

征服英语专业四、八级

2004年新大纲

英语专业八级 真题解析

A Collection of
Examination Papers **TEM-8**

◎ 申富英 编著



大连理工大学出版社

Dalian University of Technology Press

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____月____日

开始



结束



情绪指数 ☆☆☆☆☆

评分 _____

TEST FOR ENGLISH MAJORS (1996)

—GRADE EIGHT—

PART I LISTENING COMPREHENSION

[40 min]

In Sections A, B and C you will hear everything ONCE ONLY. Listen carefully and then answer the questions that follow. Mark the correct response to each question on your COLOURED ANSWER SHEET.

SECTION A TALK

Questions 1 to 5 refer to the talk in this section. At the end of the talk you will be given 15 seconds to answer each of the following five questions.

Now listen to the talk.

1. The speaker thinks that _____.
☐ (A) car causes pollution only in some cities
☐ (B) 60% of the cities are affected by car pollution
☐ (C) 90% of the city residents suffer from car pollution
☐ (D) car is the main contributing factor in polluting air
2. Which of the following is NOT mentioned as a cause of car pollution?
☐ (A) Car tyres. ☐ (B) Car engines. ☐ (C) Car horns. ☐ (D) Car brakes.
3. Which of the following is NOT cited as a means to reduce the number of cars?
☐ (A) To pass laws to control the use of cars. ☐ (B) To improve public transport systems.
☐ (C) To increase car tax and car price. ☐ (D) To construct effective subway systems.
4. One of the mechanical solutions to car pollution is _____.
☐ (A) to change the chemical structure of fuel ☐ (B) to improve on the exhaust pipe
☐ (C) to experiment with new engines ☐ (D) to monitor the amount of chemicals
5. According to the speaker, a sensible way to solve car pollution is that we should _____.
☐ (A) focus on one method only ☐ (B) explore some other alternatives
☐ (C) improve one of the four methods ☐ (D) integrate all of the four methods

SECTION B INTERVIEW

Questions 6 to 10 are based on an interview. At the end of the interview you will be given 15 seconds to answer each of the following five questions.

Now listen to the interview.

6. The interviewee's first job was with _____.
☐ (A) a newspaper ☐ (B) the government ☐ (C) a construction firm ☐ (D) a private company

7. The interviewee is not self-employed mainly because _____.
[A] his wife likes him to work for a firm [B] he prefers working for the government
[C] self-employed work is very demanding [D] self-employed work is sometimes insecure
8. To study architecture in a university one must _____.
[A] be interested in arts [B] study pure science first
[C] get good exam results [D] be good at drawing
9. On the subject of drawing the interviewee says that _____.
[A] technically speaking artists draw very well
[B] an artist's drawing differs little from an architect's
[C] precision is a vital skill for the architect
[D] architects must be natural artists
10. The interviewee says that the job of an architect is _____.
[A] more theoretical than practical [B] to produce sturdy, well-designed buildings
[C] more practical than theoretical [D] to produce attractive, interesting buildings

SECTION C NEWS BROADCAST

Questions 11 and 12 are based on the following news. At the end of the news item, you will be given 30 seconds to answer the two questions.

Now listen to the news.

11. The man was convicted for _____.
[A] dishonesty [B] manslaughter [C] murder [D] having a gun
12. Which of the following is TRUE?
[A] Mark Eastwood had a licence for a revolver.
[B] Mark Eastwood loved to go to noisy parties.
[C] Mark Eastwood smashed the window of a house.
[D] Mark Eastwood had a record.

Questions 13 to 15 are based on the following news. At the end of the news item, you will be given 45 seconds to answer the three questions.

Now listen to the news.

13. How many missing American servicemen have been positively confirmed dead in Vietnam so far?
[A] 67. [B] 280. [C] 84. [D] 1648.
14. According to the search operation commander, the recovery of the missing Americans is slowed down because _____.
[A] the weather conditions are unfavourable [B] the necessary documents are unavailable
[C] the sites are inaccessible [D] some local people are greedy
15. According to the news, Vietnam may be willing to help America mainly because of _____.
[A] its changed policy towards America
[B] recent international pressure
[C] its desire to have the US trade embargo lifted
[D] the impending visit by a senior US military officer

SECTION D NOTE-TAKING & GAP-FILLING

Fill in each of the gaps with ONE suitable word. You may refer to your notes. Make sure the word you fill in is both grammatically and semantically acceptable.

LAND USE

A problem related to the competition for land use is whether crops should be used to produce food or fuel. (1) _____ areas will be examined in this respect. Firstly, the problem should be viewed in its (2) _____ perspective. When oil prices rose sharply in the 1970s, countries had to look for alternatives to solve the resulting crisis.

(1) _____

(2) _____

In developing countries, one of the possible answers to it is to produce alcohol from (3) _____ material. This has led to a lot of research in this area particularly in the use of (4) _____. The use of this material resulted from two economic reasons: a (5) _____ in its price and low (6) _____ costs.

(3) _____

(4) _____

(5) _____

(6) _____

There are other starchy plants that can be used to produce alcohol, like the sweet (7) _____ or the cassava plant in tropical regions, and (8) _____ and sugar beet in non-tropical regions. The problem with these plants is that they are also the people's staple food in many poor countries.

(7) _____

(8) _____

Therefore, farmers there are faced with a choice: crops for food or for fuel. And farmers naturally go for what is more (9) _____. As a result, the problems involved are economic in nature, rather than technological. This is my second area under consideration.

(9) _____

Finally, there have already been practical applications of using alcohol for fuel. Basically, they come in two forms of use: pure alcohol as is the case in (10) _____, and a combination of alcohol and gasoline known as gasohol in Germany.

(10) _____

PART II PROOFREADING & ERROR CORRECTION

[15 min]

The following passage contains TEN errors. Each indicated line contains a maximum of ONE error. In each case, only ONE word is involved. You should proofread the passage and correct it.

WATER

The second most important constituent of the biosphere is liquid water. This can only exist in a very narrow range of temperatures, since water free

zes at 0°C and boils at 100°C. This is only a tiny range compared with the low temperatures of some other planets and the hot interior of the earth, let the temperature of the sun.

(1) _____

As we know, life would only be possible on the face of a planet had temperatures somewhere within this range.

(2) _____

(3) _____

The earth's supply of water probably remains quite fairly constant in quantity. A certain number of hydrogen atoms, which are one of the main constituents of water, are lost by escaping from the atmosphere to out space, but they are probably just about replaced by new water rising away from the depths of the earth during volcanic action. The total quantity of water is not known, and it is about enough to cover the surface of the globe to a depth of about two and three-quarter kms. Most of it—97%—is in the form of the salt waters of the oceans. The rest is fresh, but three quarter of this is in the form of ice at the Poles and on mountains, and cannot be used by living systems when melted. Of the remaining fraction, which is somewhat fewer than 1% of the whole, there is 10-20 times as much stored as underground water as is actually on the surface. There is also a minor, but extremely important, fraction of the water supply which is present as water vapour in the atmosphere.

(4) _____

(5) _____

(6) _____

(7) _____

(8) _____

(9) _____

(10) _____

PART III READING COMPREHENSION

[40 min]

SECTION A READING COMPREHENSION

[30 min]

In this section there are five reading passages followed by a total of fifteen multiple-choice questions. Read the passages carefully and then mark your answers on your COLOURED ANSWER SHEET.

TEXT A

STAYING HEALTHY ON HOLIDAY

Do people who choose to go on exotic, far-flung holidays deserve free health advice before they travel? And even if they pay, who ensures that they get good, up-to-date information? Who, for that matter, should collect that information in the first place? For a variety of reasons, travel medicine in Britain is a responsibility nobody wants. As a result, many travellers go abroad ill-prepared to avoid serious disease.

Why is travel medicine so unloved? Partly there's an identity problem. Because it takes an interest in anything that impinges on the health of travellers, this emerging medical specialism invariably cuts across the traditional disciplines. It delves into everything from seasickness, jet lag and the hazards of camels to malaria and plague. But travel medicine has a more serious obstacle to overcome. Travel clinics are meant to tell people how to avoid ending up dead or in a tropical diseases hospital when they come home. But it is notoriously difficult to get anybody to pay out money for keeping people healthy.

Travel medicine has also been colonised by commercial interests—the vast majority of travel clinics in Britain are run by airlines or travel companies. And while travel concerns are happy to sell profitable injections, they may be less keen to spread bad news about travellers' diarrhea in Turkey, or to take the time to spell out preventive measures travellers could take. "The NHS finds it difficult to define travellers' health", says Ron Behrens, the only NHS consultant in travel and tropical medicine and director of the travel clinic of the Hospital for Tropical Diseases in London. "Should it come within the NHS or should it be paid for? It's a grey area, and opinion is split. No one seems to have any responsibility for defining its role", he says.

To compound its low status in the medical hierarchy, travel medicine has to rely on statistics that are patchy at best. In most cases we just don't know how many Britons contract diseases when abroad. And even if a disease is linked to travel there is rarely any information about where those afflicted went, what they ate, how they behaved, or which vaccinations they had. This shortage of hard facts and figures makes it difficult to give detailed advice to people, information that might even save their lives.

A recent leader in the *British Medical Journal* argued, "Travel medicine will emerge as a credible discipline only if the risks encountered by travellers and the relative benefits of public health interventions are well defined in terms of their relative occurrence, distribution and control." Exactly how much money is wasted by poor travel advice? The real figure is anybody's guess, but it could easily run into millions. Behrens gives one example. Britain spends more than £ 1 million each year just on cholera vaccines that often don't work and so give people a false sense of security, "Information on the prevention and treatment of all forms of diarrhea would be a better priority", he says.

16. Travel medicine in Britain is _____.
[A] not something anyone wants to run [B] the responsibility of the government
[C] administered by private doctors [D] handled adequately by travel agents
17. The main interest of travel companies dealing with travel medicine is to _____.
[A] prevent people from falling ill [B] make money out of it
[C] give advice on specific countries [D] get the government to pay for it
18. In Behrens' opinion the question of who should run travel medicine _____.
[A] is for the government to decide [B] should be left to specialist hospitals
[C] can be left to travel companies [D] has no clear and simple answer
19. People will only think better of travel medicine if _____.
[A] it is given more resources by the government
[B] more accurate information on its value is available
[C] the government takes over responsibility from the NHS
[D] travellers pay more attention to the advice they get

TEXT B

THE HISTORICAL BACKGROUND OF SOCIAL PSYCHOLOGY

While the roots of social psychology lie in the intellectual soil of the whole western tradition, its present flowering is recognized to be characteristically an American phenomenon. One reason for the striking upsurge of social psychology in the United States lies in the pragmatic tradition of this country. National emergencies and conditions of social disruption provide special incentive to invent new techniques, and to strike out boldly for solutions to practical social problems. Social psychology began to flourish soon after the First World War. This event, followed by the great depression of the 1930s, by the rise of Hitler, the genocide of Jews, race riots, the Second World War and the atomic threat, stimulated all branches of social science. A special chal-

lenge fell to social psychology. The question was asked: How is it possible to preserve the values of freedom and individual rights under condition of mounting social strain and regimentation? Can science help provide an answer? This challenging question led to a burst of creative effort that added much to our understanding of the phenomena of leadership, public opinion, rumor, propaganda, prejudice, attitude change, morale, communication, decision-making, race relations, and conflicts of war.

Reviewing the decade that followed World War II, Cartwright [1961] speaks of the "excitement and optimism" of American social psychologists, and notes "the tremendous increase in the total number of people calling themselves social psychologists". Most of these, we may add, show little awareness of the history of their field.

Practical and humanitarian motives have always played an important part in the development of social psychology, not only in America but in other lands as well. Yet there have been discordant and dissenting voices. In the opinion of Herbert Spencer in England, of Ludwig Gumplowicz in Austria, and of William Graham Sumner in the United States, it is both futile and dangerous for man to attempt to steer or to speed social change. Social evolution, they argue, requires time and obeys laws beyond the control of man. The only practical service of social science is to warn man not to interfere with the course of nature [or society]. But these authors are in a minority. Most social psychologists share with Comte an optimistic view of man's chances to better his way of life. Has he not already improved his health via biological sciences? Why should he not better his social relationships via social sciences? For the past century this optimistic outlook has persisted in the face of slender accomplishment to date. Human relations seem stubbornly set. Wars have not been abolished, labor troubles have not abated, and racial tensions are still with us. Give us time and give us money for research, the optimists say.

20. Social psychology developed in the USA _____.
[A] because its roots are intellectually western in origin
[B] as a direct response to the great depression
[C] to meet the threat of Adolf Hitler and his policy of mass genocide
[D] because of its pragmatic traditions for dealing with social problems
21. According to the author, social psychology should help man to _____.
[A] preserve individual rights [B] become healthier
[C] be aware of history [D] improve material welfare
22. Who believed that man can influence social change for the good of society?
[A] Cartwright. [B] Spencer. [C] Sumner. [D] Comte.

TEXT C

GOD AND MY FATHER

I thought of God as a strangely emotional being. He was powerful; He was forgiving yet obdurate, full of warmth and affection. Both His wrath and affection were fitful, they came and they went, and I couldn't count on either to continue; although they both always did. In short, God was much such a being as my father himself.

What was the relation between them, I wondered—these two puzzling deities?

My father's ideas of religion seemed straightforward and simple. He had noticed when he was a boy that there were buildings called churches; he had accepted them as a natural part of the surroundings in which he had been born. He would never have invented such things himself. Nevertheless they were here. As he grew up he regarded them as unquestioningly as he did banks. They were substantial old structures, they were respectable, decent, and venerable. They were frequented by the right sort of people. Well, that was enough.

On the other hand he never allowed churches—or banks—to dictate to him. He gave each the respect that was due to it from his point of view; but he also expected from each of them the respect he felt due to him.

As to creeds, he knew nothing about them, and cared nothing either; yet he seemed to know which sect he belonged with. It had to be a sect with the minimum of nonsense about it; no total immersion, no exhorters, no holy confession. He would have been a Unitarian, naturally, if he'd lived in Boston. Since he was a respectable New Yorker, he belonged in the Episcopal Church.

As to living a spiritual life, he never tackled that problem. Some men who accept spiritual beliefs try to live up to them daily; other men reject such beliefs, try sometimes to smash them. My father would have disagreed with both kinds entirely. He took a more distant attitude. It disgusted him where atheists attacked religion; he thought they were vulgar. But he also objected to having religion make demands upon him—he felt that religion was too vulgar, when it tried to stir up men's feelings. It had its own proper field of activity, and it was all right there, of course; but there was one place religion should leave alone, and that was a man's soul. He especially loathed any talk of walking hand in hand with his Saviour. And if he had ever found the Holy Ghost trying to soften his heart, he would have regarded its behaviour as distinctly uncalled for; even ungentlemanly.

23. The writer says his father's idea of religion seemed straightforward and simple because his father _____.

- (A) had been born in natural surroundings with banks and churches
- (B) never really thought of God as having a real existence
- (C) regarded religion as acceptable as long as it did not interfere
- (D) regarded religion as a way that he could live a spiritual life

24. The writer's father would probably agree with the statement that _____.

- (A) both spiritualists and atheists are vulgar
- (B) being aware of different creeds is important
- (C) religion should expect heart and soul devotion
- (D) churches like banks are not to be trusted

TEXT D

ETIQUETTE

In sixteenth-century Italy and eighteenth-century France, waning prosperity and increasing social unrest led the ruling families to try to preserve their superiority by withdrawing from the lower and middle classes behind barriers of etiquette. In a prosperous community, on the other hand, polite society soon absorbs the newly rich, and in England there has never been any shortage of books on etiquette for teaching them the manners appropriate to their new way of life.

Every code of etiquette has contained three elements: basic moral duties; practical rules which promote efficiency; and artificial, optional graces such as formal compliments to, say, women on their beauty or superiors on their generosity and importance.

In the first category are considerations for the weak and respect for age. Among the ancient Egyptians the young always stood in the presence of older people. Among the Mponguwe of Tanzania, the young men bow as they pass the huts of the elders. In England, until about a century ago, young children did not sit in their parents' presence without asking permission.

Practical rules are helpful in such ordinary occurrences of social life as making proper introductions at parties or other functions so that people can be brought to know each other. Before the invention of the fork,

etiquette directed that the fingers should be kept as clean as possible; before the handkerchief came into common use, etiquette suggested that after spitting, a person should rub the spit inconspicuously underfoot.

Extremely refined behaviour, however, cultivated as an art of gracious living, has been characteristic only of societies with wealth and leisure, which admitted women as the social equals of men. After the fall of Rome, the first European society to regulate behaviour in private life in accordance with a complicated code of etiquette was twelfth-century Provence, in France.

Provence had become wealthy. The lords had returned to their castle from the crusades, and there the ideals of chivalry grew up, which emphasized the virtue and gentleness of women and demanded that a knight should profess a pure and dedicated love to a lady who would be his inspiration, and to whom he would dedicate his valiant deeds, though he would never come physically close to her. This was the introduction of the concept of romantic love, which was to influence literature for many hundreds of years and which still lives on in a debased form in simple popular songs and cheap novels today.

In Renaissance Italy too, in the fourteenth and fifteenth centuries, a wealthy and leisured society developed an extremely complex code of manners, but the rules of behaviour of fashionable society had little influence on the daily life of the lower classes. Indeed many of the rules, such as how to enter a banquet room, or how to use a sword or handkerchief for ceremonial purposes, were irrelevant to the way of life of the average working man, who spent most of his life outdoors or in his own poor hut and most probably did not have a handkerchief, certainly not a sword, to his name.

Yet the essential basis of all good manners does not vary. Consideration for the old and weak and the avoidance of harming or giving unnecessary offence to others is a feature of all societies everywhere and at all levels from the highest to the lowest.

25. One characteristic of the rich classes of a declining society is their tendency to _____.
[A] take in the recently wealthy [B] retreat within themselves
[C] produce publications on manners [D] change the laws of etiquette
26. Which of the following is NOT an element of the code of etiquette?
[A] Respect for age. [B] Formal compliments.
[C] Proper introductions at social functions. [D] Eating with a fork rather than fingers.
27. According to the writer which of the following is part of chivalry? A knight should _____.
[A] inspire his lady to perform valiant deeds
[B] perform deeds which would inspire romantic songs
[C] express his love for his lady from a distance
[D] regard his lady as strong and independent
28. Etiquette as an art of gracious living is quoted as a feature of which country?
[A] Egypt. [B] 18th-century France. [C] Renaissance Italy. [D] England.

TEXT E

CONFLICT AND COMPETITION

The question of whether war is inevitable is one which has concerned many of the world's great writers. Before considering the question, it will be useful to introduce some related concepts. *Conflict*, defined as opposition among social entities directed against one another, is distinguished from *competition*, defined as opposition among social entities independently striving for something which is in inadequate supply. Competitors may not be aware of one another, while the parties to a conflict are. Conflict and competition are both categories of *opposition*, which has been defined as a process by which social entities function in the disservice of

one another. Opposition is thus contrasted with *cooperation*, the process by which social entities function in the service of one another. These definitions are necessary because it is important to emphasize that competition between individuals or groups is inevitable in a world of limited resources, but conflict is not. Conflict, nevertheless, is very likely to occur, and is probably an essential and desirable element of human societies.

Many authors have argued for the inevitability of war from the premise that in the struggle for existence among animal species, only the fittest survive. In general, however, this struggle in nature is competition, not conflict. Social animals, such as monkeys and cattle, fight to win or maintain leadership of the group. The struggle for existence occurs not in fights, but in the competition for limited feeding areas and for the occupancy of areas free from meat-eating animals. Those who fail in this competition starve to death or become victims to other species. The struggle for existence does not resemble human war, but rather the competition of individuals for jobs, markets, and materials. The essence of the struggle is the competition for the necessities of life that are insufficient to satisfy all.

Among nations there is competition in developing resources, trades, skills, and a satisfactory way of life. The successful nations grow and prosper; the unsuccessful decline. While it is true that this competition may induce efforts to expand territory at the expense of others, and thus lead to conflict, it cannot be said that war-like conflict among other nations is inevitable, although competition is.

29. According to the author which of the following is inevitable?

- (A) War. (B) Conflict. (C) Competition. (D) Cooperation.

30. In the animal kingdom the struggle for existence _____.

- (A) is evidence of the inevitability of conflict among the fittest
(B) arises from a need to live in groups
(C) is evidence of the need to compete for scarce resources
(D) arises from a natural desire to fight

SECTION B SKIMMING & SCANNING

[10 min]

In this section there are seven passages followed by ten multiple-choice questions. Skim or scan them as required and then mark your answers on your COLOURED ANSWER SHEET.

TEXT F

ANGRY RESIDENTS

First read the following question.

31. The writer believes the problems of chaos and noise will most probably only be solved by _____.

- (A) the students themselves (B) the students' parents
(C) the college authorities (D) the newspaper

Now go through TEXT F quickly and answer the question.

12 Gradge Crescent
Rudwick

Sir,

On two occasions since Rudwick College opened you have given front page reports on the chaotic conditions prevailing there. . .

But whilst chaos and upheaval reigns in the college, what of the chaos and noise that local residents are subjected to? Cars are parked on the pavements, and, still worse, on the pavements at street corners. The

noise from motor cycles is such that at times conversation is impossible. To add to this, our streets are littered with paper, Coca Cola tins and empty milk bottles. Huge transistor radios are carried by students at all times of the day, blasting out music so loudly that babies wake and old people are unable to take their afternoon naps. All in all, we have found students' behaviour to be quite intolerable.

We appeal to students [whom we support financially via our local authority rates] to have some consideration for other people. And if the young people themselves won't listen to what we say, and we suspect they won't, then perhaps their parents should knock some sense into their heads.

Yours faithfully,
John Smith

TEXT G

RACE

First read the following question.

32. In the passage the writer's tone is _____.

- (A) critical (B) apathetic (C) sympathetic (D) neutral

Now go through TEXT G quickly and answer the question.

About one-fifth of the high school students here are boycotting classes to protest the reinstatement of a principal who threatened to ban interracial couples from the prom.

The boycott began on Monday as classes resumed after spring break for the 680 students at Randolph County High School.

It was also the first day back for the principal, Hulond Humphries, a white man who was reinstated by a 4-to-2 vote of the school board after being suspended on March 14. Mr. Humphries, 55, who has been principal for 25 years, declined to comment on the boycott.

The boycott was organized by the school board's only black member, Charlotte Clark-Freison.

Parents who attended a meeting on Monday night decided to keep their children out of school today, said Ms. Clark-Freison.

A group of parents travelled today to Montgomery, about 90 miles to the southwest, to meet with state education officials and ask about setting up an alternative school during the boycott, Ms. Clark-Freison said.

School Superintendent Dale McKay said he did not know how many students were absent from class either on Monday or today.

Tawanna Mize, a white senior, said school attendance sheets showed 157 absent students, 115 of them black. Ms. Clark-Freison said about 200 black students boycotted today. She did not know how many white students stayed away.

Many black students gathered on Monday and today at two churches to discuss multicultural issues and non-violent protests. Many of the boycotting students wore black-and-white ribbons.

The boycotters included ReVonda Bowen, who filed a civil rights lawsuit against Mr. Humphries for saying at a school assembly on Feb. 24 that she was "a mistake" because her father is white and her mother is black. At the same assembly, Mr. Humphries announced that mixed-race couples would not be allowed at the prom and that the dance would be cancelled if they showed up.

The next day, Mr. Humphries withdrew the threat to close the prom if mixed-race couples showed up, and he said his comments had been misunderstood.

TEXT H

USA/IRAN

First read the following question.

33. The writer advises that the problems between Iran and the USA might be best dealt with in the UN by getting the support of _____.

(A) America's NATO allies in the West

(B) Islamic Third World countries

(C) Russia

(D) Britain

Now go through TEXT H quickly and answer the question.

Sir,

The present quarrel between the US and Iran seems to be drifting dangerously near to a confrontation between the West and the Third World. It is understandable that the US should seek support from her allies within NATO but the result of this could be seen as an attempt by a group of powerful industrial countries to bully the people of a Third World country which, in recent years, had no cause to be grateful for the policies of the US.

Surely the appropriate forum in which to search out a settlement to this extremely dangerous quarrel is the UN and the West should do its utmost, within that forum, to gather the greatest possible support from Third World, and particularly Islamic countries.

I am well aware that the matter has been considered by the Security Council and the General Assembly and that the International Court of Justice has also pronounced in favour of the American case. I myself in no way support the behaviour of the Iranians on this issue, which I believe to be dangerous and provocative. Nevertheless, it is my view that it would be wise for the Western powers to continue to use the quiet diplomacy of the UN and also, if this should prove practicable, the good offices of Islamic countries who have no desire to be caught up in a middle Eastern conflict arising from the present tension between Iran and the US.

In addition to exploiting still further the use of the machinery of the UN, I also consider that European leaders ought to suggest that it would be helpful if a summit meeting could take place between the American and Russian leaders to exchange views about the whole situation in the Middle East.

Such an exchange of views would be unlikely to produce instant solutions, but it might help the Russian and American governments to read each other's minds and seek methods of backing away from the perilous trial of strength in that part of the world.

Yours sincerely

Frank Hooley, MP

House of Commons, London SW1

TEXT I

GOLD! GOLD! GOLD

First read the following question.

34. The purpose of the passage is to _____.

(A) describe the mining of gold

(B) describe man's pursuit of gold

(C) determine the importance of gold

(D) discuss the role of gold

Now go through TEXT I quickly and answer the question.

Gold has enthralled man since the dawn of civilization. For centuries he braved arctic cold, tropic heat

and inhuman privations to wrest gold from the earth. He used it for religious objects, sculpture, jewellery and as a symbol of wealth. Paradoxically, he often buried it—for use in the afterlife, as the pharaohs did, or for safekeeping against the uncertainties of this life.

Gold's lustre and rarity, which implied its owner possessed great power, gave it a musical quality from the start. Gold was considered divine in ancient Greece and was used to adorn temples and as an offering to the gods. Despite their reverence, the ancients were quick to recognize gold's practical qualities, particularly its malleability, which made it ideal for jewellery. Even Cleopatra used gold ornaments to enhance her charm.

However, it has been as a symbol of wealth—of nations as well as individuals—that gold has played its most dramatic role. The quest for gold changed the course of history—shifting nations' borders and opening wildernesses.

The cry "Gold!" probably launched more ships than a hundred Helens of Troy. History books tell us Columbus' expedition was inspired by his scientific curiosity. But it was also backed by Queen Isabella, who may have been motivated to donate her jewels by more than just sympathy for his cause or desire for a trade route to the East. Whatever the original motive might have been, certainly her royal spouse was moved by more than scientific triumph in 1511 when he wrote to his men in South America: "Get gold," he commanded, "humanely if possible, but at all hazards get gold."

The intrinsic value of gold, perhaps enhanced by its mystique, made it a medium of exchange in many parts of the world. Payments were made in gold hundreds of years before 550 B.C., when the first known gold coins were cast. King Croesus of Lydia [Western Turkey], whose legendary wealth inspired the phrase "rich as Croesus", is generally credited with that minting. However, gold played a relatively minor monetary role until the great 19th century gold rushes in California, Alaska, Canada and South Africa produced sufficient quantities to make wide-scale monetary use practical.

The artistic, industrial and ornamental uses of gold have changed little since ancient times, but its monetary use had been transformed. Gold ducats, double eagles and sovereigns can't meet industrial societies' need for convenient and efficient money. Modern nations use paper currency, base-metal coins, and checkbook balances to meet the needs of their fast-paced economies.

As a rule, nations now keep gold for payments to each other. The "coin" used in these payments is a gold bar, often about the size and shape of a common building brick, weighing about 400 troy ounces [about 27 avoirdupois pounds] and valued at about \$ 17,000 at today's official U.S. Government price. In the "free" market, where the forces of supply and demand constantly determine gold's value, this same bar was worth about thirteen times as much in early 1981. When nations trade gold, it is done at the market price rather than at the official price.

TEXT J

WEATHER

First read the following two questions.

35. According to the passage, London recorded its coldest day in _____ years when the temperature dropped to -90°C .
[A] 40 [B] 41 [C] 42 [D] 43
36. How many people died in Poland because of the weather in the first half of January 1987?
[A] 77. [B] 29. [C] 48. [D] 27.

Now go through TEXT J quickly and answer the questions.

Severe winter weather during the first three weeks of January caused hundreds of deaths in Europe. A