through other objects. They believed that it must be a new element that could give out radiation.

For four years they tried experiments. Then they found something which they called radium. Its power was very much greater than the power of other elements.

The Curies were given the Nobel Prize for their great discovery, but they were too ill to go to Stockholm (斯德哥尔摩) to receive it. They used the money for their further experiments in the uses of radium.

After Pierre died, she continued their work and made many more important discoveries. In 1911, she received another Nobel Prize. Marie Curie discovered a hidden power and gave it to the world. It was this same power, however, that killed her in 1934.

True or false

- () 1. As a child, Marie loved everything except reading books.
- () 2. Marie's mother wanted her to play out in the sun in order to improve her health.
- () 3. Marie used to work hard at her lessons and was always among the best students at her school.
- () 4. Marie and her elder sister studied in France at the same time.
- () 5. The Curies knew some elements in the world had a strange power of traveling through other objects.
- () 6. They got only one Nobel Prize for their discoveries.