

高等学校英语专业等级考试必备

# 英语专业

## 八级预测试卷

李欣 主编

- 十套全真预测试卷
- 严格按照考试大纲编写
- 附参考答案及录音材料

TEST FOR  
ENGLISH  
MAJORS  
GRADE EIGHT

8 级



大连理工大学出版社 Dalian University of Technology Press

八级冲刺

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Test For English Majors

Grade Eight

主 编 李 欣

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# 前 言

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英语专业八级考试是衡量英语专业高年级学生听、读、写、译能力的一种水平考试,可以说是目前国内难度最大的英语等级考试。由于考试本身的难度,加之其他因素,历年全国各类高校的考试成绩都不是很理想。

为了让考生更好地熟悉八级考试的要求,最大程度地发挥自己的水平,我们编写了这套《英语专业八级预测试卷》。本书主要包括以下内容:一、根据我们辅导八级考试的体会,对相关应试技巧作了有的放矢的介绍;二、十套完全按照八级考试要求编写的模拟试卷,所有客观测试项目都给出了标准答案和简明扼要的解析,所有主观测试项目(作文、翻译)都给出了参考答案;三、附有所力理解的录音材料以及录音带。

本书的几位编者均为北京、天津各名校英语专业教师,且多次从事八级的考前辅导,积累了丰富的教学经验。多年的教学经验告诉我们,即使是对平时基础很好的同学,考前的模拟训练也是必不可少的。考前的模拟训练有利于提高同学们的实战技能,有助于训练同学们的考试技能,更有助于同学们在考试时发挥出最好的水平。这套全新的《英语专业八级预测试卷》正是这样一套供同学们考前训练的好材料!

本套试卷不仅可供英语专业八级考生考前模拟练习,也可供广大专业教师作教学辅导材料使用。

最后,祝同学们在八级考试中取得优异成绩!

编 者  
2002年9月

## 怎样在英语专业八级考试中取得好成绩?

英语专业八级考试是衡量英语专业高年级学生英语听、读、写、译能力的一种水平考试,可以说是目前国内难度最大的英语等级考试。考试分为上午和下午两场,上午做听力、阅读、改错,下午做翻译和写作。从全国英语专业学生的考试成绩来看,每年全国平均通过率在百分之六十左右,也就是说大约有  $2/5$  的学生通不过考试。下面就专八考试各题型的特点和应试的技巧作简要的介绍。

### 1. LISTENING COMPREHENSION

英语专业八级考试的听力理解部分时间为 40 分钟,速度为每分钟 140 ~ 170 字,共 25 个题目,分值占 25%,包括 Section A, Section B, Section C 和 Section D,要求考生听懂包括各种场合的英语会话、讲话、采访、辩论等,还有一些涉及时事、经济、文化教育等的新闻节目。其中 Section D 要求考生听懂一个简短的讲座,边听边做笔记,然后根据自己的笔记完成填空。要想在听力部分取得好成绩,同学们应该在平时的学习中打下比较扎实的听力基础,然后在考试前听几套模拟试题的录音带,以训练自己的临场经验。以下几点建议供同学们参考:

1) 拿到试卷先浏览一下试题。这样做有助于在听录音之前把握住录音的大致内容。看明白都是问了哪些问题,带着问题去听,才会抓住关键的信息,对正确解题有很大的帮助。如:

According to the management of the American Airlines, in 1994 flight attendants would earn \_\_\_\_\_.

A: from \$ 16,000 to \$ 35,000

B: around \$ 21,000

C: from \$ 15,000 to \$ 33,000

D: around \$ 50,000

看完这个问题后,在听录音时你就要格外注意这些 flight attendants 在 1994 年能挣多少钱,留心相关的数字。要“扫描”听力部分的问题,10 秒左右的时间就可以把一个题目看完。

2) 在听录音的时候应该做些简单的纪录,尤其是数字、日期、人名等比较关键的信息。很多同学可能听力基础不错,平时也下了很大的功夫,但不少同学听完了就忘了,对一些细节并不是很留意,而听力考试往往就考察考生对录音里重要信息的了解。对于 Note-taking & Gap-filling 这部分当然更应该做笔记。这部分需要有很好的速记能力,要分清语篇里哪些是关键词,哪些不是。当然有遗漏,是在所难免的,但是要尽量争取减少遗漏。要注

意句首、句尾总结性的话,还有带判断语气的话。还有一点值得注意,Note-taking & Gap-filling 的答案常常不是惟一的,你应该填的词也不一定是录音中出现的词汇。考生只要在理解录音材料的基础上,找到语法和意义上能讲得过去的词就应该是正确的答案。意义上要讲得通,语法也很重要。要注意所填词的词性、单复数,时态、语态、大小写等等。

## 2. READING COMPREHENSION

这部分分为一般阅读和快速阅读两部分,共四十分钟。前者一般是4篇比较长的文章,要求回答15个问题;后者则要求在十分钟的时间内看完六到七篇文章,每一篇文章都附有1个或2个问题。从历年的试题来看,前面的四篇文章大多选自英美的报刊,纯文学作品不多,包括政论、社论、书评和新闻报道等等,题材涉及经济、环保、社会科学和自然科学的新进展等。快速阅读主要考察信息“搜索”能力,涉及的体裁、题材都很广泛,有广告、通知、信函、招聘启事等。为提高阅读部分的得分,有以下几点建议供同学们参考:

1)在做题之前,先迅速浏览文章一遍(主要是文章的开头、结尾和每一段的 Topic Sentence),然后看后面的题目,再回过头来阅读文章。应该说大多数题目在文章里都能找到相关的依据或线索,所以最忌讳根据自己的“想当然”来做题。

2)阅读题的题型主要包括细节题、主旨题、推理题等等。细节题一般在文章里都能找到相关的依据,多数还是原文的某一句话换了一个说法。文章如果很长,要根据题目里出现的关键词到文章里去寻找相关的信息。主旨题要求考生回答诸如文章中心大意,作者态度等问题。对于“中心大意”之类的题目,考生应该注意从整体上把握文章,仔细阅读文章的开头、结尾和每一段的 Topic sentence。对“作者态度”之类的题目,要注意文章用词的褒贬和感情色彩。推理题在原文字面上找不到答案,考生应该注意文章的内在逻辑线索。因为有些文章长达上千字,不必——其实也往往不可能——每个单词、每句话都看懂,要根据文章的题目要求来阅读。

3)快速阅读的问题都比较肤浅,要求考生具备“一目十行”的阅读技巧和很强的搜索信息的能力。如果这方面的能力比较强的话,这类快速阅读应该还是比较容易得分的。多数题目都能在文章里直接找到答案。有些题目不能直接找到答案,需要做一个非常简单的推理或运算等。10分钟内不可能读完六、七篇文章,考生应先阅读题目,找到题目里出现的关键词,然后到文章里寻找这个关键词。

## 3. PROOFREADING & ERROR CORRECTION

校对改错部分要求考生在15分钟内修改一篇长度在200字左右的短文。短文里有10个错误,每行只有一个错误。这对考生的英语基本功是一个很好的检测。

这一部分主要考察学生的语法掌握和在特定语言环境下的实际运用情况,也就是说多数题目都是有关语法的,如介词、反身代词、冠词等的用法。另外一部分题目考察学生的词汇和习惯搭配的掌握情况。有关词汇的问题,一般没有单纯措词问题,多数都是用词错误,

而不是不恰当或不够“准确”,这种“词汇”问题多数都可以根据上下文的意思做出判断。还有一些题目出现在句子之间,要求学生从篇章的角度把握好句子之间的逻辑、衔接关系,如关联词等。

#### 4. TRANSLATION

包括英译汉和汉译英,时间为 60 分钟。英译汉要求能运用翻译理论和技巧,翻译英美报刊上有关政治、经济、历史、文化等方面的论述文章以及文学作品的节录。汉译英要求能翻译我国报刊上的论述文和国情介绍,以及一般文学作品的节录。从历年的试题来看,英译汉原文多为思辨性很强的英文散文作品,汉译英原文多是介绍性的文字。不论是英译汉或是汉译英,纯文学作品并不多。虽然翻译的原文都不涉及专业内容,但对多数英语专业的毕业生来说应该是很困难的。考生除了平时打下扎实的双语基础和翻译实践能力以外,有以下几点需要注意:

1)最大程度地忠实于原文。翻译是一个复杂的学问,也是一种需要大量的实践才能提高的技巧、技艺。应付考试中的翻译还是尽量忠实为好,不能随意发挥,“随意增删”更是翻译考试的大敌。考生应该根据上下文,在真正理解原文的基础上,用地道的汉语或英语把自己的理解表达出来。尤其要注意那些难懂、难表达的句子,这是体现你翻译水平的关键,因为在很短的时间内不可能把所有的句子都翻译得那么忠实、通顺。忠实首先意味着忠实于原文的“意思”。忠实地传达原文的风格是更高层次的要求,对参加八级考试的学生来说,能比较忠实地传达原文的意思就很不容易。

2)努力做到译文的语言通顺,在忠实的基础上通顺。英译汉的汉语译文要符合汉语的规范,汉译英的英文译文也要符合英文的习惯,努力使译文语言地道。对中国学生而言,做到后一点很难。要提高汉译英的得分,有以下几点值得注意:a)要忠实于原文的意思,不要机械地对译原文的字面意思,更不要照搬汉语的句子结构和表达形式;b)注意译文的用词和句子结构,这是影响译文语言地道的两个重要因素。

3)忠实和通顺往往是矛盾的,这也是很少有所谓“完美”译文的一个重要原因。考生只需要遵循这样一个原则,即理解原文,然后用地道的汉语或英语把自己所理解的意思表达出来。在考试前,可以找几套往年的翻译试题按照规定的时间动笔翻译一下,也可以找相关的书籍来看看别人是怎么翻译的,尤其是名家的翻译。

#### 5. WRITING

要求写一篇不少于 300 字的短文,时间为 60 分钟,题目一般会给出,几乎全是议论文,而且紧密结合大学生的思想实际和社会的热点问题,如 The Impact of Internet on People's Way of life, Competition or Cooperation, One Major Problem in the Process of Urbanization 等等。作文当然也应该主要靠平时的功夫,为应对八级考试,有以下几点需要同学们注意:

1)认真审题。八级考试一般都给出写作的情景、题目和文章结构方面的要求。考生不

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仅应该看明白题目,对给出的写作提示、结构和其他方面的要求也应该认真阅读,并严格按照要求来作文。比如,第一段要“点题”,第2段要论述自己的观点,第三部分要做出结论等等,严格遵循这些要求很重要。

2)提高文章的语言的规范性和地道程度。不少同学限于英语的基本功,在写作中句子结构明显“汉语化”,语法甚至大小写错误很多;措辞不准确,基本上是汉语的对应词,表达不清楚。要解决这些问题,当然主要靠平时的功夫,但考试时应该格外注意作文的措辞,努力使自己的文章用词地道、准确,句子结构符合英语的表达习惯。

3)注意文章的结构。相比语言问题,文章的结构不难把握。考试时应该做到论述的层次、条理清楚,注意段落、句子之间的衔接和连贯。

4)最后,努力提高语言的“新鲜”程度。不少同学的作文表达尤其是用词很老套。要提高语言的“新鲜”程度,平时多读英文报刊和收听、收看英文广播、电视是一个好办法,因为新闻英语里的语言一般来讲最为新鲜、活泼,要特别留意人家的措辞。同时,八年级考试的作文大多涉及当代社会和大学生活的热点话题,阅读英语报刊杂志也会帮助同学们熟悉相关的话题以及一些最常用的表达方式。



# 英语专业八级预测试卷 1

TEST FOR ENGLISH MAJORS

—GRADE EIGHT—

PAPER ONE

TIME LIMIT: 95 MIN.

## 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 answer to each question on your colored 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 questions.*

*Now listen to the talk.*

1. The technology to make machines quieter \_\_\_\_\_.  
A. has been in use since the 1930's      B. has accelerated industrial production  
C. has just been in commercial use      D. has been invented to remove all noises
2. The modern electronic anti-noise devices \_\_\_\_\_.  
A. are an update version of the traditional methods  
B. share similarities with the traditional methods  
C. are as inefficient as the traditional methods  
D. are based on an entirely new working principle
3. The French company is working on anti-noise techniques to be used in all EXCEPT \_\_\_\_\_.  
A. streets      B. factories      C. aircrafts      D. cars
4. According to the talk, workers in "zones of quiet" can \_\_\_\_\_.  
A. be more affected by noise      B. hear talk from outside the zone  
C. work more efficiently      D. be heard outside the zone
5. The main theme of the talk is about \_\_\_\_\_.  
A. noise-control technology      B. noise in factories  
C. noise-control regulations      D. noise-related effects

### 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. "Employees in the US are paid for their time". This means that they are supposed to

- \_\_\_\_\_.
- A. work hard while their boss is around
  - B. come to work when there is work to be done
  - C. work with initiative and willingness
  - D. work through their lunch break
7. One of the advantages of flexible working hours is that \_\_\_\_\_.
- A. pressure from work can be reduced
  - B. working women can have more time at home
  - C. traffic and commuting problems can be solved
  - D. personal interrelationships in offices can be improved
8. On the issue of working contracts in the US, which statement is NOT correct?
- A. Performance at work matters more than anything else.
  - B. There are laws protecting employees' working rights.
  - C. Good reasons must be provided in order to fire workers.
  - D. Working contracts in the US are mostly short-term ones.
9. It can be assumed from the interview that an informal atmosphere might be found in \_\_\_\_\_.
- A. small firms
  - B. major banks
  - C. big corporations
  - D. law offices
10. The interview is mainly about \_\_\_\_\_ in the USA.
- A. office hierarchies
  - B. office conditions
  - C. office rules
  - D. office life

### SECTION C NEWS BROADCAST

*Question 11 is based on the following news. At the end of the news item, you will be given 15 seconds to answer the question.*

11. Senator Bob Dole's attitude towards Clinton's anti-crime policy is that of \_\_\_\_\_.
- A. opposition
  - B. support
  - C. ambiguity
  - D. indifference

*Questions 12 and 13 are based on the following news item. At the end of the news item, you will be given 30 seconds to answer the questions.*

*Now listen to the news.*

12. Japan and the United States are now \_\_\_\_\_.
- A. negotiating about photographic material
  - B. negotiating an automobile agreement
  - C. facing serious problems in trade
  - D. on the verge of a large-scale trade war
13. The news item seems to indicate that the agreement \_\_\_\_\_.
- A. will end all other related trade conflicts
  - B. is unlikely to solve the dispute once and for all
  - C. is linked to other trade agreements

D. is the last of its kind to be reached

*Questions 14 and 15 are based on the following news item. At the end of the news item, you will be given 30 seconds to answer the questions.*

*Now listen to the news.*

14. According to the news, the ice from Greenland provides information about \_\_\_\_\_.

A. oxygen      B. ancient weather      C. carbon dioxide      D. temperature

15. Which of the following statements is CORRECT?

A. Drastic changes in the weather have been common since ancient times.

B. The change in weather from very cold to very hot lasted over a century.

C. The scientists have been studying ice to forecast the weather in the future.

D. The past 10,000 years have seen minor changes in weather.

## SECTION D NOTE-TAKING AND GAP-FILLING

*In this section you will hear a mini-lecture. You will hear the lecture ONCE ONLY. While listening to the lecture, take notes on the important points. Your notes will not be marked, but you will need them to complete a 15-minute gap-filling task on ANSWER SHEET after the mini-lecture. Use the blank sheet for note-taking.*

## PART II PROOFREADING & ERROR CORRECTION [15 MIN.]

*Proofread the given passage on ANSWER SHEET TWO as instructed.*

## PART III READING COMPREHENSION [40 MIN.]

### SECTION A READING COMPREHENSION [30 MIN.]

*In this section there are four reading passages followed by a total of fifteen multiple-choice questions. Read the passages and then mark your answers on your colored answer sheet.*

#### TEXT A

Ricci, 45, is now striking out on perhaps his boldest venture yet. He plans to market an English-language edition of his elegant monthly magazine, FMR, in the United States. Once again the skeptics are murmuring that the successful Ricci has headed for a big fall. And once again Ricci intends to prove them wrong.

Ricci is so confident that he has christened his quest "Operation Columbus" and has set his sights on discovering an American readership of 300,000. That goal may not be too far-fetched. The Italian edition of FMR—the initials, of course, stand for Franco Maria Ricci—is only 18 months old. But it is already the second largest art magazine in the world, with a circulation of 65,000 and a profit margin of US \$ 500,000. The American edition will be patterned after the Italian version, with each 160-page issue carrying only 40 pages of ads and no more than five articles. But the contents will often differ. The English-language edition will include more American works, Ricci says, to help Americans get over "an inferiority complex about their art". He also hopes that the magazine will become a vehicle for a two-way

cultural exchange—what he likes to think of as a marriage of brains, culture and taste from both sides of the Atlantic.

To realize this vision, Ricci is mounting one of the most lavish, enterprising and expensive-promotional campaigns in magazine-publishing history. Between November and January, eight jumbo jets will fly 8 million copies of a sample 16-page edition of FMR across the Atlantic. From a warehouse in Michigan, 6.5 million copies will be mailed to American subscribers of various cultural, art and business magazines. Some of the remaining copies will circulate as a special Sunday supplement in the New York Times. The cost of launching Operation Columbus is a staggering US \$ 5 million, but Ricci is hoping that 60% of the price tag will be financed by Italian corporations. "To land in America Columbus had to use Spanish sponsors," reads one sentence in his promotional pamphlet. "We would like Italians."

Like Columbus, Ricci cannot know what his reception will be on foreign shores. In Italy he gambled—and won—on a simple concept: it is more important to show art than to write about it. Hence, one issue of FMR might feature 32 full-color pages of 17th-century tapestries, followed by 14 pages of outrageous eyeglasses. He is gambling that the concept is exportable. "I don't expect that more than 30% of my readers . . . will actually read FMR," he says, "The magazine is such a visual delight that they don't have to." Still, he is lining up an impressive stable of writers and professors for the American edition, including Noam Chomsky, Anthony Burgess, Eric Jone and Norman Mailer. In addition, he seems to be pursuing his own eclectic vision without giving a moment's thought to such established competitor Connoisseur and Horizon. "The Americans can do almost everything better than we can," says Ricci, "but we (the Italians) have a 2,000-year edge on them in art."

16. Ricci intends his American edition of FMR to carry more American art works in order to \_\_\_\_\_.

- A. boost American's confidence in their art
- B. follow the pattern set by his Italian edition
- C. help Italians understand American art better
- D. expand the readership of his magazine

17. Ricci is compared to Columbus in the passage mainly because \_\_\_\_\_.

- A. they both benefited from Italian sponsors
- B. they were explorers in their own ways
- C. they obtained overseas sponsorship
- D. they got a warm reception in America

18. We get the impression that American edition of FMR will probably \_\_\_\_\_.

- A. carry many academic articles of high standard
- B. follow the style of some famous exiting magazines
- C. be read by one third of American magazine readers
- D. pursue a distinctive editorial style of its own

TEXT B

Uncle Geoff

My mother's relations were different from the Mitfords. Her brother, Uncle Geoff, who often came to stay at Swinbrook, was a small, spare man with thoughtful blue eyes and a rather silent manner. Compared with Uncle Tommy, he was an intellectual of the highest order, and indeed his satirical pen belied his mild demeanor. He spent most of his waking hours composing letters to The Times and other publications in which he outlined his own particular theory of the development of English history. In Uncle Geoff's view, the greatness of England had risen and waned over the centuries in direct proportion to the use of natural manure in fertilizing the soil. The Black Death of 1348 was caused by gradual loss of the humus fertility found under forest trees. The rise of the Elizabethans two centuries later was attributable to the widespread use of sheep manure.

Many of Uncle Geoff's letters-to-the-editor have fortunately been preserved in a privately printed volume called Writings of a Rebel. Of the collection, one letter best sums up his views on the relationship between manure and freedom. He wrote:

*Collating old records shows that our greatness rises and falls with the living fertility of our soil. And now, many years of exhausted and chemically murdered soil, and of devitalized food from it, has softened our bodies and still worse, softened our national character. It is an actual fact that the character is largely a product of the soil. Many years of murdered food from deadened soil has made us too tame. Chemicals have had their poisonous day. It is now the worm's turn to reform the manhood of England. The only way to regain our punch, our character, our lost virtues, and with them the freedom natural to islanders, is to compost our land so as to allow moulds, bacteria and earthworms to re-make living soil to nourish Englishmen's bodies and spirits.*

The law requiring pasteurization of milk in England was a particular target of Uncle Geoff's. Fond of alliteration, he dubbed it "Murdered Milk Measure", and established the Liberty Restoration League, with headquarters at his house in London, for the specific purpose of organizing a counteroffensive. "Freedom not Doctordom" was the League's proud slogan. A subsidiary, but nevertheless important, activity of the League was advocacy of a return to the "unsplit, slowly smoked fish" and bread made with "English stone-ground flour, yeast, milk, sea salt and raw cane-sugar."

19. According to Uncle Geoff, national strength could only be regained by \_\_\_\_\_.

- A. reforming the manhood of England
- B. using natural manure as fertilizer
- C. eating more bacteria-free food
- D. granting more freedom to Englishmen

20. The tone of the passage can most probably be described as \_\_\_\_\_.

- A. facetious
- B. serious
- C. nostalgic
- D. factual

## TEXT C

### Interview

So what have they taught you at college about interviews? Some courses go to town on it, others do very little. You may get conflicting advice. Only one thing is certain: the key to success is preparation.

There follow some useful suggestions from a teacher training course coordinator, a head of department and a headmaster. As they appear to be in complete harmony with one another despite never having met, we may take their advice seriously.

Oxford Brookes University's approach to the business of application and interview focuses on research and rehearsal. Training course coordinator Brenda Stevens speaks of the value of getting students "to deconstruct the advertisement, see what they can offer to that school, and that situation, and then write the letter, to their CVs and criticize each other's." Finally, they role play interviewer and interviewee.

This is sterling stuff, and Brookes' students spend a couple of weeks on it. "The better prepared students won't be thrown by nerves on the day," says Ms. Stevens. "They'll have their strategies and questions worked out." she believes the most capable students are less able to put themselves forward. Even if this were true, says Ms. Stevens, you must still make your own case.

"Beware of informality," she advises. One aspirant teacher, now a head of department at a smart secondary school, failed his first job interview because he took his jacket off while waiting for his appointment. It was hot and everyone in the staffroom was in shirtsleeves but at the end of the day they criticized his casual attitude, which they had deduced from the fact that he took his jacket off in the staffroom, even though he put it back for the interview.

Incidentally, men really do have to wear suits to the interview and women really cannot wear jeans, even if men never wear the suit again and women teach most days in jeans. Panels respond instantly to these indicators. But beware: it will not please them any better if you are too smart.

Find out about the people who will talk to you. In the early meeting they are likely to be heads of departments or heads of year. Often they may be concerned with pastoral matters. It makes sense to know their priorities and let them hear the things about you that they want to hear.

During preliminary meetings you may be seen in groups with two or three applicants and you must demonstrate that you know your stuff without putting your companions down. The interviewers will be watching how you work with a team.

But remember the warning about informality: however friendly and co-operative the other participants are, do not give way to the idea that you are there just to be friends.

Routine questions can be rehearsed, but "don't go on too long," advises the department head. They may well ask: "what have you been your worst/best moments when teach-

ing?" or want you to "talk about some good teaching you have done". The experts agree you should recognize your weakness and offer a strategy for overcoming them. "I know I've got to work on classroom management, I would hope for some help," perhaps. No one expects a new teacher to know it all, but they hope for an objective appraisal of capabilities.

Be warned against inexpert questions. You may be asked questions in such a way that it seems impossible to present your best features. Some questions may be plain silly, asked perhaps by people on the panel who are from the outside of situation. Do not be thrown, have ways of circumnavigating, and never, ever let them see that you think they have said something foolish.

You will almost certainly be asked how you see the future and it is important to have a good answer prepared. Some people are put off by being asked what they expect to be doing in five or ten years' time. On your preliminary visit, says the department head, be sure to give them a bit of an interview of your own, to see how the direction the department is going and what you could contribute to it.

The headteacher offers his thoughts in a nine-point plan.

- Iron the application form! Then it stands out from everyone else's, which have been folded and battered in the post. It gives an impression which may get your application to the top of the pile.
- Ensure that your application is tailored to the particular school. Make the head feel you are writing directly to him or her.
- Put yourself at ease before you meet the interviewing panel: if you are nervous, you will talk too quickly. Before you enter the room remember that the people are human beings; take away the mystique of the roles.
- Listen. There is a danger of not hearing accurately what is being said. Make eye contact with the speakers, and with everyone in the room.
- Allow your warmth and humanity to be seen. A sense of humor is very important.
- Have a portfolio of your work that can link theory to practice. Many schools want you to show work. For a primary appointment, give examples from the range of the curriculum, not just art. (For this reason, taking pictures on your teaching practice is important.)
- Prepare yourself in case you are asked to give a talk. Have prompt cards ready, and don't waffle.
- Your speech must be clear and articulate, with correct grammar. This is important: they want to hear you and they want to hear how well you can communicate with children. Believe in yourself and have confidence. Some of the people asking the questions don't know much about what you do. Be ready to help them. Thus armed, you should have no difficulty at all. Good luck, and keep your jacket on!

21. Ms. Brenda Stevens suggests that before applying job applicants should \_\_\_\_\_.

- A. go through each other's CVs
- B. rehearse their answers to questions
- C. understand thoroughly the situations
- D. go to town to attend training courses

22. Is it wise to admit some of your weaknesses relating to work?
- A. Yes, but you should have ideas for improvement in the future.
  - B. Yes, because it is natural to be weak in certain aspects.
  - C. No, admitting weaknesses may put you at a disadvantage.
  - D. No, it will only prompt the interviewers to reject you.
23. The best way to deal with odd questions from the interview is to \_\_\_\_\_.
- A. remain smiling and kindly point out the inaccuracies
  - B. keep calm and try to be tactful in your answers
  - C. say frankly what you think about the issues raised
  - D. suggest something else to get over your nervousness
24. The suggestions offered by the headteacher are \_\_\_\_\_.
- A. original
  - B. ambiguous
  - C. practical
  - D. controversial

#### TEXT D

##### Family Matters

This month Singapore passed a bill that would give legal teeth to the moral obligation to support one's parents. Called the Maintenance of Parents Bill, it received the backing of the Singapore Government.

That does not mean that it hasn't generated discussion. Several members of the Parliament opposed the measure as un-Asian. Others who acknowledged the problem of the elderly poor believed it a disproportionate response. Still others believe it will subvert relations within the family; cynics dubbed in the "Sue Your Son" law.

Those who say that the bill does not promote filial responsibility, of course, are right. It has nothing to do with filial responsibility. It kicks in where filial responsibility fails. The law cannot legislate filial responsibility any more than it can legislate love. All the law can do is to provide a safety net where this morality proves insufficient. Singapore needs this bill not to replace morality, but to provide incentives to shore it up.

Like many other developed nations, Singapore faces problems of an increasing proportion of people over 60 years of age. Demography is inexorable. In 1980, 7.2% of the population was in this bracket. By the turn of the century, that figure will grow to 11%. By 2030, the proportion is projected to be 26%. The problem is not old age per se. It's that the ratio of economically active people to economically inactive people will decline.

But no amount of government exhortation or paternalism will completely eliminate the problem of old people who have insufficient means to make ends meet. Some people will fall through the holes in any safety net.

Traditionally, a person's insurance against poverty in his old age was his family. This is not a revolutionary concept. Nor is it unique in Asia. Care and support for one's parents is a universal value shared by all civilized societies.

The problem in Singapore is that the moral obligation to look after one's parents is un-



enforceable. A father can be compelled by law to maintain his children. A husband can be forced to support his wife. But, until now, a son or daughter had no legal obligation to support his or her parents.

In 1989, an Advisory Council was set up to look into the problems of the aged. Its report stated with a tinge of complacency that 95% of those who did not have their own income were receiving cash contributions from relations. But what about the 5% who aren't getting relatives' support? They have several options: (a) get a job and work until they die. (b) apply for public assistance (you have to be destitute to apply); or (c) starve quietly. None of these options is socially acceptable. And what if this 5% figure grows, as it is likely to do, as society ages.

The Maintenance of Parents Bill was put forth to encourage the traditional virtues that have so far kept Asian nations from some of the breakdowns encountered in other affluent societies. This legislation will allow a person to apply to the court for maintenance from any or all of his children. The court would have the discretion to refuse to make an order if it is unjust.

Those who deride the proposal for opening up the courts to family lawsuits miss the point. Only in extreme cases would any parent take his child to court. If it does become law, the bill's effect would be far more subtle.

First, it will reaffirm the notion that it is each individual's—not society's—responsibility to look after his parents. Singapore is still conservative enough that more people will not object to this idea. It reinforces the traditional values and it doesn't hurt a society now and then to remind itself of its core values.

Second, and more important, it will make those who are inclined to shirk their responsibility think twice. Until now, if a person asked family elders, clergymen or the Ministry of Community Development to help get financial support from his children, the most they could do was to mediate. But mediators have no teeth, and a child could simply ignore their pleas.

But to be sued by one's parents would be a massive loss of face. It would be a public disgrace. Few people would be so thick-skinned as to say, "Sue and be damned". The hand of the conciliator would be immeasurably strengthened. It is far more likely that some sort of amicable settlement would be reached if the recalcitrant son or daughter knows that the alternative is a public trial.

It would be nice to think that Singapore doesn't need this kind of law. But that belief ignores the clear demographic trends and the effect of affluence itself on traditional bonds. Those of us who pushed for the bill will consider ourselves most successful if it acts an incentive not to have it invoked in the first place.

25. The Maintenance of Parents Bill \_\_\_\_\_.

- A. received unanimous support in the Singapore Parliament
- B. was believed to solve all the problems of the elderly poor
- C. was intended to substitute for traditional values in Singapore