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# 前 言

托福阅读是托福考试中的难点,本书中的阅读文章全部来自 ETS 正版授权的托福真题,希望能借此给大家一个托福阅读的语言环境,并让大家从中了解托福阅读文章所涵盖的范围。一般来说,托福考试阅读部分考察的是考生在英语国家进行正常学习所必须具备的英语阅读能力,所以文章基本上也是学术性较强的文章,它们的特点是:用词书面化、专业化,甚至有些晦涩;句子成分复杂或者结构复杂,阅读的时候需要特别集中注意力。所以,本书是想让大家当作精读的教材,而不是习题或者泛读的教材,所以希望大家在使用本书的时候要尽量把其中的文章读通读懂。

每篇文章的讲解由三部分组成,词汇(包括短语和专业词汇)、难句解析和阅读的 Tips。难句解析主要强调的是句法的构成,希望通过对句子成分的分析让大家了解句子的基本构成,抓住其主要脉络,其他修饰限制的成分就可以迎刃而解。Tips 部分主要是根据文章所涉及的内容,提供一些相关背景知识,让大家对美国历史、地质学、建筑学、天文学等托福考试所涉及的方方面面都有一个大致的了解,在细小处补充大家的知识结构。

鉴于编者水平有限及时间原因,书中难免有错漏之处,希望广大读者提出宝贵意见,和大家一起共同学习探讨!

编者

2004.6.5

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美国社会、历史及文化





## 美国最初的司法系统

Prior to the adoption of the Constitution in 1787, the United States was governed by the Articles of Confederation. Under the Articles, practically all functions of the national government were held by a single-chamber legislature called a Congress. The absence of a national judicial<sup>1</sup> system was considered a major weakness of the Articles. Consequently, the delegates<sup>2</sup> gathered at the Constitutional Convention in Philadelphia in 1787 expressed widespread agreement that a national judiciary<sup>3</sup> should be established. There was much disagreement, however, on the specific form it should take.

The first proposal presented to the Convention was the Virginia Plan, which would have set up both a Supreme Court and a set of lower national courts. Opponents of the Virginia Plan responded with the New Jersey Plan, which called for the creation of only a Supreme Court. Supporters of the New Jersey Plan were especially disturbed by the idea of lower national courts. They argued that the local state courts could hear all cases first and that a right of appeal to the Supreme Court would be sufficient to protect national rights and provide uniform judgments throughout the country. The conflict was resolved by a compromise<sup>4</sup> that postponed the dispute: the Constitution established the Supreme Court and gave Congress the right to create lower courts, if desired. When the new Congress convened<sup>5</sup> in 1789, its first major concern was judicial organization. Once again, the question was whether lower national courts should be created. Attempts to resolve this conflict split Congress into two distinct groups. One group, which believed that national cases should be heard in local state courts first and by the Supreme Court only on appeal, expressed fear that the national government would destroy the rights of states. The other group feared that state courts would handle cases from other states and countries unjustly. The law that emerged from this debate set up a judicial system composed of the Supreme Court, a set of circuit courts, and a set of district courts. Thus, the power to create lower national courts was immediately exercised by Congress, which created not one but two sets of lower courts.



## Notes 词汇注释

1. judicial [dʒu(:)'dʃiəl] *adj.* 司法的, 法院的
2. delegate ['deligit] *n.* 代表 *vt.* 委派……为代表
3. judiciary [dʒu(:)'dʃiəri] *adj.* 司法的, 法院的 *n.* 司法部, 司法官, 审判员
4. compromise ['kɒmprəmaɪz] *n.* 妥协, 折衷 *v.* 妥协, 折衷
5. convene [kən'vei:n] *v.* 召集, 集合

## 专业词汇

Supreme Court 最高法院

## 难句解析

1. Consequently, the delegates gathered at the Constitutional Convention in Philadelphia in 1787 expressed widespread agreement that a national judiciary should be established.

本句基本结构: 主语(the delegates)+谓语(expressed)+宾语(agreement), gathered at the Constitutional Convention in Philadelphia 分词结构作定语修饰主语 the delegates. that...established 作定语从句修饰宾语。

参考译文: 因此, 在 1787 年费城的制宪会议上, 代表们一致认为应该建立国家司法制度。

2. They argued that the local state courts could hear all cases first and that a right of appeal to the Supreme Court would be sufficient to protect national rights and provide uniform judgments throughout the country.

本句基本结构: 主语(They)+谓语(argued)+宾语从句(that the local...first)+and+并列的宾语从句(that a right...country)。

参考译文: 他们主张州法庭先审理所有的案件, 因为上诉到最高法院的权利足以保护国家权利且能给国内案件提供一致的判决标准。

3. One group, which believed that national cases should be heard in local state courts first and by the Supreme Court only on appeal, expressed fear that the national government would destroy the rights of states.

本句基本结构: 主语(One group)+谓语(expressed)+宾语(fear)。Which...on appeal 是非限制性定语从句修饰主语 One group。that the national...states 是宾语 fear 的同位语从句。

**参考译文:**那些坚信国内案件应该先由州法庭审理,最高法院只审理上诉案件的人表示他们担心联邦政府会剥夺州政府的权利。



美国 1787 年宪法是早期资产阶级革命时代的一部重要文献。宪法规定美国为联邦制国家,规定了联邦政府的权力,有利于资产阶级和种植园主的统治,维护了国家的统一和独立;宪法根据三权分立学说规定了美国国家职权的设置,确立了美国的共和政体,从根本上否定了封建专制。宪法的出台有利于防止权力的过分集中和暴政的出现;宪法关于民选政府的规定,关于人民权利的 10 条修正案等,确立了资产阶级民主的一般原则,具有一定的民主性。宪法体现了独立革命的重大成就,充分体现了资产阶级的利益和意志,使美国的政治局面保持长期稳定。但它也有一定的局限性,如允许奴隶制存在,不承认黑人和印第安人的平等权等。

●●●●●

## 美国流行文化

A folk culture is a small, isolated, cohesive, conservative, nearly self-sufficient group that is homogeneous<sup>1</sup> in custom and race, with a strong family or clan structure and highly developed rituals. Order is maintained through sanc-tions<sup>2</sup> based in the religion or family, and interpersonal relationships are strong. Tradition is paramount<sup>3</sup>, and change comes infrequently and slowly. There is relatively little division of labor into specialized duties. Rather, each person is expected to perform a great variety of tasks, though duties may differ between the sexes. Most goods are handmade, and a subsistence<sup>4</sup> economy prevails<sup>5</sup>. Individualism is weakly developed in folk cultures, as are social classes. Unaltered<sup>6</sup> folk cultures no longer exist in industrialized countries such as the United States and Canada. Perhaps the nearest modern equivalent<sup>7</sup> in Anglo-America is the Amish, a German American farming sect that largely re-nounces the products and laborsaving devices of the industrial age. In Amish areas, horse-drawn buggies still serve as a local transportation device, and the faithful are not permitted to own automobiles. The Amish's central religious concept of Demut, "humility," clearly reflects the weakness of individualism and social class so typical of folk cultures, and there is a corresponding strength of Amish group identity. Rarely do the Amish marry outside their sect. The religion, a variety of the Mennonite faith, provides the principal mechanism<sup>8</sup> for maintaining order.

By contrast, a popular culture is a large heterogeneous group, often highly individualistic and constantly changing. Relationships tend to be impersonal, and a pronounced<sup>9</sup> division of labor exists, leading to the establishment of many specialized professions. Secular<sup>10</sup> institutions of control such as the police and army take the place of religion and family in maintaining order, and a money-based economy prevails. Because of these contrasts, "popular" may be viewed as clearly different from "folk." The popular is replacing the folk in industrialized countries and in many developing nations. Folk-made objects give way to their popular equivalent, usually because the popular item is more quickly or cheaply produced, is easier or timesaving to use, or lends more prestige<sup>11</sup> to the owner.



## Notes 词汇注释

1. homogeneous [ˌhɒməu'dʒi:njəs] *adj.* 同类的, 相似的
2. sanction ['sæŋkʃən] *n.* 批准, 同意, 支持, 认可
3. paramount ['pærəmaʊnt] *adj.* 极为重要的
4. subsistence [sʌb'sistəns] *n.* 生存, 生活
5. prevail [pri'veil] *v.* 流行
6. unaltered ['ʌn'ɔ:ltəd] *adj.* 未改变的
7. equivalent [i'kwivələnt] *adj.* 相等的 *n.* 同等物
8. mechanism ['mekənizəm] *n.* 机械, 机构, 机制
9. pronounced [prə'naʊnst] *adj.* 显著的, 明确的
10. secular ['sekjələ] *adj.* 长期的, 世俗的, 非宗教的
11. prestige [pres'ti:ʒ, -'ti:dʒ] *n.* 声望, 威望

## 专业词汇

1. cohesive [kəu'hi:siv] *adj.* 内聚的
2. heterogeneous [ˌhetərəu'dʒi:niəs] *adj.* 异种的, 异类的

## 难句解析

1. Individualism is weakly developed in folk cultures, as are social classes. Unaltered folk cultures no longer exist in industrialized countries such as the United States and Canada.

as 后接倒装结构, 固定用法。no longer“不再”。

参考译文: 个人主义在民间文化里发展得很少, 社会等级也同样如此。在美国和加拿大等工业国家里, 一成不变的民间文化已经不复存在了。

2. Perhaps the nearest modern equivalent in Anglo-America is the Amish, a German American farming sect that largely renounces the products and laborsaving devices of the industrial age.

that 引导定语从句, 修饰 a German American farming sect.

参考译文: 现代和盎格鲁血统的美国人意义最相近的词可能是阿们宗派(注: 17 世纪成立的孟诺教派, 因创此教派的雅可布·阿们而得名), 他们拒绝工业时代的产品和节省劳动力的设备。

3. Folk-made objects give way to their popular equivalent, usually because the popular item is more quickly or cheaply produced, is easier or timesaving to



use, or lends more prestige to the owner.

give way to“让路,让步”。is more quickly or cheaply produced, is easier or timesaving to use 和 lends more prestige to the owner 是并列成分。

**参考译文:**民间制作的物品最终被流行商品取代。因为流行的东西做起来更快或成本更低,用起来更简便或更节省时间,再或者可以给使用者带来声望。



流行文化有三大种类:大众文化、民族文化和另类文化。大众文化是市场取向的,它只能持续一段时间,依靠大众传播媒体存在;民族文化实现了民族中流传的社会活动和本土传统文化;另类文化却不在传统的文化主流的规范中,并且与主流文化的意识形态相抗衡。流行文化是急速传播的文化,这种快速传播必须突破地域文化和民族文化的障碍;而要达到这个目标,就只能以超越地域性和民族特性的方式出现。可以说,流行文化是没有地域特色和民族性的文化。





## 美国新闻业

By the time of the American Revolution against the British (1775~1783), Connecticut<sup>1</sup> had four newspapers. The first newspaper in the colony was the *Connecticut Gazette*, established in New Haven in 1755. With one interruption<sup>2</sup> of about a year, it was published continuously until 1768. When it began to founder, its name was taken over by a *New London* paper, which had begun as the *Summary* and then became the *New London Gazette*. As the *Connecticut Gazette*, it lasted until the mid-nineteenth century. Next in order of establishment came the *Connecticut Courant*, which began publishing at the end of 1764. At first it supported the American cause less vigorously<sup>3</sup> than did the *New London* paper, but by approximately 1767, the *Courant* became more outspokenly pro-American. It continues as the *Hartford Courant* today. The *Connecticut Journal* was begun in New Haven in 1767 and later became the *Journal-Courier*. The original publishers kept the *Journal-Courier* moderate in tone and even dared to print articles by individuals who were condemned as pro-British. The fourth newspaper appearing regularly during the American Revolution was the *Norwich Packet*, founded in 1773 and continuing into the nineteenth century, when it was renamed the *Connecticut Centinel*.

Appearing weekly, usually in a four-page format, the newspapers carried military news, accounts of the activities of every level of government, political and literary essays contributed by members of the community, notices of extraordinary occurrences<sup>4</sup>, as well as advertisements for newly received goods and real estate for sale. Despite the small size of their papers, publishers carried articles with datelines ranging from New Hampshire to Georgia simply by copying from whatever newspapers came to hand. Before the war intensified<sup>5</sup>, the London dateline was always prominently<sup>6</sup> featured. There were no professional reporters; some of the most interesting items were submitted by recipients of letters sent from afar<sup>7</sup> who allowed the publisher to use these private communications if the names of the correspondents remained unidentified. By modern standards, the news was stale, weeks or even months old, but it was fresh enough to those who had no other means of knowing what was happening. The figures on total circulation of colonial newspapers are only approximate, but it has been estimated that one of the most prominent Connecticut papers had five or six hundred subscribers<sup>8</sup>.