

# 新核心大学英语

B 版

快速阅读 基础级

江久文 王欢 主编

上海交通大学出版社

# Nucleus 新核心 大学英语 B 版

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基础级



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《新核心 大学英语》系列教材

B 版

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# 前 言

21 世纪以来,我国相继出版了一批优秀的大学英语教材。如果说这些教材都是以趣味性、可思性、文学性和人文性为课文选材原则,提倡人文素质教育的话,那么《新核心大学英语》系列教材将在这些方面有一个新的突破。

## 一、教材编写依据

《新核心大学英语 B 版快速阅读》是以《新核心大学英语 B 版读写教程》为依托,从内容上对《新核心大学英语 B 版读写教程》做进一步推进,提倡科学素质教育,以 content-based 为编写原则,文章选材上偏向提高学术能力的科普性文章。

目前,我国大学英语教学不再是单单打基础的阶段,不再是单纯地为学语言而学语言,而是趋向于与某一方面的专业知识或某一个学科结合的发展方向结合起来,换句话说,大学英语应当与学生的专业内容结合起来,这样才能体现新时期语言教学中的“需求分析”原则。《新核心大学英语 B 版快速阅读》正是为了适应我国大学英语教学转型要求而编写的,是为了帮助大学生达到《大学英语课程教学要求》中阅读部分的一般要求、较高要求和更高要求而编写的一套具有鲜明时代特色的大学英语教材;是培养学生查阅学术文献能力的需要,培养学生在较短时间里通过快速阅读,查到自己所需要的信息。

## 二、教材结构框架

《新核心大学英语 B 版快速阅读》是《新核心大学英语》主干教材的配套教材,包括《新核心大学英语 B 版快速阅读 基础级》、《新核心大学英语 B 版快速阅读 1》、《新核心大学英语 B 版快速阅读 2》、《新核心大学英语

B版快速阅读 3》四册。《新核心大学英语B版快速阅读》系列教材旨在培养学生语篇信息查找能力,训练学生快速阅读能力以及水平考试中阅读理解文章的能力。

每册分八个单元,每个单元分为四篇阅读材料,其中短文两篇,长篇文章两篇。教材中每个单元所选阅读材料基本与《新核心大学英语B版读写教程》相应单元的主题内容一致,难度略低于《新核心大学英语B版读写教程》,短文长度为300~500词,长篇文章长度为700~1000词。阅读材料的内容突出知识性,涉及自然学科和人文学科,体裁以说明文和议论文为主。

### 三、教材使用说明

作为《新核心大学英语B版读写教程》的配套使用教材,我们建议《新核心大学英语B版快速阅读》每个单元的总学时数不少于2个课时,课内学时数不少于1个学时,学生课外自主阅读时间不少于1个学时。在每周大学英语课堂教学中教师根据具体授课进度、单元主题内容指定《新核心大学英语B版快速阅读》中相应的文章让学生进行阅读训练,教师也可以将本系列教材作为学生课后自主阅读的材料,学生课后自主阅读训练时间不少于1个学时,教师对学生自主学习过程进行监督与评价。

编者

2013.3.10

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Unit 1  
Profile of Foreign  
Universities



## Passage 1

(Reading Time: 3 minutes)

## Religion and Tradition at the University of Oxford

Unlike most universities, which are purpose-built on distinct integrated sites, the University of Oxford has evolved as a federation of largely autonomous colleges, which, for the most part, are found in the very centre of the city. Each college has its own rules and constitution, and individuals are at the University only by virtue of their membership of a college.

It is also true that Oxford remains a very religious university, with the intercollegiate Christian Union a large and active body. The rousing<sup>1</sup> evangelical (福音的) sermons at St Aldate's (圣·沃德教堂) always draw large congregations and there is generally a good turnout<sup>2</sup> for the annual sermon on "Pride" at the University Church, which is incomprehensible to most since it is preached<sup>3</sup> in Latin.

Latin, indeed, is the language used in the first major University ceremony that undergraduates attend: Matriculation (大学入学考试), which is held for the students usually in their first term when they are formally admitted to the University, as well as what may be the last: Graduation (大学毕业典礼), where degrees are conferred. Sub Fusc<sup>①</sup> must be worn at these ancient rituals: the black cap and gown are worn over dark suit/skirt and white shirt with black tie or ribbon. The short gown is for most students, full length for scholars and those students who do particularly well in their second year exams, Prelims (Preliminary). The same outfit is required for

### Guess the meanings of the following words in the context.

- |            |        |          |        |
|------------|--------|----------|--------|
| 1. rousing | A. 活泼的 | B. 令人振奋的 | C. 上升的 |
| 2. turnout | A. 岔道  | B. 出席者   | C. 产量  |
| 3. preach  | A. 讲道  | B. 灌输    | C. 宣扬  |

examinations, taken at the grand purpose-built Examination Schools on the High Street<sup>②</sup>. Candidates are reputed to be able to send for cakes and ale as sustenance (营养品), but such requests are usually turned down on the grounds that the candidate is improperly dressed — lacking details such as shoes with buckles or a dress sword. It is not unusual for students to be warned that the hue<sup>4</sup> of their suit is too light for regulations. You'll notice that as well as Sub Fusc, finalists often wear carnation buttonholes of different colors. It's white for the first day of exams, red for the last, and pink for all the ones in between. (354 words)

Abridged and revised from  
<http://Life at Oxford University/Daily Info, your Guide to Oxford>.

4. hue

A. 叫声

B. 色彩

C. 布料

Select the most appropriate answer for each of the following questions.

- The University of Oxford has become \_\_\_\_\_ now.
  - a federation government
  - a united university
  - purpose-built on distinct integrated site
  - autonomous college
- The evangelical sermons at St Aldate's always attract \_\_\_\_\_.
  - many people in Oxford
  - many teachers and college students from Oxford university
  - many people from all over the world
  - many Arabian people
- It is very difficult for the people to understand the sermons because \_\_\_\_\_.
  - the speakers can't speak English very well
  - they are read in Latin
  - they aren't read in Latin
  - the teachers and the college students are not admitted to the church

4. At these ancient rituals, Sub Fusc must be worn by \_\_\_\_\_.
- A. the people who attend the ceremony
  - B. the college students who attend the ceremony
  - C. the people in Oxford
  - D. the people from all over the world
5. Why are the candidates' requests usually turned down?
- A. Because they are not wearing Sub Fusc.
  - B. Because their suit is too light.
  - C. Because they are dressed improperly.
  - D. Because they are not wearing dresses.

### Notes

- ① **Sub Fusc:** 黑礼服(牛津大学整套服装)。牛津大学在举行入学典礼的时候,要求师生必须穿Sub Fusc。对于男士的要求是深色西装、深色丝袜、黑色皮鞋、白色衬衣、白蝶形领结、学生帽和袍子;对于女士的要求是白色衬衣、黑领结、深色裙子或者裤子、深色丝袜、黑色的皮鞋、黑色的外套、学生帽和袍子。
- ② **the High Street:** 牛津地区的繁华商业街,这里有著名的牛津大学。

### Passage 2

(Reading Time: 4 minutes)

## Broad Education

According to a survey, which was based on the responses of over 188,000

students, today's traditional-age college freshmen are "more materialistic<sup>1</sup> and less altruistic<sup>2</sup>" than at any time in the 17 years of the poll.

Not surprising in these hard times, the student's major objective "is to be financially well off. Less important than ever is developing a meaningful philosophy of life." It follows then that today the most popular course is not literature or history but accounting.

Interest in teaching, social service and the "altruistic" fields is at a low. On the other hand, enrollment in business programs, engineering and computer science is way up.

That's no surprise either. A friend of mine (a sales representative for a chemical company) was making twice the salary of her college instructors her first year on the job — even before she completed her two-year associate degree.

While it's true that we all need a career, it is equally true that our civilization has accumulated an incredible amount of knowledge in fields far removed from our own and that we are better for our understanding of these other contributions— be they scientific or artistic.

It is equally true that, in studying the diverse wisdom of others, we learn how to think. More important, perhaps, education teaches us to see the connections<sup>3</sup> between things, as well as to see beyond our immediate needs.

From *Weekly*, we read of unions who went on strike for higher wages, only to drive their employer out of business. No company; no job. How shortsighted in the long run!

But the most important argument for a broad<sup>4</sup> education is that in studying the accumulated wisdom of the ages, we improve our moral sense. I saw a cartoon recently

### Guess the meanings of the following words in the context.

- |                  |          |            |          |
|------------------|----------|------------|----------|
| 1. materialistic | A. 材料方面的 | B. 唯物论的    | C. 物质化的  |
| 2. altruistic    | A. 利他的   | B. 没有心情的   | C. 没有原则的 |
| 3. connection    | A. 接头    | B. 事物之间的联系 | C. 连接处   |
| 4. broad         | A. 宽泛的   | B. 显著的     | C. 大概的   |



which shows a group of businessmen looking puzzled as they sit around a conference table; one of them is talking on the intercom: "Miss Baxter," he says, "could you please send in someone who can distinguish right from wrong?"

From the long-term point of view, that's what education really ought to be about.  
(345 words)

Abridged and revised from  
[http:// University.edu. / stu. ideas/info.](http://University.edu./stu.ideas/info.)

Select the most appropriate answer for each of the following questions.

1. According to the author's observation, college students \_\_\_\_\_.
  - A. have never been so materialistic as today
  - B. have never been so interested in the arts
  - C. have never been so financially well off as today
  - D. have never attached so much importance to moral sense
2. The students' criteria for selecting majors today have much to do with \_\_\_\_\_.
  - A. the influences of their instructors
  - B. the financial goals they seek in life
  - C. their own interpretations of the courses
  - D. their understanding of the contributions of others
3. By saying "While it's true that ... scientific or artistic" in Para.5, the author means that \_\_\_\_\_.
  - A. business management should be included in educational programs
  - B. human wisdom has accumulated at an extraordinarily high speed
  - C. human intellectual development has reached new heights
  - D. the importance of a broad education should not be overlooked
4. Studying the diverse wisdom of others can \_\_\_\_\_.
  - A. create varying artistic interests
  - B. help people see things in their right perspective
  - C. help improve connections among people
  - D. regulate the behavior of modern people



5. Which of the following statements is true according to the passage?
- A. Businessmen absorbed in their career are narrow-minded.
  - B. Managers often find it hard to tell right from wrong.
  - C. People engaged in technical jobs lead a more rewarding life.
  - D. Career seekers should not focus on immediate interests only.

Passage 3

(Reading Time: 6 minutes)

## The University of Birmingham

The University of Birmingham is the oldest of three universities in the English city of Birmingham. It was founded in 1900 as a successor<sup>1</sup> to Mason Science College, and is thus the earliest of the “Redbrick”<sup>①</sup> universities. A major research-led institution, it currently has more than 20,000 undergraduate and 7,000 postgraduate students. Its main campus, in the Edgbaston (埃德巴斯顿) area of Birmingham, is arranged around the 100 m-high Chamberlain clock tower, commemorating Joseph Chamberlain (约瑟夫·张伯伦), the University’s first Chancellor. The Great Hall of the University is in the domed Aston Webb<sup>②</sup> Building, which is named after one of its architects (the other was Ingress Bell).

The University’s Selly Oak campus (塞利纳奥克校区) is a short distance to the south of the main campus. It was the home of a federation of nine higher education colleges, mainly focused on theology and education, which were integrated into the University for teaching purposes in 1999. Among these was Westhill College (later the University

**Guess the meanings of the following words in the context.**

1. successor      A. 继承者      B. 后续的事物      C. 后代

of Birmingham, Westhill) which merged with the University's School of Education in 2001. The University also operates on several other sites in the city.

Due to Birmingham's role as a center of light engineering, the University traditionally had a special focus on science, engineering and commerce. It now teaches a full range of academic subjects and has five-star rating for teaching and research in several departments; additionally, it is widely regarded as making a prominent<sup>2</sup> contribution to cancer studies. It is also considered as one of the best universities in the country for its sports teams.

In 2005, the university began rebranding<sup>3</sup> itself as a less conservative<sup>4</sup> institution, changing the logo from the 1980s crest. This new logo is, in fact, more in line with the crest as it appears on the University's original Royal Charter<sup>3</sup>. Confusion over the exact changes being made by the university caused students to believe the crest was being replaced with the letters UB, a new logo designed to be used on the university's promotional material<sup>6</sup>. This aspect of the rebrand met with wide disapproval including criticism from the University's famous alumnus Chris Tarrant.

#### History of the university

On 23 February 1875, Sir Josiah Mason, the Birmingham industrialist and philanthropist, who made his fortune in making key rings, pens, pen nibs and electroplating, founded Mason Science College. It was this institution that would eventually form the nucleus of the University of Birmingham. In 1882, their Departments of Chemistry, Botany and Physiology were transferred to Mason Science College, soon followed by the Departments of Physics and Comparative Anatomy. The transfer of the Medical School to Mason Science College gave considerable impetus<sup>5</sup> to the growing importance of that College, and in 1896, a move to incorporate it as a University College was made. As the

- |                 |          |          |          |
|-----------------|----------|----------|----------|
| 2. prominent    | A. 杰出的   | B. 永久的   | C. 合适的   |
| 3. rebranding   | A. 重新定商标 | B. 重新命名  | C. 重塑    |
| 4. conservative | A. 保守的   | B. 性格内向的 | C. 思想开放的 |
| 5. impetus      | A. 作用    | B. 推动力   | C. 后果    |

result of the Mason University College Act 1897, it became incorporated as Mason University College on 1 January 1898, with the Right Honorable Joseph Chamberlain MP (Member of Parliament, 国会议员) becoming the President of its Court of Governors. It was largely due to Chamberlain's tireless enthusiasm that the University was granted a Royal Charter by Queen Victoria on 24 March 1900. The Calthorpe family offered twenty-five acres (10 hectares) of land on the Bournbrook<sup>④</sup> side of their estate in July. The Court of Governors received the Birmingham University Act 1900, which put the Royal Charter into effect, on 31 May. The transfer of Mason University College to the new University of Birmingham, with Chamberlain as its first Chancellor and Sir Oliver Lodge as the first Principal, was complete. (581 words)

Abridged and revised from  
[http://www.educationuk.org/pls/hot\\_bc/](http://www.educationuk.org/pls/hot_bc/); <http://www.uk-universities.net/>; <http://www.birmingham.ac.uk/index.aspx>

**A. Select the most appropriate answer for each of the following questions.**

1. Why does the university of Birmingham attach importance to science, engineering and commerce?
  - A. Because Birmingham plays a role as a center of science and commerce.
  - B. Because Birmingham plays a role as a center of science and engineering.
  - C. Because Birmingham plays a role as a center of light engineering.
  - D. Because Birmingham plays a role as a center of engineering and commerce.
2. From the passage, we can get the information that \_\_\_\_\_.
  - A. the university teaches a full range of academic subjects
  - B. the university is widely regarded as making a contribution to cancer studies
  - C. the university has five-star rating for teaching and research in several departments
  - D. all of the above
3. How did Sir Josiah Mason make his fortune?
  - A. He made his fortune by founding Mason Science College.



- B. He made his fortune by making key rings, pens, pen nibs and electroplating.
  - C. He made his fortune by the institution that would form the nucleus of the University of Birmingham.
  - D. He made his fortune by the fact that the Departments of Chemistry, Botany and Physiology were transferred to Mason Science College 1882.
4. The sentence “in 1896, a move to incorporate it as a University College was made” in Para.5 means \_\_\_\_\_.
- A. in 1896, all the departments were combined to form a University College
  - B. in 1896, the Medical School gave considerable impetus to the growing importance of Mason Science College
  - C. in 1896, the Medical School became a University College
  - D. in 1896, Mason Science College built a Medical School
5. Why was the University granted a Royal Charter by Queen Victoria?
- A. Because all the colleges were incorporated to form a University College.
  - B. The Court of Governors received the Birmingham University Act 1900, which put the Royal Charter into effect, on 31 May.
  - C. Because of Chamberlain’s tireless enthusiasm and contribution to the University.
  - D. The transfer of Mason University College to the new University of Birmingham, with Chamberlain as its first Chancellor.

**B. Mark Y (for YES) if the statement agrees with the information in the passage; N (for NO) if the statement contradicts the information given in the passage; NG (for Not GIVEN) if the information is not given in the passage.**

- \_\_\_\_\_ 1. The University of Birmingham is the earliest of the “Redbrick” universities.
- \_\_\_\_\_ 2. Its main campus, in the Edgbaston area of Birmingham, is arranged beside the 100 m-high Chamberlain clock tower.
- \_\_\_\_\_ 3. It is also considered as one of the best universities in the country for its traditions and long history.
- \_\_\_\_\_ 4. In 2005 the university began rebranding its buildings, changing the logo from the 1980s crest.
- \_\_\_\_\_ 5. Sir Josiah Mason was the first president of the university of Birmingham.