

普通高等学校外语类专业“十三五”规划教材

英语专业

快速阅读

(第三册)

总主编 / 王 扬
主 编 / 乔淑霞

*Fast Reading for
English Majors Book 3*



西南交通大学出版社



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前 言

据高等学校外语专业教学指导委员会制定的《高等学校英语专业英语教学大纲》，阅读课程是英语专业本科基础阶段的一门专业必修课程，其中，快速阅读是英语专业阅读课程的主要内容之一。快速阅读旨在培养英语专业学生快速阅读的技能和技巧，培养学生通过阅读快速获取知识和信息的能力，培养英语专业学生语言能力、语言基本功和语言素养。

高等学校《英语专业快速阅读》（1~4 册）教材由王扬教授担任总主编。参与编写教材的人员有刘娜、刘晶晶、周化媛、龚小燕、乔淑霞、孔云军等。

教材每册设计 16 个单元（共 32 篇文章），每个单元包括与专题内容相关的 2 篇阅读材料，短文字数控制在 800~1000 词，设计阅读量要求学生 10 分钟左右完成。每篇文章设计 5 道选择题（其中，2 道涉及文章主题或大意，3 道涉及内容细节），要求学生在规定时间内选择出正确的答案。教材在语料选择上注意题材、体裁的多样化（科技、文学、语言、文化、社会、习俗、生活等）；在内容上力求体现新颖性、趣味性、实用性、广泛性、可读性；在词汇等级及难易度控制上，根据《高等学校英语专业英语教学大纲》词汇范围选择语料。第一册词汇量范围为 3500 词，生词出现率为 3%~5%；第二册词汇量范围为 4500 词，生词出现率为 3%~5%；第三册词汇量范围为 5500 词，生词出现率为 3%~5%；第四册词汇量范围为 6500 词，生

词出现率为 3%~5%。英语专业基础阶段共 4 学期，本套教材每学期学习 1 册，每周学习 1 个单元。

本套教材适用于英语专业本科基础阶段或英语专业专科以及同等水平的英语读者。

由于编写时间紧、任务重，加之编者水平有限，教材中难免有不足之处，敬请外语同行及专家批评指正。

总主编 王扬
2016 年 3 月 30 日

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Unit 1 Politics

Text *A*

It Is Bush

On the 36th day after they had voted, Americans finally learned Wednesday who would be their next president: Governor George W. Bush of Texas.

Vice President Al Gore, his last realistic avenue for legal challenge closed by a U. S. Supreme Court decision late Tuesday, planned to end the contest formally in a televised evening speech of perhaps 10 minutes, advisers said.

They said that Senator Joseph Lieberman, his vice presidential running mate, would first make brief comments. The men would speak from a ceremonial chamber of the Old Executive Office Building, to the west of the White House.

The dozens of political workers and lawyers who had helped lead Mr. Gore's unprecedented fight to claw a come-from-behind electoral victory in the pivotal state of Florida were thanked Wednesday and asked to stand down.

"The vice president has directed the recount committee to suspend activities," William Daley, the Gore campaign chairman, said in a written statement.

Mr. Gore authorized that statement after meeting with his wife, Tipper, and with top advisers including Mr. Daley.

He was expected to telephone Mr. Bush during the day. The Bush campaign kept a low profile and moved gingerly, as if to leave space for Mr. Gore to



contemplate his next steps.

Yet, at the end of a trying and tumultuous process that had focused world attention on sleepless vote counters across Florida, and on courtrooms from Miami to Tallahassee to Atlanta to Washington, the Texas governor was set to become the 43d U. S. president.

The news of Mr. Gore's plans followed the longest and most rancorous dispute over a U. S. presidential election in more than a century, one certain to leave scars in a badly divided country.

It was a bitter ending for Mr. Gore, who had outpolled Mr. Bush nationwide by some 300,000 votes, but, without Florida, fell short in the Electoral College by 271 votes to 267 – the narrowest Electoral College victory since the turbulent election of 1876.

Mr. Gore was said to be distressed by what he and many Democratic activists felt was a partisan decision from the nation's highest court.

The 5-to-4 decision of the Supreme Court held, in essence, that while a vote recount in Florida could be conducted in legal and constitutional fashion, as Mr. Gore had sought, this could not be done by the Dec. 12 deadline for states to select their presidential electors.

James Baker, the former secretary of state who represented Mr. Bush in the Florida dispute, issued a short statement after the U. S. high court ruling, saying that the governor was “very pleased and gratified”.

Mr. Bush was planning a nationwide speech aimed at trying to begin to heal the country's deep, aching and varied divisions. He then was expected to meet with congressional leaders, including Democrats. Dick Cheney, Mr. Bush's ruling mate, was meeting with congressmen Wednesday in Washington.

When Mr. Bush, who is 54, is sworn into office on Jan. 20, he will be only the second son of a president to follow his father to the White House, after John Adams and John Quincy Adams in the early 19th century.

Mr. Gore, in his speech, was expected to thank his supporters, defend his five-week battle as an effort to ensure, as a matter of principle, that every vote be

counted, and call for the nation to join behind the new president. He was described by an aide as “resolved and resigned”.

While some constitutional experts had said they believed states could present electors as late as Dec. 18, the U. S. high court made clear that it saw no such leeway.

The U.S. high court sent back “for revision” to the Florida court its order allowing recounts but made clear that for all practical purposes the election was over.

In its unsigned main opinion, the court declared: “The recount process, in its features here described, is inconsistent with the minimum procedures necessary to protect the fundamental right of each voter.”

That decision, by a court fractured along philosophical lines, left one liberal justice charging that the high court’s proceedings bore a political taint.

Justice John Paul Stevens wrote in an angry dissent: “Although we may never know with complete certainty the identity of the winner of this year’s presidential election, the identity of the loser is perfectly clear. It is the nation’s confidence in the judge as an impartial guardian of the law.”

But at the end of five seemingly endless weeks, during which the physical, legal and constitutional machines of the U. S. election were pressed and sorely tested in ways unseen in more than a century, the system finally produced a result, and one most Americans appeared to be willing at least provisionally to support.

The Bush team welcomed the news with an outward show of restraint. The governor’s hopes had risen and fallen so many times since Election night, and the legal warriors of each side suffered through so many dramatic reversals, that there was little energy left for celebration.

(835 words)

(<http://c.3edu.net>)

1. What is the main idea of this passage ?

- A. Bush’s victory in presidential election bore a political taint.
- B. The process of the American presidential election is a torture.



- C. The Supreme Court plays a very important part in the presidential election.
- D. Gore is distressed by the presidential campaign result.
2. What does the sentence “as if to leave space for Mr. Gore to contemplate his next step” mean?
- A. Bush hopes Gore to join his administration.
- B. Bush hopes Gore to concede defeat and to support him.
- C. Bush hopes Gore to congratulate him.
- D. Bush hopes Gore to go on fighting with him.
3. Why couldn't Mr. Gore win the presidential election after he outpolled Mr. Bush in the popular vote?
- A. Because the American president is decided by the supreme court's decision.
- B. Because people can't directly elect their president.
- C. Because the American president is elected by a slate of presidential electors.
- D. Because the people of each state support Mr. Bush.
4. What was the result of the 5-to-4 decision of the supreme court?
- A. It was in fact for the vote recount.
- B. It had nothing to do with the presidential election.
- C. It played with the fate of the winner.
- D. It was in essence against the vote recount.
5. What did the “turbulent election of 1876” imply?
- A. The process of presidential election of 2000 was the same as that.
- B. There were great similarities between the two presidential elections (2000 and 1876).
- C. It was compared to presidential election of 2000.
- D. It was given an example.

Text 3**Clinton Is Right**

President Clinton's decision on Apr. 8 to send Chinese Premier Zhu Rongji packing without an agreement on China's entry into the World Trade Organization seemed to be a massive miscalculation. The President took a drubbing from much of the press, which had breathlessly reported that a deal was in the bag. The Cabinet and White House still appeared divided, and business leaders were characterized as furious over the lost opportunity. Zhu charged that Clinton lacked "the courage" to reach an accord. And when Clinton later telephoned the angry Zhu to pledge a renewed effort at negotiations, the gesture was widely portrayed as a flip-flop.

In fact, Clinton made the right decision in holding out for a better WTO deal. A lot more horse trading is needed before a final agreement can be reached. And without the Administration's goal of a "bullet-proof agreement" that business lobbyists can enthusiastically sell to a Republican Congress, the whole process will end up in partisan acrimony that could harm relations with China for years.

THE HARD PART. Many business lobbyists, while disappointed that the deal was not closed, agree that better terms can still be had. And Treasury Secretary Robert E. Rubin, National Economic Council Director Gene B. Sperling, Commerce Secretary William M. Daley, and top trade negotiator Charlene Barshefsky all advised Clinton that while the Chinese had made a remarkable number of concessions, "we're not there yet," according to senior officials.

Negotiating with Zhu over the remaining issues may be the easy part. Although Clinton can signal U.S. approval for China's entry into the WTO



himself, he needs Congress to grant Beijing permanent most-favored-nation status as part of a broad trade accord. And the temptation for meddling on Capital Hill may prove over-whelming. Zhu had barely landed before Senate Majority Leader Trent Lott (R-Miss) declared himself skeptical that China deserved entry into the WTO. And Senators Jesse A. Helms (R-N.C.) and Ernest F. Hollings (D-S.C.) promised to introduce a bill requiring congressional approval of any deal.

The hidden message from these three textile-state Southerners: Get more protection for the U. S. clothing industry. Hoping to smooth the way, the Administration tried, but failed, to budge Zhu on textiles. Also left in the lurch: Wall Street, Hollywood, and Detroit. Zhu refused to open up much of the lucrative Chinese securities market and insisted on “cultural” restrictions on American movies and music. He also blocked efforts to allow U. S. auto makers to provide fleet financing.

BIG JOB. Already, business lobbyists are blanketing Capitol Hill to presale any eventual agreement, but what they’ve heard so far isn’t encouraging. Republicans, including Lott, say that “the time just isn’t right” for the deal. Translation: We’re determined to make it look as if Clinton has capitulated to the Chinese and is ignoring human, religious, and labor rights violations; the theft of nuclear-weapons technology; and the sale of missile parts to America’s enemies. Beijing’s fierce critics within the Democratic Party, such as Senator Paul D. Wellstone of Minnesota and House Minority leader Richard A. Gephardt of Missouri, won’t help, either.

Just how tough the lobbying job on Capitol Hill will be become clear on Apr. 20, when Rubin lectured 19 chief executives on the need to discipline their Republican allies. With business and the White House still trading charges over who is responsible for the defeat of fast-track trade negotiating legislation in 1997, working together won’t be easy. And Republicans – with a wink – say that they’ll eventually embrace China’s entry into the WTO as a favor to Corporate America. Though not long before they torture Clinton. But Zhu is out on a limb, and if Congress overdoes the criticism, he may be forced by domestic critics to

renege. Business must make this much dear to both its GOP allies and the White House: this historic deal is too important to risk losing to any more partisan squabbling.

(648 words)

(<http://e.3edu.net>)

1. What's the main idea of this passage?
 - A. The Contradiction between the Democratic Party and the Republican Party.
 - B. On China's entry into WTO.
 - C. Clinton was right.
 - D. Business Lobbyists Control Capitol Hill.
2. What does the sentence "Also left in the lurch: Wall Street, Hollywood, Detroit" convey?
 - A. Premier Zhu rejected their requirements.
 - B. The three places overdid criticism.
 - C. They wanted more protection.
 - D. They are in trouble.
3. What was the attitude of the Republican Party toward China's entry into the WTO?
 - A. Contradictory.
 - B. Appreciative.
 - C. Disapproving.
 - D. Detestful.
4. Who plays the leading part in the deal in America?
 - A. The white House.
 - B. Republicans.
 - C. The Democratic Party.
 - D. Businessmen.
5. It can be inferred from the passage that _____.



- A. America will make concessions
- B. America will hold out for a better WTO
- C. Clinton has the right to signal U. S. approval for China's entry
- D. Democratic party approve China's entry into the WTO

Unit 2 Science I

Text *A*

The Growth of Science

Why the inductive and mathematical sciences, after their first rapid development at the culmination of Greek civilization, advanced so slowly for two thousand years – and why in the following two hundred years a knowledge of natural and mathematical science has accumulated, which so vastly exceeds all that was previously known that these sciences may be justly regarded as the products of our own times – are questions which have interested the modern philosophers not less than the objects with which these sciences are more immediately conversant. Was it the employment of a new method of research, or in the exercise of greater virtue in the use of the old methods, that this singular modern phenomenon had its origin? Was the long period one of arrested development, and is the modern era one of normal growth? Or should we ascribe the characteristics of both periods to so-called historical accidents – to the influence of conjunctions in circumstances of which no explanation is possible, save in the omnipotence and wisdom of a guiding Providence?

The explanation which has become commonplace, that the ancients employed deduction chiefly in their scientific inquiries, while the moderns employ induction, proves to be too narrow, and fails upon close examination to