雅思

机经题源大全

阅读 科学分册

IELTS

READING

丛书主编 / **北京外国语大学** 江涛

本书主编 / 江涛 孟飞

审订 / Eve Bower Mathew G. Gower Niall McDonagh

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前 言

《雅思机经题源大全 阅读 科学分册》以历年雅思真题为基础，以真题机经版本回顾为依据，再现原汁原味的国外原版材料，覆盖真实考试内容。本书从国外权威期刊、杂志及学术论文集锦中精选与历次雅思阅读真题文章最为相符、甚至相同的100篇文章，按照雅思阅读常考科学类话题进行分类整理，分为生物科学类、建筑科学类、医疗健康类、自然环境类、其他，共5个单元。入选文章无论从内容上还是难易程度上都力求贴近雅思阅读考试。通过阅读本书，考生不仅可以在阅读能力和技巧上得到提高，还能增强读者对西方社会、文化以及科技进展的知识储备，有助于拓宽思路，以便更好地应对雅思阅读考试。

为了帮助考生更好地运用本书精选的文章资料，本书特设以下栏目：

机经选粹：结合雅思培训教师平日的授课积累，汇总“机经”对雅思阅读真题文章的描述，为考生再现雅思阅读真题文章的原貌轮廓。

阅读题源：标明入选文章的来源，便于考生平日复习时有侧重地选择辅助阅读资料。

雅思档案：依照入选文章与雅思阅读真题文章的匹配程度和文章自身内容的精彩程度注明推荐程度，并按照由近到远的原则罗列对应雅思真题阅读文章的具体考核时间，帮助考生做到知己知彼，百战不殆。

题源全文：再现与历次雅思阅读真题文章匹配度极高、甚至完全匹配的文章。对于过长的文章，用正体字标注与雅思阅读真题文章关联最密切的主体部分，用斜体字标注细节信息。

参考译文：针对“题源全文”的主体部分（即正体字部分），给出精准的中文翻译，便于考生更好地理解选文。对于长度在1,000词左右的选文，全文翻译；长度超过1,000词的选文，节选出1,000词左右的重点部分（正体字部分），进行翻译。

核心词汇：对选文中难点单词或重点单词进行标注，给出音标、文中词性及词义。

预祝所有雅思考生应试成功！

编 者

2009年6月

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第一章
生物科学类

The Search for Life
1. 探索生命

机经选粹

这篇文章讲述的是人们对火星是否有生命存在的探索过程。一开始说到人类满怀希望地探索火星，用探测器探测却发现火星荒芜的面貌时，人们的看法全然改变。后来说到在地球的南极洲发现了一块来自火星的陨石，用显微镜能看见生物化石，还有其他一些生命迹象。这一发现，也就是说火星上曾经有水的痕迹，又让人们重燃了探索火星是否有水的兴趣。

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题源全文

The Search for Life

If all goes well, Polar Lander will search the Red Planet this week for clues that Mars once had abundant water and therefore, just maybe, life. The finds may help solve an ancient mystery: are we alone?

The table in Sarah Gavit's compact, sunny office at the Jet Propulsion Laboratory in Pasadena, Calif., is strewn with a dozen bruised and battered hunks of metal, most of them shaped like big bullets. You're looking at a museum here, she says—a museum of one of the more audacious space experiments ever: two probes that will burrow into the surface of Mars at 400 miles per hour and sniff out hints of whether the planet could once have supported life. To design the contraptions, Gavit, already a veteran of unmanned missions to Venus and Saturn, began designing and testing prototypes in 1995. We threw them out of Cessnas over the Mojave Desert at 10,000 feet, she recalls. We ended up losing quite a few. Very hard to find these things. Then, when she needed more speed, she rented an air gun. Wearing hard hats and crouching in bunkers before every shot, Gavit and her team figured out which aeroshell shape could protect the instruments inside from a force of 60,000 G's. And this week, if Gavit's luck holds, two acorn-shape aeroshells will scream across the Martian sky and will each release a tiny probe that will punch into the soil like a meat thermometer into last week's turkey.

The stakes are somewhat higher than finding if a drumstick is cooked through, though slow roasting is on the Martian agenda. A little corkscrew like drill will

pop out of the four-inch probes, dig in, grab some soil and drop it into a tiny chamber to be cooked and analyzed. Gavit, hunched over her console at JPL, will be scrutinizing the data stream for hints of water ice, a sign that once, long ago, life might have gained a toehold on our sister planet. And if there is frozen water, there may be liquid water deep underground. It may be reasonably warm under the surface of Mars, says Scott Hubbard, who heads NASA's new Institute of Astrobiology. If there's still liquid water underground, like the ancient aquifers under Phoenix, then life could still, possibly, exist on Mars. That's a respected speculation within the scientific community.

It is spring in the southern hemisphere of Mars, and the south polar icecap is retreating like frost on a sun-drenched window. Just as the season stands for the renewal of life on Earth, so a number of scientists are hoping that the Martian spring will bring clues to the existence of life, past or present, on the Red Planet. Late this week, if all goes well, the $165 million Mars Polar Lander will touch down on Earth's closest neighbor after an 11-month journey. At 1,400 miles up, it will release Gavit's aeroshells, which it has been carrying on its exterior, like canteens strapped to a hiker's belt. Then it will parachute down to a landing target about 480 miles from the planet's south pole. This is where the carbon dioxide icecap advances and retreats with the seasons (as of Nov. 5, the edge of dry ice had just shrunk back from the landing site). It is also what scientists call a cold trap: a region where volatile compounds in the Martian atmosphere, after blowing around the planet, finally fall to ground. There are a lot of cool places to explore on Mars, but if you're looking for water and ice, the compound associated with life, then the place you want to be is the place where it got stuck, says David Paige of UCLA, the principal investigator for the mission's main experiments.

The question of life on Mars has a long pedigree. Ever since the late 1870s, when Italian astronomer Giovanni Schiaparelli reported seeing"canali", or channels, on Mars, the planet has offered hints that humankind might not be alone. A few years later, American businessman Percival Lowell made telescope observations that convinced him the canals (a mistranslation) were built by an alien civilization. Visionaries dreamed of transmitting messages to Mars with huge mirrors. In 1922 and 1924, the U.S. government asked radio stations to go quiet for a while so radio operators could listen for signals from Mars, which was making two of its closest passages to Earth. Needless to say, no one picked up any cosmic hellos. And images returned from spacecraft orbiting or flying by Mars in the 1960s showed a desolate world, pockmarked with craters, with nary a canal-building crew in sight. Experiments by the Viking landers in 1976, which searched for chemical signs of life, were widely interpreted as a down-arrow for little green men, and even tiny brown microbes. But then came the summer of 1996. After alerting the White House, a team from NASA's Johnson Space Center and Stanford University announced that a hunk of rock from Mars, which had been blasted off the planet by asteroid or meteor impacts 17 million years ago and landed in Antarctica, contained microscopic fossils and other signs