

PRACTICE TESTS  
for  
ENGLISH-SPEAKING COUNTRIES: A SURVEY

英语国家概况应试教程

陈汉生 编著



世界图书出版公司

# 英语国家概况应试教程

陈汉生 编著

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# 前 言

《英语国家概况应试教程》*Practice Tests for English-Speaking Countries: A Survey* 完全是依照全国高等教育自学考试指导委员会组编教材《英语国家概况》(余志远主编)的有关教学要求和《英语国家概况自学考试大纲》的有关精神,仿照全国高等教育自学考试《英语国家概况》课程考试的题型和项目编写而成,力求和英语国家概况自学考试大纲的要求一致。

## 编写本书的目的:

1. 让英语自学者充分了解并熟悉英语国家概况考试的题项,题型和试题内容范围。
2. 向英语自学者提供练习的机会。通过反复练习,努力达到《英语国家概况自学考试大纲》所要求掌握的英语国家概况知识。
3. 利用模拟试题促进学习。模拟测试所得结果能让英语自学者找出差距,建立正确的学习方法。

## 本书的主要特点:

1. 紧扣《英语国家概况自学考试大纲》的精神,实用性、针对性强。
2. 向读者提供有关英语国家概况的补充阅读材料。
3. 本书共提供 34 套练习试题,可供各社会助学单位使用一学期。

本书的主要对象为参加“英语国家概况自学考试”的英语自学者。同时本书可供英语或非英语专业大学生自测,准备英美概况课程的考试。

本书编写时间仓促,疏漏之处在所难免。请使用本教程的教师和学生以及英语界的专家学者不吝指正。

陈汉生  
上海外国语大学  
英语学院  
1998 年春

# 使用说明

- 1) 本书共分 34 个单元,单元主题顺序按全国高等教育自学考试指导委员会组编教材《英语国家概况》(余志远主编)的有关章节先后排列。
- 2) 每一单元所提供的补充阅读材料,旨在为读者进一步学习和研究《英语国家概况》(余志远主编)的有关教学内容提供帮助。
- 3) 参加全国高等教育自学考试《英语国家概况》课程考试的考生必须认真阅读和研究全国高等教育自学考试指导委员会组编教材《英语国家概况》(余志远主编),本书每一单元所提供的 Questions and Answers 旨在为考生进一步领会和掌握《英语国家概况》有关章节的内容提供自测题,其答案仅供考生参考。
- 4) 考生应在认真阅读和研究全国高等教育自学考试指导委员会组编教材《英语国家概况》(余志远主编)有关章节的基础上,再做每一单元所提供的 Practice Test,其答案仅供考生参考。

# CONTENTS

## Part One

### The United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland

(1) Land and People (Supplementary Reading Materials) .....	1
Questions and Answers .....	7
Practice Test (1) .....	10
Key to the Test (1) .....	15
(2) The Origins of a Nation (5000 BC-1066)	
(Supplementary Reading Materials) .....	18
Questions and Answers .....	24
Practice Test (2) .....	28
Key to the Test (2) .....	33
(3) The Shaping of the Nation (1066-1455)	
(Supplementary Reading Materials) .....	36
Questions and Answers .....	45
Practice Test (3) .....	51
Key to the Test (3) .....	56
(4) Transition to the Modern Age (1455-1688)	
(Supplementary Reading Materials) .....	60
Questions and Answers .....	80
Practice Test (4) .....	88
Key to the Test (4) .....	94
(5) The Rise and Fall of the British Empire (1688-1990)	
(Supplementary Reading Materials) .....	98
Questions and Answers .....	108
Practice Test (5) .....	115
Key to the Test (5) .....	120
(6) The Economy (Supplementary Reading Materials) .....	124

Questions and Answers .....	126
Practice Test (6) .....	133
Key to the Test (6) .....	138
(7) Government and Administration	
(Supplementary Reading Materials) .....	141
Questions and Answers .....	149
Practice Test (7) .....	153
Key to the Test (7) .....	158
(8) Justice and the Law (Supplementary Reading Materials)	
.....	162
Questions and Answers .....	163
Practice Test (8) .....	167
Key to the Test (8) .....	172
(9) Social Affairs (Supplementary Reading Materials) .....	175
Questions and Answers .....	178
Practice Test (9) .....	181
Key to the Test (9) .....	186
(10) Cultural Affairs (Supplementary Reading Materials) ...	189
Questions and Answers .....	192
Practice Test (10) .....	195
Key to the Test (10) .....	200

## **Part Two**

### **The Republic of Ireland**

(11) Geography and History (Supplementary Reading Materials)	
.....	203
Questions and Answers .....	205
Practice Test (11) .....	208
Key to the Test (11) .....	213
(12) Ireland Today (Supplementary Reading Materials) .....	216
Questions and Answers .....	220
Practice Test (12) .....	224

Key to the Test (12) .....	228
----------------------------	-----

### **Part Three**

#### **The United States of America**

(13) Geography (Supplementary Reading Materials) .....	232
Questions and Answers .....	234
Practice Test (13) .....	238
Key to the Test (13) .....	243
(14) Population, Race and Ethnic Groups	
(Supplementary Reading Materials) .....	247
Questions and Answers .....	249
Practice Test (14) .....	254
Key to the Test (14) .....	259
(15) American History (I) (1600-1900)	
(Supplementary Reading Materials) .....	262
Questions and Answers .....	265
Practice Test (15) .....	270
Key to the Test (15) .....	275
(16) American History (II) (1900-1945)	
(Supplementary Reading Materials) .....	279
Questions and Answers .....	280
Practice Test (16) .....	286
Key to the Test (16) .....	290
(17) American History (III)	
America in Post-W. W. II Era (1945-1980s)	
(Supplementary Reading Materials) .....	294
Questions and Answers .....	297
Practice Test (17) .....	303
Key to the Test (17) .....	308
(18) The Economy (Supplementary Reading Materials) .....	312
Questions and Answers .....	313
Practice Test (18) .....	319

Key to the Test (18) .....	323
(19) Political Institutions (Supplementary Reading Materials)	
.....	327
Questions and Answers .....	331
Practice Test (19) .....	337
Key to the Test (19) .....	342
(20) Education (Supplementary Reading Materials) .....	345
Questions and Answers .....	347
Practice Test (20) .....	352
Key to the Test (20) .....	357
(21) Literature, Architecture and Music	
(Supplementary Reading Materials) .....	360
Questions and Answers .....	365
Practice Test (21) .....	368
Key to the Test (21) .....	373
(22) Holidays and Festivals (Supplementary Reading Materials)	
.....	377
Questions and Answers .....	378
Practice Test (22) .....	382
Key to the Test (22) .....	387

## Part Four

### Canada

(23) Geography and History (Supplementary Reading Materials)	
.....	390
Questions and Answers .....	391
Practice Test (23) .....	396
Key to the Test (23) .....	400
(24) The Economy (Supplementary Reading Materials) .....	404
Questions and Answers .....	406
Practice Test (24) .....	409
Key to the Test (24) .....	414



(25) Government and Politics (Supplementary Reading Materials)	417
Questions and Answers	418
Practice Test (25)	422
Key to the Test (25)	427
(26) Society and Culture (Supplementary Reading Materials)	431
Questions and Answers	434
Practice Test (26)	437
Key to the Test (26)	442

## Part Five

### Australia

(27) Land and People (Supplementary Reading Materials)	446
Questions and Answers	447
Practice Test (27)	450
Key to the Test (27)	455
(28) Australian History (I)	
Australia to Federation (Supplementary Reading Materials)	459
Questions and Answers	460
Practice Test (28)	464
Key to the Test (28)	469
(29) Australian History (II)	
Australia Since Federation (Supplementary Reading Materials)	472
Questions and Answers	472
Practice Test (29)	475
Key to the Test (29)	480
(30) The Economy (Supplementary Reading Materials)	484
Questions and Answers	485

Practice Test (30) .....	488
Key to the Test (30) .....	493
(31) Government and Politics (Supplementary Reading Materials) .....	497
Questions and Answers .....	497
Practice Test (31) .....	500
Key to the Test (31) .....	505
(32) Society and Culture (Supplementary Reading Materials) .....	508
Questions and Answers .....	509
Practice Test (32) .....	512
Key to the Test (32) .....	517

## Part Six

### New Zealand

(33) The Making of New Zealand (Supplementary Reading Materials) .....	521
Questions and Answers .....	523
Practice Test (33) .....	525
Key to the Test (33) .....	530
(34) New Zealand Today (Supplementary Reading Materials) .....	534
Questions and Answers .....	535
Practice Test (34) .....	537
Key to the Test (34) .....	541

**Part One**  
**The United Kingdom of Great Britain**  
**and Northern Ireland**

**(1) Land and People**

(Supplementary Reading Materials)

**England**

A country (area 50 331 sq. miles, pop. 47 255 000) occupying the largest, southern part of Great Britain. Capital: London. Language: English. Religion: 80% Church of England, 10% Roman Catholic, with Methodist, Jewish, Congregational, Baptist, Presbyterian and other minorities. The land is 30% arable, 48% pasture, 12% grazing and 6% forest. The southwest and west, except for the Severn valley and the Cheshire-Lancashire plain (around Liverpool), are largely a plateau, with rolling plains and downs culminating in hills, chalk ridges and occasional moors. The Pennines, running from the N. Midlands to the Scottish border, are the principal mountain chain, but the highest peaks (Sca Fell, 3 210 ft) are in the Lake district. The east is mainly an open, cultivated plain, narrowing in N. Yorkshire to a passage (Vale of York) between coastal moors and the Pennines, and in Northumberland to a coastal strip.

**the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland**

A kingdom (area 94 500 sq. miles) in N. W. Europe. Capital: London. It comprises England, Wales, Scotland, Northern Ireland, the Isle of Man and the Channel Islands. Language: English, with Welsh and Gaelic minorities. Religion: 52% Church of England, 9% Roman Catholic, 3% Presbyterian, 2% Methodist (Jewish, Baptist, Congregationalist, Calvinistic Methodist and Quaker minorities). Livestock: sheep, cattle, hogs, poultry. Principal

crops; cereals, potatoes, vegetables, fodder, fruit, sugar beet. Principal resources: coal, iron ore, oil and gas, limestone, granite, fish. Manufactures and industries: iron and steel, nonferrous metals, machinery, machine tools, vehicles, aircraft, plastics, electrical goods, chemicals, cotton, wool, petroleum products, shipbuilding, pottery, thread, tweed, bricks, glass, carpets, food and drink, printing and publishing, rubber products, furniture footwear, clothing. Exports: manufactured goods. Imports: meat, fruit and vegetables, machinery, cereals, metals, chemicals, coffee, cocoa, tea, spices, dairy products, wood and pulp, wool, paper, tobacco, raw cotton, oils and fats. Main ports: London, Liverpool, Hull, Manchester, Southampton, Glasgow, Belfast. Universities: 32 (the oldest being Oxford, Cambridge and St. Andrews). Monetary unit: pound sterling (divided into 100 pence). Great Britain has the following dependencies: Bermuda, British Indian Ocean Territories, British Virgin Is., Cayman Is., Falkland Is., Gibraltar, Montserrat, Pitcairn, St. Helena with Ascension and Tristan da Cunha, Turks and Caicos Is. Franco-British condominium of New Hebrides became Vanuatu.

### **the British Isles**

A group of islands off N. W. Europe, comprising Great Britain, Ireland, the Hebrides, Orkney, the Shetland Is. and adjacent islands.

### **Scotland**

A country (area 30 405 sq. miles, pop. 5 130 735) occupying the north of Great Britain. It is a division of the United Kingdom. Capital: Edinburgh. Largest town: Glasgow. Language: English,

with 1.5% also speaking Gaelic. Church membership: 25% Church of Scotland (Presbyterian), 15% Roman Catholic, with Nonconformist and Church of England minorities. The educational, judicial and financial systems retain many distinctive features. The land is 17% arable, 8% pasture, 16% forest, and much of the rest is rough grazing land. It is divisible into three natural zones: the Highlands, the Lowlands and the southern uplands. The Highlands in the north (1 000-over 4 000 ft, highest point: Ben Nevis, 4 406 ft) are a rocky, sparsely inhabited mountainous plateau, largely moorland, with a coastline deeply indented, esp. in the west, by firths. The Lowlands in the center are comprised mostly of the Forth and Clyde valleys (coal and iron fields, dairy pasture) and contain most of the industry and population. The southern uplands, a rolling moorland (mainly 800-2 000 ft), are cut by small fertile river valleys. Scotland has about 800 islands, including the Orkneys, Shetlands and Hebrides, and hundreds of lakes.

## **Wales**

A country (area, including Monmouthshire, 8 016 sq. miles, pop. 2 900 000) in the west of Great Britain. It is a division of the United Kingdom. Chief town: Cardiff. Language: English, Welsh (1% Welsh only, 25% bilingual). The land is 12% arable, 6% forest, largely pasture and grazing. Wales forms a rugged massif, partly covered with forest and moorland, with a lowland fringe widest along the English border and south coast. The massif is largely between 600 and 2 000 ft, rocky in the north and coal-bearing (esp. Anthracite) in the south. It is highest in the northwest, rising to 3 560 ft (Snowdon).

## **Northern Ireland**

A country (area 5 462 sq. miles, pop. 1 580 000) occupying the northern fifth of Ireland. It is a division of the United Kingdom. Capital: Belfast. Language: English. Religion: 30% Presbyterian, 25% Church of England, 36% Roman Catholic. The mountains of the north are separated from the Mountains of Mourne in the south by the flax-producing Lough Neagh basin and the drumlin belt of N. Armagh. Only 2% of the land is forested.

## **the Commonwealth**

A free association of Britain and certain sovereign independent states, formerly the colonies of the British Empire, and their dependencies. The British Crown is acknowledged by all members as the symbol of their association. Many members accept the British monarch, represented by a governor-general, as their head of state, but others are republics under a president, while Malaysia, Lesotho and Swaziland have their own monarchs. The Commonwealth has no central government, and unites a fifth of the world's land and population. Its members, with dates of entry, are: Great Britain (1931), Canada (1931), Australia (1931), New Zealand (1931), India (1947), Sri Lanka (1948), Ghana (1957), Nigeria (1960), Cyprus (1961), Sierra Leone (1961), Jamaica (1962), Trinidad and Tobago (1962), Uganda (1962), Malaysia (1963), Kenya (1963), Tanzania (1964), Malawi (1964), Malta (1964), Zambia (1964), The Gambia (1965), Singapore (1965), Guyana (1966), Botswana (1966), Lesotho (1966), Barbados (1966), Mauritius (1968), Swaziland (1968), Tonga (1970), Fiji (1970), Western Samoa (1970), Bangladesh (1972), Bahamas (1973), Grenada (1974), Papua New Guinea (1975), Seychelles (1976).

Dominica (1978), Solomon Is. (1978), Tuvalu (1978), Kiribati (1979), St. Lucia (1979), St. Vincent and the Grenadines (1979), Vanuatu (1980), Zimbabwe (1980), Antigua and Barbuda (1981), Belize (1981), Maldives (1982), St. Kitts-Nevis (1983), and Brunei (1984). The main cohesive forces are historical ties, trade, finance and defense interests, and the bond of the English language. The British Empire, out of which the Commonwealth developed, began with the colonization of Newfoundland (1583). In the early 18th c., settlements were made in North America, while commercial companies were chartered to trade with other lands, notably the British East India Company in India. The empire developed on mercantilist lines, the colonies being regarded as sources of raw materials and markets. Canada and India were in effect won from the French during the Seven Years' War (1756-63), but the Thirteen Colonies of North America were lost in the Revolutionary War (1775-83). Many strategic colonies were won during the Napoleonic Wars, the slave trade was abolished (1833), and free trade replaced protectionism (1840s). The report (1839) of Lord Durham changed the emphasis of the empire from exploitation to development. Systematic emigration to Australia and New Zealand began. The Crown took control (1858) of India, of which Victoria was proclaimed empress (1877). Canada became (1867) the first dominion, followed by Australia (1907), New Zealand (1907), Newfoundland (1907) and South Africa (1910). Meanwhile Britain was gaining new territory in the scramble for colonies in Africa and the Pacific, but jingoism was halted by the Boer War (1899-1902). Imperial conferences began (1887). The dominions joined Britain in the 1st world war, after which Britain received mandates over Tanganyika, Palestine and Iraq. The Statute of Westminster (1931) proclaimed the equality of Britain and the do-

minions, and recognized their complete independence. After the 2nd world war, dominion status was ended and a Commonwealth Relations Office set up (1947). India and Pakistan became independent in 1947, and Ceylon (now Sri Lanka) in 1948. The Irish Republic withdrew (1949), as did South Africa (1961) and Pakistan (1972). Younger colonies, notably in Africa, rapidly advanced to independent Commonwealth status (1960s). Preferential tariff treatment for goods sold in Britain by Commonwealth members was abandoned when Britain joined the European Economic Community (1973).

### **the English Channel**

The strait (21-140 miles wide) between England and France, stretching 280 miles southwest from the Straits of Dover to the Atlantic.

### **the Severn**

Britain's longest river (180 miles, or 290 km), which rises in northeast Wales and flows east and south into the Bristol Channel. It is famous for its periodic 'bore' (tidal wave) which, for a short time, makes the water flow back up the part of the river nearest the sea.

### **the Thames**

Britain's best known river, on which London stands. It rises in the Cotswolds, southwest England, and flows east for a distance of 210 miles (338 km) to London and out into the North Sea. Ocean-going vessels can sail up it as far as London, and smaller craft can sail up it for a further 86 miles (138 km). Oxford and Henley-on-Thames are also on the Thames.



### **the Clyde**

The most important river of southwest Scotland, long famous for the industries that have developed on its banks and at its estuary, especially where it flows through Glasgow. Its length is about 106 miles (170 km).

### **the Lough Neagh**

The largest lake in the British Isles, in Northern Ireland of Belfast. It is popular with yachtsmen and walkers. 'Lough' is the Irish word for 'lake'.

### **the Lake District**

A picturesque district of northeast England in Cumbria, popular with tourists and famous for its lakes and mountain peaks. It is a national park.

## **Questions and Answers**

- 1. What are the differences between Britain and the British Isles, Great Britain, England, the United Kingdom and British Commonwealth?**

The British Isles, Great Britain, England are all geographical names. They are not the official name of the country.

The British Isles are made up of two large islands and hundreds of small ones. The two large islands are Great Britain and Ireland.

Great Britain is the larger of these two islands. It forms the United Kingdom with northern Ireland — the northern part of the Ireland. But it is too much of a mouthful to say such a long name for a country, so people just say Britain, the United King-