

少数民族高层次骨干人才
硕士研究生基础强化培训教材（试用）

英语同步阅读

教育部少数民族高层次骨干人才
硕士研究生基础强化培训教材编写委员会 编

上册

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教育部“少数民族高层次骨干人才”
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前言

大力培养少数民族高层次骨干人才是实践“三个代表”重要思想、落实科学发展观、全面建设小康社会的迫切需要,是贯彻党的民族政策、增强民族团结、维护祖国统一的现实需要,是贯彻科教兴国战略、推进西部大开发战略的重大举措,是内地高校责无旁贷的政治任务。

为顺利实施国家“少数民族高层次骨干人才”培养计划,适应“少数民族高层次骨干人才”硕士研究生基础强化培训教学的需要,教育部民族教育司组织编写了《古典文学》、《高等数学》、《线性代数》、《信息技术》、《英语》、《马克思主义理论》、《民族理论与民族政策》等“少数民族高层次骨干人才”硕士研究生基础强化培训系列教材。本套教材的使用对象为参加“少数民族高层次骨干人才”硕士研究生基础强化培训的学生。

按照教育部对硕士研究生基础强化培训的教学要求,本套教材参照近年来少数民族本科毕业生的普遍水平,以及少数民族学生在研究生入学考试中的重点难点,遵循强化基础、突出重点的原则进行编写,使这套教材的基础课程综合水平达到攻读硕士研究生课程的基本要求,从而全面提高学生的科学和人文素养,增强学生的实践能力和科研创新能力,为在西部大开发和民族地区发展中的骨干打下坚实的知识基础。

由于时间仓促,教材中难免有疏漏或不足之处,希望各地有关学校在试用中提出宝贵意见,以待今后进一步修订。

编写说明

为了配合“全国少数民族高层次骨干人才硕士研究生预科班”项目的实施,更好地完成研究生预科班英语教学的任务,我们参照少数民族高层次骨干人才硕士研究生预科班《大学英语教学大纲》(试行),挑选在教学一线多年从事英语教学的老师编写了这套《英语同步阅读》强化教材。教材吸取外语教学中行之有效的经验和方法,借鉴国内外先进的外语教学理念,选编了反映社会、科技、文教、体育、环保等诸多领域的听说读写素材,辅以大量针对性的练习,旨在提高学员的英语综合能力,为他们下一步顺利进入研究生课程的学习打下坚实的基础。

在本书的编写过程中,我们得到了教育部民族教育司各位领导的关心和大力支持,在此表示感谢。我们非常感谢北京外国语大学杨学义教授、王立弟教授对编写工作的指导和大力支持。来自北京邮电大学的应娅舒教授、西南大学的张家政副教授、中央民族大学的刘雪莲博士也对本书的编写提出了宝贵的意见和建议,在此表示衷心的感谢。编写过程中,编者还得到各兄弟院校的领导和老师的积极配合,我们向他们表示感谢。

本书的部分文章选自国内外的报纸杂志,由于时间仓促,未来得及与原著者一一取得联系,在此深表歉意,同时也表示感谢。

我们衷心希望使用本套教材的老师和学员以及各界人士对本书提出批评和改进意见及建议,以便再版时修改。

编 者

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UNIT ONE

Part One

Directions: There are three passages in this part. The passages are followed by some questions. For each of them there are four choices marked A, B, C and D. You should decide on the best choice.



Passage One

George had stolen some money, but the police had caught him and he had been put in prison. Now his trial was about to begin, and he felt sure that he would be found guilty and sent to prison for a long time.

Then he discovered that an old friend of his was one of the members of the jury at his trial. Of course, he didn't tell anybody, but he managed to see his friend secretly one day. He said to him, "Jim, I know that the jury will find me guilty of having stolen the money. I cannot hope to be found not guilty of taking it — that would be too much to expect. But I should be grateful to you for the rest of my life if you could persuade the other members of the jury to add a strong recommendation for mercy to their statement that they consider me guilty."

"Well, George," answered Jim. "I shall certainly try to do what I can for you as an old friend, but of course I cannot promise anything. The other eleven people on the jury look terribly strong-minded to me."

George said that he would quite understand if Jim was not able to do anything for him, and thanked him warmly for agreeing to help.

The trial went on, and at last the time came for the jury to decide whether George was guilty or not. It took them five hours, but in the end they found George guilty, with a strong recommendation for mercy.

Of course, George was very pleased, but he didn't have a chance to see Jim for some

time after the trial. At last, however, Jim visited him in prison, and George thanked him warmly and asked him how he had managed to persuade the other members of the jury to recommend mercy.

"Well, George," Jim answered, "as I thought, those eleven men were very difficult to persuade, but I managed it in the end by tiring them out. Do you know, those fools had all wanted to find you not guilty!"

Reading Comprehension

- What is a "jury"?
A. A defendant.
B. A judge.
C. A group of people who decide if someone on trial is guilty or not guilty.
D. A policeman.
- George asked Jim to _____.
A. take care of his mother
B. make the jury ask for less severe punishment for George
C. help him escape
D. lend him some money
- What does "strong-minded" in paragraph 3 mean? It means _____.
A. cruel B. very strong C. healthy D. strong-willed
- Who is the biggest fool in the story?
A. Jim.
B. The other members of the jury.
C. The policeman who caught George.
D. George.
- How does the story strike you?
A. Interesting and humorous. B. Sad and moving.
C. Serious and dull. D. Instructive and worth reading.



Passage Two

In many countries in the process of industrialization, overcrowded cities present a major problem. Poor conditions in these cities, such as lack of housing, inadequate sanitation (卫生) and lack of employment, bring about an increase in poverty, disease and crime.

The over-population of towns is mainly caused by the drift of large number of people from the rural areas. These people have become dissatisfied with the traditional life of farming, and have come to the towns hoping for better work and pay.

One possible solution to the problem would be to impose registration on town residents. Only officially registered residents would be allowed to live in the towns and the

urban population would thus be limited. In practice, however, registration would be very difficult to enforce (推行); it would cause a great deal of resentment (不满), which would ultimately lead to violence.

The only long-term solution is to make life in the rural areas more attractive, which would encourage people to stay there. This could be achieved by providing encouragement for people to go and work in the villages. Facilities in the rural areas, such as transport, health and education services should be improved. Education should include training in improved methods of farming and other rural industries, so as to develop a more positive attitude towards rural life. The improvement of life in the villages is very important, because the towns themselves cannot be developed without the simultaneous or previous development of the rural area.

Reading Comprehension

6. What does the word "urban" (Line 3, Para. 3) mean?
 - A. Of the city.
 - B. Out of work.
 - C. In a bad condition.
 - D. Of enormous size.
7. Large numbers of farmers have poured into towns because _____.
 - A. they can hardly support their families on farms
 - B. they are unhappy with their life in the country
 - C. the rural areas are too crowded with people
 - D. they hope to have their own business
8. In the author's view, solving the cities' problem of overcrowding by strict registrations is _____.
 - A. practical
 - B. possible
 - C. not realistic
 - D. not sufficient
9. According to the writer, the problem with crowded cities will be solved if _____.
 - A. traditional methods of farming are well kept
 - B. conditions in rural areas are much improved
 - C. the government can provide more jobs
 - D. violence could be controlled in cities
10. Which factor is most important for people to be attracted to live in the country?
 - A. Their expectation.
 - B. Their interests.
 - C. Their income.
 - D. Their attitude.



Passage Three

Australia is a land of exceptional beauty. It is the world's smallest continent and largest island, and a relatively young nation established in an ancient land. A series of geological and historical accidents have made Australia one of the world's most attractive

countries from the tourist's viewpoint. This country has a land area of 7,686,850 square kilometers and its coastline is 36,735 kilometers.

Many of its world-renowned attractions are specific, such as the Great Barrier Reef(大堡礁), Ayers Rock, Kakadu National Park, and Sydney Opera House. Others are general, such as its thousands of kilometers of superb beaches and large skiing resorts.

Tourism is a major industry in Australia, representing about six percent of the gross domestic product(国民生产总值) and providing, directly or indirectly, around 440,000 jobs. More than two million tourists visit Australia each year, spending about \$4,000 million. It is worth mentioning that the number of tourists from China is on the rise in recent years.

To promote the development of its tourist industry, Australia has tourist offices in many cities around the world, including Auckland, Chicago, Frankfurt, Hong Kong, London, Los Angeles, New York, Singapore, Tokyo and Toronto. Official tourist offices are in all Australian capitals and some regional centers, providing a range of services for visitors. Many smaller towns have their own offices.

A wide range of hotel, motel and apartment accommodation is available in most cities, major resorts and many rural areas. There are also camping parks, many with on-site caravans or cabins. Hotel and motel rooms usually have telephones, private bathrooms, televisions, refrigerators, as well as facilities to make tea and coffee. The main difference between hotels and motels in Australia is that hotels must provide a public bar to serve liquor. Private hotels and guest-houses do not have permits to serve liquor. Many country farms offer holidays ... which include participation in farm activities. Tourist offices provide details and can arrange bookings.

Reading Comprehension

11. Which one is not mentioned in many of Australian world-renowned attractions?

A. The Great Barrier Reef.	B. Long Island.
C. Sydney Opera House.	D. Ayers Rock.
12. What benefits come from tourism in Australia?

A. Tourism represents about six percent of the gross domestic product.	B. Tourism provides directly or indirectly, around 440,000 jobs.
C. More than two million tourists visit Australia each year, spending about \$4,000 million.	D. All of the above.
13. It is worth mentioning that the number of tourists from _____ is on the rise in recent years.

A. Canada	B. America
C. China	D. Australia
14. Which one is not mentioned in the Hotel and motel rooms?

A. Telephones.	B. Private bathrooms.
----------------	-----------------------

C. Refrigerators.

D. Oven.

15. Which is not mentioned about Australia?

A. It is an exceptionally beautiful country.

B. It has a large population.

C. Tourism is a major industry in Australia.

D. Motels can't serve liquor.

Part Two

Directions: In this part, there is a passage with five True or False statements. Skim or scan them as required and then mark your answers.

Except on official occasions such as formal receptions for distinguished (尊贵的) guests, American society has a certain amount of informality (不正式的举动). This informality is seen in customs of introductions and greetings. On most occasions one needs not be particularly conscious of social status. Americans generally ignore it. In spite of the informality, however, there are rules of good manners and social patterns that are followed.

There are rules for introducing people to each other. A younger person is generally introduced to an older one, a guest to the host or hostess, and one person to a group. For instance, one would say, "Mrs. Gray, this is my younger sister Janet." Or "Margaret, (this is) Carl Bradley." and then one adds, "Carl, this is my friend Margaret Hoskins from Chicago." One could phrase the introduction like this: "Mr. Hoskins, do you know Carl Bradley?" One must be sure that each one knows the family name of the other. The usual reply to an introduction is "How do you do?" or "How do you do? I'm pleased to meet you." Adding the name of the person just introduced is also common: "How do you do, Mr. Bradley?"

In many European countries handshaking is a social courtesy (礼貌) whenever people meet, the custom of shaking hands in the United States varies in different parts of the country and among different groups of people. It is difficult to make a set rule. Shaking hands is more likely to be reserved for formal occasions. When men are introduced, they generally shake hands. Women shake hands less frequently. Two women who meet for the first time often do not shake hands unless one is an especially honored guest. If a man and woman are being introduced, they may or may not shake hands. If an American does not shake hands when meeting an old acquaintance, he or she is not being impolite. He may be paying the acquaintance the compliment (恭维话) of considering him one of the group.

When an American meets an acquaintance (熟人) on the street, the most common form of greeting is "Hello". It is said on most informal occasions and often on quite formal ones. An even less formal greeting is "Hi!" More formal greetings are "Good morning",

“Good afternoon”, and “Good evening”. The formal “How do you do?” is generally used when one is introduced to a stranger.

Decide whether the following five statements are true (T) or false (F) according to the passage.

16. Americans are considered to be unconscious of good manners and social patterns. ()
17. If Carl Bradley is older than Margaret, we generally introduce Margaret to Carl Bradley. ()
18. When introduced to a lady, an American man usually shakes her hand. ()
19. The best way for a foreigner to behave well in the U. S. is to follow some rules of good manners. ()
20. In the U. S. “Hello” is used on most informal occasions and often on quite formal ones. ()

UNIT TWO

Part One

Directions: There are three passages in this part. The passages are followed by some questions. For each of them there are four choices marked A, B, C and D. You should decide on the best choice.



Passage One

Our environment is getting worse and worse with the increase of the world population, which affects the environment in two ways. Firstly, the limited energy resources will be used up much faster. Secondly, the increasing population creates more pollution — another severe problem that needs to be solved. Both problems are long-term ones because actions taken now show their results slowly over many years. They are also urgent because delays in action can lead to great suffering and social problems. The question seems to be difficult to handle for most people. However, a person can be a protector of environment in everyday life if he takes actions to save the environment right now. With the development of technology, cars make transportation easier and quicker than before, but we can't ignore the disadvantages brought to us by more and more cars in use. For example, we are consuming gasoline (汽油), which is a non-renewable (无法更新的) resource, and will soon be gone. Moreover, the exhausted gas from cars pollutes our air and our health is therefore threatened by air pollution, which has a big potential effect on our daily life. So we can consider walking, taking buses, carpooling (合用汽车), instead of driving cars alone. This seems to be a very slow process that can't be so effective if it's taken by a single person. But when more and more people become aware of the importance and positively take it as their personal responsibilities, the condition of the air will be improved to a great extent.

Reading Comprehension

1. According to the writer, the main problem to our environment today is _____.
 A. the increase of population B. the limited energy resources
 C. the more serious air pollution D. the development of technology
2. From the passage, we can know that _____.
 A. effective measures can be taken mainly by the government
 B. taking measures now can soon improve the environment
 C. immediate measures can cause great suffering and social problems
 D. every single person's action has some effect on environment protection
3. The author's main purpose in writing this passage is most probably to _____.
 A. complain about people's slow actions to protect the environment
 B. advise people to take actions to protect the environment
 C. show himself to be an active environment protector
 D. point out the bad effects of technologies on protecting environment
4. The author believes that carpooling _____.
 A. can give help to those without cars
 B. can save people money and time
 C. can save energy resources and reduce air pollution
 D. can promote friendship among drivers
5. The passage is mainly about _____.
 A. energy resources saving B. environment protection
 C. population control D. air pollution



Passage Two

Some pessimistic experts feel that the automobile is bound to fall into disuse. They see a day in the not-too-distant future when all autos will be abandoned and allowed to rust. Other authorities, however, think the auto is here to stay. They hold that the car will remain a leading means of urban travel in the foreseeable future. The motorcar will undoubtedly change significantly over the next 30 years. It should become smaller, safer, and more economical, and should not be powered by the gasoline engine. The car of the future should be far more pollution-free than present types. Regardless of its power source, the auto in the future will still be the main problem in urban traffic congestion.

One proposed solution to this problem is the automated highway system. When the auto enters the highway system, a retractable arm will drop from the auto and make contact with a rail, which is similar to those powering subway trains electrically. Once attached to the rail, the car will become electrically powered from the system, and control of the vehicle will pass to a central computer. The computer will then monitor all of the car's movements. The driver will use a telephone to dial instructions about his destination into