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清华大学英语系 曲 艳 主编
孙亦丽 审订

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前 言

本书是根据教育部最新颁发的高等学校本科用《大学英语教学大纲（修订本）》以及全国大学英语四、六级考试大纲编写的最新大学英语六级考试宝典阅读与翻译。

与原用大纲相比，新大纲在目标、要求等各方面都作了较大的调整。其一是对文理科、理工科不再分别制定大纲；其二是明确提出了“培养学生用英语交流信息”的更高目标；三是把四级定为全国各类高等学校均应达到的基本要求；四是将听、说、写、译四项技能列入学生语言应用能力中的同一层次，与阅读技能并列，并对听、读等各项技能和词汇量的要求都有了较大幅度的提高。这些修订，体现了面向二十一世纪和进行综合素质教育的要求。

为了帮助广大学生及时了解新大纲的这些变化和迅速适应新大纲提出的各项能力要求，从而顺利地通过新形势下的六级考试，我们组织清华大学英语系的部分老师推出了这本**紧靠新大纲、完全按照修订要求编写**的考前强化训练型参考书。

毋庸讳言，目前市场上此类模拟型参考书籍非常之多，有时简直让人无从选择。但是，我们仍对这本《最新大学英语六级考试宝典阅读与翻译》充满了信心，这是因为：

一、本书从内容到形式完全按照新大纲组织，在题型及问题设计完全依据考试题型，极具针对性和指导性。

二、本书选材新颖、体裁多样、涉及面广、语言生动，融知识性、趣味性、可读性为一体，让读者在轻松的阅读中领会考点

要领，并契合了新大纲培养学生综合素质的要求。

三、本书不但能直接帮助和指导应试者顺利通过六级考试，同时也可对各类英语考试（如托福、研究生入学考试等）的考生提供参考和帮助。

四、本书编者是清华大学英语系专业人员，多年从事大学英语教研工作，对指导四、六级考试具有丰富经验和独到心得。

本书由北京大学英语系孙亦丽老师审订，在此向她表示感谢。同时一并感谢为本书出版提供帮助的老师和朋友。

与本书同时推出的“21 世纪大学英语学习丛书”还包括《最新大学英语四级模拟试题详解》、《最新大学英语四级考试宝典听力强化训练》、《最新大学英语四级考试宝典阅读与翻译》、《最新大学英语四级考试宝典完形填空与简答》、《最新大学英语六级模拟试题详解》、《最新大学英语六级考试宝典听力强化训练》、《最新大学英语六级考试宝典改错与简答》、《最新大学英语词汇考点例解精要》等书，请读者参考。

我们相信，本书的出版会给广大高校学生以及广大立志通过全国大学英语六级考试的考生提供一条更加有效、更加简单的捷径。并给英语爱好者提供帮助。

编 者

2000.2 于清华园

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Test 1

Part I Reading Comprehension

Directions: *There are four passages in this part. Each passage is followed by some questions or unfinished statements. For each of them there are 4 choices marked A), B), C) and D). You should decide on the best choice and mark the corresponding letter on the Answer Sheet with a single line through the centre.*

Questions 1 ~ 5 are based on the following passage

21. Have you ever had an earache, or a sore throat that was so bad you had to take medicine for it? Chances are that medicine was an antibiotic. Antibiotics are used to fight infections caused by bacteria, one-celled creatures too small to be seen without the aid of a microscope. Penicillin is an antibiotic. Ampicillin, tetracycline, and erythromycin are antibiotics, too.

Antibiotics have been around for about 50 years. Before then, even an ear infection could turn into a serious illness. 22. Many children ran the risk of going deaf, because an untreated infection sometimes damaged

the middle ear, where the infection occurs.

Other infections were deadly. Most children who developed meningitis, an infection of the brain's envelope, died, or suffered brain damage. Nowadays, few people die from meningitis, thanks to penicillin and the other antibiotics.

Before antibiotics, any bad wound was dangerous, too. A deep wound, where the supply of blood (and oxygen) has been cut off, is the perfect place for certain kinds of bacteria to grow. These bacteria cause an especially severe infection known as gangrene. Surgeons still have problems treating gangrene, but antibiotics have made the job much easier.

Pneumonia was a fatal lung disease before antibiotics came along. Many fewer people now die of the disease. Some types of pneumonia can't be treated with antibiotics, however. They're the ones that are caused by viruses and fungi. Antibiotics only fight bacteria.

1. If you have infection in your ear, what will a doctor probably do to you according to the passage?
 - A) Prescribe some Chinese medicines to you.
 - B) Perform an operation on you.
 - ☒ C) Inject penicillin into you.
 - D) Advise you to stay in hospital.
2. Fifty years ago, _____.
 - A) many children ran the risk of going deaf
 - ☒ B) any bad wound was dangerous ✓
 - C) pneumonia was a deadly disease
 - ☒ D) all of the above
3. What does the last sentence in paragraph 4 imply?

- A) Gangrene is a deadly disease.
 - B) ~~There~~ is no effective medical way to treat gangrene well.
 - C) Antibiotics do a lot of favour to doctors to treat gangrene.
 - D) Operation is the only way to get rid of gangrene.
4. According to the passage, antibiotics can _____.
- A) effectively treat any infection
 - B) get rid of bacteria
 - C) reduce the death rate of patients
 - D) supply blood and oxygen to patients
5. Which statement in the following is NOT true?
- A) Any bad wound is dangerous.
 - B) Antibiotics have 50 years' history.
 - C) Certain kinds of bacteria are easy to grow in the part of body where there are no blood and oxygen.
 - D) Antibiotics only fight bacteria.

Questions 6 ~ 10 are based on the following passage

In the high Sonoran desert north of Tucson, amid blooming cacti, rattlesnakes and Gila monsters, a remarkable building is taking shape. Covering 1.3 hectares (3.15 acres) and sheltered under a gleaming, 26-meter-high (85-ft.) cathedral-like latticework roof of steel tubing and glass, Biosphere II is both an architectural wonder and a scientific tour de force. In December eight people will be sealed inside for two years, getting nothing from the outside but information, electricity and sunshine. Along with 3,800 plants and dozens of species of invertebrates, mammals and other living organisms, they will form the largest self-sus-

taining ecosystem ever built.

23. The human inhabitants of this miniworld — four men and four women, all single — were named last week. Ranging in age from 26 to 66, they come from the U.S., West Germany, Britain and Belgium, and include a physician, a botanist, a marine biologist and experts on engineering and agriculture.

The \$ 60 million experiment, financed by a group of venture capitalists led by Texas billionaire Edward Bass, has two basic purposes. One is to test ideas for building outposts on other planets, where long stays would be common and resupply impossible. But Biosphere II is more than just the prototype of a space colony. It is a means of learning more about how the earth — “Biosphere I”, in project jargon — sustains itself through the recycling of water, air and nutrients. Along the way, Space Biospheres Ventures, the company sponsoring the experiment, hopes to find ideas it can market, from air-purification technologies to new varieties of crops.

24. Scientists have been developing the physical plant of Biosphere II for six years, using techniques that have enabled modern zoos and botanical gardens to put diverse habitats together in relatively narrow confines. At the same time, they have searched the world for representative flora and fauna that can re-create five different miniature biomes, or ecosystems: rain forest, savanna, desert, ocean and marsh.

6. According to the passage, which of the following descriptions about Biosphere II is NOT true?

- ☒ A) It is located in the high Sonoran desert north of Texas.
- B) It covers 3.15 acres and has a cathedral-like roof.
- C) It is surrounded with many plants and animals.

- D) It is an architectural and a scientific masterpiece.
7. The eight people in the Biosphere II will self-sustain themselves EXCEPT _____.
- A) food and water
 - ☒ B) ~~some~~ information and energy
 - C) many plants and animals
 - D) some tools of hunting and cooking
8. The human inhabitants of the Biosphere II consists of _____.
- ☒ A) ~~scientists~~
 - B) a group of men and women from different countries
 - ☒ C) ~~a team of different-aged people who have no marital partner~~
 - D) all of the above
9. In the passage the author implies that _____.
- ☒ A) ~~the experiment is financed by many venture capitalists~~ ✓
 - B) the scientists want to learn more about how the earth sustains itself by the experiment
 - ☒ C) the experiment will give some insights by which the investors are going to make money
 - ☒ D) the earth is named "Biosphere I" by scientists ✓
10. Biosphere II is _____.
- A) the largest self-sustaining ecosystem
 - B) financed by Texas billionaire Edward Bass
 - ☒ C) made up of typical animals and plants in the world
 - D) all of the above

Questions 11 ~ 15 are based on the following passage

Reading to oneself is a modern activity which was almost unknown to the scholars of the classical and medieval worlds, while during the fifteenth century the term "reading" undoubtedly meant reading aloud. Only during the nineteenth century did silent reading become commonplace.

One should be cautious, however, of assuming that silent reading came about simply because reading aloud is distraction to others. 25. Examination of factors related to the historical development of silent reading reveals that it became the usual mode of reading for most adult reading tasks mainly because the tasks themselves changed in character.

The last century saw a steady gradual increase in literacy and thus in the number of readers. As readers increased, so the number of potential listeners declined, and thus there was some reduction in the need to read aloud. 26. As reading for the benefit of listeners grew less common, so came the flourishing of reading as a private activity in such public places as libraries, railway carriages and offices, where reading aloud would cause distraction to other readers.

Towards the end of the century there was still considerable argument over whether books should be used for information or treated respectfully, and over whether the reading of material such as newspapers was in some way mentally weakening. Indeed this argument remains with us still in education. However, whatever its virtues, the old shared literacy culture had gone and was replaced by the printed mass media on the one hand and by books and periodicals for a specialized readership on the other.

By the end of the century students were being recommended to adopt attitudes to books and to use skills in reading them which were inappropriate, if not impossible, for the oral reader. The social, cultural, and technological changes in the century had greatly altered what the term "reading" implied.

11. Why was reading aloud common before the nineteenth century?
- ☒ A) Because silent reading had not been discovered.
 - ☒ B) Because there were few places available for private reading.
 - ☒ C) Because few people could read for themselves.
 - ☒ D) Because people relied on reading for entertainment.
12. The development of silent reading during the nineteenth century indicated _____.
- ☒ A) a change in the status of literate people
 - ☒ B) a change in the nature of reading
 - ☐ C) an increase in the number of books
 - ☐ D) an increase in the average age of readers
13. Educationalists are still arguing about _____.
- ☒ A) the importance of silent reading
 - ☐ B) the amount of information yielded by books and newspapers
 - ☐ C) the effects of reading on health
 - ☒ D) the value of different types of reading material
14. The emergence of the mass media and of specialized periodicals showed that _____.
- ☐ A) standards of literacy had declined
 - ☐ B) readers' interests had diversified
 - ☒ C) printing techniques had improved
 - ☒ D) educationalists' attitudes had changed

15. What is the writer of this passage attempting to do?

~~A~~ To explain how present day reading habits developed.

~~B~~ To change people's attitudes to reading.

C) To show how reading methods have improved.

D) To encourage the growth of reading.

Questions 16 ~ 20 are based on the following passage

27. In the several billion years that life has existed on the earth, no event has been as startling as the rise of the species Homo sapiens to its present position of prominence. A mere eight thousand years ago mankind — then numbering perhaps five million individuals far fewer than the number of such a contemporary species as bison — was just one of many kinds of large mammals. But even then, man's hunting and food-gathering way of life was causing substantial disturbance in the planetary ecology.

About 6000 B. C. the first group of men, living in Western Asia, gave up the nomadic life and settled down to agriculture. This change in man's way of life may have been the most important single happening in the history of the earth. It started a trend toward security from hunger for mankind, and initiated an irregular but persistent decline in the death rate in the human population. It also marked the beginning of the potentially lethal disturbance by man of the ecological systems upon which his life depends. 28. When man practices agriculture he arrests the natural processes of ecological change at an unstable midpoint. Much of the planetary environment has already been severely damaged. Now its utter destruction is threatened. In the last century alone the percentage of the

earth's land surface classified as desert and wasteland has more than doubled, increasing from less than ten per cent to over twenty-five per cent, largely because of farming and grazing. Now mechanization and the use of pesticides, herbicides, and inorganic nitrogen fertilizers are rapidly accelerating the destruction of the earth's ecosystems. Insecticides alone have the potential of destroying the planet as a habitat for civilized man.

The agricultural revolution has been going on for about eight thousand years now; until a few hundred years ago it was the major cause of decline in the death rate.

16. In the passage, we can learn that _____.
- A) the mankind has acquired the most wonderful achievement compared with other animals
 - B) there was few population of mankind eight thousand years ago
 - C) mankind was the only large animals eight thousand years ago
 - D) the population of mankind was a little fewer than that of bison eight thousand years ago
17. Nine thousand years ago the main way of life was _____.
- A) fishing
 - B) wandering around from one place to another
 - C) settling in a village
 - D) planting food
18. Eight thousand years ago, _____.
- A) the man's way of life began disturbing the ecology
 - B) the first group of men began to settle in western Asia
 - C) the first group of men began to plant foods
 - D) both A and C
19. Why does the author say "This change in man's of life may have"

been the most important single happening in the history of the earth."

- A) Because it started a new way for mankind to avoid starvation.
 - B) Because it caused the death rate of man's population to decline.
 - C) Because from then on, mankind began to disturb the ecological system little by little.
 - D) All of the above.
20. In the passage, the author implies _____ was the most dangerous substance to rapidly destroy the earth's ecological systems.
- A) mechanization
 - B) pesticides
 - C) herbicides
 - D) inorganic nitrogen fertilizers

Part II Translation

Directions: In this part, there are 5 items which you should translate into Chinese. Each item consists of one or two sentences. These sentences are all taken from the Reading Passages you have just read. You are allowed 15 minutes to do the translation. Remember to refer back to the passages, so as to identify their meanings in the context.

21. (Passage 1, Para. 1)

Have you ever had an earache, or a sore throat that was so bad you had to take medicine for it? Chances are that medicine was an antibiotic.