

阅读理解指导与训练

—— 阅读英国

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前 言

本书有别于普通读物的最大特色是：全书全方位地介绍英国，内容涉及政治、经济、历史、地理、科技、教育、文化、体育、社会、家庭以及名人轶事、日常生活、风俗习惯、故事小品、新闻报道等等。本书所选材料均来自海内外文献资料，内容健康，语言地道。本书难度与现行高中新教材相当，生词量控制在3%左右，个别新单词未加注中文，旨在培养读者通过上下文推测词义的能力。阅读理解题型与NMET标准化考试完全吻合，考查内容兼顾表层、深层和整体理解三个层次，因而十分适合高中各年级及相当此程度的英语学习者阅读训练。

“正确认识世界，增强对英语国家的了解”是新大纲对中学英语教学提出的要求，有关这方面的专著目前国内寥若晨星。本书的编写是一种尝试与探索，敬祈专家与读者不吝赐教。

本书系已出版的《阅读美国》一书的姐妹篇，希望妹妹能与姐姐一样赢得广大读者的欢迎和喜爱，成为能帮助大家提高阅读理解能力的良师与益友。

本书承蒙中国外语学习学研究会副会长、福建中学英语报总编辑庄志兴先生百忙中亲自审订，谨表由衷谢忱。

蔡炳冲

一九九八年仲夏

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The population of the U. K. is 56,488,000 (1984), which consists of the English (80%), the Welsh, the Scottish and the Irish. English is the official language, but not all of the British people speak it. In Wales many people speak Celtic(凯尔特语) (about one in four); in Scotland about 80,000 people in the highlands possess(拥有) their Gaelic(盖尔人的) language. Only when the national anthem(国歌) is being sung can we hear "God Save the Queen" in English.

1. The U. K. consists of B.
 - A. the English, the Welsh, the Scottish and the Irish
 - B. England, Wales, Scotland and Northern Ireland
 - C. English, Welsh, Scottish and Irish
 - D. the English, the Welsh and the Scottish
2. As the official language, English is spoken by D.
 - A. all of the people of the United Kingdom
 - B. some of the people who live in England
 - C. all the Englishmen
 - D. most of the British people
3. B speak English in the U. K.
 - A. About forty million people
 - B. About more than fifty million people

C. About thirty million people

D. All the people

4. Gaelic is usually spoken by X.

A. Highlanders

B. all the Scottish

C. the Welsh

D. the Irish

5. When "God Save the Queen" is heard singing, you may immediately realize that C.

A. the Queen has been saved by God

B. the Queen believes in God

C. it is the name of the national anthem of the U.K.

D. they are the words of the national anthem



England, Wales, and Scotland together form Great Britain. Scotland, lying in the northern part of Great Britain, and bordering(与……临界) England on the south, is half the size of England and Wales, with an area of about 76,000 square kilometres. It is 400 kilometres from the England border to John O'Groats at the northern top of the main land. Most of the Northern Scotland is a mountainous(多山的) area known as the Scottish Highlands. In the centre of Scotland there are the Central Lowlands, and the south is a wave-like hilly area known as the Southern Uplands which rise to 800 metres.

1. This passage mainly tells us something about D.

A. England

B. Great Britain

C. Scotland

D. Wales

2. England lies B.
- A. in the north of Great Britain
 - B. south of Scotland
 - C. to the north of Wales
 - D. in the north of Scotland
3. Great Britain has an area of C square kilometres.
- A. 38,000
 - B. 228,000
 - C. 76,000
 - D. 152,000
4. The Scotland Highlands lie A.
- A. in the north of Great Britain
 - B. in the south of Scotland
 - C. between the Northern Scotland and the Southern Uplands
 - D. in the centre of Scotland
5. Which of the following is NOT true? B
- A. England and Wales together are twice as large as Scotland.
 - B. Scotland lies on the north of England.
 - C. The Southern Uplands are as high as 800 metres.
 - D. It is 400 kilometres from the east of Scotland to the west.



The Isle of Wight is a small island of the south coast(海岸) of England. It is one of the most popular holiday destinations(目的地) in Britain. In 1980, 800,000 people stayed there, and another 600,000 went there on "day trips".

Not many foreign tourists know about the island; most of the visi-

tors are British people who go there for their summer holidays. The Isle of Wight is only 23 miles long and 13 miles from north to south, but the towns and villages are all very different, and they offer a good many holidays. It is also one of the hottest places in Britain.

It's very simple to get to the island from London. Trains leave London every hour during the summer. 2.5 hours later, you arrive at Portsmouth (朴茨茅斯港), where you walk 50 metres to the ferry (渡口). Half an hour after that, you're standing on the island. A return fare from London to the Isle of Wight will cost about £10.

- Which of the following is closest in meaning to the passage? Of the people who visited the Isle of Wight in 1980 _____ .

A. 800,000 were British B. 600,000 were foreigners

C. 600,000 were visitors who came and left there in the same day

D. 1,400,000 were tourists who visited it on "day trips"
- How many people visited the Isle of Wight in 1980?

A. 1,400,000. B. 600,000.

C. 200,000. D. 800,000.
- According to the passage, the journey from London to the island takes _____.

A. 2.5 hours B. exactly 3 hours

C. a little more than 3 hours D. less than 3 hours
- It costs a person from London _____ for a trip to and from the island.

A. £ 15 B. £ 20 C. £ 5 D. £ 10
- Which is the best title for this passage?

A. The Most Secret Island in Britain

- B. The Hottest Island in Britain
- C. The Most Beautiful Island in Britain
- D. The Isle of Wight—A Tourist Must(不可少的事物)



Many countries never have snow—or they have it only on the tops of very high mountains. In Scotland and in the north of England, there is a lot of snow every winter, but in the south of England, there is usually little.

When a student from a warm country like Malaya or Indonesia comes to England in autumn for the first time, he feels cold at first. There are often dark clouds, grey(灰色的) sky and cold rain in England in autumn, and most students from warm countries do not like this.

Snow is very beautiful, though it is very cold. Perhaps, after several dark evenings, the student wakes up one day, and there is a lot of light in his room. He thinks, “Is it so late?” and jumps out of bed. But no, it is not very late. He looks out of the window—and there is snow here and there.

1. _____ people in the world have seen real snow.
A. All B. Some C. No D. Little
2. There is much snow _____.
A. in the north of England
B. in the south of England
C. in Malaya D. in Indonesia

3. — What's the weather like in England?

— _____.

A. It's often cloudy

B. It's often fine

C. It's often rainy

D. Both A and C

4. Most students from warm countries do not like the _____ in England.

A. snow B. high mountains C. weather D. people

5. The best title for the article is _____.

A. Students from Warm Countries

B. The Light in the Student's Room

C. Seasons in England

D. Snow in Britain



Being not far from the sea, London is famous for its fogs. The worst of them happened on December 4, 1952. All movement in the town came to a stop. It was almost impossible to drive or ride in anything. The streets which lead into the centre were filled with buses that moved two miles an hour. Soon, however, the traffic was stopped. Being left by their drivers, the buses and the cars stood empty in the streets. Many who usually travelled by buses took underground (地铁). But there were so many people there that the gates had to be closed. Being caught in the fog, people felt their way along the walls of the houses with one hand, while they put out the other in front of them so as not to knock against something or somebody.

At the Opera House (歌剧院) they got through the first act (幕)

of La Traviata before so much fog had spread into the building that the singers could not see the conductor(音乐指挥).

It was a terrible fog, indeed, and as many as 4,000 people in London lost their lives.

1. London is famous for its fogs because P.
A. air is polluted B. it is not far from the sea
C. there is plenty of rain
D. it is cold all the year round
2. When people _____, they felt their way in order not to knock against something or somebody.
A. were caught in the fog B. got on the buses
C. lost their way
D. took underground full of people
3. Which of the following is NOT false?
A. 4,000 people died in London in 1952.
B. At the Opera House, they went on acting.
C. All movement in the town came to a stop in the fog.
D. Although the fog was thick, the singers could still see the conductor.
4. The streets were filled with buses and cars _____.
A. without any people in it B. with only a driver in it
C. full of people D. moving quickly
5. A good title for this passage is "_____".
A. The Cause of the Fogs B. Fogs Lead to Death
C. The Good Thing About Fogs
D. The Bad Effect of Fogs



In the ninth century, one of the English kingdoms called Wessex was ruled by King Alfred. The Danes (丹麦人) wanted to conquer (征服) all England and Alfred fought against them. He finally beat them in a great battle at sea. He made the Danish chief swear (发誓) that they would never make war against England again.

But the Danes did not really mean to keep this promise. Before long they came back to make war again. This time the battles were even more fierce and Alfred lost many of his supporters. He was forced to hide for a time from the Danes, with no mercy and no friends.

He lived with a poor man called Denewulf who looked after cows. Denewulf knew who Alfred was, but because Alfred was hiding, he kept the secret even from his wife.

One day, Denewulf's wife was busy baking cakes. Seated by the fire, Alfred was mending his bows and arrows. Then he began thinking deeply and his bows and arrows dropped from his hands.

It seemed to Denewulf's wife that Alfred was a lazy sort of fellow. She wondered how anyone could sit for hours by the fire doing nothing while she and her husband had to work so hard. She asked Alfred to look after her cakes so that she could go and do something else. Alfred agreed.

But when the wife had gone, Alfred became lost in thought again. Looking into the fire, he saw wonderful things in the red glow (炽热) of the burning ashes.

1. Alfred hid for a time from the Danes because _____.
- A. he lost many supporters in the battles
 - B. he was afraid to see the Danes
 - C. he beat them in the battle
 - D. he didn't want to be a king
2. Where did the first battle end between King Alfred and the Danes?
- A. By the sea.
 - B. In Denmark.
 - C. At sea.
 - D. In Wessex.
3. In the opinion of Denewulf's wife, Alfred was _____.
- A. a strange man
 - B. a funny-looking man
 - C. a man who disliked work
 - D. a brave man
4. What do you think would happen to the cakes at last?
- A. They would be made ready.
 - B. They would be not heated.
 - C. They would be half-cooked.
 - D. They would be burnt.
5. The article doesn't say directly but suggests that _____.
- A. King Alfred was missing his home
 - B. King Alfred made up his mind to fight and beat the Danes again
 - C. King Alfred wanted to go back to Wessex
 - D. King Alfred would like to be a good shooter

There was once a king of Scotland whose name was Robert Bruce.

The King of England was at war with him and led a great army into Scotland to conquer(征服) the land and the people.

Bruce fought the enemy most bravely. Six times he led his brave little army against his enemy; and six times his men were beaten. At last he was forced to hide himself in the mountains.

One day, feeling tired and sick at heart, he lay on the ground under a farmhouse. He was ready to give up all hopes, for it seemed to him that it was no use fighting any longer.

As he lay thinking, he saw a spider over his head, getting ready to weave her web(织网). He watched her as she worked slowly and with great care. Six times she tried to throw her thread from one beam(横梁) to another, and six times she failed.

"Poor thing!" said Bruce. "You, too, know what it is to fail."

But the spider did not lose hope. With still more care, she made ready to try for the seventh time. Bruce almost forgot his own troubles as he watched her struggling with the thin thread. Would she fail again? No! The thread was carried safely to the beam.

"I, too, will try a seventh time!" cried Bruce.

Inspired by the spirit of the spider, Bruce called his men together and made careful plans. Soon another battle was fought. This time the king of England was beaten and driven out of Scotland.

1. England and Scotland was once at war _____.

- A. because the king of Scotland wanted to conquer the land and the people
- B. because the king of England wanted to conquer the land and the people

- C. because Robert Bruce led a great army into England
D. for some reasons unmentioned in the passage
2. Altogether Bruce fought _____ with the king of England.
A. six times B. the sixth time
C. seven times D. the seventh time
3. Bruce hid himself in the mountains _____.
A. to watch the spider to weave her web
B. to have a rest C. to cure his illness
D. to think of a way to fight against his enemy
4. The army were beaten by the enemy because _____.
A. the men didn't fight bravely
B. the king didn't fight bravely
C. the king of England had a greater army than he
D. the king hid himself in the mountains
5. _____, Bruce won at last and drove the king of England out of Scotland.
A. Inspired by the spirit of the spider
B. Having made careful plans
C. Helped by the spider D. Both A and B



"Charlie Griffin's British pig was in my potatoes again!" shouted Lyman Cutler one day in 1859. The next time the pig went into Cutler's potato patch(小块土地), he shot it. The pig's owner got so angry that he decided to have Cutler put in prison. And this almost started a war.

At that time, San Juan Island, where both men lived, was claimed (要求得到) by both the United States and Britain. When word reached the United States that the British were going to try an American for shooting a pig, U.S. troops (军队) were sent to Puget Sound. The British, in turn, sent warships (军舰). The Americans then sent more troops.

U.S. General Winfield Scott talked the matter over with the British governor; national honor (荣誉, 名誉) was now involved (卷入). The general and the governor agreed to occupy (占领) the island together, and the troops returned home without any arrest (逮捕) being made.

The dispute (争端) was finally settled in 1872, when San Juan Island was given to the United States as a reward.

1. Cutler shot Griffin's pig because _____.

A. the men had had an argument

B. it was in his potato patch

C. Griffin was a British soldier

D. Griffin had shot Cutler's pig

2. San Juan Island at that time was claimed by _____.

A. the United States and Scotland

B. Great Britain and Canada

C. Canada and the United States

D. Great Britain and the United States

3. The dispute was then settled by _____.

A. a war between Britain and the United States

B. a small battle between the American and the British troops

C. talks between General Scott and the British governor

- D. a meeting of Griffin and Cutler
4. As a result of the meeting, _____.
- A. both countries occupied San Juan Island
- B. British troops controlled the island
- C. the Americans took possession of (占有, 拥有) the island
- D. San Juan Island became quiet and peaceful
5. Today San Juan Island belongs to _____.
- A. the United States
- B. Canada
- C. no country
- D. both the United States and Great Britain



John and Sebastian Cabot sailed back across the North Atlantic with bad news for their patron(赞助人), King Henry VII of England. Instead of a short sea route to Japan and India, they had found only rocky, icy coasts.

It was as a mere afterthought(事后的回想) that they mentioned that they had visited a place near what they called New Found Isle. The codfish were so plentiful there that the sailors had lowered baskets into the water and raised them up, they were full of squirming(蠕动的), silvery fish.

Although the merchants(商人) and the nobles at court did not care about this discovery, the fishermen of Europe became very interested. Before long, many fishermen were sailing across the Atlantic to Newfoundland in their little fishing boats and bringing back great num-

bers of dried fish for the kitchens of Europe.

In time, the right to fish the Grand Banks came to be considered far more valuable than all the treasure of the fabled(虚构的) East. The Grand Banks were, and still are, the richest fishing ground in the world.

1. The Cabots made their voyage(航行) for _____.
A. some European fishermen B. European fishermen
C. a group of merchants D. the king of England
2. The discovery of the Grand Banks was interesting to the _____.
A. Cabots B. merchants
C. nobles at court D. fishermen
3. The fish carried to Europe from the Grand Banks were _____.
A. cooked B. frozen C. dried D. fresh
4. The passage implied(暗示) but not stated that _____.
A. New Found Isle was what is now known as Newfoundland.
B. the Grand Banks are still a very rich fishing ground.
C. the Cabots would have found greater treasure if they had found a short sea route to Japan.
D. the Cabots' patron punished them for failing to find the route to Japan.
5. The best title for this selection is "_____".
A. King Henry's Discovery
B. A Voyage to Newfoundland
C. Fishing Round the World
D. The Treasure of the Grand Banks