



圣才学习网

www.100xuexi.com

✓ 扫一扫 送本书 **手机版**

✓ 摇一摇 找学友互动学习

✓ 播一播 看名师直播答疑



**2016年** 英语专业八级辅导系列

# 英语专业八级 过关必做1000题

主编：圣才学习网  
www.100xuexi.com

**买一  
送五**



**600元大礼包**

- 送1** 视频课程（60小时，价值400元）
- 送2** 3D电子书+英语专业八级核心词汇视频讲解（价值60元）
- 送3** 3D题库【历年真题+章节题库+模拟试题】（价值30元）
- 送4** 手机版【电子书/题库】（价值90元）
- 送5** 圣才学习卡（价值20元）

详情登录：圣才学习网（www.100xuexi.com）首页的【购书大礼包】，刮开本书所贴防伪标的密码享受购书大礼包增值服务。

特别提醒：本书提供名师考前直播答疑，手机电脑均可观看，**扫一扫本书右上角二维码下载电子书学习。**

中国石化出版社

HTTP://WWW.SINOPEC-PRESS.COM

教·育·出·版·中·心

英语专业八级考试辅导系列

# 英语专业八级过关必做 1000 题

主编：圣才学习网

[www.100xuexi.com](http://www.100xuexi.com)

中国石化出版社

## 内 容 提 要

本书是专门为提高考生参加英语专业八级考试(TEM-8)成绩而编写的过关必做习题集。本书遵循最新考试大纲的考试内容和要求,按照最新的题型结构设置章节,共分为听力理解、阅读理解、人文知识等7章。每章按照各自的常考题材或高频出题范围划分类别(如阅读理解分为文化教育类、政治经济类、科普环境类、人物叙事类和社会生活类),精心编写了总共约1000道试题,每道试题均进行详细的分析和解答。所选试题参考了大量国内外报刊杂志、文学作品以及人物传记等,试题具有很强的实用性和针对性。

圣才学习网([www.100xuexi.com](http://www.100xuexi.com))提供英语专业八级考试辅导方案【网络课程、3D电子书、3D题库等】(详细介绍参见本书书前彩页)。购书享受大礼包增值服务【400元视频课程+90元3D电子书(题库)+90元手机版电子书(题库)+20元圣才学习卡】。扫一扫本书封面的二维码,可免费下载本书手机版;摇一摇本书手机版,可找所有学习本书的学友,交友学习两不误;本书提供名师考前直播答疑,手机电脑均可观看,直播答疑在考试前一个月推出。

## 图书在版编目(CIP)数据

英语专业八级过关必做1000题/圣才学习网主编.  
—北京:中国石化出版社,2015.5  
(英语专业八级考试辅导系列)  
ISBN 978-7-5114-3378-7

I. ①英… II. ①圣… III. ①大学英语水平考试-习题集 IV. ①H319.6

中国版本图书馆CIP数据核字(2015)第102112号

未经本社书面授权,本书任何部分不得被复制、抄袭,或者  
以任何形式或任何方式传播。版权所有,侵权必究。

## 中国石化出版社出版发行

地址:北京市东城区安定门外大街58号

邮编:100011 电话:(010)84271850

读者服务部电话:(010)84289974

<http://www.sinopec-press.com>

E-mail:press@sinopec.com

保定华泰印刷有限公司印刷

全国各地新华书店经销

\*

787×1092毫米16开本20印张4彩插504千字

2015年5月第1版 2015年5月第1次印刷

定价:40.00元

# 送手机版,找学友互动学习,看名师直播答疑

圣才e书网www.100eshu.com

## 扫一扫

免费下载,获得本书手机版



1. 视频讲解: 高清视频, 名师独家讲解重难点。
2. 立体展示: 3D界面, 3D播放, 720度旋转。
3. 功能强大: 记录笔记、全文检索等十大功能。
4. 多端并用: 电脑手机平板等多平台同步使用。



## 学习利器

听课看书做题,  
学习信儿棒

## 摇一摇

找学友互动学习



1. 摇一摇, 找到学习本书的所有学友, 可精确查找学友的具体位置。
2. 与学友互动, 交流学习(视频、语音等形式), 交友学习两不误。
3. 圈内有学霸解答本书学习中的问题, 配有专职教师指导答疑解惑。



## 交友神器

在学习中追女神,  
成功率高

## 播一播

看名师直播答疑

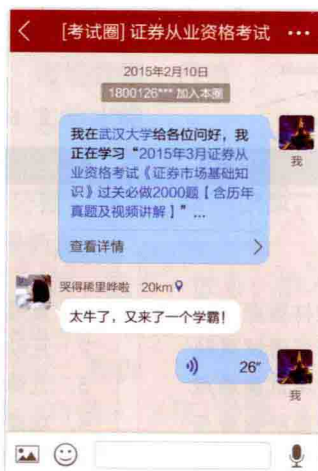


1. 圣才名师在考前开通直播课堂, 帮学友讲解重点习题, 点拨考点。
2. 与名师互动交流, 解答学友各种学习困惑, 为学友考前指点迷津。
3. 手机电脑均可观看本书直播答疑, 扫码下载本书电子书即可参加。

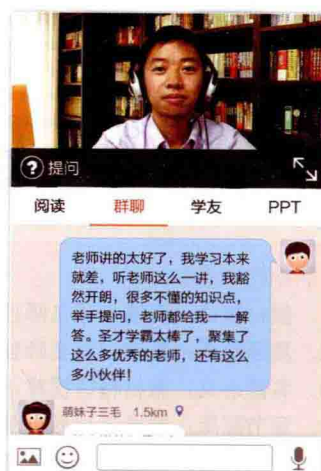
## 界面截图



▲摇一摇



▲聊天窗口



▲直播课堂



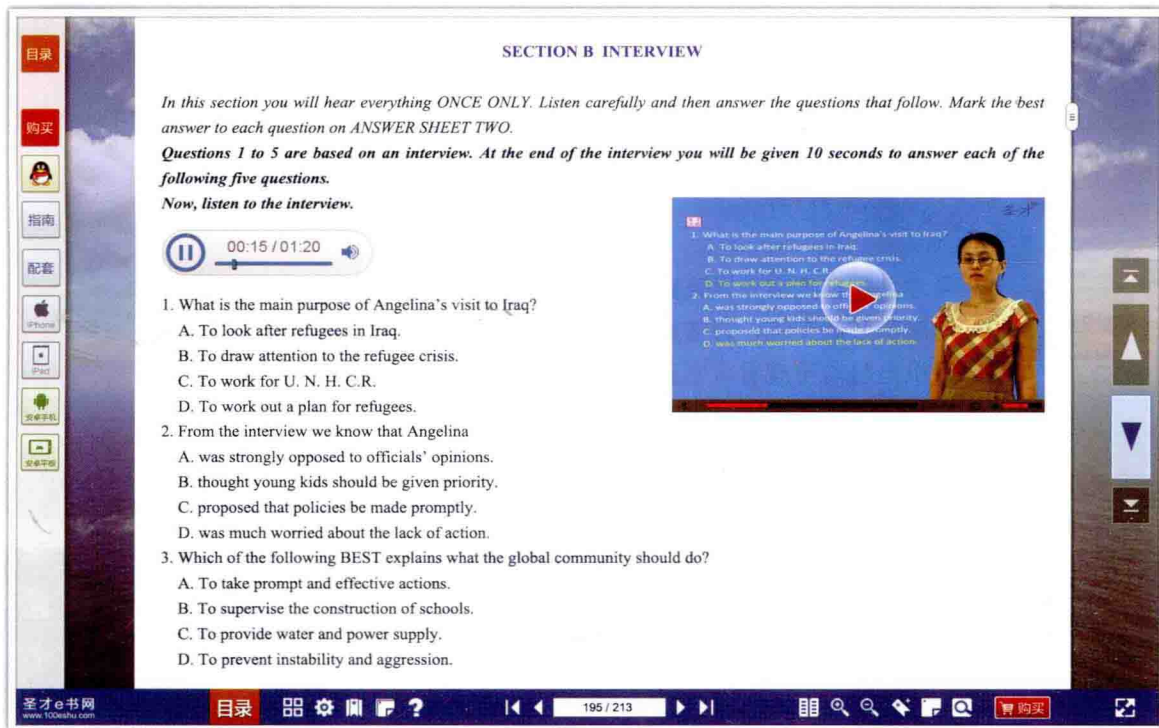
国内首家交友学习、高清视频讲解与名师直播答疑的3D电子书

## ◆ 英语专业八级3D电子书【免费下载+送手机版】



1. 英语专业八级历年真题详解与考试指南【附高清视频讲解】
2. 英语专业八级过关必做1000题
3. 英语专业八级核心词汇全突破【附高清视频讲解】
4. 英语专业八级高分应试教程
5. 英语专业八级英汉互译高分特训100篇
6. 英语专业八级高分范文100篇

## ◆ 3D电子书简介



### 3D电子书内容:

1. 教材精讲: 高清视频名师独家讲解教材重点难点
2. 真题解析: 高清视频名师独家解析历年考试真题
3. 名师讲义: 教材精讲视频讲义, 突出考试重难点
4. 章节题库: 最新考试教材章节题库覆盖所有考点
5. 考前押题: 根据历年考试真题命题规律进行押题

### 3D电子书特色:

1. 直播答疑: 辅导名师考前直播答疑点拨考点
2. 互动学习: 摇摇手机即可寻找学友互动学习
3. 立体展示: 3D界面, 鼠标拖拽720度旋转
4. 功能强大: 记录笔记、全文检索等十大功能
5. 多端并用: 电脑手机平板等多平台同步使用

## 国内首家交友学习、高清视频讲解与名师直播答疑的3D题库

### ◆ 英语类考试3D题库【免费下载+送手机版】



1. 大学英语四级题库【历年真题（视频讲解）+章节题库+模拟试题】
2. 大学英语六级题库【历年真题（视频讲解）+章节题库+模拟试题】
3. 英语专业四级题库【历年真题（视频讲解）+章节题库+模拟试题】
4. 英语专业八级题库【历年真题（视频讲解）+章节题库+模拟试题】
5. 雅思题库【历年真题（视频讲解）+章节题库+模拟试题】
6. 托福题库【历年真题（视频讲解）+章节题库+模拟试题】

### ◆ 3D题库功能介绍



#### 3D题库特色:

1. 直播答疑: 辅导名师考前直播答疑点拨考点
2. 视频讲解: 高清视频名师独家讲解疑难试题
2. 互动学习: 摇摇手机即可寻找学友互动做题
4. 免费做题: 所有试题可免费不限次看题做题
5. 功能强大: 错题重做、试题搜索等十大功能
6. 多端并用: 电脑手机平板等多平台同步使用

### ◆ 题库内容简介

圣才题库系统共分为三部分:

1. 历年真题: 高清视频名师独家讲解历年考研真题。
2. 章节题库: 根据教材章目编排, 按题型分类, 试题覆盖所有重要考点。
3. 模拟试题: 参照全书重要考点命题, 全面测试学习效果。

以上三部分在做题过程中出现的错误答题, 系统会自动记录在“错题重做”栏目里, 学员可以根据错题重做有针对性的进行补漏补缺。



# 英语类考试辅导

火爆招生

圣才学习网 (www.100xuexi.com) — 成功辅导数万人通关的教育视频网站!



## ◆ 英语专业八级 (保过班、网授精讲班、题库等)

	班 型	内 容	备 注
英语专业八级考试  【招生简章参见网站】	1. 网授保过班	网授精讲班【教材精讲+真题串讲】+真题解析班 (网授)+3D题库 (免费下载, 免费升级)+全程答疑	①送手机版电子书 (题库) ②签约保过, 不过免费重修
	2. 网授精讲班【题型精讲+真题串讲】	精讲各考试题型解题技巧, 穿插经典真题, 分析各题型考点、重点和难点。	①送手机版电子书 (题库) ②高清视频讲解, 影院效果
	3. 真题解析班 (网授)	包括: ①考试大纲解读与命题规律总结; ②历年真题名师详解。	①送手机版电子书 (题库) ②高清视频讲解, 影院效果
	4. 一对一辅导 (面授/网授)	制定个性化辅导方案+串讲教材、解析真题+3D电子书 (题库)	主要针对基础比较薄弱的学员。
	5. 3D电子书 (题库)	命题规律总结及复习思路、题库【历年真题 (视频讲解)+章节题库+模拟试题】等	①免费下载, 送手机版, 视频讲解, 720度旋转。 ②摇一摇手机, 摇出本书学友, 交友学习两不误。 ③考前开通直播课堂, 讲解重点习题, 点拨考点。

## ◆ 英语类考试 (网络课程、3D电子书、3D题库等)

- 全国大学生英语竞赛 (NECCS)
- 大学英语六级
- 成人英语三级
- 全国外语翻译证书考试 (NAETI)
- 雅思 (IELTS)
- 全国英语等级考试 (PETS)
- 英语专业四级
- 高等学校英语应用能力
- 剑桥商务英语证书考试 (BEC)
- GRE
- 大学英语四级
- 英语专业八级
- 全国英语翻译专业资格考试
- 托福 (TOEFL)
- GMAT

## ◆ 主要班型介绍

### 1. 网授保过班

每位学员配一位专职教师和一位专职班主任, 提供24小时全方位全程辅导和保姆式服务。签订保过协议, 不过免费重修。

### 2. 网授精讲班【题型精讲+真题串讲】/真题解析班 (网授)

高清视频精讲考试题型/真题, 分析考点、重点和难点。学员可直接登录网站在线学习。有效期为自报名之日起至考试结束后一周, 在此期间可多次学习。

### 3. 圣才e书 (题库)【免费下载+送手机版】

详细内容可见前面彩页介绍。

全国热线: 4006-123-191 (8:30-00:30); 咨询QQ: 4006123191 (8:30-00:30)

# 《英语专业八级考试辅导系列·英语》

## 编 委 会

主编：圣才学习网( [www.100xuexi.com](http://www.100xuexi.com) )

编委：赵立亭 周宇婷 张 艳 刘天艳 黄 静  
张 霞 张春华 杨书咏 李 明 杨爱铃  
李奋发 张文娟 孙汉中 程发慧 封豪品  
杨新厚 林国堂 高分峰 孙富海 高安定



# 序 言

为了帮助考生顺利通过英语专业八级考试,我们根据最新考试大纲和相关考试教材编写了2016年英语专业八级考试辅导系列:

1. 《英语专业八级历年真题详解与考试指南》
2. 《英语专业八级过关必做1000题》
3. 《英语专业八级高分应试教程》
4. 《英语专业八级高分范文100篇》
5. 《英语专业八级英汉互译高分特训100篇》

本书是专门为提高考生参加英语专业八级考试(TEM-8)成绩而编写的过关必做习题集。本书遵循最新考试大纲的考试内容和要求,按照最新的题型结构设置章节,共分为听力理解、阅读理解、人文知识等7章。每章按照各自的常考题材或高频出题范围划分类别(如阅读理解分为文化教育类、政治经济类、科普环境类、人物叙事类和社会生活类),精心编写了总共约1000道试题,每道试题均进行详细的分析和解答。所选试题参考了大量国内外报刊杂志、文学作品以及人物传记等,试题具有很强的实用性和针对性。

购买本书享受大礼包增值服务,手机扫描本书封面大礼包二维码或登录圣才学习网([www.100xuexi.com](http://www.100xuexi.com)),刮开所购图书封面防伪标的密码,即可享受大礼包增值服务:①视频课程(60小时,价值400元);②3D电子书以及英语专业八级核心词汇视频讲解(价值60元);③3D题库【历年真题+章节题库+模拟试题】(价值30元);④手机版【电子书/题库】(价值90元);⑤圣才学习卡(价值20元),可在圣才学习网旗下所有网站进行消费。扫一扫本书封面的二维码,可免费下载本书手机版;摇一摇本书手机版,可找所有学习本书的学友,交友学习两不误;本书提供名师考前直播答疑,手机电脑均可观看,直播答疑在考试前一个月推出。

圣才学习网([www.100xuexi.com](http://www.100xuexi.com))是一家为全国各类考试和专业课学习提供名师网络课程、3D电子书、3D题库(免费下载,免费升级)等全方位教育服务的综合性学习视频学习网站,拥有近100种考试(含418个考试科目)、194种经典教材(含英语、经济、管理、证券、金融等共16大类),合计近万小时的面授班、网授班课程。

圣才考研网([www.100exam.com](http://www.100exam.com))是圣才学习网旗下的考研考博专业网站,提供考研公共课和全国500所院校考研考博专业课辅导【一对一辅导、网授精讲班等】、3D电子书、3D题库(免费下载,免费升级)、全套资料(历年真题及答案、笔记讲义等)国内外经典教材名师讲堂、考研教辅图书等。

职称资格: [www.100xuexi.com](http://www.100xuexi.com)(圣才学习网)

考研辅导: [www.100exam.com](http://www.100exam.com)(圣才考研网)

圣才学习网编辑部

# 目 录

第1章 听力理解过关必做100题 .....	( 1 )
◆讲座 .....	( 1 )
◆访谈/对话 .....	( 18 )
◆新闻 .....	( 31 )
第2章 阅读理解过关必做50篇 .....	( 42 )
◆文化教育类 .....	( 42 )
◆政治经济类 .....	( 64 )
◆科普环境类 .....	( 87 )
◆人物叙事类 .....	( 109 )
◆社会生活类 .....	( 132 )
第3章 人文知识过关必做300题 .....	( 155 )
◆英语国家概况 .....	( 155 )
◆英美文学 .....	( 167 )
◆英语语言学 .....	( 180 )
第4章 改错题过关必做25篇 .....	( 194 )
第5章 汉译英过关必做25篇 .....	( 226 )
◆文学作品类 .....	( 226 )
◆文化教育类 .....	( 228 )
◆社会生活类 .....	( 231 )
◆人生哲理类 .....	( 234 )
◆地理风景类 .....	( 237 )
◆人物历史类 .....	( 239 )
◆政治经济类 .....	( 241 )
第6章 英译汉过关必做25篇 .....	( 244 )
◆文学作品类 .....	( 244 )
◆文化教育类 .....	( 248 )
◆社会生活类 .....	( 252 )
◆人生哲理类 .....	( 256 )
◆地理风景类 .....	( 259 )
◆人物历史类 .....	( 262 )

◆政治经济类 .....	(264)
第7章 写作过关必做25篇 .....	(268)
◆社会热点类 .....	(268)
◆校园生活类 .....	(280)
◆道德修养类 .....	(291)
◆文化教育类 .....	(302)



# 第 1 章 听力理解过关必做 100 题

## ◆ 讲座

### Mini-lecture 1

#### Marslow's Hierarchy of Needs

Abraham Maslow has developed a famous theory of human needs, which can be arranged in order of importance.

**I. Physiological needs:** the most (1) \_\_\_\_\_ ones for survival. (1) \_\_\_\_\_

They include such needs as food, water, etc. And there is usually one way to satisfy these needs.

**II. (2) \_\_\_\_\_ needs:** needs for (2) \_\_\_\_\_

a) physical security;

b) (3) \_\_\_\_\_ security. (3) \_\_\_\_\_

The former means no illness or injury;

The latter is concerned with freedom from (4) \_\_\_\_\_, misfortunes, etc. (4) \_\_\_\_\_

These needs can be met through a variety of means

e. g. job security, (5) \_\_\_\_\_ plans, and safe working conditions. (5) \_\_\_\_\_

**III. Social needs:** human requirements for

a) love and affection;

b) a sense of belonging.

There are two ways to satisfy these needs:

a) formation of relationships at workplace;

b) formation of relationships outside workplace.

**IV. Esteem needs:**

a) self-esteem, i. e. one's sense of achievement;

b) esteem of others, i. e. others' respect as a result of one's (6) \_\_\_\_\_. (6) \_\_\_\_\_

These needs can be fulfilled by achievement, promotion, honours, etc.

**V. Self-realization needs:** need to realize one's potential.

Ways to realize these needs are individually (7) \_\_\_\_\_. (7) \_\_\_\_\_

**VI. Features of the hierarchy of needs:**

a) Social, esteem and self-realization needs are exclusively (8) \_\_\_\_\_ need. (8) \_\_\_\_\_

b) Needs are satisfied in a fixed order from the bottom up.

c) (9) \_\_\_\_\_ for needs comes from the lowest un-met level. (9) \_\_\_\_\_

d) Different levels of needs may (10) \_\_\_\_\_ when they come into play. (10) \_\_\_\_\_

## 【听力原文】

Good morning, everybody. Today's lecture is about Abraham Maslow's hierarchy of needs. This seems like a physiological topic. Actually it is something psychological. Abraham Maslow is a psychologist, and he is especially known for his theory of human needs.

OK, first of all, what is the need? Here, we can simply define it as a personal requirement. Maslow believes that humans are wanting beings, who seek to fulfill a variety of needs. According to his theory, these needs can be arranged in an order according to their importance. It is this order that has become known as Maslow's hierarchy of needs. <sup>[1]</sup> In this hierarchy of needs, at the most **basic level**, are physiological needs. Fundamentally, humans are just one species of animal. We need to keep ourselves alive. Physiological needs are what we require for survival. These needs include food and water, shelter and sleep. At this level for us humans, Maslow also includes the need for clothing. How are these needs usually satisfied? It is mainly through adequate wages.

Then what is the next level of needs? <sup>[2]</sup> At the next level are **safety needs**, <sup>[3]</sup> the things we require for physical and **emotional security**. Physical security is easy to understand. Everybody needs to keep his body safe from injury, illness, etc. Then what is emotional security? Well, that may be the point in this hierarchy of needs, where humans begin to differ from other animals. We are thinking animals. <sup>[4]</sup> We have **worries**—what we fear may be losing a job, or being struck down by a severe disease. Besides physical Security, we need to think we are safe from misfortunes both now and in a foreseeable future. How can these needs be met then? According to Maslow, <sup>[5]</sup> **safety needs may be satisfied through job security, health insurance, pension plans and safe working conditions.**

<sup>[8]</sup> After this stage come the levels of needs that are particular to **human beings**. The immediate following level are the social needs. Under this category, Maslow puts our requirements for love and affection and the sense of belonging. We need to be loved, we need to belong to a group not just the family in which we can share with others in common interest. In Maslow's view, this need can be satisfied through the work environment and some informal organizations. Certainly, we also need social relationships beyond the work place, for example, with family and friends. Next, the level of esteem needs. What are esteem needs then? They include both the needs of self-esteem and the need of esteem of others. Self-esteem is a sense of our own achievements and worth. We need to believe that we are successful; we are no worse if no better than others. <sup>[6]</sup> **The esteem of people is the respect and recognition we gain from other people, by or through our work or our activities in other social groups.** The ways to satisfy esteem needs include personal achievements, promotion to more responsible jobs, various honors and awards and other forms of recognition.

What follows is the top level of this hierarchy of needs. These are the self-realization needs. In other words, they are the needs to grow and develop as people, the needs to become all that we are capable of being. These are the most difficult needs to satisfy. Whether one can achieve this level or not, perhaps determines whether one can be a great man or just an ordinary man. Of course, it depends on different people. <sup>[7]</sup> **The means of satisfying them tend to vary greatly with the individual.** For some people, learning a new skill, starting a new career after retirement could quite well satisfy their self-realization needs. While for other people, it could be becoming the best in certain

areas. It could be becoming the president of IBM, anyway, being great or ordinary is what others think, while self-realization is largely individual. Maslow suggested that people work to satisfy their physiological needs first, then their safety needs and so on up the needs ladder.<sup>[9]</sup> In general, they are **motivated** by the needs at the lowest level that remain unsatisfied.<sup>[10]</sup> However, needs at one level do not have to be completely satisfied before needs at the next higher level come into play. If the majority of a person's physiological and safety needs are satisfied, that person will be motivated primarily by social needs. But any physiological and safety needs that remain unsatisfied will keep playing an important role.

OK, that's the general picture of Maslow's hierarchy of needs. Just to sum up, I briefly introduce to you Maslow's theory. Maslow thinks there are five kinds of human needs with each one being more important than the preceding one. I hope that you find his ideas interesting and in our next lecture, we will mainly discuss the practical implications of his theory.

### 【答案与解析】

#### (1) basic (或 fundamental)

细节题。讲座主要论述的是马斯洛的需求层级理论,而第一个,也就是最底层的级别是生理需求。在谈到 Physiological needs 时,录音中说“*In this hierarchy of needs, at the most basic level are physiological needs*”,由此可知,此处应填写 basic,其他同义词也可。

#### (2) Safety

细节题。本题针对第二个层次的需求设题。当录音中说到“*Then what is the next level of needs?*”我们就应集中注意力听下文,“*At the next level are safety needs*”由此可知,此处应填写 Safety,注意首字母大写。

#### (3) emotional

细节题。紧接上题,录音解释了 safety needs 所包含的内容生理和情感上的安全,故此应填入 emotional。

#### (4) worries

推断题。作者分别对情感安全和生理安全做了具体说明,前者是: We have worries—what if we lose my job, what if I were struck down by a severe disease. 由此可推断情感需求关注人们远离焦虑、不幸等,故此处可填入 worries 或其他表达相同意义的词语。

#### (5) pension

细节题。在谈到解决 safety needs 的方法时,录音中说到“*...safety needs may be satisfied through job security, health insurance, pension plan and safe working conditions.*”故此处应填写 pension。

#### (6) work/activities

细节题。在谈到 esteem needs 时,录音中说“*The esteem of others is the respect and recognition we gain from other people, by or through our work or our activities in other social group*”。故此处应填写 work 或 activities。

#### (7) variable

细节题。在谈到 self-realization needs 时,录音中说“*The means of satisfying them tend to vary greatly with the individual.*”根据原文中的 vary 一词可填入其对应的形容词 variable。



(8) human

细节题。讲座中，在介绍完 safety needs 的时候，提到，“After this stage come the levels of needs that are particular to human beings.”接着才开始介绍接下来的 social, esteem 和 self-realization 的要求，故 human 为答案。

(9) motivation

细节题。演讲者最后解释了人们产生这几个需求的模式：In general, they are motivated by the needs at the lowest level that remain unsatisfied。本题句子是对该句的同义转述，故此处需填入名词 motivation。

(10) coexist

推理题。根据录音中提到的“needs at one level do not have to be completely satisfied before needs at the next higher level come into play.”，由此可知不同层次的需求是可以同时存在的，此处可填写 coexist。

## Mini-lecture 2

### Five Types of Books

#### I. Introduction

A. Reading for information, hoping to

— improve our minds with the information acquired

— give us the means to improve our lives

B. Reading prodigiously & reading (1) \_\_\_\_\_: two different things (1) \_\_\_\_\_

— to read books that increase intelligence

— to read books that helps improve our chances of a happy living

#### II. The first choice: books about (2) \_\_\_\_\_ (2) \_\_\_\_\_

A. Including not only scientific text books, but also the books that increase our understanding of the natural world

B. The value of these books:

— the development of (3) \_\_\_\_\_ (3) \_\_\_\_\_

— the methods of learning

— how to investigate our intuition and validate it with evidence

— inspiring wonder and respect for (4) \_\_\_\_\_ (4) \_\_\_\_\_

#### III. The second choice: philosophy

A. Teaching us to understand (5) \_\_\_\_\_ (5) \_\_\_\_\_

B. Including:

— the classic philosophical works

— the great texts of (6) \_\_\_\_\_ (6) \_\_\_\_\_

#### IV. The third choice: serious fiction

A. Great works of fiction: containing more truth

B. Fiction: (7) \_\_\_\_\_ experiences (7) \_\_\_\_\_

C. Serious fiction: containing a lot of philosophy, psychology & history

D. Great fiction: being also great language

## V. The fourth choice: history books

- A. helping us to interpret our own times
- B. recognizing modern prejudices and the nature of humanity
- C. Increasing our self understanding
- D. Teaching us that ideas and morality are (8) \_\_\_\_\_ (8) \_\_\_\_\_

## VI. The last type: poetry

- A. Producing a feeling of (9) \_\_\_\_\_ for the power of words (9) \_\_\_\_\_
- B. Appreciation of poetry: essential for reading
  - sharpening language skills
  - developing eloquence

## VII. Resources

- A. No formal set of (10) \_\_\_\_\_ (10) \_\_\_\_\_
- B. The Internet

## 【听力原文】

### Five Types of Books

Good morning. This lecture is going to introduce 5 types of books that can increase intelligence. As you know, we read for information, with the hope that information we acquire will improve our minds, giving us the means to improve our lives. In the modern Age of Information, more reading material is available than ever, making it increasingly difficult to allocate our reading time efficiently. All books are not created equal, and it follows that all readers are not equal either.

<sup>[1]</sup> To read prodigiously and to read **profitably** are two very different things. A great amount of time is wasted reading books that are forgotten a short time after they're completed. But time spent reading books that cultivate intelligence and wisdom is a labor that yields continuous benefit over a lifetime. Although it is certainly necessary, for the purposes of business and everyday life, to read about the latest news and trends, that type of reading is outside the scope of this article. My aim is to encourage the reading of books that permanently increase intelligence and, as a result, improve our chances of leading prosperous and fulfilling lives.

<sup>[2]</sup> The first choice is books about **science**. Science is not restricted to scientific text books. It includes a books that increase our understanding of the natural world. This includes books on commerce and society, with the unifying theme being the use of evidence to explain events. <sup>[3]</sup> The great value of these books comes, not from the theories they prove which will likely be disproved in the future, but from the development of **curiosity** and the methods of learning. Scientific books teach us how to investigate our intuition and validate it with evidence. <sup>[4]</sup> They also inspire wonder and respect for **the physical world** and for **our own intellect**.

Then, philosophy comes as our second choice. In ancient times, science and philosophy grew from the seed of analytical thought. <sup>[5]</sup> If science teaches us to understand the outside world, philosophy teaches us to understand **ourselves**. It could very well be called the science of human life.

<sup>[6]</sup> In addition to the classic philosophical works, this category also includes the great **religious texts**. The Bible, Koran, Bhagavad Gita, etc. are not universally valuable because of religious dogma, but because of the wisdom and beauty that has inspired billions to live loving, pious lives. It is an

unfortunate modern bias that philosophy is considered irrelevant. Although we worship at the shrine of modern technology, this is still a very human world. Philosophy will increase your understanding of human needs and desires, knowledge that is essential for spreading ideas and predicting human behavior.

The third one is serious fiction. I'd like to permanently discredit the belief that fictional works are inferior because they're only "made up stories". Only a person totally devoid of imagination could believe that. Great works of fiction contain more truth than any other literary genre because they allow the reader to experience a new reality.<sup>[7]</sup> Fiction **creates** experiences that elevate your level of consciousness. Serious fiction also contains a great deal of philosophy, psychology, and history. Truman Capote said that a good novel is worth more than any scientific study. For the purpose of increasing individual human intelligence, I'm inclined to agree. Great fiction is also great language. And as I've written before, reading great language is the only way to become a better writer. It will also make you a better thinker, speaker, and conversationalist.

Moreover, history books are also included. History feels boring because as children it meant dull text books, memorizing dates, and tedious lectures. And who can blame us? The public schools have done their best to take the humanity out of history. But at its best, history is fascinating anecdotes, remarkable characters, and the evolution of ideas that have shaped civilization. By learning about the past we are able to interpret our own times. We are able to recognize modern prejudices and the nature of humanity. Although history may not help us predict the future, it increases self understanding and awareness.<sup>[8]</sup> It teaches us the **timelessness** of ideas and morality.

The last type is poetry. I saved poetry for last because convincing you to take it seriously provides the greatest challenge. Poetry arouses images of Shakespearian actors reciting flowery rhymes. It's no wonder most people think it lacks substance and applicability. But to maintain this opinion is to ignore one of the great joys of human intelligence and underestimate the mysterious power of words. It's no coincidence that many languages use the same word for poet and prophet.<sup>[9]</sup> The reading of great poetry produces a feeling that cannot be adequately described, a feeling of **awe and reverence** for the power of words. Great poetry is the fusion of music and meaning. It is the medium of humanity's most ancient masterpieces. Poetry sharpens language skills and develops eloquence. Meaning is only half of the great language. The best authors write with a style that is both pleasurable and instructive. An appreciation of poetry is essential for reaching this degree of excellence.

As to resources,<sup>[10]</sup> I can't make a formal set of **recommendations**. There are just too many great books and my experience is too limited. How could I presume to know your tastes or area of interest? What I can do is point out a couple of places where you'll be sure to find something of interest. Anyone who follows this site knows that I'm a whore for the old stuff. Strangely, the Internet is the best thing that's happened to old books since the printing press. Bartleby contains an extensive collection of materials that are well formatted for online reading. You should read for self improvement, not to feel educated and superior. Reading, even the most rigorous intellectual type, should be a labor of love. It might be easier to read lighter books, but the moments of discovery created by challenging books are more pleasurable and exhilarating than any suspense novel. If you