

高等教育自学考试指定教材辅导丛书

# 英语阅读(二)

## 自学与考试

天津市高等教育自学考试委员会办公室 组编 ● 主编 马洵



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# 高等教育自学考试指定教材辅导丛书

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## 出版说明

《英语阅读(二)自学与考试》是天津市高等教育自学考试委员会办公室组织编写的高等教育自学考试指定教材辅导丛书之一。本书是以全国高等教育自学考试委员会制定的《英语阅读考试大纲》为依据,针对英语阅读(二)自学考试的特点和基本要求编写的,旨在帮助自学者正确理解、掌握考试大纲所要求的基本理论、基本知识,提高分析问题、解决问题的能力。作者还根据历次考试试卷的试题题型和考核范围设计了12套自测试题。

本书作者都是多年从事自学考试英语专业社会助学辅导的教师,他们熟悉自学考试特点,对考试大纲和新编教材有较深刻的理解。

本书在编写过程中,得到了天津市协合商贸进修学院的支持,南开大学外语学院严启刚教授审阅了全书,在此一并表示感谢。

《英语阅读(二)自学与考试》不仅是参加自学考试考生的学习津梁,而且对普通高等学校、成人高等学校学生也大有裨益。

**高等教育自学考试  
指定教材辅导丛书编委会**

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## The Proficiency Model Test 1 (Unit 1—Unit 4)

### Part I Vocabulary

#### I. Match the words from Column A with the definitions from Column B.

A

B

- |               |   |
|---------------|---|
| 1. decent     | A. piece of paper, ticket or ball<br>used in secret voting                  |
| 2. identify   | B. decrease   |
| 3. microscope | C. of the sea   |
| 4. marine     | D. see clearly; prove sth. true   |
| 5. fade       | E. with little attention or responsibility                                  |
| 6. casually   | F. right and suitable   |
| 7. ballot     | G. make use of  |
| 8. release    | H. instrument with lenses for<br>making very small objects<br>appear larger |
| 9. instinct   | I. natural tendency to behave in<br>a certain way                           |
| 10. utilize   | J. set free; allow to come out  |

#### II. Study each of the following sentence carefully and choose A, B, C, or D that has the closest meaning to the underlined word or



**phrase.**

1. The world leaders had a chat before beginning formal negotiation.  
A. friendly, unimportant talk  
B. disagreement  
C. serious discussion  
D. high-level conference
2. Where did she acquire all her wealth?  
A. gain  
B. hide  
C. lose  
D. steal
3. It is something offered at a low or advantageous price.  
A. advancing  
B. attractive  
C. profitable  
D. high
4. At first, the incident seemed to be trivial.  
A. significant  
B. unimportant  
C. momentous  
D. critical
5. By finding which mixtures do this and which do not, the technician can figure out your blood type.  
A. consider  
B. find out  
C. believe  
D. calculate
6. When people are preoccupied, they almost never keep eye contact.  
A. taken up beforehand  
B. inattentive  
C. puzzled  
D. busy with sth. else
7. The winners will be selected at random.  
A. by interviewing  
B. by chance  
C. by testing  
D. by competition
8. The manager gave one of the salesgirls an accusing look for her

hostile attitude toward customers.

- |               |              |
|---------------|--------------|
| A. opposing   | B. mild      |
| C. unfriendly | D. impartial |

9. The scientist examined the fossiles closely to determine their age.

- |              |              |
|--------------|--------------|
| A. processed | B. cleaned   |
| C. compared  | D. inspected |

10. The patient handed the doctor his fee.

- |             |               |
|-------------|---------------|
| A. medicine | B. bag        |
| C. money    | D. instrument |

■ . Scan through Reading Passage 1 and find the words which have roughly the meanings given below.

**Note:** The numbers in the brackets refer to the numbers of paragraphs in the Reading Passage.

### **Reading Passage 1**

1 The Great Plains region of the United States, where I was born and raised, is part of an enormous strip of flatland that stretches alongside the Rocky Mountain chain for more than three thousand miles, from the plateaus of northern Mexico to the Mackenzie River in subarctic Canada. In sheer extent, this North American grassland has no equal on earth although similar areas exist on other continents; the steppes of Siberia, the pampas of South America, the veldts of Africa.

2 The Great Plains is justifiably famous for its violent thunderstorms, one of the most dramatic aspects of the region's changeable, highly versatile weather. The storms, typically of short duration, are characterized by downpours of three to six inches or

more. Also, the rain tends to be local, drenching the earth in one spot while the surrounding area remains dry. In addition, most thunderstorms are caused when two of the region's three major air masses collide. Most rain falls from April to July, with storms reaching their maximum in May or June, the months when most early travelers began their long treks into, or across, the Plains. Characteristically, early journals abound with tales of travelers drenched to their skins, spending cold, sleepless, wet nights, unable to find a bit of dry bedding or clothing among all their gear.

3 Anyone who has seen a Great Plains thunderstorm in its full splendor knows that its most spectacular feature, the thing that distinguishes it most clearly from an equally violent downpour in the city, is that the storm can be seen coming from miles away. Indeed, the Plains area is so large that a storm, from a distance, can be perceived as all of the following: a single entity, its black clouds churning, its lightning jets leaping, its gray sheet of rain falling in a slanting torrent even while the sun shines directly overhead. Before the storm is seen, it can be heard, its thunder rumbling gently from a great distance. In addition, before it can be heard, it can be felt — a shift in the temperature of the air, a certain silencing of the wind.

4 Hail often accompanies these storms, although, curiously, the size of hailstones seems to diminish with the passing of time. In 1541 one of Coronado's conquistadors, Pedro de Castaneda of Naxera, reported hail in the southern plains "as large as bowls and even larger, and as thick as raindrops, that in places they covered the ground to the depth of two and three and even more measures." The huge stones did all of the following things: destroyed the

Spaniards' tents, dented their armor, bruised their horses, and broke all their pottery, a problem for the Spanish army since the local Indians, who ate only fruit and meat, had no use for crockery and could supply them with none.

1. \_\_\_\_\_ (1) very large; immense
2. \_\_\_\_\_ (1) complete; total
3. \_\_\_\_\_ (2) changeable
4. \_\_\_\_\_ (2) difficult journeys
5. \_\_\_\_\_ (2) occur in great numbers; are filled
6. \_\_\_\_\_ (2) personal property that one carries
7. \_\_\_\_\_ (3) a distinct thing
8. \_\_\_\_\_ (3) twisting violently
9. \_\_\_\_\_ (3) a violent downpour
10. \_\_\_\_\_ (4) earthenware; pots

## **Part II Reading Comprehension**

- I . All the statements are closely related to Reading Passage 2. Skim over Reading Passage 2 and decide whether they are True or False. Write T before true statements and F before false statements.**

### **Reading Passage 2**

Animals like the lion are known as carnivorous animals. The word 'carnivorous' is derived from Latin words meaning 'eater of flesh'. You have already read about wild lions and you know that they feed on smaller animals. But many other animals are vegetarian, and they are called herbivorous animals. In this group of animals are found all the common farm animals like the horse, the cow

and the sheep. Examples of wild animals that are herbivorous are the giraffe and the elephant. Instead of saying 'carnivorous animal' and 'herbivorous animal' you can say 'carnivore' and 'herbivore'.

You may be surprised to learn that there are carnivorous plants as well as carnivorous animals. Plants usually obtain food from the water in the soil and from the salts that are dissolved in it. But some plants that grow in poor soil need other food to make up for the lack of food in the soil itself. To make up for this deficiency they trap small insects and digest their bodies.

Carnivorous plants use ingenious devices to trap insects for their food. The pitcher plant is common carnivorous plant in tropical forests. This plant has a clever trap shaped like a pitcher or jug. It even has a lid to keep out the rain. The mouth of the pitcher is covered with a sweet, sticky substance, like honey or nectar. Insects come to the plant to feed on this substance. When they have eaten all that is round the mouth they crawl into the pitcher to look for more. There is more honey at the bottom and they go down to feed on it. The inner wall of the pitcher is covered with fine hairs. These hairs point downwards, so that the insects cannot climb out of the pitcher. They are trapped in it. They die there, and their bodies are digested by the plant and absorbed as food.

1. The giraffe is a carnivore.
2. Many common farm animals are vegetarian.
3. The pitcher plant grows amongst trees.
4. The hairs inside the pitcher plant help the insects to climb out.
5. The pitcher is a trap for insects.
6. There is a lid on the pitcher plant to keep insects from getting

into it.

7. The pitcher plant needs good soil to grow in.
8. The pitcher plant feeds on the insects that it catches.
9. Lions hunt insects in tropical forests.
10. Plants usually feed on salts that are dissolved in the soil where they grow.

### Fast Reading

**I. Read Reading Passage 3 and 4. Read the two passages fast and answer questions 1 — 10 (Reading Passage 3) and questions 11 — 20 (Reading Passage 4).**

1. What can be inferred from the passage about the majority of films made after 1927?
  - A. They were accompanied by symphonic orchestras.
  - B. They incorporated the sound of actors' voice.
  - C. They corresponded to specific musical compositions.
  - D. They were truly "silent".
2. The word "solemn" in line 8 is closest in meaning to \_\_\_\_\_.
  - A. serious
  - B. simple
  - C. silent
  - D. simply
3. The word "them" in line 23 refers to \_\_\_\_\_.
  - A. hands
  - B. pieces
  - C. films
  - D. years
4. The word "composed" in line 34 is closest in meaning to \_\_\_\_\_.
  - A. created
  - B. played
  - C. combined
  - D. selected
5. The word "scores" in line 34 is closest in meaning to \_\_\_\_\_.
  - A. groups of musicians
  - B. totals

- C. successes
- D. musical compositions
6. It can be inferred that orchestra conductors who worked in movie theatres needed to \_\_\_\_\_.
  - A. be able to compose original music
  - B. be familiar with a wide variety of music
  - C. have pleasant voices
  - D. be able to play many instruments
7. According to the passage, what kind of business was the Edison Company?
  - A. It made musical instruments.
  - B. It published musical arrangements.
  - C. It distributed films.
  - D. It produced electricity.
8. Which of the following notations is most likely to have been included on a musical cue sheet of the early 1900's?
  - A. "Directed by D. W. Griffith"
  - B. "Key of C. major"
  - C. "Calm, peaceful"
  - D. "Piano, violin"
9. It may be inferred from the passage that the first musical cue sheets appeared around \_\_\_\_\_.
  - A. 1909
  - B. 1927
  - C. 1896
  - D. 1915
10. The passage mainly discusses music that was \_\_\_\_\_.
  - A. recorded during film exhibitions
  - B. specifically composed for certain movie theatres
  - C. played during silent films
  - D. performed before the showing of a film
11. What is the main topic of the passage?

- A. The use of Anasazi sanctuaries.
  - B. The organization of the Anasazi tribe.
  - C. Anasazi festivals of New Mexico.
  - D. The Anasazi pueblos.
12. The paragraph preceding the passage most probably discussed \_\_\_\_\_.  
A. another Native American tribe  
B. Anasazi crafts and weapons  
C. pueblo villages in New Mexico  
D. how pueblos were built
13. The word "supreme" in line 5 is closest in meaning to \_\_\_\_\_.  
A. most convenient                      B. most expensive  
C. most outstanding                      D. most common
14. The word, "They" in line 9 refers to \_\_\_\_\_.  
A. bluffs                                      B. houses  
C. families                                      D. walls
15. The word "settle" in line 18 is closest in meaning to \_\_\_\_\_.  
A. decide                                      B. sink  
C. locate                                      D. clarify
16. The author mentions that Pueblo Bonito had more than 800 rooms as an example of which of the following?  
A. How big a pueblo could be.  
B. How overcrowded the pueblos could be.  
C. How many ceremonial areas it contained.  
D. How much sandstone was needed to build it.
17. It can be inferred from the passage that building a pueblo probably \_\_\_\_\_.  
A. relied on sophisticated technology



- B. involved the use of farm animals
  - C. required many workers
  - D. cost a lot of money
18. The pueblos are considered one of the Anasazi's supreme achievements for all of the following reasons EXCEPT that they were \_\_\_\_\_.  
 A. connected in a systematic way  
 B. built with simple tools  
 C. located in forests  
 D. very large
19. The word "ascending" in line 33 is closest in meaning to \_\_\_\_\_.  
 A. climbing  
 B. connecting  
 C. carving  
 D. arriving at
20. It can be inferred from the passage that in addition to pueblos the Anasazis were skilled at building which of the following?  
 A. Barns.  
 B. Roads.  
 C. Water systems.  
 D. Monuments.

### Reading Passage 3

Accustomed though we are to speaking of the films made before 1927 as "silent." The film has never been, in the full sense of the word, silent. From the very beginning, music was regarded as an indispensable accompaniment; when the Lumiere films were shown at the first public film exhibition in the United States in February 1896, they were accompanied by piano improvisations on popular tunes. At first, the music played bore no special relationship to the films; an accompaniment of any kind was sufficient.