**ENGLISH** 

关心读

# 大学英语过关必读

主 编 朱凤英 副主编 李秋芳 蒋津芝

中国人事出版社

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## 前言

根据《大学英语教学大纲》的要求,为配合大学英语教学,重点突出阅读和写作、加强基础,进而提高学生阅读理解和书面表达能力为宗旨而精心编写本书。其中简短回答问题中的短文选自Britain's newspaper,The Guardian(1996年),英语写作是学生学习中的难点和弱项,为此,本书重点在作文部分着力,从最基本的词汇和句子人手讲述,深入浅出、循序渐进,对学生在较短时间内学会正确运用英语表达自己的思想将大有裨益。

本书中的简答题和作文范文中的英文部分承蒙美籍文教专家 Arthur E·Boltz 和 Bornie R·Boltz 夫妇审阅,在此表示诚挚的 谢意。

本书可供参加大学英语四、六级考试的学生及其他考生复习、备考、自学、自测或训练之用。

**蒋津芝教授编**写作文部分,李秋芳编写词汇与语法结构部分, 其余部分均由朱凤英编写,并负责全面统稿工作。

> 编者 1997年4月

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### I Short Answer Questions

#### Passage 1

The Government last week admited" very serious errors" which led to 24,000 severely disabled people losing up to £12, 500 each in benefits, writes David Hencke.

Some died without ever knowing they were entitled to the cash because civil servants at the Department of Social Security failed to realise their entitlements.

A damning report by the Commons Public Accounts Committee highlights a failure by the ministry to help thousands of severely handicapped people living by themselves who needed state benefits to buy care over the last eight years.

A number, referred to as "deceased customers" by the ministry, died before they could receive the money. But the ministry has not kept records of how many died before they were told of their entitlements.

Another 40,000 claims are being investigated, but "there are no plans to take any specific steps in respect of customers now deceased", Ann Bowtell, permanent secretary at the Department of Social Security, says in a memorandum.

#### Questions:

- 1. What were the "very serious errorrs" in the article?
- 2. Which persons failed to realise their entitlements?

- 3. The word "disabled" (Para. 1, Line2) most probably means
- 4. The phrase " referred to as " (Para. 4 Line 1) is analogous to
- 5. How many other claims are being investigated?

They call it the "brown agenda"—the search for ways through the murky soup of poverty, homelessness, pollution and deprivation afflicting the world's ever-expanding cities, writes John Vidal

The scale and depth of the global urban crisis, says the official report of the United Nations Habitat I conference in Istanbul — which reached its half-way stage last Sunday — is far greater than previously thought. And it is steadily worsening as huge urbanisation takes place across Africa, Asia and Latin America.

"A low-grade civil war is being fought every day in the world's urban centres," said Wally N'Dow, Habitat I secretary-general. "Big numbers are risking their lives every day. Many cities are collapsing. We must wake up to the fact that it is no longer business as usual.

"Urbanisation is bringing about one of the most significant transformations in history. The problems are staggering," he added. There are now more than 600 million people officially homeless or living in life-threatening urban conditions. More than a billion lack sanitation and a further 250 million have no easy access to safe water.

Mr N'Dow said:" The overwhelming speed at which the world is urbanising leaves little time to adapt. We are witnessing daily urban catastrophes. Youth is going to seed. Drugs are rampant in cities, crime and terrorism are increasing. We risk a complete breakdown in cities. People feel alienated."

Governments, local authorities and citizen groups in Istanbul

heard that declining resources, growing competition, food scarcity and environmental problems will set the agenda for cities in the next 50 years.

	Work out the meaning of the word "worsen" in Para. 2.
	What must we be aware of?
•	Why do people feel alienated?
•	Find a synonym of the word "surroundings" in Para. 6
•	The word "scarcity" (Para. 6, Line 2)most Probably means

The backlash to Australia's plans for tough new gun laws, drafted after the Tasmanian massacre in April, has pushed rednecks and gun-crazed hillbillies into action. But while the paranoid minority and makeshift militias have grabbed the limelight, a majority of gun owners has been packing streets and civic halls in town and country.

In Shepparton, rural Victoria, more than 2,300 people jammed the community centre last week for what was described as the biggest meeting in the district since the anti-Vietnam war protests. It began with a minute's silence for the 35 victims of the Port Arthur shootings by a lone gunman on April 28. Most at the rally saw themselves as lawabiding citizens. They were farmers, volunteer bushfire fighters and shooters with Olympic aspirations—all bitter that planned firearms laws would leave them looking like criminals.

"Why should I give up my hobby because of some madman in Port Arthur?" said a marksman and hunter who stood to lose three historic military rifles. Under pending legislation, he would face five years in jail if he failed to hand them over.

But who in this fruit-growing area needs the semi-automatic rifles and shotguns that are to be banned nationally and subject to a \$ 380 million "buy-back" scheme? Most of those present, if the lively meeting was any indication. Some, such as signwriter. Geoff Wilson, were collectors. Others, such as panel-beater Ricky Bertoli and his wife, liked hunting rabbits, foxes and ducks. It was not only a sport, but a way of life that would be compromised, they said, if only bolt-action rifles and single-shot

shotguns were allowed.

One farmer questioned the two state MPs brave enough to front the meeting, and hit the root of the problem as many country people see it — city people thlling them what to do. "You are trying to legislate that we should not own automatic shotguns," he said. "You think we should shoot one fox with one shoot and let two others run away to breed?"

•	Where has a majority of gun owners been packing?
	How many people jammed the community centre?
•	The word "jail" (Para. 3 Line 4)most probably means
	Why do People want to keep guns according to the article?

The lawn is not what its name suggests. Built from 1950 to 1952, it has the dubious honour of being England's first domestic tower block, conceived by its architect to preserve some oak trees. But this symbol of the modern age in Harlow, Essex, became a part of the nation's heritage when it was included last week on a list of recommendations for listing from English Heritage. It was joined on the list by some of the nation's best-known sculptors, including Henry Moore, Barbara Hepworth and Elisabeth Frink.

The latest attempt to bring heritage a little more up to date came with the release of the recommendations and the accompanying Royal Institute of British Architects exhibition, Something Worth Keeping, in central London. Both focus on Post-war architecture in England, featuring five areas; town centres, New Town housing, entertainment buildings, rural housing, and sculpture. It is the second such English Heritage list this year. A third is due in September.

Martin Cherry, head of listing for English Heritage, said:" We tried to get the full range of English architecture since the war. We tend to forget how amazingly innovative British art and architecture were in the post-war years."

Innovative designs on show included well-known structures such as the Elephant House at London Zoo and the Chichester Festival Theatre, as well as more ordinary buildings including rural housing designed by the architects Taylor and Green in the mid-1950s.

_	uestions: When was the Lawn built?
2.	Which persons are some of the nation's best-known sculptors?
3.	How many areas will be featured? Which are they?
4.	What do we tend to forget in the passage?

5. Which structures did the innorative designs on show include?

JIMMY ROWLES, who has died aged 77, was a subtle, laconic and all-but -psychic pianist who elevated the art of creative jazz accompaniment to the status of a miniaturist wonder of the world.

His reputation spread beyond the cognoscenti late in his long playing life. Supporting musicians in the shadows behind the soloist don't usually inspire much more than shop-talk among knowledgeable fans. But Rowles was different. The city of Los Angeles even declared September 14 Jimmy Rowles Day. He was the kind of accompanist who made every kind of soloist—usually singers, in his case—sound better, even the great ones.

This conclusion was easy to establish in Rowles's case, as he worked with almost all the great ones. Billie Holiday, Peggy Lee, Sarah Vaughan and Ella Fitzgerald were devoted to his playing and sought him out.

Rowles's magic surfaced, obliquely, on the British jazz scene last year. London singer Norma Winstone had written her own lyrics to Rowles's composition The Peacocks and sent them on spec to the veteran pianist. Rowles liked her version but negotiating a recording date wasn't easy. Rowles's emphysema prohibited him leaving the California sun but the singer responded, "All right, I'll come to you" and covered the costs herself.

Rowles's inspirations were the playing of the great swing pianist Teddy Wilson and the writing of Duke Ellington and Billy Strayhorn.

He began playing as a college freshman and in 1940 joined vaudevillian jazzman Slim Gaillard's group and later became part