英语专业

英语专业四八级考试 金牌备考教程

四级全真模拟预测试卷

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内 容 提 要

本书是“英语专业四八级考试金牌备考教程”之一，针对英语专业四级考试的题型编写。书中汇编了10套全真模拟题，严格参照英语专业四级考试的命题要求，涵盖了四级考试所要考核的语言知识点，并针对模拟题提供详尽的解析。同时为使考试尽快熟悉和掌握考试形式，书中还提供2套最新真题试卷，以供读者参考。

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前　言

由国家教育部在全国范围内组织的，以检测高等学校英语专业教学质量、专业教学大纲执行情况为目的的英语专业四级、八级考试，自1992年、1994年开考以来一直受到各高校领导、师生的高度重视。2004年起，试题依据新版考试大纲命制。近年来参加考试人数猛增，考试知名度和社会认可程度在水涨船高。自2005年起，英语专业四、八级考试的部分试题考点及内容开始有所变化。

本书名为《英语专业四级考试全真预测模拟试卷》，其实是《英语专业四级考试模拟与解析（第二版）》的翻版与更新。两者有如下关联：其一，两个版本都是根据最新《高等学校英语专业教学大纲》（2000版）以及最新《高校英语专业四级考试大纲》（2004版）对英语专业二年级学生的专业要求编写的考试辅导用书；其二，全书的编排格式大致类似，如前半是模拟题，后半是试题解析等；其三，本书的主编依然由上海外国语大学的何兆熊教授担任，指导顾问仍是上海外国语大学的邹申教授，以确保本书内容的科学性和严谨性。除了这些关联，本书还具有以下特征：第一，由全新语料组成的全新编著，内容时代感、现实感更强；第二，在延续第二版八套编排结构的基础上，又增加了两套模拟题，汇编成共10套内容全新的模拟试题，且与近年来出现的新型考点试题保持了一致；第三，在试题解析部分还对专四作文写作知识、便条写作技巧等进行了更系统、前面的归纳整合；第四，随书附赠了最近两年的四级考试真题，并附有参考答案，以方便读者零距离掌握和熟悉考试形式与内容；第五，本书的参考答案与解析部分，包括听力原文，都已pdf格式可入光盘，以降低降低定价，最大限度的让利给莘莘学子；第六，参加本书编著的教师来自上海多所高校的一线资深教师，均有较高学历，且教学经验丰富，他们有的毫不犹豫贡献出了自己长期教学积累的颇具实用价值的宝贵语料或试题，有的根据学生实际、常见弱项煞费苦心地编制试题，才使本书得以此崭新面貌问世。

本书的出版，可谓是高校之间的友好协作，体现了一种学术合力。参加本书编写的6位教师来自上海的4所高校，即上海交大、上海外国语大学外、上海财经大学、上海外贸学院。他们在本书中所承担的编著工作大致为：

听写：童剑平（上海交大）

听力：谢都全（上外贸）、童剑平（上海交大）

完形填空：周越美（上海交大）、孙晓龙（上海财大）

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写作：周越美（上海交大）、谢都全（上外贸）

此外，编写本书时，我们考虑到了读者师生，考虑到了近年来专四考生来源的多样性、多元化，如来自一本、二本、三本院校的考生，或来自部属院校、民办院校的考生，或来自城市院校、边缘地区院校的考生，其英文基础肯定参差不齐，学生程度不一，但他们都有参加专业四级考试的愿望。因此，在本书的听写、完形填空、阅读理解等含一定篇幅的语料中，有时会将难度略有参差（词汇、长短、内容的专业性）的材料做些搭配，供教师根据学生实际情况选择使用。我们给教师的建议是：考试辅导也要注意培养学习信心，太难的题目会使考生失去自信，过易的试题不太需要挑战，也会违

背模拟练习的初衷，要循序渐进。我们给考生的建议是：如果觉得太难，这题可放一放，先换些比较趁手的题目去练；毕竟，专四统考对每位大二学生而言都是重大事件，平日够努力，考前也要熟悉题型，再由易及难，才能有助于考试的临场发挥。总之，我们希望本书能有助于提高考生考试成绩，提高英语水平。

本书的编著过程始终得到了上海外国语大学邹申教授、上海交通大学周国强教授的关心和指导。对此，我们深表感谢。

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MODEL TEST 1

TIME LIMIT: 135 MIN

PART Ⅰ DICTATION [15 MIN]

Listen to the following passage. Altogether the passage will be read to you four times. During the first reading, which will be done at normal speed, listen and try to understand the meaning. For the second and third readings, the passage will be read sentence by sentence, or phrase by phrase, with intervals of 15 seconds. The last reading will be done at normal speed again and during this time you should check your work. You will then be given 2 minutes to check through your work once more.

Please write the whole passage on ANSWER SHEET ONE.

PART Ⅱ LISTENING COMPREHENSION [20 MIN]

In Section A, B, and C you will hear everything ONCE ONLY. Listen carefully and then answer the questions that follow. Make the best answer to each question on Answer Sheet Two.

SECTION A CONVERSATIONS

In this section you will hear several conversations. Listen to the conversations carefully and then answer the questions that follow.

Questions 1 to 3 are based on the following conversation. At the end of the conversation, you will be given 15 seconds to answer the questions.

Now, listen to the conversation.

1. What prevents the man from taking the poets of 1960s class?
   A. It's only open to poetry majors.
   B. It requires another class first.
   C. It's already full.
   D. It's only offered in the morning.
2. What problem does the man have with the introductory poetry class?
   A. The class meets during his working hours.
   B. The class is too far away.
   C. He has another class at the same time.
   D. He's already familiar with the material.

3. The man doesn't want to change his work schedule because.
   A. all the other work schedules conflict with his class.
   B. he wants to work the same schedule as his friends.
   C. he doesn't want to ask his boss for another favor.
   D. he likes to do his home work in the evenings.

Questions 4 to 7 are based on the following conversation. At the end of the conversation, you will be given 20 seconds to answer the questions. Now, listen to the conversation.

4. The conversation most probably takes place in a
   A. car factory.
   B. car dealer's store.
   C. car after-service department.
   D. gas station.
5. The woman needs a _____ litre engine.
   A. 1.2 B. 1.4 C. 1.6 D. 2.0
6. The woman wants a car with a(n) _____ gear change.
   A. automatic
   B. manual
   C. semiautomatic
   D. semi-manual
7. The woman wants a car with _____ color.
   A. blue B. red C. light shade D. bright

Questions 8 to 10 are based on the following conversation. At the end of the conversation, you will be given 15 seconds to answer the questions. Now, listen to the conversation.

8. The circulation of paper the man works for is
   A. only 2,000.
   B. less than 2,000.
   C. about 28,000.
   D. 8 million.
9. _____ is NOT a quality newspaper.
   A. *The Times*
   B. *The Daily Mirror*
   C. *The Guardian*
   D. *The Daily Telegraph*
10. A quality newspaper
   A. must be a national newspaper.
   B. must have a circulation over one million.
   C. should print long new stories.
   D. should give a different angle to the news.

SECTION B PASSAGES

In this section, you will hear several passages. Listen to the passages carefully and then answer the questions that follow.

Questions 11 to 13 are based on the following passage. At the end of the passage, you will be given 15 seconds to answer the questions. Now, listen to the passage.

11. The Vienna survey may help to explain _____.
   A. the complaints of people in apartment houses

B. the cause of Mrs. Groeger's death
C. the longevity of people like Mrs. Groeger
D. the image of cities in general

12. _____ seems to be important to the longevity of the people interviewed in cities.
A. Exercise
B. Convenient transportation
C. Ease of using elevators
D. Abundant goods in supermarkets

13. People who live in the country probably do more driving than walking because
A. they don't need the exercise.
B. they don't live near business areas.
C. they never have parking problems.
D. they can't afford to take the bus.

Questions 14 to 17 are based on the following passage. At the end of the passage, you will be given 20 seconds to answer the questions. Now, listen to the passage.

14. About _____ percent of the people in the United States are now below the poverty line.
A. 10 B. 40 C. 20 D. 14

15. Which of the following is NOT true?
A. Poor people could have a good living standard if they had stable jobs.
B. Poor people are those who live below the poverty line.
C. The poverty line rises as the general standard of living rises.
D. The poverty line tends to be at the same level.

16. The fact that more than 40 percent of the poor people are children is mainly because they
A. do not have enough motivation.
B. are so young that they are deprived of chances to work.
C. fail to get enough education.
D. are very poor in health.

17. Most of the American poor people are not qualified for employment because
A. they do not have any motivation to work.
B. they are not very self-confident.
C. they are too young or too old to work.
D. they have physical and family problems.

Questions 18 to 20 are based on the following passage. At the end of the passage, you will be given 15 seconds to answer the questions. Now, listen to the passage.

18. Subsistence farmers
A. grow crops for their families' own use.
B. sell a lot of their products for money.
C. trade their varied output for other goods.
D. use their agricultural products as commodities.

19. American commercial farms
A. furnish the country with two thirds of the food its people need.
B. are run in much the same way as other industries.
C. are all owned by different companies.

D. never rent their land for farming.

20. A specialized farm is characterized by its

A. especially large size.
B. independence of the market.
C. concentration on a single type of farming.
D. special way of operation.

SECTION C NEWS BROADCAST

In this section, you will hear several news items. Listen to them carefully and then answer the questions that follow.

Questions 21 and 22 are based on the following news. At the end of the news item, you will be given 10 seconds to answer the questions. Now, listen to the news.

21. Some people criticize SUVs because they

A. are a combination of a car and truck.
B. use too much fuel and increase air pollution.
C. have a lot of space to transport children and food.
D. can do many different things.

22. How much market share do SUVs account for of all cars and trucks sold in America?

A. 20%. B. 22%. C. 30%. D. 32%.

Questions 23 and 24 are based on the following news. At the end of the news item, you will be given 10 seconds to answer the questions. Now, listen to the news.

23. Which of the following statements is INCORRECT about the news?

A. Many European countries sink in the current debt crisis.
B. Many European economies have barely achieved any growth.
C. China's export relies heavily on the European market.
D. Debt crisis in Europe will not affect Chinese economy at all.

24. What is the issue that the Chinese government is confronted with?

A. How to speed up the economic growth rate.
B. How to lower the economic growth rate.
C. How to maintain the economic growth rate.
D. How to negotiate with European countries.

Questions 25 and 26 are based on the following news. At the end of the news item, you will be given 10 seconds to answer the questions. Now, listen to the news.

25. Nigerian labor leaders are calling for a strike to

A. press for a legal minimum wage.
B. press for a political reform.
C. protest against racial discrimination.
D. protest against gender discrimination.

26. Which of the following is NOT mentioned about lawmakers?
A. They try to avert the strike.
B. They call for labor leaders to be patient.
C. They settle on the minimum wage of $118 a month.
D. They encourage labor leaders to go on strike.

Questions 27 and 28 are based on the following news. At the end of the news item, you will be given 10 seconds to answer the questions. Now, listen to the news.

27. According to the news, how much US dollars entered China as hot money last year?
A. 35.5 billion. B. 30.5 billion. C. 35.5 million. D. 30.5 million.
28. What makes China a most attractive country, like India and Brazil, for hot money?
A. China's top five banks. B. Bubbles in China's housing prices.
C. China's foreign exchange reserve. D. China's fast rate of wealth growth.

Questions 29 and 30 are based on the following news. At the end of the news item, you will be given 10 seconds to answer the questions. Now, listen to the news.

29. What is the news item mainly about?
A. The US economy booms.
B. The US economy shrinks.
C. The US central banks buy foreign securities.
D. The US central banks sell foreign securities.
30. When did the Federal Reserve cut its target rate for overnight loans?
A. In June. B. In September. C. On Thursday. D. On Wednesday.

PART Ⅲ CLOZE [15 MIN]

Decide which of the choices given below would best complete the passage if inserted in the corresponding blanks. Mark the best choice for each blank on Answer Sheet Two.

While many Western brands, such as Apple, Nike, LVMH and Estée Lauder, have successful local operations in China and have become ___31___ profitable, Barbie, the slender symbol of American consumerism, has shut up ___32___ in Shanghai just two years ___33___ opening her biggest flagship store there. Mattel, owner of the doll brand, said the bright pink, six-storey store ___34___ its purpose of building brand ___35___ in China. But analysts say the investment failed because Mattel ___36___ the local market.

The withdrawal comes ___37___ store closures in China by US retailers Home Depot and Best Buy, which both struggled to ___38___ the local market. The misfortunes of the US brands are surprising since the Chinese government has made boosting domestic consumption a top policy priority. "___39___ of the three companies—Best Buy, Home Depot or Barbie—___40___ local

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consumer preferences and habits enough," said Shaun Rein, managing director of China Market Research Group.

"In Barbie's ___41___, they chose the wrong location ___42___ the flagship store and they offered sexy clothes when young Chinese women tend to prefer cute designs like Hello Kitty." As well as having the world's biggest collection of Barbie dolls and expensive Barbie-themed ___43___, the store on the chic(讲究的,时髦的)Huaihai Road ___44___ a beauty salon and restaurant ___45___ young Chinese could get made up like Barbie and eat ___46___ favourite food. When the store opened ___47___ great fanfare(隆重开张仪式)in March 2009, Mattel said it would be the "ultimate destination for young girls who call Barbie a best friend".

On Monday, Mattel said the closure was "mainly ___48___ a strategy change" in China and the company "continues to be committed to ___49___ the Barbie brand in China". Analysts said Barbie. Best Buy and Home Depot were seen by consumers ___50___ in a very price-sensitive market.

31. A. awfully B. really C. hardly D. hugely
32. A. its shop B. the shop C. shop D. shops
33. A. before B. after C. since D. when
34. A. had served B. served C. was serving D. would serve
35. A. up B. name C. well known D. awareness
36. A. did not adjust to B. had not adjusted to
C. was not adjusting to D. has not adjusted to
37. A. down with B. over C. on the heels of D. on the basis of
38. A. crash into B. create C. smack D. crack
39. A. Neither B. All C. None D. Some
40. A. catered to B. have catered to C. have developed D. developed
41. A. case B. shop C. company D. closure
42. A. for B. of C. with D. from
43. A. cloth B. clothing C. textiles D. fabrics
44. A. owned B. possessed C. boasted D. had
45. A. in that B. when C. that D. where
46. A. your B. his C. their D. her
47. A. to B. for C. with D. in
48. A. because B. due to C. thanks to D. in view of
49. A. developing B. develop C. be developed by D. being
50. A. very expensive B. as expensive C. expensive D. all expensive

PART Ⅳ GRAMMAR & VOCABULARY [15 MIN]

There are thirty sentences in this section. Beneath each sentence there are four words or phrases marked A, B, C and D. Choose one word or phrase that best completes the sentence. Mark your answers on Answer Sheet Two.

51. Babies with the disease are likely to experience fewer health problems if _____ before birth rather than afterward.
A. being operated on
B. operated on
C. operating on
D. being operating on

52. There were people who lost jobs, but also had medical emergencies, _____ to credit cards to carry them through the hard times.
A. turned
B. turning
C. and turned
D. and turning

53. Writing tricky headlines that people _____ click on is one of their standard strategies.
A. cannot help
B. cannot help to
C. cannot help but
D. cannot but to

54. The people, whose ancestors began to arrive in the region a thousand years ago, have not _____ mastered as adapted themselves to its varied landscape.
A. as
B. so
C. as much
D. so much

55. _____ its rapid growth over the last 30 years, China remains relatively poor compared with the United States, the Europe Union or Japan.
A. For
B. With
C. For all
D. With all

56. Wakeboarding is to water skiing _____ snowboarding is to downhill skiing — in other words, the extreme version of the sport.
A. as
B. like
C. what
D. that

57. The nature of individual human-pet relationships varies widely and only now _____ to characterize those differences.
A. are scientists beginning
B. scientists are beginning
C. are scientists begun
D. scientists are begun

58. The Renminbi is a regional currency in Southeast Asia, _____ China has become the dominant trading partner of many countries.
A. when
B. where
C. which
D. who

59. A lot of the genes _____ to be unique to the animal kingdom were present in the single-celled ancestors of animals.
A. once thought
B. thought once
C. were once thought
D. were thought once

60. The company _____ profitable throughout last year but for the interest payments.
A. was
B. was to be
C. would be
D. would have been

61. How proud his father _____. The example of bravery was unequaled anywhere in the history of this great country.
A. would have been
B. could have been
C. must have been
D. might have been

62. I never think of summer, _____ I think of the stream running through our village.
A. so
B. but
C. then
D. however

63. In the sentence "We'll take action *as soon as he's back*.", the adverbial clause denotes
A. time
B. cause
C. condition
D. concession

64. Which of the following sentences is correct?

A. Jane is the girl for who I bought the gift.

B. The novel, that only appeared last week, has been sold out.

C. This is the fastest train which there has ever been.

D. All we can do is to wait.

65. In the sentence "If you *would wait* a minute, I'*d check* it for you.", the italicized parts

A. denote volition that is unlikely to be fulfilled

B. denote an action in the past

C. denote past habitual action

D. express politeness in tone

66. Behavior at school parties must be _____ school's rule.

A. out of line with　　B. in line with

C. on a line with　　D. in line for

67. Rumours are everywhere, spreading fear, damaging reputations, and turning calm situations into _____ ones.

A. turbulent　　B. tragic　　C. vulnerable　　D. suspicious

68. You'd better not accompany your mum because she will spend much time picking _____ a new hat she wants to wear.

A. on　　B. out　　C. up　　D. off

69. Do you have any _____ about what living beings on other planets would be like?

A. ideal　　B. comprehension　　C. notion　　D. intelligence

70. I'm sorry I'm not in the position to answer your questions. The man sitting by the window is _____ here.

A. in place　　B. in charge　　C. in power　　D. in response

71. The little girl plucked _____ her mother's sleeve to try to get her attention.

A. up　　B. at　　C. down　　D. out

72. The _____ of food in east Africa over the past few months was caused by the drought.

A. need　　B. variety　　C. scarcity　　D. rarity

73. Although he has a _____ knowledge of Chinese, Mark can't resist showing off in public.

A. supercilious　　B. superficial　　C. superfluous　　D. superior

74. This is the _____ piano on which the composer created some of his greatest works.

A. true　　B. original　　C. real　　D. genuine

75. Although most dreams apparently happen _____, dream activity may be provided by external influences.

A. spontaneously　　B. simultaneously

C. homogeneously　　D. instantaneously

76. I caught a _____ of the man's face as he ran past.

A. glimpse　　B. glance　　C. glare　　D. stare

77. Born and grown up in a mountainous village in the north, I can't stand the summer's _____ heat in the south.

A. intensive　　B. heavy　　C. intense　　D. high

78. The new version gives the user quick and easy _____ to the required information.

A. privilege B. allowance C. occasion D. access

79. Tina's parents bought her many expensive toys as some form of _____ for her lameness and inability to play active games.

A. remedy B. compensation C. treatment D. comfort

80. Material abundance has been the life blood which has _____ Americans in their basic beliefs and values.

A. contributed B. provided C. favored D. sustained

PART Ⅴ READING COMPREHENSION [25 MIN]

In this section there are four passages followed by questions or unfinished statements, each with four suggested answers marked A, B, C, and D. Choose the one that you think is the best answer.

Mark your answers on Answer Sheet Two.

Text A

Panel painting, common in thirteenth- and fourteenth-century Europe, involved a painstaking, laborious process. Wooden planks were joined, covered with gesso (石膏) to prepare the surface for painting, and then polished smooth with special tools. On this perfect surface, the artist would sketch a composition with chalk, refine it with inks, and then begin the deliberate process of applying thin layers of egg tempera paint (蛋彩画) with small brushes. The successive layering of these meticulously applied paints produced the final, translucent (半透明的) colors.

Backgrounds or gold were made by carefully applying sheets of gold leaf, and then embellishing (修饰,润色) of decorating the gold leaf by punching it with a metal rod on which a pattern had been embossed (被凸起的,被加浮雕的). Every step in the process was slow and deliberate. The quick-drying tempera demanded that the artist know exactly where each stroke be placed before the brush met the panel, and it required the use of fine brushes. It was, therefore, an ideal technique for emphasizing the hard linear edges and pure, fine areas of color that were so much a part of the overall aesthetic of the time. The notion that an artist could or would dash off an idea in a fit of spontaneous inspiration was completely alien to these deliberately produced works.

Furthermore, making these paintings was so time-consuming that it demanded assistance. All such work was done by collective enterprise in the workshops. The painter or master who is credited with having created the painting may have designed the work and overseen its production, but it is highly unlikely that the artist's hand applied every stroke of the brush. More likely, numerous assistants, who had been trained to imitate the artist's style, applied the paint. The carpenter's shop probably provided the frame and perhaps supplied the panel, and yet another shop supplied the gold. Thus, not only many hands, but also many shops were involved in the final product.

In spite of problems with their condition, restoration, and preservation many panel paintings have survived, and today many of them are housed in museum collections.

81. What aspect of panel paintings does the passage mainly discuss?

A. Famous example.
B. Different styles.
C. Restoration.
D. Production.

82. What was the first step in making a panel painting?
A. Mixing the paint.
B. Preparing the panel.
C. Buying the gold leaf.
D. Making ink drawings.

83. The word "deliberate" in Line 5 is closest in meaning to
A. decisive.
B. careful.
C. natural.
D. unusual.

84. What characteristic of tempera paint is mentioned in the passage?
A. It dries quickly.
B. It is difficult to make.
C. It dissolves easily.
D. It has to be applied directly to wood.

85. The word "them" in the last line refers to
A. problems.
B. condition, restoration, preservation.
C. panel paintings.
D. museum collections.

Text B

Archaeology has long been an accepted tool for studying prehistoric cultures. Relatively recently the same techniques have been systematically applied to studies of the more immediate past. This has been called "historical archaeology", a term that is used in the United States to refer to any archaeological investigation into North American sites that postdate the arrival of Europeans.

Back in the 1930's and 1940's, when building restoration was popular, historical archaeology was primarily a tool of architectural reconstruction. The role of archaeologists was to find the foundations of historic buildings and then take a back seat to architects.

The mania (狂热) for reconstruction had largely subsided by the 1950's and 1960's. Most people entering historical archaeology during this period came out of university anthropology departments, where they had studied prehistoric cultures. They were, by training, social scientists, not historians, and their work tended to reflect this bias. The questions they framed and the techniques they used were designed to help them understand, as scientists, how people behaved. But because they were treading on historical ground for which there was often extensive written documentation and because their own knowledge of these periods was usually limited, their contributions to American history remained circumscribed (有限的). Their reports, highly technical and sometimes poorly written, went unread.

More recently, professional archaeologists have taken over. These researchers have sought to demonstrate that their work can be a valuable tool not only of science but also of history, providing fresh insights into the daily lives of ordinary people whose existences might not otherwise be so well documented. This newer emphasis on archaeology as social history has shown great promise, and indeed work done in this area has lead to a reinterpretation of the United States past.

In Kingston, New York, for example, evidence has been uncovered that indicates that English goods were being smuggled into that city at a time when the Dutch supposedly controlled trading in the area. And in Sacramento an excavation at the size of a fashionable nineteenth-century hotel revealed that garbage had been stashed (藏匿) in the building's basement despite sanitation laws to the contrary.

86. What does the passage mainly discuss?
A. Why historical archaeology was first developed.
B. How the methods and purpose of historical archaeology have changed.
C. The contributions architects make to historical archaeology.
D. The attitude of professional archaeologists toward historical archaeology.

87. What is a relatively new focus in archaeology?
A. Investigating the recent past.
B. Studying prehistoric cultures.
C. Excavating ancient sites in what is now the United States.
D. Comparing findings made in North America and in Europe.

88. When had historical archaeologists been trained as anthropologists?
A. Prior to the 1930's.
B. During the 1930's and 1940's.
C. During the 1950's and 1960's.
D. After the 1960's.

89. The phrase "their contributions" in the next to the last sentence in Paragraph 3 refers to the contributions of
A. social scientists.
B. prehistoric cultures.
C. historians.
D. documentation and knowledge.

90. An excavation at the size of a hotel in Sacramento is mentioned to give an example of
A. a building reconstruction project.
B. the work of the earliest historical archaeologists.
C. a finding that conflicts with written records.
D. the kind of information that historians routinely examine.

Text C

Despite the road improvements of the turnpike era (1790-1830). Americans continued as in colonial times to depend wherever possible on water routes for travel and transportation. The larger rivers, especially the Mississippi and the Ohio, became increasingly useful as steamboats grew in number and improved in design.

River boats carried to New Orleans the corn and other crops of northwestern farmers, the cotton and tobacco of southwestern planters. From New Orleans, ships took the cargoes on to eastern seaports. Neither the farmers of the west nor the merchants of the east were completely satisfied with this pattern of trade. Farmers could get better prices for their crops if the alternative existed of sending them directly eastward to market and merchants could sell larger quantities of their manufactured goods if these could be transported more directly and more economically to the west.

New waterways were needed. Sectional jealousies and constitutional scruples (顾虑) stood in the way of action by the federal government and necessary expenditures were too great for private enterprise. If extensive canals were to be dug, the job would be up to the various states. New York was the first to act. It had the natural advantage of a comparatively level route between the Hudson River and Lake Erie, through the only break in the entire Appalachian Mountain chain. Yet the engineering tasks were imposing. The distance was more than 350 miles and there were ridges to cross and a wilderness of woods and swamps to penetrate. The Erie Canal begun in 1817 and

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