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大学英语测试练习

(阅读理解部分)

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前 言

本书作为《大学英语测试练习》(浙江大学版)系列书中的第二册,是根据《大学英语教学大纲》选编的。所选短文多出自近期国外出版的教材、读物和测试题。编者根据需要作了不同程度的修改和删节;每篇字数一般控制在250—400个,并有5—6个选择题供测试练习用;词汇量基本上控制在大纲4级范围内,力求与大学英语4级过关考试和研究生入学考试题的形式和水平相仿。5—6级词汇一律用*号标出,超出大纲的词汇用**标出或汉语释义。专有名词及大纲词汇表中已列的词汇的派生词在文中一般不再标注。本书附有答案和注解,旨在帮助读者阅读理解,一般不作详细的语法分析,着重注释习用惯语、短语和关键词以及个别专有名词、典故等背景知识的介绍。书末还附有1986,1987和1988年我国硕士研究生入学考试英语试题中的阅读理解部分。

本书由李正中、寿树政编选,注释工作由李正中负责。浙江大学英籍语言学家 Hilary Wilson 女士审阅全稿。在编注工作中得到外语系领导和有关同志的支持和帮助,在此一并致以深切的谢意。

书末附有“咨询单”,欢迎读者对本书提出宝贵意见。

编 者

1988年4月于浙江大学

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Passage 1 The Earth's Population

According to the best historical evidence, it is estimated that it took about 800 thousand to 1 million years for the earth's population to reach the 250 million total which existed at the end of the first century after Christ¹. For some time after that, disease, disaster, and war kept the population increase down to a fraction of 1 per cent² a year so that more than 15 centuries passed before the population reached 500 million. But in the next 250 years, up to 1850, the population of the world shot up to³ the 1 billion mark, and today it has reached 5 billion. It is predicted by United Nations investigators that the population of the world will reach almost 7 billion by the year 2000.

When experts are asked what are the most effective measures which overpopulation poses^{*}, they reply that at least three measures can be considered: (1) increasing sources and supply of food for developing countries; (2) increasing the industrialization of developing countries; (3) regulating conceptions and births. The experts add, however, that none of the proposed measures can be effective by itself, and that all must be combined into an integrated^{*} program⁴. They also agree that without some regulation of conceptions and births, any other measures are doomed to failure⁵.

Exercises:

1. Our information about the population of the earth before the first century after Christ comes mainly from

- A. estimates based on current population growth.
 - B. references in literature.
 - C. estimates based on previous population growth.
 - D. written records and cultural remains.
2. The population of the world doubled between the year
- A. 1850 and today.
 - B. 100 and the year 1600.
 - C. 100 and the year 1400.
 - D. 1 and the year 100.
3. By the year 2000, the earth's population will probably exceed its present population by
- A. 1 billion.
 - B. 3 billion.
 - C. 2 billion.
 - D. 7 billion.
4. Population growth was most restricted in the period from
- A. 100 B.C. to A.D. 100.
 - B. A.D. 100 to A.D. 1600.
 - C. A.D. 1600 to A.D. 1850.
 - D. A.D. 1850 to the present.
5. Which of the following would be most likely to discover 'historical evidence' (first paragraph)?
- A. An architect*.
 - B. An explorer.
 - C. An artist.
 - D. A physicist.

Notes:

- 1. after Christ 公元后
- 2. to keep...down to a fraction of 1 per cent 使...低达1%
- 3. to shoot up to 突破
- 4. integrated program 整体规划

5. be doomed to failure: will inevitably fail

be doomed to... 注定,一定会(失败等),to 后面可跟名词,也可跟动词,如: From the start, the plan was doomed to failure/fail.

Passage 2 Thanksgiving Day

The traditional American Thanksgiving* Day! celebration goes back to 1621. In that year a special feast was prepared in Plymouth, Massachusetts. The colonists² who settled there had left England because they felt denied of religious freedom³. They came to the new land and faced difficulties in coming across the ocean. The ship which carried them was called the Mayflower. The North Atlantic was difficult to travel. There were bad storms. They were assisted in learning to live in the new land by the Indians who inhabited the region. The Puritans, as they were called, had much to be thankful for. Their religious practices were no longer a source of criticism by the government. They learned to adjust their farming habits to⁴ the climate and soil. When they selected the fourth Thursday of November for their Thanksgiving celebration, they invited their neighbors, the Indians, to join them in dinner and a prayer of gratitude for the new life. They recalled the group of 102 men, women, and children who left England. They remembered their dead who did not live to see the shores of Massachusetts. They reflected on⁵ the 65 days' journey which tested their strength.

Exercises:

1. Why had they left England?
 - A. Because of religious problems.
 - B. To establish a new religion.
 - C. To learn farming.
 - D. Because of the Indians.
2. The Mayflower was
 - A. the city they left from.
 - B. the city they arrived at.
 - C. the ship they traveled in.
 - D. the name of the Indian chief.
3. The Indians had
 - A. made life difficult for them.
 - B. helped them to adjust.
 - C. taken their land.
 - D. been too afraid to talk to them.
4. The climate and soil in Massachusetts are
 - A. similar to that of England.
 - B. different from that of England.
 - C. similar to that of Plymouth.
 - D. different from that of Plymouth.
5. They gave thanks while remembering
 - A. the new society of Indians.
 - B. their friends who did not live to see the new land.
 - C. their former religion.
 - D. to invite the Indians.
6. They invited the Indians to dinner in order to
 - A. show their gratitude.
 - B. teach them how to cook.
 - C. feed the hungry Indians.

D. avoid war.

Notes:

1. Thanksgiving Day 感恩节 (在美国是每年11月的最后一个星期四)
2. colonist 殖民地移民(colonialist作“殖民主义者;殖民主义的”解)
3. They felt denied of religious freedom. “他们感到没有宗教信仰的自由”。动词 deny 作“拒绝给予”解,用在被动句中时,后面可跟介词 to (或省略)。如: At that time education was denied to the working class. 或: At that time the working class was denied education. 句中 denied 作表语, of 表示 在哪方面被拒绝。
4. to adjust...to sth. 使...适应于
5. to reflect on/upon 回顾

Passage 3 A German Preacher

Albert Schweitzer was born in 1875 in Alsace. At that time, it was a part of Germany. His generous spirit was first awakened through his training as a preacher*. Besides gaining a reputation as a preacher, he also became respected for¹ his ability to play the organ. He was a man of many talents. His concern for other people turned his attention to medicine. He had also acquired doctoral degrees² in philosophy and music. His wife took an interest in medicine also and became a nurse. Many people thought that he should remain and lecture in Europe to have a strong impact on Western civilization. Though he listened to their suggestions, he ultimately decided to follow his own conscience³. This led him to Africa. Albert had felt that all men should accept the responsibility of helping others. He felt particularly concerned for black Africans who had

been exploited by white men. He earned the money he needed by performing on the organ⁴ and by lecturing. With this money he bought equipment and opened a hospital in Africa. He was a man of great strength who faced great problems with courage. The threat of war, the reality of imprisonment during World War One as a German citizen and the unbearable heat in Africa did not make him retreat at all. He believed that a man could overcome these obstacles if he had a sense of idealism. He died in 1965.

Exercises:

1. Albert Schweitzer's concern for other people was awakened
 - A. during his religious studies.
 - B. in Africa.
 - C. in the war
 - D. in prison.
2. His talents were
 - A. lecturing, giving concerts, and giving medical care.
 - B. fighting as a brave soldier, giving concerts and treating illness.
 - C. giving free medicine and writing short stories.
 - D. teaching his wife to be a nurse, treating patients, and giving concerts.
3. When he at first wanted to go to Africa,
 - A. some people encouraged him.
 - B. some people discouraged him.
 - C. some people told him to go to America.
 - D. some people told him to go to Alsace.
4. They thought he could best influence society
 - A. by lecturing in Africa.
 - B. by traveling.
 - C. by lecturing in Europe.
 - D. by treating patients.

5. Albert himself wanted to go to Africa,
 A. because the white man was partly responsible for illness there.
 B. because his wife had been a nurse there.
 C. because a hospital there needed a doctor.
 D. because he was born there.
6. Which obstacle did he not have to face?
 A. Wild animals. B. Hot climate.
 C. Threat of war. D. Imprisonment.

Notes:

1. to become respected for... 由于...受人尊敬
 2. doctoral degree 博士学位 (= doctor's degree, doctorate),
 硕士学位 master degree, 学士学位 bachelor degree
 3. to follow one's own conscience 凭良心(办事)
 4. ...performing on the organ 演奏风琴
 perform 作“演奏(乐器)”解时,为不及物动词,后面跟介词 on, 如:
 He performed skilfully on the flute. “演奏(乐器)”也可用
 play, 介词 on 有时可省略,但乐器前须加冠词 the, 如: She plays
 (on) the piano wonderfully.

Passage 4 Brickmaking

The development of Jamestown in Virginia during the second half of the seventeenth century was closely related to the making and use of bricks. There are several practical reasons why bricks became important to the colony. Although the forests could initially* supply sufficient timber, the process of lumbering¹ was extremely difficult, particularly because of the lack of roads. Later, when the timber on the peninsula had been used up, wood had to be

brought from some distance. Building stone was also in short supply². However, as clay was plentiful, it was inevitable that the colonists would turn to brickmaking.

In addition to practical reasons for using brick as the principal construction material, there was also an ideological* reason. Brick represented durability* and permanence. The Virginia Company of London instructed the colonists to build hospitals and new residences out of brick. In 1662, the Town Act of the Virginia Assembly provided for the construction of thirty-two brick buildings and prohibited* the use of wood as a construction material. Had this law ever been successfully enforced, Jamestown would have been a model city³. Instead, the residents failed to comply* fully with⁴ the law, and by 1699 Jamestown had collapsed into a pile of broken stones with only three or four habitable* houses⁵.

Exercises:

1. The subject of this passage is
 - ☒ A. the reasons for brickmaking in Jamestown.
 - B. the cause of the failure of Jamestown.
 - C. the laws of the Virginia colonists.
 - D. the problems of the early American colonies.
2. In the first half of the 1600's most buildings in Jamestown were probably made of
 - A. earth.
 - ☒ C. wood.
 - B. stone.
 - D. brick.
3. Which of the following was NOT a reason for using bricks in construction?
 - A. Wood had to be brought from some distance.

- B. There was considerable clay available.
 - C. The lumbering process depended on good roads.
 - ☒ D. The timber was not of good quality.
4. From the passage we know that Jamestown was established on
- A. a rocky peninsula with a small forested area.
 - B. a small peninsula near other towns.
 - C. an uninhabitable peninsula with few natural resources.
 - ☒ D. a wooded peninsula with a clay soil.
5. The Virginia Assembly, by passing a law regarding building construction, hoped to
- A. increase the manufacture of bricks.
 - B. prevent the destruction of trees in the area of Jamestown.
 - ☒ C. establish a city that would be an example for the future.
 - D. discourage people from settling in Jamestown.
6. Prior to the action of the Virginia Company of London, Jamestown had an insufficient number of
- A. colonists.
 - ☒ B. medical facilities.
 - C. clay sources.
 - D. bricklayers.

Notes:

1. process of lumbering 林木的采伐和出运
2. in short supply 供应短缺
3. Had this law ever been successfully enforced, Jamestown would have been a model city. “如果这条法律当时得以有效实施的话, Jamestown 本来可以成为一座典型的城市。”此句中的 “had ...enforced” 是 “If...had ever been enforced” 这种虚拟语气的条件从句, 把 had 提到主语前面, 形成部分倒装, 省去了 if。

如: Should you change your mind, let us know. = If you should change your mind, let us know.

4. to comply with...; act in accordance with; obey; e. g.

You must comply with the library rules.

5. habitable houses 可以居住的房子; habitable 由 habit + 后缀 -able 构成; 在现代英语中用 inhabit 代替 habit.

Passage 5 The Balance of Nature

The "balance of nature" is not an empty phrase. Nature provides a population to occupy a suitable environment and cuts down surplus population to fit the available food supply. One means of reducing surplus population is predators^{**}; others are parasites^{*} and diseases. Also, population density^{*} produces nervous disorders¹ and even drives animals to mass migrations^{**2}, like the lemmings^{**3} of Norway who plunge into the sea.

That predator populations may influence other animals has long been known. Many years ago, the Hudson's Bay Company records revealed that the fox population went up and down about a year after the rabbit population had gone up and down.

Sometimes a situation occurs in which⁴ the predator population is reduced to a level below that which nature can readily replace. On Valcour Island in Lake Champlain (New York), a costly campaign resulted in the elimination of predatory animals⁵ only to have birds and small animals increase for four years afterward⁶. Then, lacking predator control, nature resorted to disease to cut down these populations.

Jamaica⁷ had an example of nature's persistence in providing animals for existing places. Sugar planters, about 75 years ago, imported snakes to control rats. The snakes killed off the rats and, with plentiful food, multiplied. Rats became scarce and snakes ate other small animals. ⁸Eventually, food became scarce and the snake population declined.

Exercises:

1. According to this article, the phrase "balance of nature" means the
 - A. relationship of wildlife to man.
 - ☒ B. adequacy of the food supply to support its animal population.
 - C. ratio of small game to predators.
 - D. destruction of predators.
2. Nature brings itself into balance by
 - ☒ A. decreasing the animal population.
 - B. decreasing the food supply.
 - C. increasing the animal population.
 - D. increasing the food supply.
3. The records of the Hudson's Bay Company show that the fox population
 - A. has no relation to the rabbit population.
 - ☒ B. increased after the rabbit population increased.
 - C. decreased after the rabbit population increased.
 - D. increased after the rabbit population decreased.
4. When predator control is not available, nature brings animal population into balance by resorting to
 - A. hunters.
 - B. storms and floods.
 - ☒ C. disease.
 - D. forest fires.

5. When the snakes in Jamaica killed off the rats, they
- A. quickly died for lack of food.
 - B. attacked humans.
 - C. became problems themselves.
 - D. ate the sugar crop.
6. Implied, but not stated:
- A. Sugar planters imported snakes to control rats.
 - B. Man should never play with nature.
 - C. Upsetting the balance of nature can cause problems.
 - D. Man has complete control over nature.

Notes:

1. population density produces nervous disorders. 动物分布密度过大会引起神经错乱。population density 可指“人口稠密”，但在此文中 population 指 all the organisms living in a given area, 故 population density 乃“生物或动物密度”。
2. drive animals to mass migration 驱使动物大规模迁移
3. lemming 旅鼠(传说中挪威旅鼠故意溺水自毙)
4. Sometimes a situation occurs in which..., in which 引导的定语从句修饰 situation。这种定语从句与其先行词的分隔现象是为了保持句子的结构平衡而移至 situation 的动词谓语后面产生的。
又如: The belief is commonly held that Englishmen are more reserved than Americans.
5. a costly campaign resulted in the elimination of predatory animals 一场耗费巨资的运动灭绝了食肉动物; result in 引起(某种结果), 又如: He felt that in time the extreme misery of the working people would result in revolution.
6. only to have... 这种 only + 不定式短语的结构表示结果, 此短语可译为“结果, 在后来的四年里, 飞鸟和小动物增加了。”
7. Jamaica 牙买加(拉丁美洲西印度群岛中的一小国)

Passage 6 Food

The food we eat seems to have profound* effects on our health. Although science has made enormous steps in making food more fit to eat¹, it has, at the same time, made many foods unfit to eat. Some research has shown that perhaps eighty percent of all human illnesses are related to diet* and forty percent of cancer is related to the diet as well, especially cancer of the colon (结肠). Different cultures ~~are~~ more prone** to² contract certain illnesses because of the food that is characteristic in these cultures. That food is related to illness is not a new discovery. In 1945, government researchers realized that nitrates**, commonly used to preserve color in meats, and other food additives*, caused cancer. Yet, these carcinogenic** additives³ remain in our food, and it becomes more difficult all the time to know which things on the packaging labels* of processed food⁴ are helpful or harmful. The additives which we eat are not all so direct. Farmers often give penicillin* to beef and poultry*, and because of this, penicillin has been found in the milk of treated cows. Sometimes similar drugs are given to animals not for medicinal purposes, but for financial reasons. The farmers are simply trying to fatten the animals in order to obtain a higher price on the market. Although the Food and Drug Administration (FDA) has tried repeatedly to control these procedures, the practices continue.

Exercises: