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前言

为了适应当前成人英语职称考核补课的迫切需要,我们编印了《职称英语》一书。本书适用于掌握了700个英语单词和基础语法的各类科技人员和管理干部,作为各系列中、高级职称英语考试培训的试用教材,亦可作为在职人员英语进修和自学的读本。

本书共 22 个单元,主要内容有:科技读物、阅读理解、选词填空、段落翻译,考试试题、练习答案和参考译文。英语应用文占有一定比例。

本书参考了一些同志的书和文献的部分内容,并得到了一些师长的支持和帮助,对此一并表示衷心的感谢。

由于水平有限,不当与疏漏在所难免。请读者不吝指 正。

编者

1990年8月

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Unit 1

Pollution and Population

Since the beginning of man's life on earth, human beings have produced waste materials. When the world's population was small, this did not cause any problems. However, in the last two centuries the population has increased rapidly, and large numbers of people have moved into towns and cities to live. Also, technology has produced new materials which nature alone cannot safely break down. The waste materials of modern society have begun to pollute our earth more and more each year, and the result is that pollution has now become a serious problem in almost every country of the world.

The population explosion is the major cause of the difficulties we face today. One third of all people who have ever lived on our earth are alive at this moment. In the early 1900's only about 1,500 million people lived on the earth. It is thought that by the 2000, the number will be more than 6,230 million. Developments in medical science are partly responsible for this sudden increase in population. Fewer babies die now, and people live longer than they did in the past. This is because doctors have leared more about infections

and about the treatment of illnesses.

To feed the growing population, farmers make use of large amounts of artificial fertilizers. These are easy to use, and contain rich food value for crops. However, fertilizer which is not used by the crops goes into the ground and eventually pollutes our rivers. Animal waste, which was once used by farmers as fertilizer, is left on the ground and also finds its way into our water supply. In some countries, 50% of pollution comes as a result of farming.

To destroy modern materials such as plastics, it is necessary to burn them. However, the burning process produces dangerous gases which kill trees and plants and also poison the air that we breathe.

One of the greatest problems is liquid waste from factories and homes. Large amounts of untreated human and industrial waste are put regularly into rivers, lakes and the sea. The result of this is not only that fish die, but also that every year hundreds of people die from eating poisoned fish.

Smoke from factories and homes causes air pollution. Buildings become dirty, plants and trees die and sometimes food crops in the fields are destroyed.

Perhaps the most dangerous type of pollution is from the gases which are produced by car engines. These gases contain large amounts of lead. Doctors know that lead causes brain damage, especially in young children. We know today that one of the reasons for the fall of the great Roman civilization was that drinking water went to houses through lead pipes. The polluted water damaged people's brains and bodies and eventually weakened the whole of Roman society. In this way, a society which had ruled most of the ancient world was destroyed by the effects of pollution. It is important for modern man to learn from this lesson, and to take serious steps to control pollution now.

Golssary

1. pollution	[pə′lju:∫ən]	n.	污染
2. population	[pɔpju′lei∫ən]	n.	人口
3. break down	-		排除;破坏;压倒
4. resposible	[ris'ponsəbl]	<i>a</i> .	有责任的,(应)负
			责的
5. infection	[in'f ek∫ən]	n.	传染病,传染
6. treatment	['tri:tmənt]	n.	治疗
7. artificial	[a:ti'fiʃəl]	a.	人造的,人工的
8. fertilizer	['fə:tilaizə]	n.	肥料(尤指化学肥
			料)
9. eventually	[i'ventjuəli]	ad.	终于,最后
10. find its way into)		到达,进人
11. poison	['poizn]	n.	毒,毒药,毒物
		vt.	
12. breathe	[bri:ð]	vi.vt	.呼吸
13. lead	[led]	n.	铅; 铅制品
14. civilization	[ˌsivilai'zei[ən]	n.	文明; 文化
15. weaken	['wi:kən]	vt.	削弱;减弱
16. effect	[i'fekt]	n.	影响

Notes

1. Developments in medical science are partly responsible for this sudden increase in population. 医学科学中的开发对人口的猛增负有部分责任。 be responsible for 是(造成)……的原因,对…… 负责,担负

be responsible to sb. for sth. 为某事对某人负责 e.g.

- 1) The heavy rain is responsible for the lean harvest.
 - 因那场大雨, 庄稼歉收。
- He is responsible for the success or failure of the experiment.
 他对实验的成功与失败负责。
- She is responsible to the parents for the child's safety.

她对家长负责其孩子的安全。

Exercises

- I. Comprehension:
 - 1. pollution was not a problem · · · · ·
 - A.when the world's pollution was small.
 - B. when the world's population was small.
 - C. after people began to move into the towns and

cities.

- D. when technology produced new types of materials.
- 2. The world's population has increased rapidly
 - A. since the beginning of man's life on earth.
 - B. before large numbers of people have moved into towns and cities to live.
 - C. since the production of new technology material.
 - D. only in about the last two hundred years.
- 3. One of the reasons for the population explosion is that.....
 - A. new medical knowledge helps people to live longer.
 - B. one third of all people who have lived on our earth are alive at this moment.
 - C. most people now live in towns and cities.
 - D. the world's population will be more than 6,000 million soon.
- 4. In the past, farmers used animal waste as fertilizer...
 - A. which caused even more pollution.
 - B. which did not cause any pollution at all.
 - C. still some of the fertilizer polluted our water supply.
 - D. as a result, it was better than artificial fertilizer.
- 5. When plastic is burnt.....
 - A. it produces a lot of unnecessary smoke.

- B. it destroys modern materials.
- C. it produces liquid waste.
- D. dangerous gases are proudced.
- 6. Human and industrial waste pollute rivers and lakes because.....
 - A. the water of rivers or lakes does not running.
 - B. they are not treated before they are put there.
 - C. they come from both factories and homes.
 - D. they kill fish and also poison hundreds of people.
- 7. Air pollution is caused partly by......
 - A. vapour.
 - B. dirty buildings.
 - C. food crops.
 - D. smoke.
- 8. Gases from car engines
 - A. have large amounts of lead in them.
 - B. contain large amounts of rusting iron.
 - C. caused the fall of the great Roman civilization.
 - D. polluted the drinking water and weakened Roman society.
- II. Translate the following passages into Chinese:
- 1. Smoking is harmful to the health of people. World governments should conduct serious campaigns against it. Restrictions on cigarette advertisements, plus health warning on packages and bans on public smoking in certain places such as theatres, cinemas and restaurants, are the most popular tools used by nations in support of nonsmokers or in

curbing smoking. But world attention also is focusing on another step which will make the smoker increasingly self—conscious and uncomfortable about his habit. Great efforts should be made to inform young people especially of the dreadful consequences of taking up the habit.

- 2. If population growth continues at its present pace, the future balance between food demand and supply may become dependent on new dietary patterns. Reduced consumption of meat, increased use of new high-protein food made from soybeans, and development of ocean resources for food are some alternatives that must be considered.
- III. Translate the following paragraphs into English:
- 1.一个很重要的世界性问题——实际上,是陆地上人口迅速增长的压力。我认为,它可能是当前我们所面临的世界所有重大问题中最重要的问题。
- 2.人口的巨大增长将造成极大的问题。到本世纪末,如果不发生可怕的事情,地球表面上的人口将多达7,000,000,000! 因此,这是一个在你的一生中将要看到的问题。
- IV. Translate the following sentences into English:
 - 1. 我们必须确保饮水不受污染。
 - 2. 空气污染的问题需要认真研究。
 - 3. 空气污染问题尚找不到满意的解决方法。
 - 4. 20 世纪以来美国的人口增加了一倍。
 - 5. 他问我在我所去过的城市中哪个城市人口最多。
 - 6. 人口问题无疑是今日世界面临的主要问题之一。

Unit 2

Noise

Do you think there is too much noise in our city? If you live near the airport, you will be unhappy because only a jet plane taking off makes a louder noise. The sound of planes or heavy vehicles is likely to cause deafness if heard continuously.

However, most people in our city do not seem to mind noise. They like to enjoy music when they are doing dull jobs. It is a new danger because "pop" music, when played through powerful amplifiers, can reach 120 decibels at a distance of five feet. It is known that a continuous noise of over 85 decibels can cause deafness.

Recently it was discovered that many teenagers in America could hear no better than 65-year-old people.

In the past we used to think that only workers in very noisy places became deaf. For example, when newspapers and books are being printed, the noise level is about 85 decibels, and some of the workers become deaf. Scientists believe that 10 percent of all workers in Britain are being deafened by the noise where they work.

Moreover, noise of less than 85 decibels can make some

people tired and anxious. We all know that too much noise makes life difficult and unpleasant. It can damage health and prevent people from working well. Workers in noisy offices are not as efficient as workers in quiet offices. Noise makes people less efficient. Can anything be done to reduce or control noise?

In Britain the Government has recently made several laws to reduce noise. Moreover the Government has spent a good deal of money on making airports and main roads quieter. However, many people think that there are still not enough laws. For example, there are no laws to control noise by machines. In Japan, America and Norway there are such laws. As a result, workers can claim compensation if they become deaf.

To control noise is to demand much self-discipline (annoyance arises often from lack of common courtesy), a sense of proprotion (there is usually a conflict of interest if a noise is to be stopped), the expenditure of money (and it is far more economical to do this early rather than late), and, finally, technical knowledge.

Technical difficulties often arise from the subjective—objective nature of the problem. You can define the excessive speed of a motor—car in terms of a pointer reading on a speedometer. But can you define excessive noise in the same way? You find that with any existing simple "noise—meter", vehicles which are judged to be equally noisy may show considerable difference on the meter.

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