

北京市高等教育自学考试委员会办公室 组编

李品伟 主编

英语泛读 自学考试指导

Kampf, the involvement of Jews in every form of human corruption, their betrayal of Germany in the World War, their control of the banks and foreign capital, their dominance in Bolshevism.

My head was swimming, but I have always had the knack of looking interested, of agreeing with a nod, and interjection, a smile. He was enjoying his lecture, and I did not dare to interrupt. At one point I was tempted to ask how Jews could be both Bolsheviks and capitalists. But I prudently held my tongue.

"Mark me, Dorf," he said. "We'll solve a multitude of problems—political, social, economic, military and above all racial—by coming down hard on the Chosen People."

I confessed this was new ground for me. But

外语教学与研究出版社

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前 言

编写本书的目的在于给准备参加北京市高等教育自学考试英语基础科泛读课程考试的同学提供一些练习,为讲授与辅导规定的10本读物(外语教学与研究出版社出版发行)的老师们提供一些背景材料及练习形式。

书的重点是练习,练习形式有内容问答题、填空题、选择或是非题,难句翻译或求解等。各书的练习形式及数量不尽相同。这些差异应该说是本书的一个缺点,但也许在一定程度上能增加灵活性。请使用此书的老师和学生予以谅解,并根据情况决定取舍。

一部分书的辅导材料中有故事梗概,一部分没有。同学们不妨以已有的为范例,试写一下另一些书的全部或部分故事梗概。另外,虽然我们提供的有些是用现在时写的,同学们可能以过去时写更方便些。

填空题、是非题、选择题附答案,一些灵活程度较大的练习没有提供答案。

本书附有1991年泛读考试试题,供大家参考。

在本书的编写过程中北京理工大学出版社桂济世同志提出了宝贵意见,在此谨表谢意。

时间仓促、经验不足,望读者指正。

编者

1993年4月

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LOVE OF LIFE

1. Love of Life

About the author

Jack London (1876-1916)

Jack London, the famous American novelist and short story writer, was born in the slums of San Francisco on January 12, 1876. He was raised along the water-front where he began at an early age to have a boundless appetite for adventure which later on filled his short life.

He spent his early age on all kinds of "jobs": an oyster pirate, a seaman, a Yukon prospector and a tramp. His education was sandwiched in between journeys.

After marriage and a year's study at the University of California, London decided to devote himself entirely to writing. In 1899, he published his first story, *An Odyssey of the North*. In 1900, *The Son of the Wolf* — a volume of short stories — was issued. After that, *The Call of the Wild* made the bestseller list in 1903, and some other novels followed — *The Sea Wolf* and *White Fang*

(1906), *The Iron Heel* (1907), and *Martin Eden*. The last one was regarded as a representation of his own conflict and socialist ideals.

During London's last years, he drank excessively, and was full of despair. At the age of forty in 1916, Jack London committed suicide. However, his remarkable life and achievements formed a unique chapter in American literary history.

Exercises

I. Answer the following questions:

1. Where did the story take place?
2. What was the biggest difficulty the man faced?
3. What efforts did the man make to overcome the difficulty?
4. Why and how did the man survive the hopeless situation?
5. What is the theme of the story? How does the author present it?

II. Fill in the blanks:

1. Although it was still August, the Canadian wilderness _____ cold and lonely in the weak light of the afternoon sun.
2. He _____ a fire and _____ a small pail of water over the fire to boil.
3. After the water became hot, he drank some of it; then he _____ his watch, and crawled _____ his blankets.
4. At six o'clock he awoke, lying _____ his back.
5. Defeated _____ his effort, the man sat down _____ the wet earth.
6. The pain in his ankle was _____, but it was no worse than that in his empty stomach.

- III . Tick the correct answer in each of the following:

- 3

skeleton. Bill had almost made it.

- | | |
|--------------------------|-----------------------------|
| A. Bill was killed | B. Bill had collected it |
| C. Bill killed an animal | D. Bill left that by eating |

IV . Distinguish the meaning of the underlined words:

1. A. He shifted his pack to his left shoulder so as to favour his right ankle.
B. He divided them into three small packs, wrapping them in oil paper.
C. Now and again the wolves, in packs of two or three crossed his path.
2. A. His heart was pounding in his chest.
B. Then he pounded the bones between rocks, beating them into a pulp and swallowed it.
3. A. He chewed them with his bare teeth, trying to get a mouthful of raw meat.
B. Two or three times during the night the sick wolf had come close to the man, bared its teeth, and sniffed in hunger.
4. A. Already the sun had slipped beyond the horizon.
B. Then he slipped out of his pack straps and dragged himself to a sitting position.
5. A. He ate the fish raw, but the hunger was now dull and lifeless.
B. He chewed them with his bare teeth, trying to get a mouthful of raw meat.

V . Explain the following:

1. He looked at the moose-hide bag . . . and he began to wonder what value its contents had now.
2. In the morning he tied more straps of the blanket around his

feet, ... From its open mouth poured a yellow stream of coarse gold dust and nuggets.

3. He was now too weak to carry his small bag. Again he divided the gold, ... In the afternoon he threw the rest of it away.

Summary of the story:

This story describes how a man survived the extreme difficulties by his strong wish to live.

The man was in a tremendously difficult situation. He was suffering hunger, cold, pain and fear on his way back from searching for gold in the North Canadian wilderness.

Dreadful hunger drove him to madly hunt for food — stalking birds, hoping to frighten a fox into dropping the bird in its mouth, and bailing the pool for fish. Unfortunately he failed and became weaker and weaker.

He pushed on in spite of wet fog, cold snow, and rain. And wild animals also threatened his life.

His will to live carried him on. He gave up everything — his blanket, his rifle, even his gold — everything but his life.

Followed by an equally hungry wolf he tried his best to crawl foot by foot like a worm until he finally saw the sea and a ship lying at anchor. He was saved.

In this story, the author approved of strong men and despised the weaklings. This was the theme of most of Jack London's books.

2. God Sees the Truth but Waits

About the author

Leo N. Tolstoy (1828-1910)

Leo N. Tolstoy, one of Russia's most beloved novelists, moral philosopher, and social reformer, was born at Yasnaya Polyana, Tula Province on September 9, 1828.

He has been praised by critics for the extraordinary thoughtfulness and realism of his fiction and his profound psychological analysis of his characters.

He contributed to Russia as well as the whole world many great masterpieces such as *Cossacks* (1863), *War and Peace* (1865--1869), *Anna Karanina* (1875--1877).

Prosperous, famous, and seemingly contented with his existence, Tolstoy, in the early 1870's, began to be plagued with questions about meaning and purpose of his life. About 1874, he turned on religions. The central point of his conversion came when he believed that he had discovered the true significance of Christ's injunction to "resist not evil". From the Bible he extracted five commandments: do not become angry, do not lust, do not bind yourself by oaths, do not resist him that is evil, and be good to the just and unjust. For the rest of his life, Tolstoy attempted to abide

by these five commandments. He advocated his new faith in numerous books and articles.

At the age of 82, he left home one night, accompanied only by his faithful physician. This was something he had long wanted to do — to get off alone, to seek freedom from worldly comfort, and thus, to come closer to God. A few days later, on November 20, 1910, he died at a tiny railway station of Astapovo.

Exercises

I . Answer the following questions:

1. What happened to Ivan on his way to a fair that changed his whole life?
2. Why did Ivan give up all hope? What did he believe in after being sentenced?
3. How did Ivan find out the truth? What did he do after he learned about the truth?
4. What did Makar do at night in the prison?
5. How did Ivan know Makar's plan? What was the answer Ivan gave when he was questioned by the governor?
Why did Ivan do so?
6. What did Makar do after Ivan protected him?
7. Did Ivan forgive Makar? Why?
8. What kind of a man was Ivan? In what way was Ivan an ideal character of the author?

II . Fill in the blanks (pay attention to the legal terms):

1. Here is the ____ — a blood-stained knife in your baggage.
2. Then the trial came, and Ivan was ____ with the murder of the merchant and ____ him of his money.
3. We must ____ the czar not to let an innocent man perish.

Ivan was sad in prison. He heard nothing from his family. His hair turned grey. He prayed a lot, but never laughed or sang.

New prisoners came. Among them was a horse thief named Makar from Ivan's home town. They talked about the killing of that merchant. Makar seemed to know too many details about what had happened. Ivan was sure this man was the murderer.

Later Ivan heard Makar talk about this plan to escape and saw him digging under his bed. But when a guard caught Makar pouring dirt out of his boots and wanted the truth from Ivan, he said nothing.

This taught Makar so much that later that night Makar came to speak to Ivan and confessed it was he who had killed that merchant. He pleaded, wept and asked Ivan to forgive him. He said he would go and confess, so that Ivan would be free. "God will forgive you!" Ivan said, "in my heart I have no hatred or desire for revenge."

3. Jimmy Valentine

About the author

O. Henry (1867-1910)

O. Henry was born in Greenboro, North Carolina. His mother died before he was five and his father, a physician, paid little at-

tention to his son. An aunt who ran a small private school supervised his education which included a surprisingly wide reading of classic literature.

When he completed high school, he worked first as an assistant in a pharmacy, later as a bank teller. After a shortage of two or three thousand dollars from the bank he was sentenced to three years' imprisonment. During his stay in prison, he began to write stories which were told by his prison friends and he submitted them to a magazine.

After his release, O. Henry made his home in New York. He got so familiar with the New Yorkers — club men, fighters, thieves, policemen, shop-girls, lady-cashiers, and actors that he could use them in many of his stories, particularly those collected in *The Four Million*, *The Voice of the City*, and *The Trimmed Lamp*. Altogether he wrote about 300 short stories, including the well-known *An Unfinished Story*.

O. Henry was extravagantly praised in the last years of his short writing life as well as the decade after his death, and has been as much underestimated since. But his best work is still worth reading. He created an original, typically American form of the short story with a valuable critical awareness of life and society expressed through humor. The ending of his stories is usually unexpected, but when you go back to the story, you will find it is logical. This feature makes his stories more vivid and interesting.

Exercises

I. Answer the following questions:

1. Why was Jimmy put in jail?
2. What advice did the warden give him before he was given a

pardon?

3. Did he follow the advice? What did he do after he was released?
4. What happened to him that made him change his mind when he arrived at Elmore?
5. Did he make himself a man later on? How?
6. What happened to Annabel's niece?
7. What did Jimmy do when no one could help the little girl?
8. What risk did Jimmy take when he opened the safe like a safe-cracker?
9. Did Annabel realize that Jimmy used to be a safe-burglar? Did she still love him? Why?

II . Fill in the blanks:

1. "Valentine," the warden said, "... Stop _____ safes and live _____."
2. Teh warden laughed, "... Was it because you couldn't prove an _____? Or was it simply a case of a _____ that had it in for you?"
3. A week after the release of Valentine, there was a neat safe _____ in Indiana and then there was a bank safe robbery in _____.
4. Before the end of the year they (Jimmy and Annabel) were _____.
5. He (Jimmy) had already _____ a horse and a buggy at the livery stable.

III. Tick the correct answer in each of the following:

1. Brace up and make a man of your self.
A. Be brave C. Pull yourself together

- B. Be strong
- D. Stand firm
2. Was it simply a mean jury that had it in for you?
 - A. had got a proof from you
 - B. disliked you
 - C. had something against you
 - D. made false accusation of you
3. He's up to his old tricks.
 - A. He has given up his mischief
 - B. He is going ahead with his wrongdoings
 - C. He has improved his skills
 - D. He tricked people.
4. Mr. Ralph Spencer put aside all that was Jimmy Valentine.
 - A. put all his things away
 - B. saved his things
 - C. gave up all of his things
 - D. did not behave like Jimmy Valentine at all
5. His expression changed to one of deep concern.
 - A. one of deep anxiety
 - B. one of deep thinking
 - C. one of deep interest
 - D. one of great excitement

Summary of the story:

Jimmy Valentine, a convicted safe-cracker, was pardoned and released from prison. The warden advised him to live straight. Without taking the advice, Jimmy went back to his old tricks — robbing safes.

But one day this burglar really made himself into a man when he met Annabel Adams, the daughter of a bank owner, and