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新托福120分

Simulated Tests
for TOEFL

阅读 全真模拟试题

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Preface

前言

托福考试(TOEFL)由美国教育考试服务中心(ETS)开发,用于测试母语为非英语的考生在校园环境中理解和使用英语的能力。托福考试是一种标准化英语水平测试。目前全球各地约有 4500 多所大专院校和相关机构要求学生入学时提供托福考试成绩。托福成绩也是获取奖学金的重要条件之一。对于准备出国深造的人,托福成绩将是获得签证的重要依据。

从 2005 年开始,托福考试作了一系列重大改革。改革后的托福测试,在时间、题型、考试方式及计分方法等方面都有相应变化。为了帮助考生全面、深刻地理解新托福的考试理念,掌握新托福考试的各种题型,从而在考试中以高分取胜,特组织工作在新托福教学第一线并具备语言测试专业知识的专家编写了这套“新托福全真模拟试题丛书”。

本套丛书别有新意地将托福考题的听力、口语、阅读、写作四个部分分成四本书编写,方便考生自己选择内容,有系统性和针对性地对听说读写这四个模块进行逐个攻破,易于考生使用和携带。

此外,本套丛书还具有如下的特色:

1. 试题的设计、编写完全以测试理论为指导,以美国教育考试服务中心(ETS)为新托福所制订的考试内容规范(test specifications)为依据,以新托福真题为蓝本,因此该模拟试题集从题型到试题的难易程度都达到了理论性和科学性的统一。

2. 试题的编写不仅严格遵循 ETS 新托福考试内容规范,而且还渗透了编写者学习英语的自身体会,融进了多年英语教学的经验。这对于广大考生无疑是非常宝贵的。

3. 试题的总体编排、体例框架、材料选择和文字表述都经过新托福测试专家和外籍专家的严格把关,从而使设计出的试题质量得到了保证。

4. 试题的听力文本、参考答案将使你在使用过程中得心应手,精美的写作参考范文方便你进行对比学习和借鉴。

本套教材不但有助于在短期内提高托福考生的应试能力,同时也可以作为英语专业学生的专项训练丛书。

感谢您购买和使用本套丛书。我们在编写上难免有疏漏和不足之处,恳请广大读者提出宝贵意见。

编者

Preface

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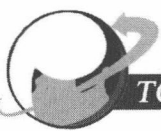
模拟试题(一)

Passage 1

North American Grasslands

In North America, native grasslands occur primarily in the Great Plains in the middle of the continent. The North American prairie **biome** is one of the most extensive grasslands in the world, extending from the edge of the Rocky Mountains in the west to the deciduous forest in the east, and from northern Mexico in the south to Canada in the north. Average annual rainfall ranges from about 40 cm (16 inches) in the west to 80 cm (31 inches) in the east. Average annual temperatures range between 10 degrees and 20 degrees Celsius (50 to 68 degrees Fahrenheit). In the moist regions of the North American grasslands, especially in the northern Great Plains, rainfall is distinctly seasonal, and temperatures can vary widely from very hot in summer to bitter cold in winter.

One hundred years ago, the Great Plains grasslands were one vast, unbroken prairie. [A] Much of the prairie is now farmland, the most productive agricultural region in the world, dominated by **monocultures** of cereal grains. [B] Wheat, barley, soybeans, corn, and sunflowers occupy the land that was once prairie. [C] In areas given over to grazing lands for cattle and sheep, virtually all the major native grasses have been replaced by **alien species**. [D]



An important feature of the northern Great Plains grasslands is the presence of millions of glacial depressions that are now small ponds known as prairie potholes. They were formed during the most recent Ice Age, when streams flowed in tunnels beneath glacially formed sandy ridges. When the Ice Age ended around 12,000 years ago, the retreating glaciers created about 25 million depressions across a 300,000-square-mile landscape—about 83 potholes per square mile. As the ice blocks melted, much of the water was left behind, forming wetlands ranging in size from a tenth of an acre to several acres. The wetlands were soon surrounded by fluttering waves of grasses: shortgrass, mixed grass, and tallgrass.

Today these small wetlands still cover the prairies, although much of the landscape—including both native grasses and potholes—has been transformed to cropland and grassland for grazing. What does remain of the wetlands, however, still serves as an important breeding area for more than 300 bird species, including large numbers of migrating shorebirds and waterfowl. The potholes fill up with water during spring rains and usually dry out by late summer. Every spring, birds arrive in great numbers—northern pintails, mallards, coots, and pied-billed grebes—4 to 6 million strong, to mate in the seasonal wetlands that **dot** portions of Minnesota, Iowa, North and South Dakota, Montana, Alberta, Saskatchewan, and Manitoba. Prairie pothole country produces half of North America's 35 to 40 million ducks and is renowned worldwide as a **“duck factory”**.

Recently biologists have discovered that the prairie pothole region is potentially a vast carbon sink: a natural sponge that absorbs carbon dioxide emissions from cars, factories, and power plants. Carbon dioxide is the most common of all the pollutants acting as greenhouse gases that heat up the atmosphere. Fortunately, however, carbon dioxide is captured naturally and stored in trees, soil, and plants. Scientists have termed **this** “carbon sequestration”. They have determined that prairie potholes hold an average of 2.5 tons of carbon per acre per year when not being farmed. This means that if the entire pothole region in the United States and Canada were to stop

being farmed, the region would store about 400 million tons of carbon over 10 years—the equivalent of taking almost 4 million cars off the road. Thus, preserving the potholes could be a way to **offset** greenhouse gas emissions that are warming the planet.

Glossary:

biome: one of the world's major natural communities, classified by predominant vegetation

monoculture: cultivation of large land areas with a single plant variety

1. All of the following statements are true of the northern Great Plains **EXCEPT** _____.
 - A. Summer temperatures are very hot, while winter temperatures are very cold
 - B. An unbroken prairie now extends from the western mountains to the eastern forest
 - C. The original vegetation consisted of shortgrass, mixed grass, and tallgrass
 - D. A large number of small wetlands are found throughout the region
2. What has taken place in the Great Plains grasslands during the last century? _____.
 - A. The average annual rainfall has risen and fallen several times.
 - B. Large parts of the prairie have been converted to agricultural use.
 - C. Melting glaciers have formed numerous depressions in the soil.
 - D. Scientists have transformed the region into one large carbon sink.
3. The word "alien" in paragraph 2 is closest in meaning to _____.
 - A. healthy
 - B. simple
 - C. cheaper
 - D. imported
4. The prairie potholes owe their origins mainly to _____.
 - A. the variation in temperature throughout the year
 - B. the glaciers that melted at the end of the last Ice Age
 - C. the heavy rains that fall in the spring and summer
 - D. the increase in greenhouse gases in the atmosphere

5. Which sentence below best expresses the essential information in the highlighted sentence in paragraph 4? Incorrect choices change the meaning in important ways or leave out essential information.
- A. The wetlands completely cover the landscape, making it difficult to grow crops and grass for grazing.
 - B. The native grasses that grew in the potholes have been replaced with crops that are more beneficial.
 - C. Except for the potholes region, the entire prairie has been converted to cropland and grazing land.
 - D. Even though a large portion of the prairies is used for crops and grazing, the small ponds remain.
6. The word “dot” in paragraph 4 is closest in meaning to _____.
- A. cover
 - B. drain
 - C. warm
 - D. damage
7. Why does the author use the term “duck factory” in paragraph 4? _____
- A. To point out that ducks are the region’s main product for export.
 - B. To emphasize the area’s value as a breeding ground for ducks.
 - C. To illustrate the tremendous growth of the poultry industry.
 - D. To show that the potholes are important to the region’s economy.
8. What is the function of a carbon sink? _____
- A. It regulates carbon emissions from human activities.
 - B. It measures the amount of carbon dioxide in the ecosystem.
 - C. It collects and drains seasonal rainwater from the soil.
 - D. It removes carbon dioxide naturally from the atmosphere.
9. The word “this” in paragraph 5 refers to _____.
- A. the emission of carbon dioxide from cars, factories, and power plants
 - B. the action of carbon dioxide as a greenhouse gas
 - C. the capture and storage of carbon dioxide in trees, soil, and plants
 - D. the average amount of carbon dioxide in one acre of land
10. What can be inferred from paragraph 5 about carbon sequestration in the prairie pothole region? _____
- A. It depends on the land not being disturbed by agriculture.

- B. It creates a beneficial habitat for many species of birds.
 C. It is a leading cause of the warming of the atmosphere.
 D. It exceeds the amount of carbon captured anywhere else.
11. The word “offset” in paragraph 5 is closest in meaning to _____.
 A. preserve B. transform C. counteract D. measure

12. Look at the four squares, [A], [B], [C], and [D], which indicate where the following sentence could be added to the passage. Where would the sentence best fit?

Today, however, the original grassland associations of plants and animals have been almost completely destroyed by human settlement.

- A. Square A. B. Square B. C. Square C. D. Square D.
13. Read the first sentence of a summary of the passage. Complete the summary by selecting the THREE answer choices that express the most important ideas in the passage. Some sentences do not belong in the summary because they express ideas that are not presented in the passage or are minor ideas in the passage. ***This question is worth 2 points.***

The grasslands of North America consist mainly of the prairies in the Great Plains.

- _____
- _____
- _____

Answer Choices

- [A] Grasslands are found in the intermediate zone between dry desert and moist forest habitats.
- [B] Most of the native prairie grasses have been replaced with cereal crops and grasses for grazing.
- [C] Millions of glacial potholes that function as seasonal wetlands are an important feature of the region.

- [D] Waterfowl such as northern pintails, mallards, coots, and pied-billed grebes live in the northern Great Plains.
- [E] The prairie potholes have environmental value as a breeding ground for birds and as a potential carbon sink.
- [F] Storing 400 million tons of carbon is the equivalent of removing 4 million cars from the road.

Passage 2**Air Bag**

An air bag is an inflatable cushion designed to protect automobile occupants from serious injury in the case of a collision. The air bag is part of an inflatable restraint system, also known as an air cushion restraint system (ACRS) or an air bag supplemental restraint system (SRS), because the air bag is designed to supplement the protection offered by seat belts. Seat belts are still needed to hold the occupant securely in place, especially in side impacts, rear impacts, and rollovers. Upon detecting a collision, air bags inflate instantly to cushion the exposed occupant with a big gas-filled pillow.

A typical air bag system consists of an air bag **module**, crash sensors, a diagnostic monitoring unit, a steering wheel connecting coil, and an indicator lamp. [A] These components are all interconnected by a wiring harness and powered by the vehicle's battery. [B] Air bag systems hold a reserve charge after the ignition has been turned off or after the battery has been disconnected. [C] Since components vital to the system's operation might sit **dormant** for years, the air bag circuitry performs an internal "self-test" during each startup, usually indicated by a light on the instrument panel that glows briefly at each startup. [D]

The air bag traces its origin to air-filled bladders outlined as early as

1941 and first patented in the 1950s. Early air bag systems were large and **bulky**, primarily using tanks of compressed or heated air, compressed nitrogen gas (N_2), freon, or carbon dioxide (CO_2). Some of the early systems created hazardous byproducts. One particular system used gunpowder to heat up freon gas, producing phosgene gas ($COCl_2$)—an extremely poisonous gas.

One of the first patents for automobile air bags was awarded to industrial engineer John Hetrick on August 18, 1953. Conceived by Hetrick after a near accident in 1952, the design called for a tank of compressed air under the hood and inflatable bags on the steering wheel, in the middle of the dashboard, and in the glove compartment to protect front seat occupants, and on the back of the front seat to protect rear seat passengers. The force of a collision would propel a sliding weight forward to send air into the bags. **Many other inventors and researchers followed suit, all exploring slightly different designs, so that the exact technical trail from the early designs to the present system is impossible to note with certainty.**

In 1968, John Piet, a chemist for Talley Defense Systems, pioneered a solid propellant using sodium azide (NaN_3) and a metallic oxide. This was the first nitrogen-generating solid propellant, and it soon replaced the older, bulkier systems. Sodium azide in its solid state is toxic if ingested in large doses, but in automotive applications is carefully sealed inside a steel or aluminum container within the air bag system. Since the 1960s, air bag-equipped cars in controlled tests and everyday use have demonstrated effectiveness and reliability. The Insurance Institute for Highway Safety conducted a study of the federal government's Fatal Accident Reporting System using data from 1985 to 1991, and concluded that driver **fatalities** in frontal collisions were lowered by 28 percent in automobiles equipped with air bags. According to another study conducted in 1989 by General Motors, the combination of lap/shoulder safety belts and air bags in frontal collisions reduced driver fatalities by 46 percent and front passenger fatalities by 43 percent.

In response to consumers' increased safety concerns and insurance industry pressure, the federal government has forced automobile manufacturers to upgrade their safety features. First, Department of Transportation (DOT) regulations require all cars, beginning with model year 1990, sold in the United States to be equipped with a **passive restraint system**. If car manufacturers choose an air bag, then regulations require only a driver's-side system until model year 1994, when air bag-equipped cars must include passive protection on the passenger's side as well. A 1991 law requires driver and passenger air bags in all cars by the 1998 model year and in light trucks and vans by 1999.

Glossary:

module: contains an inflator or gas generator and an air bag

passive restraint systems: require no activation by the occupant—involve the use of automatic seat belts and/or the use of air bags

14. According to the passage, an air bag is _____.
- A. a restraint system to supplement the protection offered by a seat belt
 - B. more effective than a seat belt in preventing most injuries
 - C. designed to detect and prevent a collision
 - D. inflatable and can hold the occupant in place the moment it detects a collision
15. According to the passage, a reserve charge is necessary when _____.
- A. the power is turned off
 - B. the backup power has run out
 - C. the battery needs to be connected again
 - D. the power needs to be reserved for future use
16. Look at the four squares, **A**, **B**, **C**, and **D**, which indicate where the following sentence could be added to the passage. Where would the sentence best fit?

Depending on the model, the backup power supply lasts between one second and ten minutes.

A. Square A. B. Square B. C. Square C. D. Square D.

17. In the passage, the word "dormant" is closest in meaning to _____.

A. potential B. dominating C. useless D. inactive

18. What can be inferred from the information in paragraph 3 about the early air bags?

A. They produced poisonous gases when heated up.

B. They were recognized as inventions in the 1950's.

C. They were filled with phosgene gas.

D. They were filled with poisonous gases.

19. In the passage, the word "bulky" is closest in meaning to _____.

A. clumsy B. compressed C. hazardous D. tight

20. The air bags designed by John Hetrick had all of the following features EXCEPT _____.

A. A button could automatically send air into the air bag in the case of a collision

B. John Hetrick once experienced an accident

C. Many other inventors and researchers applied his design to their own use

D. The air bags were installed at four different positions to protect the driver

21. Which of the following sentences best expresses the essential information in the sentence below? Incorrect answer choices omit important information or change the meaning of the original sentence in an important way.

Many other inventors and researchers followed suit, all exploring slightly different designs, so that the exact technical trail from the early designs to the present system is impossible to note with certainty.

A. Many inventors and researchers improved John Hetrick's air bag and it is now impossible to tell who the real designer of the present system is.

- B. The technical problem which troubled all designers is that the designs were too similar to be distinguished from one another.
- C. Many inventors and researchers were also awarded patents for their designs, but it is not certain how many air bag systems were invented.
- D. Different air bags were invented after John Hetrick was awarded a patent, but it is hard to tell the technical improvement in this process.
22. The word "it" in paragraph 5 refers to _____.
A. a solid propellant B. NaN_3
C. a metallic oxide D. sodium azide in its solid state
23. Which of the following is closest in meaning to the word "fatalities" in paragraph 5? _____.
A. Misfortunes. B. Injuries.
C. Deaths. D. Accidents.
24. The author cites the two studies in paragraph 5 in order to _____.
A. demonstrate that the combination of safety belts and air bags is more effective and reliable than air-bags alone
B. suggest that controlled tests should be conducted on all air bag-equipped cars to ensure effectiveness and reliability
C. provide evidence that air bag-equipped cars are effective and reliable in preventing drive fatalities since the 1960s
D. strengthen the claim that air bags are the most effective way to prevent drive fatalities in frontal collisions
25. According to the passage, by which year should all vans be equipped with air bags?
A. 1990. B. 1991. C. 1998. D. 1999.
26. **Directions:** Below is an introductory sentence for a brief summary of the passage. Complete the summary by writing the letters of THREE of the answer choices that express the most important ideas of the passage. Some of the answer choices are incorrect because they express ideas that