

READING

高校英语专业 高级阅读

段云礼 主编

TEM8 TEM8 TEM8

TARGET ENGLISH READING FOR TEM 8



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高校英语专业高级阅读

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前 言

《高校英语专业高级阅读》是南开大学出版社出版的高等学校英语专业四、六级考前系列教材之一。

本书适用于高等学校英语专业本科高年级学生、研究生及准备参加英语专业八级考试的相应水平读者做为考前训练或专门教材使用。

本书编者都是多年来教授该课程的专业教师,也是多年来担任该项考试辅导工作的教师。他们以其所积累的丰富经验,依据教育部新颁布的高校英语专业教学大纲,从我国学生的学习特点出发,从近几年国外出版的大多为国内尚无使用的书籍、报刊中,精心选编了 30 课内容各异,题材新颖,涉猎面广,语言精练生动,具有一定难度,符合八级考试范畴和模式的阅读教材,做为本书的主要内容。书的第二部分,编者精心设计了 10 套 Practice Test 内容,目的是仿照八级考试的模式和难度,选配适当的训练题,为应考者提供一个应考的环境。这样的编排不但使读者扩大阅读领域,也有利于考生熟悉题型,提前进入考试模拟训练状态,顺利通过八级考试,达到更高的英语水平。

做为本套书的编者及高校英语专业教学的教师,愿竭尽全力将自己的教学经验、教学成果倾注于课堂上、教材里,目的是使学习者或应考者从中获益。我们全体编者衷心希望各位读者在英语学习的世界中,借助本书所奉献的微薄之力,迈向更高的台阶,获得丰硕的成果。

编 者

2001 年 12 月于南开

CONTENTS

Lesson One	(1)
Lesson Two	(6)
Lesson Three	(11)
Lesson Four	(15)
Lesson Five	(20)
Lesson Six	(26)
Lesson Seven	(30)
Lesson Eight	(35)
Lesson Nine	(40)
Lesson Ten	(45)
Lesson Eleven	(50)
Lesson Twelve	(56)
Lesson Thirteen	(62)
Lesson Fourteen	(67)
Lesson Fifteen	(73)
Lesson Sixteen	(79)
Lesson Seventeen	(86)
Lesson Eighteen	(93)
Lesson Nineteen	(99)
Lesson Twenty	(105)
Lesson Twenty-One	(111)
Lesson Twenty-Two	(117)
Lesson Twenty-Three	(122)
Lesson Twenty-Four	(131)
Lesson Twenty-Five	(138)
Lesson Twenty-Six	(144)
Lesson Twenty-Seven	(150)
Lesson Twenty-Eight	(155)
Lesson Twenty-Nine	(161)
Lesson Thirty	(168)
Practice Test One	(174)
Practice Test Two	(187)
Practice Test Three	(201)
Practice Test Four	(215)
Practice Test Five	(228)
Practice Test Six	(244)

Practice Test Seven	(260)
Practice Test Eight	(272)
Practice Test Nine	(286)
Practice Test Ten	(300)
Key to Exercises	(313)
Key to Practice Tests	(322)

Lesson One

When we step into a department store, we find that the supply of daily necessities is getting ever more plentiful. Packaging has greatly improved, too, something which deserves our praise.

But we have to suppress our bravos if we compare the prices of new articles with those of the old ones, or if we think of the wastage of containers and bags, which can be used only once (and some of which cost precious foreign exchange).

China has suffered in the past by not stressing better packaging in its foreign trade. It is necessary to import packaging machines and materials to promote export sales. But although the packaging of products on the domestic market can stand a lot of improvement, we should never emulate the West blindly.

The basic aim of packaging is to protect the value of a commodity. But enterprises in some Western countries mainly see it as a way to increase the exchange value of a commodity, and to generate super profits.

At the same time, because they have surplus packaging materials, it is possible for them to indulge in more packaging. The trend there is the more packaging, the better.

Packing costs account for more than one-third of the price of medicines and cosmetics in the United States. In some cases, packaging costs make up more than one-half of the price.

It would be inappropriate for Chinese enterprises to ignore the importance of packaging to increase sales, but it would be equally inappropriate to overdo it because Chinese consumers cannot afford high packaging costs.

In addition, an acute shortage of raw materials makes it impossible to produce new packaging materials. So it is important to economise on packages.

Labour costs are high in Western countries. So, consumers often get the best deals in supermarkets where they must serve themselves. Because products in bulk cannot be placed on the shelves, even fruits and vegetables have to be packaged. So to a large extent, we can ascribe the development of Western packaging techniques to the supermarket approach in selling.

But China has only a handful of supermarkets and this situation is not likely for many years to come. Shop assistants will always be needed. So, while our country is developing packaging suitable for its conditions, it should not be impatient to reduce the commodities in bulk.

In Shanghai, consumers have appealed to shops to continue selling cookies in bulk. Packaged cookies cost almost three times as much. I think the best solution is simply to provide consumers with a choice.

It is worth noticing that in recent years strong opposition to "excessive packaging" from consumers' organizations has resulted in some stores in the West selling no-brand or generic

products. The quality is unchanged; only the packaging is different.

One supermarket in Japan has marketed more than 1,000 kinds of no-brand products since 1980. Its employees attributed the store's success to always taking the consumers' interest into account and saving them money by reducing unnecessary packaging.

The praise may be exaggerated. But their words are food for thought. Shouldn't our enterprises have the spirit to save as much as possible for consumers while they are improving their packaging?

New Words

bravo: to shout for joy

indulge: to allow oneself to enjoy sth.

emulate: to try to do as well or better

bulk: not packed in separate parcels

ascribe to: to belong to

generic: common

exaggerate: to say more than the truth

acute: important enough to cause anxiety

generate: to produce

commodity: things sold for profit

Comprehension I

Answer these questions by choosing the best alternative (A,B,C or D) under each.

1. What has China suffered from in the past according to this passage?
 - A. China has suffered from not paying attention to packaging in its foreign trade.
 - B. China has suffered from shortage of packaging machines.
 - C. China has suffered from backward technology of packaging.
 - D. China has suffered from few supermarkets so that labor costs are relatively high.
2. About what percentage do packaging costs account for the price of cosmetics in America?
 - A. 50%
 - B. 40%
 - C. 33%
 - D. 20%
3. What's the result of better packaging?
 - A. It can promote export sales.
 - B. It may decrease export sales.
 - C. Manufacturers can't afford the cost.
 - D. Customers can't afford the high price.
4. In China there is still the commodities in bulk mainly because _____.
 - A. shop assistants are needed
 - B. labor costs are low

- C. consumers like it
 - D. there is shortage of raw materials
5. Consumer organization strongly opposes excessive packing because _____.
 A. products don't deserve it
 B. consumers are unwilling to pay for unnecessary packing
 C. it's a waste of raw materials
 D. consumers are often confused by its packing
6. Which of the following is a major reason for the development of Western packaging techniques?
 A. In western countries labor costs are high.
 B. In western countries there are a great number of supermarkets which sell commodities.
 C. People have high living standards and tend to appreciate goods with exquisite packaging.
 D. Packaging can promote sales so manufacturers would prefer packaging.

Comprehension II

Tell whether the following statements are true (T) or false (F).

1. The aim of packaging in some Western countries is to protect the value of a commodity. ()
2. Package cost is included in the price. ()
3. Chinese enterprises ignore better packaging materials because Chinese don't like them. ()
4. The shortage of raw materials results in the high packaging cost. ()
5. In America consumers must serve themselves in supermarkets since labor costs are high. ()
6. In order to be placed on shelves, even onions have to be packaged. ()
7. China has only a handful of supermarkets because there are many shop assistants. ()
8. People in Shanghai prefer selling cookies in packages. ()
9. The quality of no-brand products is different from that of the packed ones. ()
10. "Food for thought" means "want to have some food". ()

Vocabulary I

Choose the best alternative or proper words /phrase from following A, B, C and D.

1. The audience gave _____ to the conductor for a while.
 A. bow
 B. bravo
 C. shout
 D. praise
2. We should never _____ the West blindly.

- A. emulate
 - B. copy
 - C. behave
 - D. entrust
3. They indulged _____ gambling day and night.
- A. at
 - B. with
 - C. in
 - D. for
4. Since we got our freezer, we always buy things in _____
- A. bulk
 - B. large
 - C. numerous
 - D. groups
5. He _____ his success to skill and hard work.
- A. owned
 - B. contributed
 - C. ascribed
 - D. made
6. It's unfair that _____ products in different packages be sold at different prices.
- A. valuable
 - B. different
 - C. some
 - D. generic
7. It was a rabbit, not a lion that you are _____ as usual.
- A. boasting
 - B. exaggerating
 - C. complaining
 - D. barking
8. There is a(n) _____ lack of water in Tianjin.
- A. acute
 - B. great
 - C. urgent
 - D. serious
9. Loud laughter was _____ all through the crowd.
- A. made
 - B. produced
 - C. generated
 - D. emerged
10. Wine is one of the many _____ that France sells abroad.

- A. alcohol
- B. means
- C. materials
- D. commodities

Vocabulary II

Match the following with their definitions on the right.

- | | |
|----------------|---------------------------|
| 1. bravo | _____ a. a large quantity |
| 2. emulate | _____ b. applause |
| 3. indulge | _____ c. overestimate |
| 4. bulk | _____ d. imitate |
| 5. generic | _____ e. no-brand |
| 6. exaggerate | _____ f. enjoy |
| 7. acute | _____ g. painful |
| 8. commodity | _____ h. attribute to |
| 9. generate | _____ i. produce |
| 10. ascribe to | _____ j. goods |

Lesson Two

April 30, 1975 is a date indelibly marked in the memory of people, the day of which Saigon fell to Communist Vietnamese forces, the day of the final panic-stricken evacuation from the roof of the American embassy. Above all, it was the day which marked the military defeat of the world's greatest superpower by a small guerrilla army.

Yet even in defeat the United States was still victorious. American films and American fiction continue to define our view of the war and of Vietnam itself—a significant indicator of the way our cultural agenda is determined. Even in the work of novelists and film-makers critical of the U. S. policy, the Vietnamese are usually confined to inarticulate, stereotyped roles—victims or savages in an American dream.

Takeshi Kailop's book, *Into A Black Sun* (written in 1968), falls into a different category. Kailop was an outsider, a Japanese who worked in Vietnam as a war correspondent. But his perspective is very different from that of American writers. His narrator—also a war correspondent—is infinitely curious about Vietnam. The novel is a hymn to the food, the flowers, the smells of a tropical country. Each dish and each smell is unique and should be respected.

In a discussion with an intelligent but troubled American captain, the narrator asserts that the aim of a novel is to capture the things that don't change: Smells don't. Sweat smells of sweat and papaya of papaya. I know papaya doesn't smell of anything much, but the odor doesn't die out, and doesn't change. I want to write about smells that don't fade.

The narrator leads a double life. He attends the same military briefings and listens to the gossip in the small bars, as the other foreign journalists. But he also likes to lose himself in the alleys and the noodle shops of Saigon. But the balancing acts get too difficult; the correspondence finds he has too much compassion with the starving and the refugees. His Vietnamese assistant is conscripted (even after chopping off two fingers with a borrowed kitchen knife), and he has a bad conscience about his relationship with his assistant's sister. He can always leave, but he can't.

Returning to the front line, he accompanies a pointless foray into the jungle by South Vietnamese troops and their American advisers. He is caught in an ambush. But even here, as he flees and stumbles through a swamp, he is still able to register the taste of the mud.

Into A Black Sun was virtually ignored when first published in Britain in the 1980s, but should now be welcomed as one of the finest novels to come from the whole sad Vietnam experience.

New Words

indelible: which can not be rubbed out

evacuation: move out of danger

agenda: a list of subject to be decided at a meeting
inarticulate: not expressed clearly
stereotype: a fixed pattern
category: a system to separate into groups according to their nature
papaya: a tall tree with yellow-green fruit
odor: unpleasant smell
briefing: giving necessary information
foray: sudden attack
ambush: sudden attack (from a place of hiding)
conscript: soldier
stumble: move forward with great difficulty
conscience: a sense that knows the difference between right and wrong
perspective: the way in which a matter is judged

Comprehension I

Answer these questions by choosing the best alternative (A, B, C or D) under each.

1. April 30, 1975 marked the _____.
 A. independence of Vietnam
 B. the founding of the Socialist Republic of Vietnam
 C. the victory of Vietnam over the U. S. A.
 D. the withdraw of American embassy from Hanoi
2. The narrator leads a double life for he _____.
 A. works for American as well as Japan
 B. is a soldier and a journalist
 C. collects information from authorities and also from bars
 D. is a spy and a tourist as well
3. Why did the critic say that the United States was still victorious even in defeat?
 A. Because the U. S. was a superpower.
 B. Because novelists and film criticized the U. S. policy.
 C. Because the United States was morally victorious.
 D. Because the Vietnamese were still depicted as inarticulate savages in American books and films.
4. The great merit of Takeshi Kailop's novel lies in his presentation of _____.
 A. something that is permanent
 B. food, flowers in the tropical country
 C. his double life in Vietnam
 D. Vietnamese war victims
5. As *Into A Black Sun* was published in Britain in the 1980s, it _____.
 A. was favourably reviewed
 B. was criticized

- C. was ignored
 - D. was welcomed
6. The novel, *Into A Black Sun* is structured upon _____.
- A. a war correspondent's experience in Vietnam
 - B. the real experience of Vietnamese during the war
 - C. a discussion with an intelligent but troubled American captain
 - D. smells of food and plants in Vietnam

Comprehension II

Tell whether the following statements are true (T) or false (F).

1. 1975 was the year that the U. S. superpower was defeated by Vietnamese forces. ()
2. Vietnamese are usually described as winners in American films. ()
3. "*Into A Black Sun*" was written by an American. ()
4. The novel is about the smell of the food and flowers in Vietnam. ()
5. Takeshi Kailop worked in Vietnam conscript. ()
6. "Sweat smells sweat" indicates something that doesn't change. ()
7. The narrator listens to the gossip in the small bars to get information for the war. ()
8. The narrator was caught in an attack and managed to escape. ()
9. The Vietnamese chopped off two of his fingers in the war. ()
10. The book was now welcomed as a good novel. ()

Vocabulary I

Choose the best alternative or proper words /phrase from following A,B,C or D.

1. There was a(n) _____ stain on his shirt. He couldn't remove it.
 - A. indelible
 - B. printed
 - C. dirty
 - D. oil
2. The village was _____ because of the flood.
 - A. escaped
 - B. evacuated
 - C. moved
 - D. survived
3. The secretary had the _____ ready for the manager before the meeting.
 - A. meeting
 - B. agreement
 - C. agenda
 - D. reservation
4. She has a _____ view of teachers, believing that they are all as unfair as hers were when she was a girl.

- A. strange
 - B. stereotype
 - C. habitual
 - D. hatred
5. Tom, go upstairs and wash off that terrible _____. I can't bear it.
 - A. color
 - B. dirt
 - C. stain
 - D. odor
 6. Before the meeting, let me give you a _____.
 - A. introduction
 - B. briefing
 - C. briefcase
 - D. talk
 7. The officer sent a few of his men on a _____; they brought back two prisoners for questioning.
 - A. foray
 - B. trip
 - C. business
 - D. area
 8. He was caught in _____ and kept in prison ever since.
 - A. a hurry
 - B. a forest
 - C. a storm
 - D. an ambush
 9. He had a bad _____ about his relationship with his friend's sister.
 - A. regret
 - B. behaviour
 - C. conscience
 - D. impression
 10. When he looked back, he couldn't imagine he had _____ through the swamp.
 - A. stumbled
 - B. swum
 - C. walked
 - D. run

Vocabulary II

Match the following with their definitions on the right.

- | | |
|--------------|-----------------|
| 1. indelible | _____ a. exist |
| 2. conscript | _____ b. escape |

- | | |
|------------------|----------------------|
| 3. odor | _____ c. plan |
| 4. perspective | _____ d. stammering |
| 5. stereotype | _____ e. fixed |
| 6. category | _____ f. kind |
| 7. papaya | _____ g. tree |
| 8. agenda | _____ h. smell |
| 9. briefing | _____ i. instruction |
| 10. stumble | _____ j. attack |
| 11. ambush | _____ k. foray |
| 12. evacuation | _____ l. soldier |
| 13. foray | _____ m. flounder |
| 14. inarticulate | _____ n. view |

Lesson Three

Without regular supplies of some hormones our capacity to behave would be seriously impaired; without others we would soon die. Tiny amounts of some hormones can modify our moods and our actions, our inclination to eat or drink, our aggressiveness or submissiveness, and our reproductive and parental behavior. And hormones do more than influence adult behavior; early in life they help to determine the development of bodily form and may even determine an individual's behavioral capacities. Later in life the changing outputs or some endocrine glands and the body's changing sensitivity to some hormones are essential aspects of the phenomena of aging.

Communication within the body and the consequent integration of behavior were considered the exclusive province of the nervous system up to the beginning of the present century. The emergence of endocrinology as separate discipline can probably be traced to the experiments of Bayliss and Starling on the hormone secretion. This substance is secreted from cells in the intestinal walls when food enters the stomach; it travels through the bloodstream and stimulates the pancreas to liberate pancreatic juice, which aids in digestion. By showing that special cells secrete chemical agents that are conveyed by the bloodstream and regulate distant target organs or tissues, Bayliss and Starling demonstrated that chemical integration can occur without participation of the nervous system.

The term "hormone" was first used with reference to secretion. Starling derived the term from the Greek hormone, meaning "to excite or set in motion". The term "endocrine" was introduced shortly thereafter. "Endocrine" is used to refer to glands that secrete products into the bloodstream. The term "endocrine" contrasts with "exocrine", which is applied to glands that secrete their products through ducts to the site of action. Examples of exocrine glands are the tear glands, the sweat glands, and the pancreas, which secretes pancreatic juice through a duct into the intestine. Exocrine glands are also called duct glands, while endocrine glands are called ductless.

New Words

hormone: substances from organs of a body into the bloodstream

impair: to spoil or weaken

submissive: willing to take orders from others

endocrine: making substances poured directly into the bloodstream

gland: an organ that produces a liquid substance

phenomena: a fact in nature

integration: joining in something else so as to form a whole

province: a branch of study

secretion: liquid material by part of a plant or animal