

新编 大学英语阅读 背景文化问答

Cultural Questions and Answers for English Study

主 编 张纹祯
副主编 江 滨
周一兵



天津大学出版社
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前 言

掌握一种语言,必须深入了解与语言学习有关的各种背景文化。为了强化英语学习的素质教育,我们寓知识性于趣味性,编写了这本《新编大学英语阅读背景文化问答》(*Cultural Questions and Answers for English Study*)。“新编”意味着在题目的选择上,我们在兼顾了英语国家古今中外方方面面的文化的同时,突出当今社会的全新时代特征。

《新编大学英语阅读背景文化问答》的问题共分综合(Miscellaneous)及专门学科(Specialistic)两大类。综合类问题 160 套,每套 21 个问题;专门学科类问题 15 套,每套 52 个问题。全部英文问题(Questions)集中在前,英文答案(Answers)集中在后,作答必要处加以中文注释。有问必有答,简答与详注相结合。读者能够通过按周、按学期的研习深入了解与英语学习有关的各种背景文化,开阔视野,增长知识,从而把英语学到家,强化外语学习的素质教育。

该书的编著起点比较高,主要参考了国外有关报刊和网站以及 *The Seven Ages of England*、*Making America*、《大英百科全书》、《美国知识百科全书》、《英语背景》等书籍,还有《韦氏新世界美国英语词典》、《麦克米伦英汉双解词典》以及英语泛读、欧美文化类教材等,几乎囊括了大学英语阅读可能涉及的各式各样的问题。这里的专门学科类问题指神话(Mythology)、词汇学(Lexicology)、礼仪(Etiquette)、历史(History)、生理或医药(Physiology / Medicine)、心理学(Psychology)、文学(Literature)、美术(Art)、音乐(Music)、电影(Movie)、体育(Sports)、科学(Science)、法律(Law)、地理(Geography)、大自然(Nature)等 15 大类。除了这些以外,综合类问题还包括教育、经济、计算机、互联网、游戏、天文、民俗以及衣食住行等方面的内容。

以下天津大学社会科学外国语学院英语教师参加了本书的采编工作(按姓氏拼音排序):

段维彤、耿艳梅、姜淑芹、李秋然、李朝红、蔺玉荣、刘蕾、刘旸、石虹、孙晓、王冬辉、王立松、谢静、许谨、张洁、张宇、周德、邹葳。

嵇伟武教授及部分外籍合作教师对本书进行了问答核校。

此外,阅读这些类似百科知识竞赛大全的英文问答也会有力地促进英语素养的提高。当然,参加大学英语学习的本科生,包括英语专业的学生、英语爱好者,乃至英语教师、外教,任何一个人都不可能知道全部的答案,因为这些问题大多是针对具体的阅读提出来的。英语大千世界,我们亦涉猎有限;同时,注释难免有疏漏之处,欢迎读者批评。

编 者

2006年8月

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Part One Miscellaneous Questions

Question 1

1. What movie star took on the role of the first “Bond”?
2. What order of Greek architecture characterized by spiral volutes on the capital?
3. In 2005 you will find yourself for the first time a cinemagoer of (a) *Harry Potter and the Goblet of Fire* or a reader of (b) *Harry Potter and the Half-Blood Prince*?
4. How do you pronounce *ghoti* in a way of Bernard Shaw?
5. What city played host to 20th Winter Olympic Games?
6. What is meant by the computing term “blog”?
7. What is pregnant pause?
8. If you like to give a calling card case as the right token, which of the following global brands is culturally appropriate: (a) Gucci, (b) Dior, or (c) Mont Blanc?
9. When it comes to the number of native speakers, English becomes the (a) 1st, (b) 2nd, or (c) 4th most spoken language on the planet?
10. What does “cut class” mean in Irish?
11. When will people in Arabian world take the title Haj?
12. Is Neuschwanstein Castle a landmark of (a) Sweden, (b) Germany, or (c) Switzerland?
13. What is sometimes known as the *Bible* of the Greeks?
14. How to say pickpocket in the crime world?
15. What name is the chief god in Norse myths?

16. What is the Roman equivalent of the Arabic numerals 1895?
17. What was Bacchus earlier called by the Greeks?
18. What Baroque painter made friends with Jews and painted *Blinding of Samson*?
19. Is the egg cell the largest one in the human body?
20. What animal (statue) illustrates the legend of creation of Rome?
21. How many human beings were there in Noah's Ark?

Question 2

1. Whose story is "Harry Potter"?
2. From what is HTML abbreviated?
3. What have the following in common: (a) Bucephalus, (b) Pegasus, (c) Black Beauty?
4. What is the Benjamin of a family?
5. What is Webster's pronunciation of "tomato"?
6. In cooking, what is deviling?
7. Why is a capital R with a line drawn through the tail, used on top of doctor's prescription blanks?
8. Against what is a man contending when he "fights windmills"?
9. What is a wordpecker?
10. Lemster is well-known for bread, and Dunmow bacon, what about Hull?
11. With what products are these states most commonly associated: (a) Washington, (b) Idaho, (c) Florida, (d) Pennsylvania?
12. Is Psyche (a) a pretty girl loved by Eros, (b) a character in Grimms' fairy tales, or (c) a prude?
13. What dance, famous in the courts of Europe, was made popular in America by George and Martha Washington?
14. What is the edge of a woven fabric called?

15. The river Rubicon is in (a) Norway, (b) Italy, or (c) Switzerland?
16. Name the children of King George VI.
17. In what country did our numerals originate?
18. What is St. Vitus dance?
19. According to the *Bible*, about how many years old was Noah when the flood of waters was upon the earth?
20. Who is Father of medicine in the West?
21. What is the roof of your mouth called?

Question 3

1. Which of the following is a Divorce Home Page: (a) <http://www.primernet.com/~dean/>, (b) <http://www.chadd.org/>, (c) <http://www.mindspring.com/~eldercare/>?
2. What is a teaser advertisement?
3. Is the Panama Canal (a) 25 1/2 miles long, (b) 50 1/2 miles long, or (c) 75 1/2 miles long?
4. What does the barometer actually measure?
5. Which of the following said, "Giving is the business of the rich": (a) Kant, (b) Goethe, (c) Benjamin Franklin?
6. According to an old rhyme, what is Monday's child?
7. What is a mare's nest?
8. Who was the creator of the Labyrinth of Crete?
9. How many tales are there in *The Canterbury Tales*?
10. What is the character &, the abbreviation of "and", called?
11. Porto Ricans are citizens of what country?
12. Name the big three one-god-ism's.
13. When was daylight saving time adopted in the U.S.?
14. To what does a Jack Jones refer?
15. What is Part I of *Chinese Odyssey*, a Hong Kong movie?

16. What theatre contains the largest chandelier in the world?
17. What is meant by the cruising radius of an airplane?
18. What term is used in the measurement of the fuel value of a food?
19. What have these in common: (a) Aeschylus, (b) Sophocles, (c) Euripides?
20. What German composer was offered the Cambridge doctorship in 1876, and refused it?
21. What is the last letter of the Greek alphabet?

Question 4

1. What city is the capital of Saudi Arabia?
2. Who was the famous midwife from Athens, active in the 5th and 4th century B.C.?
3. What is laced coffee?
4. What do we call a baby swan?
5. What was the duration of the Ming Dynasty in China?
6. Who invented the first successful fountain pen?
7. What modern American musical was based on *Romeo and Juliet*?
8. The crew of Columbus' fleet was composed of what type of people?
9. Who composed *Shanghai Breezes* for his performance tour to China?
10. What does the expression "hakuna matata" mean?
11. What is the family name of King George VI?
12. Which of the following said, "Drive thy business or it will drive thee": (a) Kant, (b) Goethe, (c) Benjamin Franklin?
13. What is meant by splitting an infinitive?
14. What is meant by catholic taste?
15. What system is applied to spot the position of an online computer?
16. Whose psychological masterpiece is *Ulysses*?
17. From what is vermouth made?

18. Who wrote the four Gospels?
19. Is a veridical man (a) an awkward, inexperienced man, (b) a man telling the truth, or (c) an extremely ludicrous man?
20. What is the difference between a Latin cross and a Greek cross?
21. What do we call someone who is 100 years old in English?

Question 5

1. Why does "Sapphic" mean "Lesbian"?
2. Who was the first to print a book in England?
3. What is "Aloha"?
4. What is a hen party?
5. Which is farther south, the tip of Africa, or the tip of South America?
6. What is meant by tragedy by the early Greeks?
7. Who was the ferry boatman of the river Styx?
8. Who was the first woman to make a solo flight across the Atlantic?
9. Is roe a name for (a) a female deer or (b) fish eggs?
10. Is East India Company British?
11. Who killed Laius, King of Thebes, his father, and married the queen Jocasta, his mother?
12. Who composed the "big four" musicals: (a) *Les Misérables*, (b) *The Phantom of the Opera*, (c) *Cats*, and (d) *Miss Saigon*?
13. Who did a lot of "huffing and puffing"?
14. From what play was Freud's expression "the Oedipus complex" derived?
15. What is a catch-22 situation?
16. Who wrote the novel *Remembrance of the Past*, one of the most remarkable works in world literature?
17. What does the term "dip" mean in the crime world?
18. Who was known as the "Bird Woman"?

19. Which of the following said, "You cannot step twice into the same river": (a) Democritus, (b) Heraclitus, (c) Thales?

20. Is an orthoepist (a) one who specializes in correcting faulty positions of the teeth, (b) a doctor with special training in the straightening of club feet, or (c) an authority on pronunciation?

21. Who was the tutor of Alexander the Macedonian King?

Question 6

1. What was the name of King Arthur's sword?

2. What is meant by putting the kibosh on something?

3. What does a newspaper man mean by his pipelines?

4. Whom did Dante call "the master of those who know"?

5. Where did Mormonism originate?

6. To whom good and pleasure were synonymous?

7. What is an heir apparent?

8. What is a sobriquet?

9. Had Josephine any children prior to her marriage to Napoleon?

10. What did cynic mean in Greek?

11. Which version of the Lord's Prayer is longer, the Catholic or the Protestant?

12. According to law, what is the minimum number of persons that may create a riot?

13. Which of the following said, "Give me a place to stand, and I will move the world": (a) Archimedes, (b) Pythagoras, (c) Euclid?

14. What is a warlock?

15. What famous document was signed on the meadow of Runnymede, London, in the year 1215?

16. What is meant by "Eureka"?

17. What sculpture is known for its successful depiction of the three ex-

pressions: terror, fear and sympathy?

18. It is a well-known fact that opium causes myosis. Does myosis mean:
(a) a pleasant dream, (b) contraction of the pupil, (c) drowsiness?

19. What is an abigail?

20. In ancient classifications, was the Pharos lighthouse at Alexandria of the Seven Wonders of the World?

21. What name is given to the winged goddess of victory in Greek myths?

Question 7

1. What psychological novel's title alludes to Homer's epic *The Odyssey*?

2. What is Freudian slip?

3. What is a French kiss?

4. What is the meaning of the word finical?

5. If you are a gridiron fan, are you enthusiastic about (a) waffles, (b) football, or (c) fireside reading?

6. Whose writings are by many considered to be the "birth" of modern English?

7. Polyphemus is a (a) Cyclops, (b) Greek painter, or (c) bright star?

8. The battle of Hastings fought in (a) 1054, (b) 1066, or (c) 1611?

9. Was Aircraftsman Shaw, D.H. or T. E. Lawrence?

10. What are tortillas?

11. What do British people mean by vital statistics?

12. Who divided man's life on earth into seven ages?

13. What was the nationality of Aida, the heroine of Verdi's opera of the same name?

14. What is the meaning of *praemonitus*, *praemunitus*?

15. What is meant by orthographically incorrect?

16. Is an obelisk (a) a mythical, lizard-like monster, or (b) a tall, pointed stone pillar?

17. What is Adam's Ale?
18. By whom were the following loved: (a) the Queen of Sheba, (b) Eurydice, (c) Evangeline?
19. What are the two major dialects of English?
20. What is meant by "cherokee" in the American Indian language?
21. Which of the following said, "It is difficult to know thyself. It is easy to advice others.": (a) Plato, (b) Thales, (c) Zeno?

Question 8

1. What do American soldiers mean by "birdfarm"?
2. A ghost can be (a) one who sits for an exam in place of another, or (b) a second image that is not clear on a computer screen?
3. Who was Uncle Sam's predecessor?
4. Had Solomon seven hundred wives?
5. Who is the patron saint of England?
6. In Wall Street, what is meant by a lame duck?
7. Was Jesus a vegetarian?
8. What Italian is the author of *The Prince*?
9. Is metabolism (a) the mystical reverie of a Hindu, (b) the changing of similes into metaphors, or (c) chemical reactions in living organisms?
10. What is a "Pollyanna"?
11. What is the meaning of the phrase *hors de combat*?
12. To what does JIII refer?
13. What have the following in common: (a) the letter N, (b) griffins, (c) bees?
14. Is "Llanfair", for brevity, a (a) Irish, (b) Scottish, or (c) Welsh town?
15. What are improper fractions?
16. To take the veil is to be a nun, then what to take is to be a minister?

17. If pro and con are opposite, of what is congress the opposite?
18. Whose wife kept him awake with amusing stories, while he composed an overture to an opera to be performed the following day?
19. What is a peregrination?
20. What is meant by "play the woman"?
21. Is a titmouse a (a) bird, (b) mamma, (c) kind of bra?

Question 9

1. Who was the "henpecked philosopher"?
2. Who made the ballet, *The Swan*, famous?
3. What is meant by dying intestate?
4. When Pandora's Box was opened, what was left inside after all the winged evils escaped?
5. What famous American seaman was once vice admiral of the Russian fleet?
6. Who invented the Kodak?
7. Romance languages are derived from what language?
8. Is a logotype (a) a printing term meaning a single body of type bearing more than one letter, (b) an accepted standard to which all others must conform, or (c) a premise used in syllogistic reasoning?
9. What is a cadaver?
10. What American city is known as the "Windy City"?
11. What is ticker tape?
12. What is the capital of Argentina?
13. Who wrote *Poor Richard's Almanac*?
14. Is defecating a pool (a) polluting it, (b) purifying it, or (c) making it into two pools?
15. Is bhaji (a) an Indian food, (b) an Italian food, or (c) an Irish food?

16. What is Guinness?
17. In what language was the *Old Testament* originally written?
18. What is an incendiary?
19. Is the Koh-i-noor (a) the highest waterfall in the world, (b) an Indian diamond, now the property of the British crown, or (c) a famous untouchable record?
20. What is a wolf in sheep's clothing?
21. What Anglo-American is the author of *Common Sense*?

Question 10

1. The Spanish El Nino means (a) the Girlfriend, (b) the Little Boy, or (c) Christ Child?
2. Where is the source of Rhine?
3. What is the great Hindu trinity?
4. Who wrote *Of Mice and Men*?
5. What have the following in common: (a) chignon, (b) bangs, (c) toupee?
6. What is the name of the Roman governor responsible for the crucifixion of Jesus?
7. If you start from scratch, from what do you begin?
8. For what is Harley Street in London known?
9. Where did tailor-made suits for women originate?
10. In what state is the U.S. first national park, Yellowstone, situated?
11. If a college man is "dragging a date" is he (a) late for an appointment, (b) temporarily incapacitated for a date, or (c) bringing a girl to a party?
12. Who was known as the founder of music?
13. One of America's best known playwrights wrote *Elizabeth the Queen*. Who?