全国公共英语等级考试系列用书

(PETS)

新思路单项技能教材·阅读

第四级

张在新 主编

高等教育出版社

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图书在版编目(CIP)数据

新思路单项技能教材.阅读.第4级/张在新主编;龚雁编.—北京:高等教育出版社,2001.3
ISBN 7-04-009265-4

Ⅰ.新… Ⅱ.①张…②龚… Ⅲ.英语-阅读教学-水平考试-自学参考资料 Ⅳ.H310.42

中国版本图书馆CIP数据核字(2001)第07064号

新思路单项技能教材·阅读 第四级
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出版发行	高等教育出版社		
社　　址	北京市东城区沙滩后街55号	邮政编码	100009
电　　话	010—64054588	传　　真	010—64014048
网　　址	http://www.hep.edu.cn http://www.hep.com.cn		
经　　销	新华书店北京发行所		
印　　刷	化学工业出版社印刷厂		
开　　本	850×1168 1/16	版　　次	2001年3月第1版
印　　张	17	印　　次	2001年3月第1次印刷
字　　数	420 000	定　　价	21.00元

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《新思路单项技能教材》简介
New Idea Textbooks for PETS

《新思路单项技能教材》是由PETS研究小组成员针对“全国公共英语等级考试(PETS)”专门编写的。全套书共20分册（每分册约20万字），结合PETS一、二、三、四、五级考生的听、说、读、写等四项技能分别进行单项训练和辅导。本套教材有下面四个特点：

新颖

全套教材贯穿以考生／学生为中心的教学思想，结合PETS考试的语言交际原则，通过训练提高考生的语言交际技能。本套教材一改重视语言结构的传统模式，特别注重语言交际的实用性。其新颖性体现在语言交际功能和考生的语言交际需求的统一，即：口语交际功能符合考生的口头交际需求，写作技巧符合考生的书面表达需求，阅读和听力理解方法满足考生的信息获取需求。

权威

PETS研究小组成员对PETS考试大纲、命题以及成绩评判等各个环节颇为熟悉，并作了专门研究，因此全套教材紧扣PETS各级考试大纲，切实把握大纲所规定的各级语言技能的考试原则和要求。主要编写人员均在国外研修过，对外语教学测试有较深的研究，他们负责各个级别各项语言技能的设计和编写工作，保证了教材的权威性。

适用

本套教材编写针对PETS考生群体的特殊需求，根据考生自学的特点，既讲授知识，又涵盖技能扩充训练、生词注释、练习及答案。除口语的读者定位是两人小组训练外，其它听、读、写的读者定位均为单一考生自学者，因此各分册涉及的讲解和练习内容都切实体现特定读者的需求。

有趣

本套教材尽可能采用英语原文幽默故事、卡通漫画、游戏和趣闻趣事作为素材，生动活泼、图文并茂、寓教于乐，能有力地激发读者的学习兴趣，提高学习效果。

前言

全国公共英语等级考试体系(Public English Test System, 简称PETS)是目标参照性考试，其测试重点是考生的语言实际运用能力和交际能力。阅读理解能力的测查是其中重要的一部分。

级别描述

考试大纲中对PETS第四级考试的界定是："考试五个级别中的中上级，其标准相当于我国学生普通高中毕业后在大学至少又学习了3～4年的公共英语或自学了同等程度英语课程的水平。""通过该级考试的考生,其英语水平基本满足攻读高等院校硕士研究生非英语专业的需要，基本符合一般专业技术人员或研究人员、现代企业经理等工作对英语的基本要求。"

此外,考试大纲对第四级考生语言运用能力中的接受能力，即阅读能力，也作出了明确的要求："能读懂多种不同类型的文章，包括私人和正式信件、书刊、杂志上的文章，以及与自身学习或工作有关的专业文章。同时还能读懂技术说明和产品介绍。"在具体能力方面，要求考生能"理解主旨要义，理解文中具体信息，根据上下文推测生词的词义，进行有关的判断、推理和引申，理解文中的概念性含义，理解文章的结构及单句之间、段落之间的关系，理解作者的意图、观点或态度，区分观点、论点和论据。"

教材特点

按照上述第四级大纲的要求而设定的本阅读教材的总体目标是，培养、训练学生的各种阅读技巧，扩大学生的阅读面，以期达到PETS考试第四级阅读能力的测试要求。

本阅读教材是完全按照PETS第四级考试的特点设计的，以大纲所要求的阅读能力测试重点为主，同时兼顾提高考生的整体阅读水平，指导学生如何阅读，包括准确阅读、快速阅读和广泛阅读，并配合各种有效阅读方法来设计练习。具体从以下几个方面满足考生的需求:

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1. 熟悉考试内容

第四级大纲没有列出阅读考试的话题内容要求,所以主要是参考第三级大纲的要求。全书按主题分章节，每个章节围绕同一个主题有四篇文章。阅读材料来源多为国外较新的各种原始材料，基本涵盖了大纲对阅读内容的要求。题材涉及面广泛,为考生熟悉各种题材的考试内容提供素材。

2. 熟悉考试形式

根据大纲对阅读技能的具体要求，本教材在每篇阅读材料后都根据有关的阅读技能、技巧设计了相应的练习，帮助考生熟悉考试题型。同时，具体指导学生如何进行有效阅读，以期通过这些练习帮助考生在熟悉考试题型的基础上适应对阅读能力的各个方面、不同形式的考查。所有练习都配有答案，附在书的最后，以备学生自测。

3. 提高总体阅读水平

在满足了考生对考试内容和形式的需求的前提下，本阅读教材还力求提高考生的总体阅读水平和兴趣。每个章节的文章分成两大部分，第一部分的两篇文章重点阅读，第二部分“Read for Fun”的两篇文章选材轻松活泼(包括故事、幽默及诙谐文笔的文章等)，目的是使学生在轻松愉快的心情下提高阅读的兴趣。为了帮助某些有困难的考生准确理解文章,每课最后都配有词汇表并对文章中出现的一些文化背景、疑难句型、结构难点、特殊句词等作出详细注解。

4. 掌握阅读技巧

对一些具体的阅读技巧，除了在练习的设计中体现以外，章节中会有简单的说明，用较醒目的格式提醒考生注意，以帮助考生配合练习尽快掌握、从而有效地提高阅读理解能力。

如何使用教材

一. 自学者使用

教材根据大纲的要求按主题分章节，每个主题都包含：两篇重点阅读和两篇趣味阅读的文章；文章后的各种练习；以及最后的生词注释。建议使用时可按以下几个步骤进行：

第一步：学生阅读文章，不看各课最后的词汇表和注释，先做一下文章后的练习。

第二步：如果第一遍的理解有困难，可以参考一下词汇表，并且对照注

释进行再一次的阅读，然后再做练习。

第三步：练习答案都附在书后，可以对照检测一下自己的阅读理解程度。

二. 课堂使用

本教材虽然主要是为考生自学备考所用，但如果是在课堂上老师的指导下使用自然效果会更好，因为学生一些个别的疑难问题能得到老师更详尽、更及时的解答，对一些阅读技巧的指导也能更具体。此外，教师还可以在课堂使用中增加一些阅读前的练习项目，如让学生根据文章标题预测文章内容等，学生还可以在老师的指导和控制下对某些文章做快速阅读练习。

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林岩负责三级各分册主编及各级听力策划。
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副主编简介

Contents

Unit 1 Education 1

Part A A. A Carrot for the Teacher
B. The Corruption in the Classroom

Part B A. My Early Life
B. Jacob's Chicken

Unit 2 Environment 17

Part A A. A Warmer Globe
B. Wild Orphan Animal Babies

Part B A. The Best and Worst Environmental Events of 1999
B. Leaflets

Unit 3 Science & Technology 29

Part A A. AOL's Success Story
B. 360-Degree Movie

Part B A. Out of Attic for the 21st Century
B. Top 5 Reasons Why Computers Must Be Male/Female

Unit 4 Home & Family 43

Part A A. The Making of a Father
B. Hyper-Parents

Part B A. 232-9979
B. Equal Rights

Unit 5 People & Culture 57

Part A A. Lost Survivors

B. Mass Migration in the Modern Era
Part B A. Customs Vary with Culture
B. I Speak English... I Think???

Unit 6 Daily Life 69
Part A A. How to Manage Time
B. How "Normal" Are You?
Part B A. My First Car
B. Brilliant Engineering

Unit 7 Jobs & Occupations 83
Part A A. Intrepid Interpreters
B. Résumé Writing
Part B A. My First Summer Job
B. Starting Salary

Unit 8 Services & Business 95
Part A A. The Post Office Issue
B. NOW Checking Account
Part B A. Hard to Believe
B. Prices and Wages

Unit 9 History 109
Part A A. The Great Depression
B. The Industrial Revolution and the Family
Part B A. Wrong Channel
B. Newspaper Headlines

Unit 10 Weather & Climate 121
Part A A. Tornado!
B. Temperature Extremes and Geological Surprises
Part B A. Weather Whimsy
B. Too Much Weather!

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Unit 11 Entertainment 135

Part A A. Jazz, the First Thirty Years
B. The Triumph of Celebrity Culture

Part B A. Famous Theater
B. Oscar Moments

Unit 12 Social Relations 151

Part A A. French-English Relations in Canada
B. Auntie, Friendship and the Wisdom of the Ages

Part B A. The Ballad of Rudolph Reed
B. Please Don't Call Me "Sir"

Unit 13 Health & Body Care 165

Part A A. Alzheimer's Disease
B. Moving Meditation

Part B A. Humor in the Workplace
B. Jokes

Unit 14 Travel & Holidays 179

Part A A. Giving When You Go
B. Venture to the Last Continent

Part B A. Father Christmas Comes Down the Chimney
B. An Unforgettable Cruise

Unit 15 Current Affairs 191

Part A A. The Salt Lake Meeting
B. Cracking Genetic Code

Part B A. Believe It or Not!
B. Newspaper Headlines

Unit 16 Shopping 203

Part A A. Digital Television
B. Maybe the Next Ansel Adams

Part B A. Testing Them out at the Auto Show

B. Classified Classics

Unit 17 Free-time Activities 215

Part A A. Freshwater Fishing

B. Ads in the Magazine

Part B A. Office Party Guidelines

B. Skydive

Answer Key 231

Vocabulary 253

UNIT 1

Education

Part A A. A Carrot for the Teacher

B. The Corruption in the Classroom

Part B A. My Early Life

B. Jacob's Chicken

Text A

A Carrot for the Teacher

In a striking example of how market forces are beginning to transform education, a company running public schools for profit launched a stock option plan for its principals, teachers, and other school staff [1] in Miami, Dade County, Florida.

The move by the New York-based Edison Project Inc. gives public-school employees a direct financial stake in their school's performance. [2] And it addresses what reformers say is a major cause of the low performance of many public schools: the absence among educators of a strong sense of investment in their work, financial or otherwise.

To enhance incentives in the educational trenches, principals will be given the right to buy shares in Edison valued at $10, 500; [3] teachers will be offered $3, 000 to $5, 400 worth of stock, and other school staff $1,000—above and beyond their regular salaries. They will be able to purchase shares and then redeem them for a profit once Edison, currently a privately held company, is traded publicly—in about 18 months from now, Edison executives say. [4]

Securities laws [5] prohibit the company from predicting its future value, but if the company produces returns comparable to those of high-performing firms such as Home Depot or Compaq, the stock options could amount to increasing an average teacher's yearly salary by a third over the course of a decade. [6] Of course, such returns, or even the company's success in attracting public investors, are far from guaranteed in what is a new and controversial industry.

The company hopes to quickly expand the option plan throughout its national schools network, which currently includes about four dozen traditional and charter public schools educating over 24,000 students. "Sharing the wealth with educators on the front lines is the right thing to do," and it gives incentives to academic achievement, says the plan's author, Chris Whittle, Edison's founder

and chief executive.

By offering what's expected to be upwards of 6 percent of the company to their principals and teachers, Whittle and Edison's board of directors are answering critics who charge that for-profit education companies enrich themselves at the expense of their schools. [7] The initiative also gives Edison a competitive edge in the increasingly crowded for-profit education field; over a dozen companies are now running public schools to make money.

The United Teachers of Dade, [8] the local union in Miami, and its parent organization, the American Federation of Teachers, back the Edison initiative, despite the fact that it clashes with the long-standing union principle of paying teachers throughout a school system the same salaries based on their education credentials and years of classroom experience. [9] "We are not wedded to traditional salary schedules," [10] says Sandra Feldman, president of the AFT. Robert Chase, president of the much larger National Education Association, is more guarded. "Incentives and rewards for deserving teachers are important ... but a system based on the profit motive of private industry creates a lot of uneasiness."

○ 阅读新闻体裁的文章时，应注意报导者一般会尽量保持中立姿态，针对某一问题客观地转述各方的意见。所以阅读这类文章时要尤其注意争论的议题是什么，各方的观点是什么，论据是什么。可能的话，建议随手列一下主要观点，这样对主要议题和结构会更清楚些。

Choose the best answer to each of the following questions.

1. Judging from what has been said in the text, the word "carrot" in the title probably means something _____

   [A] promised to you in order to persuade you to work harder.

   [B] given to you for your good work.

   [C] that will do good for your health.

   [D] that is profitable and can thus increase your salary.

2. According to the organizer, the stock option plan tries to solve the problem of _____

   [A] shortage of capital for the running of the school system.

[B] too many teachers and staff working inefficiently.
[C] teachers' lack of devotion and motivation in their work.
[D] unfair distribution of profits to the teachers and staff.

3. **In the last sentence of the 4th paragraph, the "new and controversial industry" refers to _____**
[A] the securities and stock exchange.
[B] the for-profit education companies.
[C] the national public schools network.
[D] the public school teachers union.

4. **Who designed the stock option plan?**
[A] Sandra Feldman
[B] The United Teachers of Dade
[C] Chris Whittle
[D] The National Education Association

5. **The underlined word "edge" in the 6th paragraph means _____**
[A] rim.
[B] distance.
[C] possibility.
[D] advantage.

6. **What is AFT's reaction to the stock option plan?**
[A] They support it.
[B] They're against it.
[C] They don't have any comment.
[D] They're defending their principle.

7. **The writer of this text is trying to show us how _____**
[A] company executives make profits.
[B] education is influenced by market forces.
[C] teachers and staff in public schools are underpaid.
[D] the stock option plan affects the performance of schools.

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