

#### 全国考研辅导班教材系列



根据《2008年考研英语大纲》审定

## 2003年

# **基础英语**

# 全真冲刺试卷

宫东风英语教学团队编写



## 全国考研辅导班教材系列根据《2008年考研英语大纲》审定

### 2008 年考研英语全真冲刺试卷

官东风英语教学团队编写

#### 内容简介

本书供考生在冲刺阶段使用,其中包括5套全真冲刺试卷。各套试卷根据考研英语大纲精心编制,具有全面性、典型性、针对性、按巧性、综合性等特点,帮助考生在考试来临之前最后巩固基础阶段所学的基础知识。掌握重点和难点,熟悉解题思路和方法,增强应试能力,查漏补缺。

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#### 出版前言

高等教育出版社独家出版 2008 年考研《考试大纲》、《考试分析》、《考试大纲解析》、《全国考研辅导班教材系列》等适应考生不同阶段复习备考的考研辅导系列用书,具有权威性、预测性和实用性。特别是《全国考研辅导班教材系列》作者阵容强大,有参与过考研大纲起草、命题工作的专家,有从事多年考研辅导的知名学者和教授。书中内容精心设计,不仅为考生指明了复习方向与应试思路,而且为考生指出了常见错误与防范措施,并配有适量的全真试题供考生演练。我们希望通过对以上各系列丛书的学习,能够使考生理解研究生人学考试的要求,掌握考试的重点和难点,熟悉解题方法和思路,彻底清除复习中的盲点。

高教版 2008 年考研英语系列丛书,由考研英语大纲修订的专家和全国考研英语辅导团队中的精英教师编写。可满足 2008 年考生全过程复习备考的需要。

本系列教材专门针对全国各地考研辅导班学生的特点和需求量身打造,也适合社会考生自学的需要。书中融合了考研英语辅导专家多年辅导的经验,完全切中考研英语大纲的考点,内容阐述准确、精炼,重点突出,而且本书在编写时吸取了各届辅导班学员的意见和建议,对考生来说是一套非常权威、实用的考试参考书。

- 一、《2008年全国硕士研究生入学统一考试英语考试大纲(非英语专业)》规定了 2008年全国硕士研究生入学考试英语科目的考试范围、考试要求、考试形式、试卷结构等,与 2007年版相比,2008年版考研英语大纲作了一定程度的修订。它既是 2008年全国硕士研究生入学英语考试命题的唯一依据,也是考生复习备考必不可少的工具书。
- 二、《2008 年考研英语真题考点与常见错误透析》根据最新英语考试大纲的要求,总结了考研英语历年真题考查的知识点和常见错误,包括试题解析、选项解析、考生常见错误与防范、试题全文翻译、重点词语和长难句分析。本书的最大特点是:从解题思路和常见错误人手去审视和剖析每一道试题。考生可以通过这种较高学术性的解题方式迅速领悟考试的重点和难点,走出复习和解题的盲区。
- 三、《2008 年考研英语写作突破 100 题》是根据最新英语考试大纲的要求,总结考研英语写作部分的命题规律和复习思路编写的。针对考生普遍的实际写作水平,尤其是广大考生的三大写作障碍:1. 不知道英语写作的模式;2. 无法用英语表达自己的思想;3. 缺乏达到研究生人学写作水平的相应能力,本书利用 100 篇典型的范文使考生认识到:英语写作是什么?写什么?怎么写?该书涉及了考纲所要求的写作模式和内容,具有极强的针对性,适合考生在强化和冲刺时使用。
- 四、《2008 年考研英语全真冲刺试卷》供考生在冲刺阶段使用,其中包括 5 套全真冲刺试卷。各套试卷根据考研英语大纲精心编制,具有全面性、典型性、针对性、技巧性、综合性等特点,帮助考生在考试来临之前最后巩固基础阶段所学的基础知识,掌握重点和难点,熟悉解题思路和方法,增强应试能力,查漏补缺。

为了给考生提供更多的增值服务,凡购正版高教版名师导学考研英语系列图书的考生都可以登录"中国教育考试在线"www.eduexam.com.cn 在线做考研英语全真模拟试卷。

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#### 全国硕士学位研究生入学统一考试英语全真模拟试题(一)

#### Section I Use of English

#### Directions:

Read the following text. Choose the best word(s) for each numbered blank and mark A,						
B, C or D on ANSWER	SHEET 1. (10 poi	nts)				
Operating a single	Operating a single currency is not going to be easy. European economic and 1					
union will not function	2 hitches. 3	, signs of 4 h	ave already appeared.			
And these political, eco						
years to come.						
_6 EMU failure	is a topic generally	in continental	Europe. And for good			
reason. The 8 of n	nonetary union would	d almost certainly slar	m the European Union			
9 political 10	and the world into _	11 crisis. "It would	d be almost as bad as a			
12 in Europe," say	vs Uwe Angenendt, o	chief economist 13	BHF-Bank in Frank-			
furt. The 14 conten	d EMU failure is not	possible. They 15	_ insist that the politi-			
cal 16 in Europe for	r monetary union is s	imply <u>17</u> strong to	o allow <u>18</u> to fail.			
But they 19 a simp	le fact: European _	20 concocted mone	tary union, and there-			
fore they can unconcoct it.						
1. [A] monetary	[B] political	[C] cultural	[D] commercial			
2. [A] upon	[B] without	[C] by	[D] through			
3. [A] Therefore	[B] However	[C] Consequently	[D] Indeed			
4. [A] stress	[B] promise	[C] prosperity	[D] relief			
5. [A] simplify	[B] divert	[C] transform	[D] intensify			
6. [A] Thus	[B] As a result	[C] But	[D] So			
7. [A] enlightened	[B] avoided	[C] highlighted	[D] surveyed			
8. [A] survival	[B] recovery	[C] collapse	[D] boom			
9. [A] into	[B] with	[ C ] off	[D] on			
10. [A] chaos	[B] treaty	[C] alliance	[D] zeal			
11. [A] business	[B] military	[C] financial	[D] economic			
12. [A] crime	[B] war	[C] harassment	[D] hardship			
13. [A] near	[B] to	[C] into	[ D ] at			
14. [A] economists	[B] speculators	[C] optimists	[D] investors			

15. [A] hesitantly	[B] constantly	[C] fervently	[D] ambiguously
16. [A] will	[B] harm	[C] doubt	[D] inquiry
17. [A] fairly	[ B ] too	[C] much	[D] enough
18. [A] its	[B] them	[ C ] it	[D] they
19. [A] overlook	[B] confirm	[C] fabricate	[D] quote
20. [A] preachers	[B] scholars	[C] custodians	[D] politicians

#### Section II Reading Comprehension

#### Part A

#### Directions:

Read the following four texts. Answer the questions below each text by choosing A, B, C or D. Mark your answers on ANSWER SHEET 1. (40 points)

#### Text 1

"It is an evil influence on the youth of our country." A politician condemning video gaming? Actually, a clergyman denouncing rock and roll 50 years ago. But the sentiment could just as easily have been voiced by Hillary Clinton in the past few weeks, as she blamed video games for "a silent epidemic of media desensitisation" and "stealing the innocence of our children".

The gaming furore centers on "Grand Theft Auto: San Andreas", a popular and notoriously violent cops and robbers game that turned out to contain hidden sex scenes that could be unlocked using a patch downloaded from the Internet. The resulting outcry (mostly from Democratic politicians playing to the centre) caused the game's rating in America to be changed from "mature", which means you have to be 17 to buy it, to "adults only", which means you have to be 18, but also means that big retailers such as Wal-Mart will not stock it. As a result the game has been banned in Australia; and, this autumn, America's Federal Trade Commission will investigate the complaints. That will give gaming's opponents an opportunity to vent their wrath on the industry.

Skepticism of new media is a tradition with deep roots, going back at least as far as Socrates' objections to written texts, outlined in Plato's *Phaedrus*. Socrates worried that relying on written texts, rather than the oral tradition, would "create forgetfulness in the learners' souls, because they will not use their memories; they will trust to the external written characters and not remember of themselves." (He also objected that a written version of a speech was no substitute for the ability to interrogate the speaker, since, when questioned, the text "always gives one unvarying answer". His objection, in short, was

that books were not interactive. Perhaps Socrates would have thought more highly of video games. )

Novels were once considered too low-brow for university literature courses, but eventually the disapproving professors retired. Waltz music and dancing were condemned in the 19th century; all that twirling was thought to be "intoxicating" and "depraved", and the music was outlawed in some places. Today it is hard to imagine what the fuss was about. And rock and roll was thought to encourage violence, promiscuity and satanism; but today even grannies buy Coldplay albums.

	, 8		
21.	21. We can learn from the text that human beings h	ave a history of	
	[ A ] fascination for the academic establishment		
	[B] enthusiasm for juvenile psychology		
	[C] disbelief in the novel medium		
	[D] hatred of political corruption		
22.	22. The attitudes of Socrates and Hillary Clinton tow	ard the novel medium are	
	[A] identical [B] optimistic [C]		
23.	23. Video games would have been recommended by		
	e . •	oral tradition	
	[C] unvarying answers [D]	two-way communication	
24.	24. To which of the following statements would the	author most likely agree?	
	[A] The emergence of video games is bound to		
	[B] There's no legal ruling that video games a		
	positively good.		
	[C] University literature courses are subject to	the harassment of video games.	
[ D] There's no sound proof that adults are prone to the moral decline when			
	in video games.		
25.	5. When mentioning novels, waltz music and rock	and roll, the author is suggesting	
	·		
	[A] the mishaps of vogues [B]	the misfortune of art masterpieces	
	[C] the prospect of video games [D]	the effects of various art forms	
	Toyt 2		

"You are not here to tell me what to do. You are here to tell me why I have done what I have already decided to do," Montagu Norman, the Bank of England's longest-serving governor (1920 - 1944), is reputed to have once told his economic adviser. To-day, thankfully, central banks aim to be more transparent in their decision making, as

well as more rational. But achieving either of these things is not always easy. With the most laudable of intentions, the Federal Reserve, America's central bank, may be about to take a step that could backfire.

Unlike the Fed, many other central banks have long declared explicit inflation targets and then set interest rates to try to meet these. Some economists have argued that the Fed should do the same. With Alan Greenspan, the Fed's much-respected chairman, due to retire next year — after a mere 18 years in the job — some Fed officials want to adopt a target, presumably to maintain the central bank's credibility in the scary new post-Greenspan era. The Fed discussed such a target at its February meeting, according to minutes published this week. This sounds encouraging. However, the Fed is considering the idea just when some other central banks are beginning to question whether strict inflation targeting really works.

At present central banks focus almost exclusively on consumer-price indices. On this measure Mr. Greenspan can boast that inflation remains under control. But some central bankers now argue that the prices of assets, such as houses and shares, should also somehow be taken into account. A broad price index for America which includes house prices is currently running at 5.5%, its fastest pace since 1982. Inflation has simply taken a different form.

Should central banks also try to curb increases in such asset prices? Mr. Greenspan continues to insist that monetary policy should not be used to prick asset-price bubbles. Identifying bubbles is difficult, except in retrospect, he says, and interest rates are a blunt weapon: an increase big enough to halt rising prices could trigger a recession. It is better, he says, to wait for a housing or stockmarket bubble to burst and then to cushion the economy by cutting interest rates — as he did in 2001 – 2002.

And yet the risk is not just that asset prices can go swiftly into reverse. As with traditional inflation, surging asset prices also distort price signals and so can cause a misal-location of resources — encouraging too little saving, for example, or too much investment in housing. Surging house prices may therefore argue for higher interest rates than conventional inflation would demand. In other words, strict inflation targeting — the fad of the 1990s — is too crude.

26.	The word "minutes"	(Line 6, Paragraph	2) most probably mean	ns
	[A] record	[B] new-letter	[C] announcement	[D] motive
27.	According to the text	t, it is upsetting that	the Federal Reserve do	oes not take into ac-
	count inflation target	s		
• 4	1 •			

	[A] until what to do is clarified
	[B] until explicit inflation targets are declared
	[C] until increases in asset prices are curbed
	[D] until its efficiency is cast doubt on
28.	We can learn from the third paragraph that
	[A] increases in asset prices are interfered by the Federal Reserves
	[B] more emphasis should be placed on consumer-price indices
	[C] changes have taken place in the pattern of inflation
	[D] inflation have been brought under federal control
29.	It is implied in the fourth paragraph that Mr. Greenspan is skeptical of
	[A] the stipulation of anti-monopoly rules and regulations
	[B] the intervention by central banks in asset prices
	[C] the prevention of economic recession
	[D] the countdown by the Federal Reserve of new economic upheavals
30.	Which of the followings would be the best title for the text?
	[A] American Monetary Conundrums Are Readily Deciphered.
	[B] American Central Banks Are on the Verge of Extinction.
	[C] Conventional Inflation Target Is Best Employed in Transparent Environment.
	[D] America's Monetary Policy Is off Target.

#### Text 3

It may be just as well for Oxford University's reputation that this week's meeting of Congregation, its 3 552-strong governing body, was held in secret, for the air of civilized rationality that is generally supposed to pervade donnish conversation has lately turned fractious. That's because the vice-chancellor, the nearest thing the place has to a chief executive, has proposed the most fundamental reforms to the university since the establishment of the college system in 1249; and a lot of the dons and colleges don't like it.

The trouble with Oxford is that it is unmanageable. Its problems — the difficulty of recruiting good dons and of getting rid of bad ones, concerns about academic standards, severe money worries at some colleges — all spring from that. John Hood, who was recruited as vice-chancellor from the University of Auckland and is now probably the most-hated antipodean in British academic life, reckons he knows how to solve this, and has proposed to reduce the power of dons and colleges and increase that of university administrators.

Mr. Hood is right that the university's management structure needs an overhaul.

But radical though his proposals seem to those involved in the current row, they do not go far enough. The difficulty of managing Oxford stems only partly from the nuttiness of its system of governance; the more fundamental problem lies in its relationship with the government. That's why Mr. Hood should adopt an idea that was once regarded as teetering on the lunatic fringe of radicalism, but these days is discussed even in polite circles. The idea is independence.

Oxford gets around £ 5 000 (\$ 9 500) per undergraduate per year from the government. In return, it accepts that it can charge students only £ 1 150 (rising to £ 3 000 next year) on top of that. Since it probably costs at least £ 10 000 a year to teach an undergraduate, that leaves Oxford with a deficit of £ 4 000 or so per student to cover from its own funds.

If Oxford declared independence, it would lose the £ 52m undergraduate subsidy at least. Could it fill the hole? Certainly. America's top universities charge around £ 20,000 per student per year. The difficult issue would not be money alone: it would be balancing numbers of not-so-brilliant rich people paying top whack with the cleverer poorer ones they were cross-subsidising. America's top universities manage it: high fees mean better teaching, which keeps competition hot and academic standards high, while luring enough donations to provide bursaries for the poor. It should be easier to extract money from alumni if Oxford were no longer state-funded.

31.	. According to the text, the author's attitude to	oward John Hood is one of				
	[A] enthusiastic support	B] slight contempt				
	[C] strong disapproval	D] reserved consent				
32.	. It is implied in the third paragraph that	•				
	[A] reliance upon official subsidy has bred the current predicament of Oxford					
	[B] an overhaul of Oxford management struct	ture is urgently needed				
	[C] the nuttiness of Oxford system of governa	ince may be easily removed				
	[D] the current row is essential to many in p	olite circle				
33.	. The term "bursaries" (Line 7, Paragraph 5)	most probably means				
	[A] preferential policies					
	[B] scholarship or grant					
	[C] free stationery and accommodation					
	[D] sheltering and meals					
34.	. We can see from the available statistics that the	he				
	[ A ] the current financial status of Oxford rese	ults from its being state-funded				
. 6	6 ·					

- [B] radical reforms concentrate on Oxford management structure
- [C] Oxford independence might become a barrier to its recruiting good dons
- [D] notorious reputation results in Oxford meeting of Congregation held this week
- 35. To which of the following statements would the author most probably agree?
  - [A] The contribution from alumni won't lure ample donation by the wealthy.
  - [B] The civilized rationality is gradually spoiled by fractious nature.
  - [C] The row going on in Oxford is passionate but beside the point.
  - [D] American's top universities are somewhat apprehensive of their current status but over-confident of their prospect.

#### Text 4

Elections often tell you more about what people are against than what they are for. So it is with the European ones that took place last week in all 25 European Union member countries. These elections, widely trumpeted as the world's biggest-ever multinational democratic vote, were fought for the most part as 25 separate national contests, which makes it tricky to pick out many common themes. But the strongest are undoubtedly negative. Europe's voters are angry and disillusioned — and they have demonstrated their anger and disillusion in three main ways.

The most obvious was by abstaining. The average overall turnout was just over 45%, by some margin the lowest ever recorded for elections to the European Parliament. And that average disguises some big variations: Italy, for example, notched up over 70%, but Sweden managed only 37%. Most depressing of all, at least to believers in the European project, was the extremely low vote in many of the new member countries from central Europe, which accounted for the whole of the fall in turnout since 1999. In the biggest, Poland, only just over a fifth of the electorate turned out to vote. Only a year ago, central Europeans voted in large numbers to join the EU, which they did on May 1st. That they abstained in such large numbers in the European elections points to early disillusion with the European Union — as well as to a widespread feeling, shared in the old member countries as well, that the European Parliament does not matter.

Disillusion with Europe was also a big factor in the second way in which voters protested, which was by supporting a ragbag of populist, nationalist and explicitly anti-EU parties. These ranged from the 16% who backed the UK Independence Party, whose declared policy is to withdraw from the EU and whose leaders see their mission as "wrecking" the European Parliament, to the 14% who voted for Sweden's Junelist, and the 27% of Poles who backed one of two anti-EU parties, the League of Catholic Families

and Selfdefence. These results have returned many more Eurosceptics and trouble-makers to the parliament: on some measures, over a quarter of the new MEPS will belong to the "awkward squad". That is not a bad thing, however, for it will make the parliament more representative of European public opinion.

But it is the third target of European voters' ire that is perhaps the most immediately significant: the fact that, in many EU countries, old and new, they chose to vote heavily against their own governments. This anti-incumbent vote was strong almost everywhere, but it was most pronounced in Britain, the Czech Republic, Germany, Poland and Sweden. The leaders of all the four biggest European Union countries, Tony Blair in Britain, Jacques Chirac in France, Gerhard Schroder in Germany and Silvio Berlusconi in Italy, were each given a bloody nose by their voters.

The big question now is how Europe's leaders should respond to this. By a sublime (or terrible) coincidence, soon after the elections, and just as *The Economist* was going to press, they were gathering in Brussels for a crucial summit, at which they are due to agree a new constitutional treaty for the EU and to select a new president for the European Commission. Going into the meeting, most EU heads of government seemed determined to press ahead with this agenda regardless of the European elections — even though the atmosphere after the results may make it harder for them to strike deals.

36. The relationship between the opening paragraph and the rest of text is that

<sup>[</sup>A] a proposal is advanced in the first paragraph and then negated in the following paragraphs

<sup>[</sup>B] an prophecy is revealed and then proved with concrete examples

<sup>[</sup>C] a generalization is made in the first paragraph and then elaborated in the following paragraphs

<sup>[</sup>D] a proposition is introduced in the first paragraph and then explained in details in the following paragraphs

<sup>37.</sup> Which of the following statements is not mentioned in the text?

<sup>[</sup>A] EU member countries hold that the European Parliament is of importance.

<sup>[</sup>B] The European Project is the worst vision of all.

<sup>[</sup>C] EU member countries maintain that central Europe are gaining more common themes.

<sup>[</sup>D] Anti-EU parties are never detrimental to the building-up of the European collaboration.

38. It is implied in the text that the departure of Eurosceptics and trouble-makers from					
the European Parliament					
[A] benefits the old member countries for the time being					
[B] fortifies the support of populist and nationalists					
[C] might oblige anti-EU parties to adopt a compromise resisted by the public					
[D] would hinder the full expression of European public feeling					
39. The word "ire" (Line 1 Paragraph 4) most probably means					
[A] entertainment [B] wrath [C] syndrome [D] premise					
40. It is implied in the concluding paragraph that					
[A] European old member countries are poor and homogenous					
[B] Europe's leaders are bewildered by the crucial summit					
[C] Europe's politicians should heed their voters' dissatisfaction					
[D] European coincidences might emerge due to the economic stagnation					
Part B					
Directions:					
In the following text, some sentences have been removed. For Questions 41 - 45, choose					
the most suitable one from the list A - G to fit into each of the numbered blanks. There					
are two extra choices, which do not fit in any of the blanks. Mark your answers on AN-					
SWER SHEET 1. (10 points)					
Among the celebrated pantheon of Holly wood royalty, few are as well-respected and					
universally adored as Gregory Peck. For more than fifty years, he has been a major pres-					
ence in the theater, on television, and most importantly, on the big screen. (41)					
As General MacArthur, Melville's Captain Ahab, and Atticus					
Finch, he has presented audiences with compelling stories of strength and masculinity.					
Eldred Gregory Peck was born on April 5, 1916 in La Jolla, California. By the time					
he was six, his parents had divorced. For a number of years he lived with his maternal					
grandmother, but at the age of ten was sent to St. John's Military Academy in Los Angel-					
es. The four years he spent there were important in forming his sense of personal disci-					
pline. After the Academy, he returned to live with his father, a local pharmacist, and to					
attend public high school.					
(42) There, his abilities were almost immediately recog-					
nized. In 1942, Peck made his debut on Broadway with <i>The Morning Star</i> . Though many					
of his early plays were doomed to short runs, it seemed clear that Peck was destined for					

something bigger. In 1944 that "something bigger" arrived in the form of his first two

Hollywood roles, as Vladimir in Days of Glory and Father Francis Chisholm in The Keys of the Kingdom.

- . This early success provided him the rare opportunity of working with the best directors in Hollywood. Over the next three years he appeared in Alfred Hitchcock's Spellbound (1945), King Vidor's Duel in the Sun (1946), and Elia Kazan's Gentleman's Agreement (1947). Despite concerns over public acceptance of the last one, a meditation on American anti-Semitism, it surprised many by winning an Oscar for Best Picture and a nomination for Best Actor. This success seemed not only a validation of Peck's abilities as an artist but of his moral convictions as well.
- . Tough and caring, he was the quintessential midcentury American man—the good-looking romantic lead across from Audrey Hepburn as well as the rugged World War II bomber commander. For many, the actor and the characters he portrayed were inseparable; the authority of his passionate yet firm demeanor was attractive to post-war Americans who longed for a more stable time.

#### (45)

While continuing to act on television and in Hollywood throughout the 1980s and 1990s, Peck has focused much of his energy on spending time with his wife, children, and grandchildren. For Peck, life as a father and as a public figure have been inseparable; he was simultaneously a major voice against the Vietnam war, while remaining a patriotic supporter of his son who was fighting there. If years of breathing life into characters such as Captain Keith Mallory and General MacArthur taught him anything, it was that life during wartime was profoundly complex; and rarely has there been a time free from war or struggle. In his more than fifty films, Peck has continually attempted to investigate these complex struggles, and in doing so has created a library of stories that shed light on human possibility and social reality.

- [A] Though an amiable and fun-loving man at home, Peck's stern presence made him one of the screen's great patriarchs.
- [B] For many, Peck is a symbol of the American man at his best—a pillar of moral courage and a constant defender of traditional values.
- [C] During the 1960s and 1970s, Peck continued to challenge himself as an actor, appearing in thrillers, war films, westerns and in his best known film, To Kill A Mockingbird (1962). Based on the book by Harper Lee, To Kill A Mockingbird addresses problems of racism and moral justice in personal and powerful ways. As Atticus Finch, a lawyer in a small Southern town, Peck created a character that remains a

great example of an individual's struggle for humanity within deeply inhumane conditions. It seems clear however, that the reason for Peck's constant assertion that *To Kill A Mockingbird* is his best (and favorite) film, was the film's attention to the lives of children and the importance of family.

- [D] Gregory Peck passed away on June 12th, 2003, at the age of 87.
- [E] While Days of Glory was coolly received, his role as the tacitum Scottish missionary in The Keys of the Kingdom was a resounding triumph and brought him his first Oscar nomination for Best Actor.
- [F] After graduating, Peck enrolled at the University of California, Berkeley. Greatly influenced by his father's desires for him to be a doctor, Peck began as a premed student. By the time he was a senior, however, he found his real interests to be in writing and acting. Peck soon realized that he had a natural gift as both an expressive actor and a storyteller. After graduating in 1939, he changed his name from Eldred to Gregory and moved to New York.
- [G] At 85, Peck turned his attention back to where he got his start, the stage. He traveled the country visiting small play houses and colleges, speaking about his life and experiences as a father, a celebrity, and as an actor.

#### Part C

#### Directions:

Read the following text carefully and then translate the underlined segments into Chinese. Your translation should be written clearly on ANSWER SHEET 2. (10 points)

Henri Matisse originally trained as a lawyer, turning to art whilst recovering from appendicitis. (46) Initially seduced by the Impressionists and, in particular, by Cezanne, Matisse brought together a circle of like-minded artists who became known as the Fauves (the Beasts) after their sensational exhibition of 1905. These early paintings revealed an intuitive and explosive colour sense which was to become the defining feature of Matisse's long career. (47) Believing art to be "something like a good armchair in which one rests from physical fatigue", he was dedicated to producing work that expressed a harmony close to a musical composition. (48) There are two versions of La Danse, originally produced with another enormous panel entitled Musique for a Russian collector. Dance was a popular topic at the time as Diaghilev and the Russian Ballet had just visited Paris. (49) Despite, or because of, the simplification of colour, form, and line, the figures appear to be full of life. Matisse made sculptures, designed sets and costumes and illustrated books. (50) He was also an important graphic artist who, in his bed-ridden final years,