

E n g l i s h

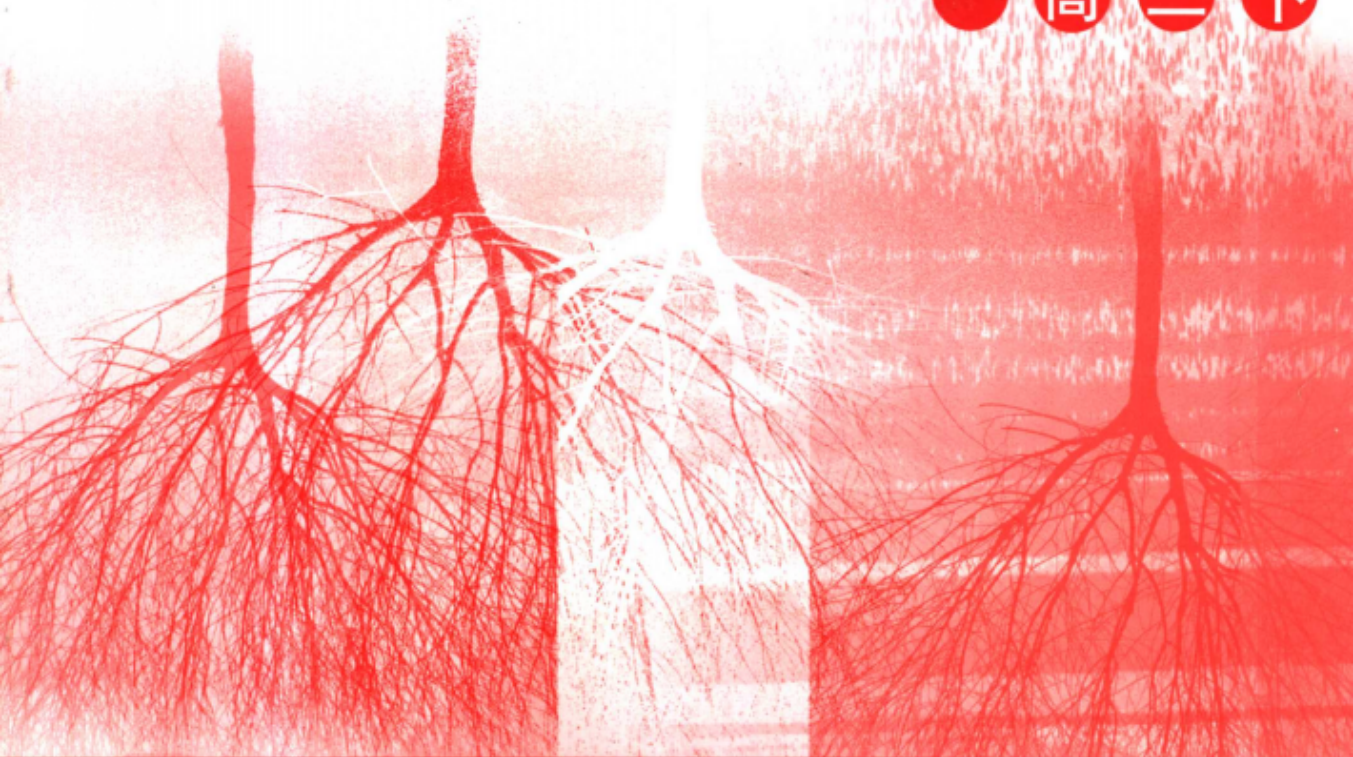
主编 李黎静

Fast Reading

for S2B

高中英语 快速阅读

● 高 二 下



华东师范大学出版社

使用说明

本丛书所选取的素材涉及国际政治、文化、经济、科技、文娱、体育及社会生活等多个方面。内容丰富、选材新颖、具有时代感，为广大学生所喜闻乐见。本丛书还引进了2006年高考的最新题型。

丛书的装订灵活别致：在页面的内侧打有一行针孔，便于撕取。既适合在老师指导下集体使用，也适合学生个别使用。本丛书的高一和高二4个分册，各有54篇阅读材料；高三2个分册各有14个单元，每单元有5篇阅读材料。在每篇材料的题目下方，印有空格供学生填写姓名、答案以及便于老师批改、评分。每篇材料后均标有“建议阅读时间”，老师可利用课前几分钟让学生做此阅读练习。这样既能使老师及时了解学生的阅读水平，又节省时间；学生个人使用时也可根据“建议阅读时间”来测试自己阅读水平的提高情况。

本丛书在编写过程中，得到了加拿大老师 Larry White 的指导和帮助，在此谨向他表示诚挚的谢意！

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Keys



Plants “ Cry Out ” for Water

The world is covered with various living organisms. Humans use them for many of their needs. Our food comes directly and indirectly from plants. Minerals, vitamins and various types of oil are produced from plants. Even some of our clothing is made from plants, such as cotton, linen, etc. As we all know, plants can not talk, but do you know plants can “cry”?

Plant scientists say that some plants, deprived of water, make extremely faint clicking noises. These noises may one day be used to “tell” farmers when to water, and when to stop watering their crops.

The plant noises occur as a result of microscopic breaks in the plant's internal circulatory system. Water moves upward from the plant's root to the leaves through tubes called xylem(植物的木质部分) vessels.

In a drought, the plant's roots bring in very little water. As a result, air bubbles form inside the xylem vessels.

“The clicking noises,” explains Dr. Mark Matthews, a plant scientist at the University of California at Davis, “apparently are tiny explosions within the plant's vessels.” Dr. Matthews says the air bubbles inside the vessels expand and finally burst.

The popping sound is too high pitched(定音调) for humans to hear without special microphones. But scientists say insects can hear the noise.

Dr. Matthews believes that knowing more about these noises may help many farmers grow healthier plants. He says his studies of plant noises show that grapes used for wine making grow best when the grapes are just a bit “thirsty”.

Choose the best answer:

1. When do plants make noises according to the passage?
 - A. When there is too much water supply.
 - B. When there is a shortage of water supply.
 - C. When the weather is very cold.
 - D. When insects attack plants.
2. What does the word "deprived" in the second paragraph mean? It means _____.
 - A. "lacking"
 - B. "plentiful"
 - C. "controlled"
 - D. "limited"
3. The noises made by plants are _____.
 - A. loud that can be heard by both humans and insects
 - B. so weak that only insects can hear
 - C. faint that only nearby plants can sense
 - D. so low that no one can hear even with the help of the instrument
4. Is knowing more about plant noise helpful for humans?
 - A. Yes, it can help farmers grow better crops.
 - B. Yes, it will remind farmers of killing harmful insects.
 - C. No, it makes farmers worry more about their crops.
 - D. No, it has nothing to do with humans.
5. Which of the following is NOT true according to the passage?
 - A. Grapes used for wine make noises when they are thirsty.
 - B. Insects may have better hearing ability than humans.
 - C. The plant's circulatory system is similar to that of humans.
 - D. In very dry days bubbles form inside the plant's xylem vessels.

Score: _____

Name: _____ No. _____

Answer: _____



Health Gains Developing Countries

In recent years, the governments in developing countries have been making many efforts to improve people's living conditions. In 1960 the average life expectancy in these countries was 40 years. By 1990 life expectancy had risen to 60 years. Likewise, between 1960 and 1990, infant mortality(死亡率) had greatly decreased. In 1960, infant mortality was 200 deaths per 1000 births while in 1990 infant mortality had fallen to 100 deaths per 1000 births. That is to say, in thirty years, infant mortality decreased by 50%. These numbers show that great changes have taken place in health care in developing countries.

Why are the people in developing countries living longer than ever before? Mainly because governments in developing countries have taken effective measures to improve their people's living conditions and to provide better care for old people. Better standards of living and improved health care mean that more people are now living much longer. In developing countries, that means overpopulation has now become a serious problem. Some governments have been trying their best to control this with policies which limit families to one child. Some governments have also been investing more money in children's welfare and health.

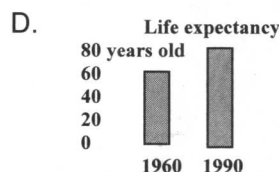
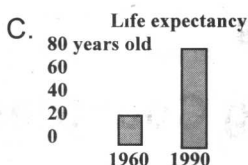
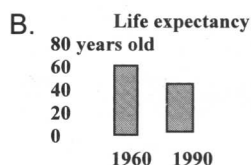
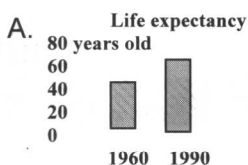
In short, the improvement of people's living conditions and health has led to the rise of life expectancy and the fall of infant mortality.

Words: 218

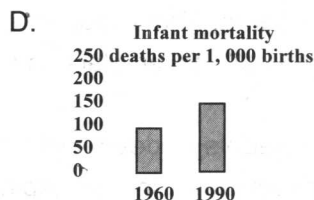
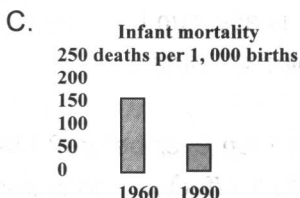
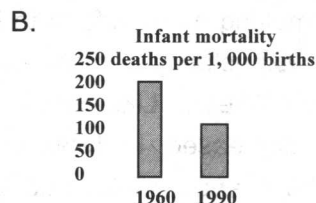
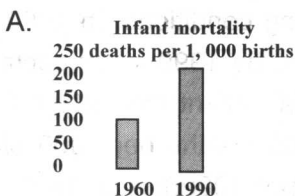
Suggested reading time: 2.5 min.

Choose the best answer:

- The variations in _____ can fully show that great changes have taken place in health care in developing countries.
 - life expectancy
 - infant mortality
 - both A and B
 - people's living conditions
- Which of the following diagram can describe the changes in life expectancy?



3. Which of the following diagram can describe the changes in infant mortality?



4. People in developing countries are living longer than ever before NOT because governments _____.

- A. have taken all kinds of effective measures to improve people's living conditions
- B. have taken all kinds of effective measures to protect and care for babies
- C. have a one-child-only family policy
- D. have been investing a lot of money in children's welfare and health

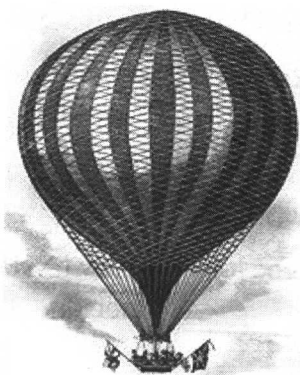
5. What is the main idea of the passage?

- A. The improvement of people's living conditions and health has led to the rise of life expectancy and the fall of infant mortality.
- B. The infant mortality decreased by 50%.
- C. Comfortable living and good welfare have led to a long life.
- D. In developing countries, overpopulation has become a serious problem.

Score: _____

Name: _____ No. _____

Answer: _____



A Trip by Balloon

On July 1, 1859, four men, abundantly supplied with provisions, started on a trip by balloon from St. Louis to New York. At 7:30, in the presence of thousands of spectators, the cords that kept the balloon earthbound were cut, and with considerable velocity it ascended to the height of two miles. Taking an easterly direction, it passed, in the course of the night and much of the next day, over Lake Erie and Niagara Falls. As it neared Lake Ontario the balloon encountered a hurricane, lost its ascending power, and rapidly sank toward the water. The provisions and some of the passengers' clothing were tossed overboard. The balloon finally reached the shore, having traveled for 50 miles, just above the surface of the water. Here they were dragged over trees, hills and rocks, with their lives endangered every moment. Not one of them ever expected to reach the ground alive.

The whole distance traveled was 1,200 miles, and the time taken to accomplish the journey was 19 hours, averaging a mile a minute.

One of the passengers, Mr. Wise, is perfectly satisfied with the success of the experiment, and believes that the Atlantic Ocean can be crossed by balloon. It is his intention to attempt such a voyage to England in the near future. Should he do so, there are few persons optimistic(乐观的) enough to believe he will succeed in his venture.

Words: 233 91032

Suggested reading time: 2.5 min.

Choose the best answer:

1. How many people came to see the balloon ascent?
 - A. 1,000.
 - B. Less than 1,000.
 - C. More than 1,000 but less than 2, 000.
 - D. At least 2, 000.

2. When the cords were cut, the balloon _____.
 - A. went up slowly
 - B. went up rapidly
 - C. went down to the ground
 - D. did not move

3. In the hurricane, the balloon sank toward _____.
 - A. Lake Ontario
 - B. Lake Erie
 - C. Niagara Falls
 - D. the Atlantic Ocean

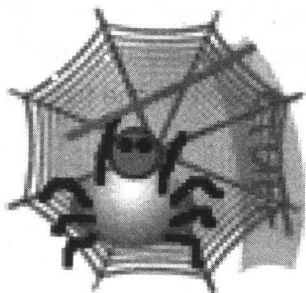
4. During the trip, the balloon averaged _____.
 - A. 1,200 miles a day
 - B. 90 miles an hour
 - C. 50 miles an hour
 - D. 60 miles an hour

5. How many people believed Mr. Wise would have a successful trip across the Atlantic?
 - A. Many.
 - B. Quite a few.
 - C. Not many.
 - D. A considerable number.

Score: _____

Name: _____ No. _____

Answer: _____



Spiders

- M:** I've come to see Ann's collection of spiders(蜘蛛). Ann, are these your spiders?
- F:** Yes. They're all the big hairy spiders.
- M:** How many do you have?
- F:** There are about 80 at the moment.
- M:** When did you buy the first one?
- F:** About 1982 we bought the first one.
- M:** And I know, your husband is also fond of spiders.
- F:** Oh, absolutely yeah. He's fond of all animals, not just spiders.
- M:** Are, are these animals pets?
- F:** They are to me, yes. They're, they're all part of my family. So therefore they're pets. They're not to everyone, of course. I mean, some, some people study spiders for scientific research and various other reasons, I suppose, and a lot of people don't have, ... don't accept them as pets, but I do, and most of mine have names.
- M:** What do you feed them, Ann?
- F:** Well, they feed on live insects, which is perhaps a thing that would *put off* a lot of people from keeping them.

M: So when, when is the feeding time?

F: We feed ours once a week, because that's all they need. I mean, in the wild they'll sometimes go six months, a year, without feeding, because they don't stray (离开) from their burrows (藏身处) – they sit there and wait for the food to come to them. Of course it doesn't always come.

Words: 235

Suggested reading time: 2.5 min.

Choose the best answer:

1. What is Ann's husband fond of?

A. Just spiders.

B. All animals.

C. Pets.

D. None of the above.

2. Ann feeds them on _____.

A. meat

B. bread

C. living insects

D. vegetables

3. The reason why some other people keep spiders is that _____.

A. some people keep spiders as all part of their families

B. some people accept spiders as their pets

C. some people study spiders for scientific research

D. some people are fond of animals, including spiders

4. What is the meaning of the phrase "put off" in the conversation? It means _____.

A. "repel"

B. "postpone"

C. "get rid of"

D. "affect"

5. How often do spiders live without feeding in the wild?

A. Six months.

B. Once a week.

C. A year.

D. Both A and C.

Score: _____

Name: _____ No. _____

Answer: _____



Ship Wreck

One February day in 1948, a radio operator on a ship picked up an SOS message. The message said: "Captain and all officers are dead. Entire crew is dead or dying."

Then there was a pause for several hours until the next message came through. It said: "Now I am also near death." That was the last message from the ship.

The radio operator was able to decipher(破译) which ship had sent the message and where it was. He told his captain who then gave orders for his ship to race to the rescue(救援). The ship that had sent the SOS was a Dutch cargo ship, the Ourang Medan. It had been passing through the Malacca Strait on its way to Djakarta, Indonesia, at the time.

When the rescue ship reached the Ourang Medan, a rescue party climbed on board. They found all the ship's officers in the chartroom(海图室). They were all dead. It was as if they had been attending some kind of meeting with the captain and had suddenly been struck down. They all seemed to have died at about the same time. And all had their eyes wide open in horror at something they had seen just before they died. Some of them had arms pointing to the sky. Elsewhere, there were dead sailors all over the ship. They seemed to have died in the same way – suddenly, while looking at something horrific.

Before the bodies could be taken ashore(上岸) for a full examination, the Ourang Medan exploded(爆炸) and sank. The reason for their deaths is still unknown.

Words: 267

Suggested reading time: 3 min.

Choose the best answer:

1. The story is about _____.
 - A. a ship
 - B. the chartroom of a ship
 - C. the mystery of a Dutch cargo ship
 - D. a radio operator on a ship

2. What did the rescue men find in the chartroom?
 - A. They found all the ship's officers in the chartroom dead.
 - B. It was as if they had been attending some kind of meeting with the captain and had suddenly been struck down.
 - C. All had their eyes wide open in horror at something they had seen just before they died.
 - D. All of the above.

3. Which of the following is NOT true about the story?
 - A. The captain of that Dutch ship sent the SOS message.
 - B. The message said that the entire crew was dead or dying.
 - C. The radio operator was able to decipher which ship had sent the message.
 - D. The radio operator could identify where the ship was.

4. The man who sent the SOS messages _____.
 - A. was dying when they arrived
 - B. told them what had happened
 - C. was saved
 - D. was dead when they arrived

5. What's the meaning of the word "wreck" in the title?
 - A. Break down.
 - B. Ruin or destruction.
 - C. Sudden and violent twist.
 - D. Take away violently.

Score: _____

Name: _____ No. _____

Answer: _____



The Barbie Dolls

In the mid 1940's, the young ambitious duo Ruth and Elliot Handler, owned a company that made wooden picture frames. It was in 1945 that Ruth and Elliot Handler joined with their close friend Harold Mattson to form a company that would be known for the most famous and successful doll ever created. This company would be named Mattel, MATT for Mattson, and EL for Elliot.

In the mid 1950's while visiting Switzerland, Ruth Handler purchased a German Lilli doll. Lilli was a shapely, pretty fashion doll first made in 1955. She was originally fashioned after a famous cartoon character in the west German Newsletter, Build.

Lilli is the doll that would inspire Ruth Handler to design the Barbie doll. With the help of her technicians and engineers at Mattel, Barbie was born. Ruth then hired Charlotte Johnson, a fashion designer, to create Barbie's wardrobe. It was in 1958 that the patent for Barbie was obtained. This would be a fashion doll unlike any of her time. She would be long limbed, shapely and beautiful, all of this only 11.5 foot tall. Ruth and Elliot would name their new fashion doll after their own daughter, Barbie.

In 1959, Barbie doll would make her way to the New York Toy Show and receive a cool reception from the toy buyers.

Barbie has undergone a lot of changes over the years and has managed to keep up with current trends in hairstyles, makeup and clothing. She is a reflection of the history of fashion since her introduction to the toy market.

Barbie has a universal appeal and collectors both young and old enjoy time spent and memories made with their dolls.

Words: 280

Suggested reading time: 3 min .