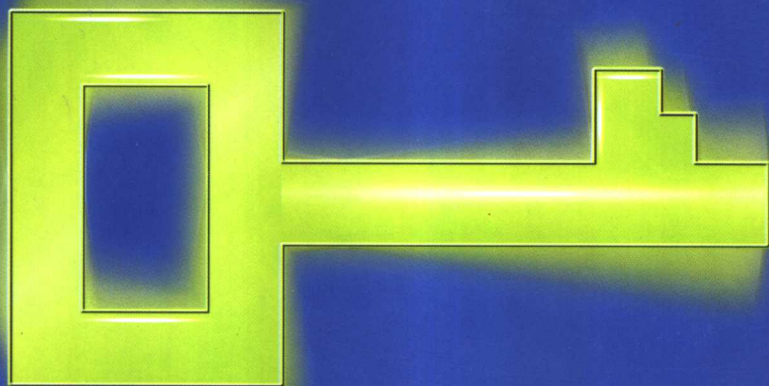


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高校英语专业

八级考试

全真模拟练习与题解



高校英语专业八级考试
命题研究中心 / 组编

Bob Livingston 主审

大连出版社

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前 言

根据国家教委颁发的《高等学校英语专业教学大纲》(修订本)和《高校英语专业八级考试大纲》(修订本)对高校英语专业学生听、说、读、写、译的要求,为使广大同学通过大量的练习和模拟测试,复习巩固所学知识,提高综合英语语言能力和八级考试的应试能力,我们按照历年八级统考试卷的题型和水平,并根据我们多年的经验仿照并摘录历届八级统考全真试题精心编写了《高校英语专业八级考试全真模拟练习与题解》。

全书共有试题 10 套,每套题后都附有标准答案和解析。本书的特点是:

汇编的试题在形式和内容上都与国家英语专业八级考试题保持一致,着眼于提高学生的综合语言技能和实际运用能力。

所选试题难易适当,对提高学生的学习效果和实战能力、提高通过率有极大的实际参考价值。

试题内容完整,具有代表性,可以帮助学生举一反三,准确把握试题的命题范围,提高应试能力。

本书在付梓出版前,曾作为多所高校英语专业学生八级考试考前练习材料使用,通过训练取得了可喜的效果,大大提高了通过率。实践证明,本书的内容对提高学生的英语水平和应试能力效果显著。因而,此书不仅可供英语专业八级考试强化模拟训练,也可以供出国留学人员和英语自学考试学生作为增强知识的应用能力的训练教材,同时也是参加 GRE、TOEFL、IELTS、PETS 五级等考试的不可多得的参考书。

美籍专家 Bob Livingston 应邀为本书审稿,并亲自参加了部分内容的编写,在此深表谢意。

由于水平有限,错误和不当之处,敬请读者指正。

编者

2001 年 12 月

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Model Test One

PAPER ONE

TIME LIMIT: 95 MIN.

PART I LISTENING COMPREHENSION

[40 MIN.]

In this part of the test you will hear everything ONCE ONLY. Listen carefully and then answer the questions that follow. Mark the correct answer to each question on your Answer Sheet.

SECTION A CONVERSATION

[35 MIN.]

Questions 1 to 4 refer to the conversation in this section.

1. According to the conversation, Harry and Janet are
 - A. colleagues chatting informally after work.
 - B. a man and a woman meeting for the first time.
 - C. two people participating in a survey about leisure.
 - D. old friends meeting again after a long time.
2. Harry gives Janet the impression that he
 - A. would prefer to be busy working at the weekend.
 - B. takes advantage of the weekend to have a good rest.
 - C. usually enjoys a full and energetic weekend.
 - D. would like to do more at the weekend but is too tired.
3. According to Harry, he does
 - A. not do much on Saturday nor on Sunday.
 - B. more on Saturday than on Sunday.
 - C. a lot on Saturday and on Sunday.
 - D. more on Sunday than on Saturday.
4. Harry thinks that a Sunday brunch in San Francisco is exceptional for
 - A. the large amount of alcohol that people drink.
 - B. the high cost per head charged by the restaurants.
 - C. the live music often provided by the restaurants.
 - D. the time it takes and the variety of food available.

SECTION B TALK

Questions 5 to 7 refer to the talk in this section.

5. The recent celebrations in Philadelphia have been specially significant because
 - A. the Declaration of Independence was written there.
 - B. delegates from 12 of the original 13 American states attended.
 - C. a constitutional convention was held during the Festival.
 - D. historically Philadelphia has always been an ethnically diverse city.
6. The blacks in Philadelphia
 - A. would like the city to have a black mayor.
 - B. do not feel welcome in all sections of the city.
 - C. live mostly in the north-eastern sections of the city.
 - D. make up a majority of the city's population.
7. According to the speaker, in modern Philadelphia, tension occasionally occurs between
 - A. Italians and Irish Catholics.
 - B. Chinese and Southeast Asians.
 - C. blacks and Koreans.
 - D. Vietnamese and Anglo-Americans.

SECTION C INTERVIEW

Questions 8 to 10 refer to the interview in this section.

8. When the subject of footballers' intellect came up in the interview Terry
 - A. violently disagreed with the interviewer.
 - B. did not comment on the interviewer's view.
 - C. whole-heartedly agreed with the interviewer.
 - D. politely disagreed with the interviewer.
9. Terry left South Africa because
 - A. he wanted to play football for England.
 - B. his father was given one-way tickets to London.
 - C. his father was involved in politics.
 - D. he wanted to get a good education in Britain.
10. Terry hasn't been back to South Africa because
 - A. he now has a British passport.
 - B. he hasn't really wanted to.
 - C. they play rugby there, not football.
 - D. he is strongly opposed to apartheid.

SECTION D NEWS BROADCAST

Questions 11 to 15 refer to the news broadcast in this section.

11. What happened in the Philippines?
 - A. A storm caused hundreds of deaths.
 - B. An earthquake left 100,000 persons homeless.
 - C. Violent riots caused millions of dollars of damage.

- D. Rescue workers were searching for survivors from a capsized boat.
12. The eight countries meeting in Mexico
- A. resolved to reform the international economic order.
 - B. agreed to cease repayments of their debts.
 - C. disagreed on how to solve their debt problems.
 - D. agreed to co-operate in solving their debt problems.
13. The Lebanese group calling itself the 'Revolutionary Justice Organization'
- A. held two Syrian army officers as hostages.
 - B. kept its promise to free two hostages.
 - C. blew up a hotel in West Beirut.
 - D. met secretly with two French diplomats.
14. An intense search is being made in the Indian Ocean for bodies of victims from
- A. a South African passenger plane.
 - B. a South African ship.
 - C. a French Navy ship.
 - D. a French passenger plane.
15. According to the dealers in New York, the weakening of the US dollar has been caused by
- A. worries about American trade deficits.
 - B. stock prices falling in Europe and Japan.
 - C. an imbalance in industrial stock prices.
 - D. worries about the Dow Jones average.

SECTION E NOTE-TAKING & 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 ONE after the mini-lecture. Use the blank sheet for note-taking.

PART II PROOFREADING & ERROR CORRECTION

[20 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 five reading passages followed by twenty multiple-choice questions. Read the passages and then mark your answers on the Answer Sheet.

TEXT A

New Substitutes for Skin

A bad burn is doubly destructive. Lacking the protection layers of skin, vital fluids leak out of the

wound, while deadly bacteria make an easy entry. When a large area has been burned, surgeons have to make do with grafts of skin from cadavers or pigs. But like other tissue transplants, they are fairly quickly rejected by the body's immune system, making an already desperate situation worse. The solution in theory: a non-rejectable artificial skin. And after years of development, burn doctors now have at least three skin substitutes that will save thousands of lives each year.

One is a plastic covering called Op-Site. It is a clear polyurethane film developed in Britain. The film is laid over the wound like a piece of gauze. Op-Site keeps the area moist so that new skin cells can move freely over the wound's surface and begin the process of healing. At the same time, the film is permeable enough to allow oxygen to reach and nourish the white blood cells that protect the wound against invading bacteria.

The material may actually speed healing. S. Randolph May, director of burn research at Philadelphia's St. Agnes Medical Center, compared Op-Site with gauze in the treatment of 10 patients undergoing skin grafts after burns. The gauze-covered areas, he found, healed in nine to eleven days, while those protected by the synthetic mended in six or seven. But Op-Site has a drawback: it isn't useful in second and third-degree burns in which the underlying blood vessels have been destroyed.

The second skin substitute, Biobrane, can be used for such severe burns. It is a compound of silicone rubber and nylon coated with chemicals derived from collagen, which formed the second layer of normal skin. Only 1/100th of an inch thick, Biobrane is superior to cadaver skin and pigskin because it isn't rejected by the body and can be stored indefinitely.

Trigger: Perhaps the best skin substitute doesn't yet have a trade name although it will be marketed soon. It was developed by Dr. John F. Burke of Massachusetts General Hospital's burn unit and I. V. Yannas, an MIT mechanical engineer. Like human skin, it has two layers. The top, or epidermis, is made of silicone; the bottom, or dermis, of a mixture of proteins from cowhide and shark cartilage. The dermis is similar in construction to normal skin, but unable to trigger a rejection.

Burke cuts a patch of the artificial skin so that it fits the entire area of the wound. The fibers of the bottom layer trigger the growth of the patient's own collagen and are eventually replaced by it. After 27 days, Burke removes the outer silicone layer, which has acted as a temporary protective coating, and, replaces it with small pieces of epidermis from other parts of the patient's body. Within several months, the patient has replaced the artificial skin with his own.

MGH doctors have used the skin on 40 patients, whose second and third-degree burns covered more than half their bodies. One woman had lost 85 percent of her skin and was badly infected. She survived and, like the other patients, has new skin that appears just as healthy as any grafted skin.

MATT CLARK with DAN SHAPIRO

16. The reason why doctors need to develop skin substitutes for use in treating burns is that
- A. an open burn left uncovered will allow bacteria to enter and vital fluids to leak out.
 - B. when a part of the body's skin is destroyed by severe burning it will not grow again.
 - C. it is difficult to store pieces of human skin ready for use in skin grafting when needed.
 - D. animal or a dead person's skin will be rejected after being grafted onto a patient's body.
17. The latest kind of artificial skin mentioned here has two layers

- A. of which the bottom layer will eventually become part of the patient's skin after grafting.
 - B. which will both be replaced by the patient's own skin some time after grafting.
 - C. of which the upper layer will eventually become part of the patient's skin after grafting.
 - D. which will both eventually become part of the patient's skin after grafting.
18. Biobrane is a better skin substitute than Op-Site in that it
- A. can be used even when blood vessels have been destroyed.
 - B. is not rejected by the human body.
 - C. has a second layer coated with something from normal skin.
 - D. can be kept for a very long time.
19. Materials used for making skin substitutes include
- A. pig's skin.
 - B. cadaver skin.
 - C. collagen.
 - D. Epidermis.

TEXT B

Not Primitive

That winter I had been in Cuba looking for a Negro composer to write an opera with me, using genuinely racial motifs. The lady on Park Avenue thought that Amadeo Roldan might do, or Arturo Cartulo. I could not find Cartulo, and Roldan said he wasn't a Negro. But Miguel Covarrubias had given me a letter to Jose Antonio Fernandez de Castro, person extraordinary of this or any other world. And Jose Antonio saw to it that I had a rumba of a good time and met everybody, Negro, white and mulatto, of any interest in Havana — from the drummers at Marianao to the society artist and editor of "Social Masaguer".

But I came back to New York with no Negro composer who could write an opera. More and more tangled that winter became the skein of poet and patron, youth and age, poverty and wealth — and one day it broke! Quickly and quietly in the Park Avenue drawing-room, it broke.

Great Wealth had been given to a woman who meant to be kind the means to power, and a technique of power, of so mighty a strength that I do not believe she herself knew what that force might become. She possessed the power to control people's lives — pick them up and put them down when and where she wished.

She wanted me to be primitive and know and feel the intuitions of the primitive. But, unfortunately, I did not feel the rhythms of the primitive surging through me, and so I could not live and write as though I did. I was only an American Negro — who had loved the surface of Africa and the rhythms of Africa — but I was not Africa. I was Chicago and Kansas City and Broadway and Harlem. And I was not what she wanted me to be. So, in the end it all came back very near to the old impasse of white and Negro again, white and Negro — as do most relationships in America.

Then, too, I knew that my friend and benefactor was not happy because, for months now, I had written nothing beautiful. She was old and it took a great deal of strength out of her to worry about me, and she was, I think, a bit impatient with men who are not geniuses. (She knew so many great people.) So I asked kindly to be released from any further obligation to her, and that she give me no more money, but simply let me retain her friendship and good will that had been so dear to me. That I asked to keep. But there must have been only the one thread binding us together. When that thread broke, it was the end.

I cannot write here about that last half-hour in the big bright drawing-room high above Park Avenue one morning, because when I think about it, even now, something happens in the pit of my stomach that makes me ill. That beautiful room, that had been so full of light and help and understanding for me, suddenly became like a trap closing in, faster and faster, the room darker and darker, until the light went out with a sudden crash in the dark, and everything became like that night in Kansas when I had failed to see Jesus and had lied about it afterwards. Or that morning in Mexico when I suddenly hated my father.

Physically, my stomach began to turn over and over — and then over again. I fought against bewilderment and anger, fought hard, and didn't say anything. I just sat there in that high Park Avenue drawing-room and didn't say anything. I sat there and listened to all she told me, closed my mouth hard and didn't say anything.

I do not remember clearly what it was she said to me at the end, nor her face as the door closed, nor the elevator dropping down to the street level, nor my final crossing of the lobby through a lane of uniformed attendants.

But I do remember the winter sunshine on Park Avenue and the wind in my face as I went toward the subway to Harlem.

20. The author ("I" in the story) went to Cuba

- A. because he needed a partner for an intended piece of work.
- B. because a friend had given him a letter introducing him to some important person in Cuba.
- C. just to have a good time — to do the rumba and meet everybody of interest in Havana.
- D. to look for two people — Amadeo Roldan and Arturo Cartulo.

21. The author gives the excerpt the title "Not Primitive" to

- A. bring out the irony in a situation in which a black artist was cut off by his patron for being "not primitive".
- B. protest against white racists who look down on the blacks as primitive people.
- C. assert that Black music is not primitive as is condemned by some white critics including the lady on Park Avenue.
- D. expose the primitiveness of human relationships in a so-called civilized and "not primitive" society.

22. Which of the following best describes the lady on Park Avenue?

- A. She was a great lover of art.
- B. She loved money more than art.
- C. She was despotic and whimsical.
- D. She was generous and understanding.

23. What actually happened when the author paid his last visit to the lady on Park Avenue?

- A. The lady had the doors closed to shut him in.
- B. The author suddenly felt sick and vomited.
- C. The lights were suddenly turned off and the room went all dark.
- D. The lady gave him a terrible dressing down and turned him out.

24. While the author was sitting in the Park Avenue drawing-room for the last time, he felt

- A. very sad that the thread of friendship between him and an old friend would have to be broken.

- B. a great wrath because he had not expected such humiliation from his "friend" and patron.
 - C. trapped because he realized he could never escape the power and influence of his patron.
 - D. a great despair because from then on he would be very hard up without any financial support from his patron.
25. After he left the Park Avenue house, the author felt
- A. remorseful.
 - B. guilty.
 - C. relieved.
 - D. crushed.
26. The author thought that his relationship with the lady had finally degenerated into one of
- A. poet and patron.
 - B. servant and employer.
 - C. poverty and wealth.
 - D. Negro and white.

TEXT C

(Authors Harry Fieldhouse. Published in the U. K.)

MEET/MEET WITH etc. On its own TO MEET is a versatile enough verb. it is capable of transitive use (She met him) and intransitive use (When shall we three meet again?). It does not need an added preposition as in MEET UP, a pointless colloquial elaboration (They met up in London) with no sense in which the verb on its own cannot be substituted. Even less defensible is MEET UP WITH, as in We met up with them on holiday. This has two additional words for no additional meaning.

Then there is MEET WITH, which has the traditional sense of "to experience" (usually by chance): The dog met with a sad fate/The car met with an accident/We hope to meet with more consideration next time. The preposition with seems superfluous even here, but as the phrase is of ancient lineage and established current use there is no point in complaining about it.

There is not much point either in complaining about the special American sense of, MEET WITH "have a meeting (= conference) with", as in: The President met with his advisers/When. I was in New York I met with him. This sense is never used in the British Isles but it cannot logically be objected to. On the other hand it is certainly unnecessary. The verb confer is what is usually needed. (The President conferred with his advisers) — or even see (When I was in New York I saw him).

TEXT D

(Author: Adam Makkai. Published in the U. S.)

MEET UP WITH v. phr. To meet by accident; come upon without planning or expecting to. When he ran around the tree, Bob suddenly met up with a large bear. (Bob came upon a large bear by surprise.) The family would have arrived on time, but they met up with a flat tire. (The family would have arrived on time, but, their car had a flat tire on the way.)

MEET WITH v. 1. To meet (someone), usually by accident. In the woods, he met with two strangers. (In the woods he happened to meet two strangers.) Syn. COME UPON. 2. To meet together, usually by plan; join; have a meeting with. The two scouts met with the officers to talk about plan for the march. (The two scouts met the officers by agreement to make plans.) 3. To experience (as unhap-

piness); suffer (as bad luck); have (as an accident or mishap). The farmer met with misfortune; his crops were destroyed by a storm. (The farmer suffered very bad luck; a storm destroyed his crops.) The traveler met with an accident on the road. (The traveler had an accident on the road.)

27. The sentence "Little Red Riding Hood met with a wolf in the forest" exemplifies a use of "meet with" which is recorded and approved by
- A. both Fieldhouse and Makkai.
 - B. Makkai but not Fieldhouse.
 - C. Fieldhouse but not Makkai.
 - D. neither Makkai nor Fieldhouse.
28. The two sentences "John met Mary in New York" and "John met up with Mary in New York" mean
- A. the same thing according to both Fieldhouse and Makkai.
 - B. different things according to both Fieldhouse and Makkai.
 - C. the same thing according to Fieldhouse, but different things according to Makkai.
 - D. different things according to Fieldhouse, but the same thing according to Makkai.
29. From the entries we know that the sentence "The prime minister met with his cabinet members Tuesday" exemplifies a use of "meet with" that is
- A. both American and British usage.
 - B. neither American nor British usage.
 - C. American usage but not British usage.
 - D. British usage but not American usage.
30. The sentence "The new arrivals met with a lot of hostility among the locals" would be
- A. accepted perfectly happily by both Fieldhouse and Makkai.
 - B. definitely condemned as wrong by both Fieldhouse and Makkai.
 - C. accepted happily by Fieldhouse but only grudgingly tolerated by Makkai.
 - D. accepted happily by Makkai but only grudgingly tolerated by Fieldhouse.

TEXT E

SOARING AMBITION by Anthony Tucker

The Sound of Wings, by Mary

S. Lovell (Hutchingson, 16. 95)

WHEN she disappeared in July 1937 somewhere desperately close to Howland Island in the Pacific—the destination of a 2000-mile flight over shark-infested ocean—Amelia Earhart was far more than the most famous woman aviator in the Western World.

Armed with great intelligence, obvious courage, natural poise and reticent grace, short hair and a likeness to Charles Lindberg, she had become the quintessence of female emancipation. She had also become an ambassador extraordinary for the United States. Amelia did not simply break records or take up the most difficult challenges, she became immersed in her public role, giving lectures, informal talks and public appearances whenever these could be slotted in.

During the first two-thirds of her final journey - before taking off from Lae, New Guinea for Howland Island at the start of the Pacific crossing - she had given lectures at every stopping point and at boat of official receptions. She complained, quietly but more than once, of morning sickness and tiredness. She

may have been pregnant and was certainly exhausted.

In a letter to be opened only in the event of her death, written to her husband shortly before the fatal leg of her attempted round-the-world flight, she wrote that she was well aware of the hazards: "Women must try to do things as men have tried. When they fail their failure must be but a challenge to others." Her husband, Charles Palmer, publisher, adventurer and promoter first of Lindberg and then of Amelia, turned her letters and her partly completed manuscript of a book into a synthetic autobiography of the last flight. This, with books written around the disappearance, sometimes condemning Putnam for pushing Amelia too hard, decorate the legend.

Theories abound but they tend to conceal Amelia behind speculation. There has been no real biography. None, that is, until Mary S. Lovell, herself a pilot and something of an adventuress, went painstakingly through the Earhart papers and tangled family history to produce *The Sound Of Wings*.

The wild frontiers are never far away. Here is Amelia, aged eight, being given a .22 rifle by her grandfather (a much respected small-town judge) to "go kill the rats in the barn." Here is Putnam, age 24, out in the roaring wild West, already editor of a campaigning local newspaper, and forever captured by the isolation of saddlepacking alone in the Oregon mountains.

The detailed threads of separate and highly complex lives that bring Putnam and Amelia together, have the inevitability of a great romantic tragedy. Both were touched by obsession, both gifted, both imaginative.

It was Amelia who understood the petty tyrannies of life that block achievement, and Putnam who sought to set them aside. Amelia found words that mattered and put them into poetry:

Courage is the price that life exacts for granting peace,
The soul that knows it not, knows no release
From little things;
Knows not the livid loneliness of fear,
Nor mountain heights where bitter joy can hear
The sound of wings.

Of course this is the essential Amelia. But there is more. In this book, for the first time, the little things and the great mingle, and somehow explain each other. That is what biographies are about.

31. During her last flight, Amelia

- A. was in very good form.
- B. lacked her usual energy.
- C. was, as always, sure of her success.
- D. lacked faith in her success.

32. As a person, Amelia can best be described as

- A. intelligent and reticent, with a natural aversion to publicity.
- B. a person of thought as well as action, and a poet as well as a public figure.
- C. one of those great people completely oblivious of the little things in life.
- D. a gifted person but touched with an obsession for flying that excluded all other interests.

33. The article tells us that Putnam was

- A. an adventurous spirit like Amelia.

- B. ambitious and pushed Amelia too hard.
 - C. a good husband but could not free himself from little things as Amelia did.
 - D. a good promoter who made Amelia what she was after making Lindberg what he was.
34. In the view of the reviewer, Lovell's biography of Amelia
- A. treats the story of Amelia and Putnam as a romantic tragedy.
 - B. fails to untangle the family history of the Earharts.
 - C. abounds in theories but conceals Amelia behind speculation.
 - D. is so far the only biography that reveals the true Amelia.
35. From the poem, we can infer that Amelia believed a person without courage would
- A. only ever experience petty feelings.
 - B. always suffer feelings of intense fear.
 - C. never be able to fly a plane.
 - D. often experience feelings of loneliness.

SECTION B SKIMMING AND SCANNING

[10 MIN.]

In this section there are three passages followed by five multiple-choice questions. Skim or Scan them as required and then work your answers on the Answer Sheet.

TEXT F

First read the following question.

36. "Benchmarking" has to do with
- A. business.
 - B. carpentry.
 - C. book binding.
 - D. postal service.

Now go through TEXT F quickly to answer question 36.

benchmarking (noun, American): the examination of a rival company's product in order to establish a standard which one seeks to exceed.

Many companies literally tear the opposition apart. In a process called 'benchmarking', General Motors takes competitors' cars apart in a 90, 000 square-foot shoptoured by more than 19, 000 employees last year, Xerox engineers disassemble rival products. Benchmarking also means studying service: Xerox' s employees improve their own order processing by watching mail-order maven L. L. Bean.

Newsweek 2 May 1988

TEXT G

First read the following question.

37. The main idea of the passage is:
- A. Earth is also called the Water Planet.

- B. Earth is blanketed by a biosphere.
- C. Earth and Mars are the only planets in the solar system that have water.
- D. The right distance between Earth and the Sun enables Earth to have water.

Now go through TEXT G quickly and answer question 37.

Through a fortunate accident, Planet Earth is the right distance from the sun to make the existence of life-giving water possible. Closer to the sun the heat is so intense that water would be vaporized; farther away, water would be permanently frozen. Only Mars, of the other planets in the solar system, is in the narrow temperature band in which water can exist in its three states. But only Earth is blanketed by living, water-built biosphere, in which the life force itself seems to issue from water's evaporation, precipitation, runoff, seepage, transpiration from plants, respiration from animals, melting, freezing, and flowing. Earth, so far as we know, is the only Water Planet.

TEXT H

First read the following questions.

- 38. The job of the gauchos is to
 - A. make leather goods.
 - B. give riding lessons.
 - C. train horses.
 - D. herd cattle.
- 39. The narrator of the piece (the "I") is a
 - A. novelist.
 - B. journalist.
 - C. cattle-buyer.
 - D. traveler.
- 40. The feelings of the narrator about gauchos now are
 - A. excitement and admiration.
 - B. admiration mixed with sadness.
 - C. pity and anxiety.
 - D. anger mixed with pity.

Now go through TEXT H quickly and answer questions 38—40.

Everyone has his heroes as a child. Mine had always been the gaucho of South America. Riding their small; clever horses to herd cattle, their way of life was exciting and simple. I had always read as much about them as I could.

Now here I was, on horseback, riding with three gauchos and the manager of a ranch in Argentina. My boyhood dream had come true. And my newspaper was paying for it! They had sent me here to write a series of articles on Argentina, and one, I had made sure, would be on the gauchos.

Luiz rode just ahead of me and to one side. All about us the grassland stretched until it faded into the sky. There, were no hills: the grass seemed endless. With nothing to hold my eye, I looked back to