

“十二五”国家重点图书出版规划项目
普通高等教育“十二五”重点规划教材

Nucleus 新核心 大学英语

B版

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阶梯阅读 1



上海东辰大学出版社
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Nucleus

新核心 大学英语

..... B 版

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阶梯阅读 1



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内容提要

本书包括八个单元,每个单元包括五篇阅读材料。两篇短文文章长度为200~500词,两篇长篇文章长度为700~1200词,最后一篇文章是关于中国文化的,文后不设习题,主要是帮助学生了解中国历史文化的英语表达方式,提高他们对外交流能力。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。

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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。

2013年出版的《新核心大学英语B版快速阅读》系列教材得到广大师生的充分肯定。随着大学英语改革的推进,随着英语四、六级考试改革的深入,我们及时对其进行了改版,出版这套《新核心大学英语B版阶梯阅读》教材。

一、教材编写依据

《新核心大学英语B版阶梯阅读》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版快速阅读》做进一步改进,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版阶梯阅读》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版阶梯阅读》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版阶梯阅读 基础级》、《新核心大学英语B版阶梯阅读 1》、《新核心大学英语B版阶梯阅读 2》、《新核心大学英语B版阶梯阅读 3》、《新核心大学英语B版阶梯阅读4》五册。《新核心大学英语B版阶梯阅读》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。

每册包括八个单元,每个单元包括五篇阅读材料。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》,两篇短篇文章长度为200~500词,两篇长篇文章长度为700~1 200词,最后一篇文章是关于中国文化的,文后不设习题,主要是帮助学生了解中国历史文化的英语表达方式,提高他们对外交流能力。阅读材料的内容突出知识性,涉及自然科学和人文学科,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版阶梯阅读》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版阶梯阅读》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,教师对学生自主学习过程进行监督与评价。

编者

2014年3月

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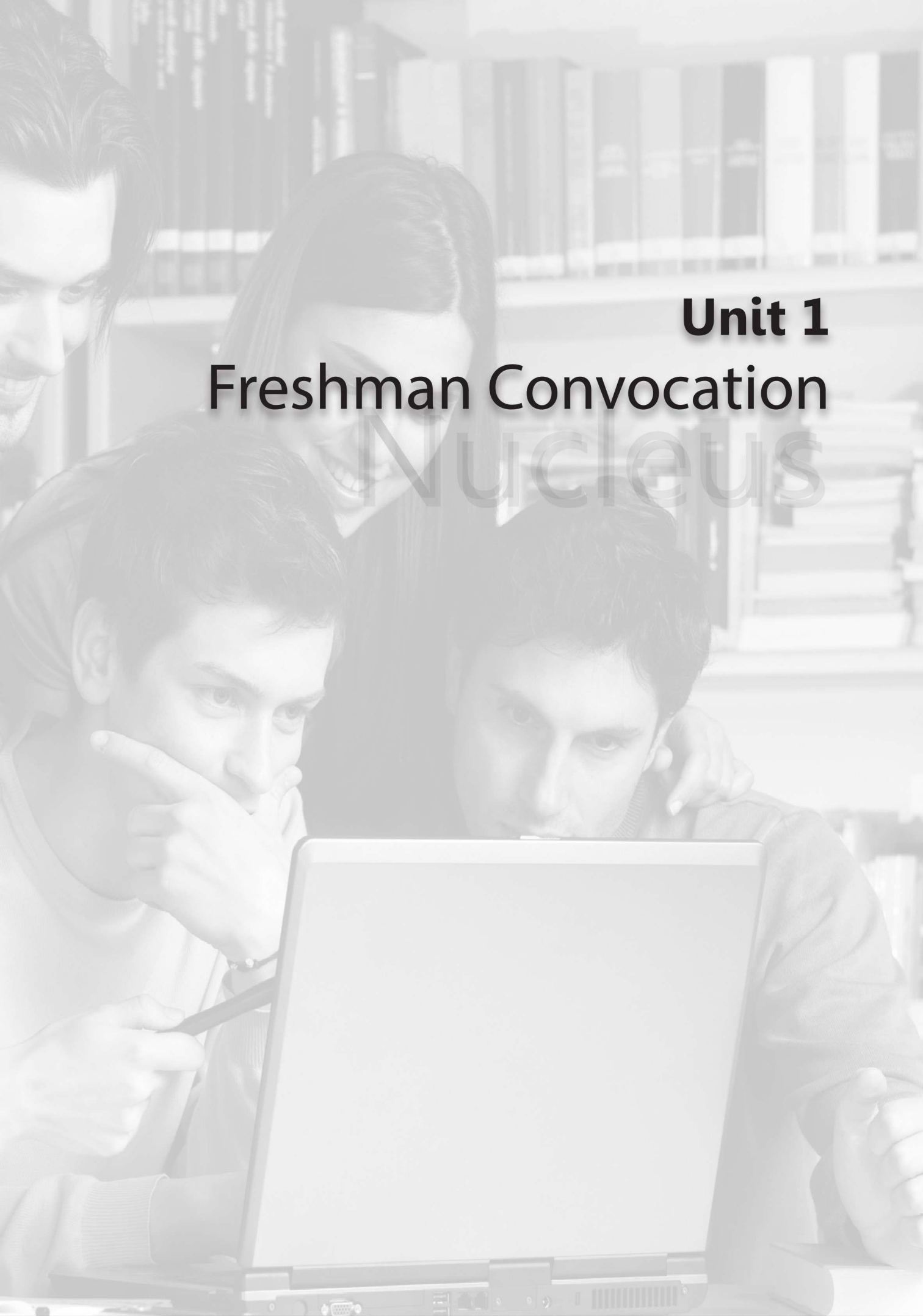
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Unit 1
Freshman Convocation
Nucleus

Passage 1

Time Taken: _____ minutes

Address at the 2011 Freshman Convocation

Who are we? Welcome to FIU. Welcome new students and returning students. Parents and family members of our freshmen: We are now your university too! We have been waiting for this day because for us, every student counts!

Class of 2015, tomorrow you begin a major **phase**⁽¹⁾ in your life; one of learning, discovery, self-awareness. You will become a part of the FIU Family: Panthers, Blue and Gold. We are prepared for you and want each and every one of you to succeed.

To understand our approach, a *Worlds Ahead* approach, I want to tell you who we are! We are a university that **sprung**⁽²⁾ out of the ground just forty years ago on an abandoned airport. We are a university that was founded by faculty and staff who were visionary and forward-thinking; they were not **deterred**⁽³⁾ when they discovered that their first building, the control tower that you can find near the Towers Resident Halls, had no running water, electricity, nor furniture. We were a university whose student body demanded quality and wanted to attend a public university in Miami so

Guess the meanings of the following words from their context.

- | | | | |
|------------|-------|-------|-------|
| (1) phase | A. 周期 | B. 阶段 | C. 方面 |
| (2) spring | A. 出现 | B. 跳跃 | C. 突出 |
| (3) deter | A. 抵挡 | B. 吓住 | C. 制止 |

that they didn't have to leave their community.

We are a university that overcame so many obstacles to be here today. We were told that we could not **enroll**⁽⁴⁾ freshmen. We were told that we could never offer masters and doctoral degrees. We were told that only certain universities in the state could offer law and medicine and we could not. We were told that we would never have resident halls. We were told that we could not have intercollegiate (校际的) sports. We were told that we would never have a football team; it was only for the UFs, FSUs, and UCFs.

That was then. Today, we have all this and more. We have you! We are a university with a *Worlds Ahead* attitude. We are forward thinking, international, entrepreneurial (具有创业精神的), centrally located, family oriented, and community-centered. We are FIU! Welcome to FIU, your Worlds Ahead education! Are you in? (330 words)

Abridged and revised from

<http://www.google.com.hk/search?q=freshman+convocation+address&hl=zh-CN&nwindow=1&safe=strict&tbo=d&ei=GYkBUbiwF8mTiAfWroD4Dg&start=40&saN>

(4) enroll

A. 登记

B. 参加

C. 招收

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

- (1) FIU is a university that was built forty years ago on _____.
- A. a deserted field
 - B. an abandoned airport
 - C. a waste factory
 - D. a high school



- (2) It was discovered that the first building had no _____.
- A. running water
 - B. electricity
 - C. furniture
 - D. all of the above
- (3) Which of the following statements about FIU is NOT true according to the passage?
- A. The faculty and staff who founded FIU were visionary and forward thinking.
 - B. The control tower is near the Towers Resident Halls now.
 - C. Their student body wanted to attend a public university in Miami so that they didn't have to leave their community.
 - D. The founders of the university were deterred by the poor conditions of the campus.
- (4) It can be inferred from the passage that _____.
- A. FIU could not enroll freshmen now
 - B. FIU could not offer masters and doctoral degrees now
 - C. FIU could have intercollegiate sports now
 - D. FIU doesn't have a football team now
- (5) The passage mainly wants to tell us that _____.
- A. FIU is a university that overcame many obstacles to be here today
 - B. FIU is the best university in the USA
 - C. every student of FIU will succeed sooner or later
 - D. FIU is a university with a long history

Passage 2

Time Taken: _____ minutes

US Science Education: Rethinking How Kids Learn

The US is becoming increasingly concerned over learning among the country's youth in areas of science and math. International testing has shown that American students fall behind foreign counterparts in a number of subjects. But is it just about the text and the test?

Students in Shanghai who took international exams for the first time **outscored**⁽¹⁾ every other school system in the world. In the same test, American students ranked 25th in math, 17th in science and 14th in reading. A 2009 study showed that US students ranked 25th among 34 countries in math and science — behind states like China, Singapore, South Korea, and Finland.

A report last month revealed that California is failing to provide high-quality science education to public elementary school students — just 10 percent of elementary classrooms provide regular hands-on science experiments, and fewer than half of surveyed school **principals**⁽²⁾ think their students would receive high-quality science instruction in their respective schools.

President Barack Obama has made a call for improving science,

Guess the meanings of the following words from their context.

- | | | | |
|---------------|---------|-------|---------|
| (1) outscore | A. 得分超过 | B. 获胜 | C. 进球 |
| (2) principal | A. 当事人 | B. 校长 | C. 主要演员 |

technology, engineering and math education over the next decade through a number of partnerships and initiatives (倡议), and the US Navy announced in June a plan to invest more than \$100 million in science and technology education by 2015.

“I want us all to think about new and creative ways to engage young people in science and engineering, whether it’s science festivals, robotic competitions, fairs that encourage young people to create and build and invent, to be makers of things, not just consumers of things,” Obama said during his 2009 address at a meeting of the National Academy of Sciences.

But what role do informal ways of learning contribute to science education? On Talk of the Nation, NPR’s Ira Flatow asks, how important are museums, TV shows and after-school clubs to teaching kids science?

“I think that what these opportunities do for children and adults is they help them understand at a deeper level some of the things that they have learned in school or they may get them excited about something that then they want to pursue in more depth in school,” Flatow is told. “But there’s definitely evidence in my work and the work of other people doing research on this area that these experiences can be **exceedingly**⁽³⁾ powerful.” (376 words)

Abridged and revised from

http://www.huffingtonpost.com/2011/11/14/us-science-education-reth_n_1093167.html

(3) exceedingly

A. 超出地

B. 极其地

C. 胜过地

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

- (1) Which of the following words can replace the underlined word “counterparts” in Paragraph 1?
- A. Countries.
 - B. Subjects.
 - C. Schools.
 - D. Students.
- (2) A 2009 study showed that US students ranked 25th among 34 countries in math and science, behind the following states EXCEPT _____.
- A. China
 - B. South Korea
 - C. France
 - D. Singapore
- (3) The US Navy announced in June a plan to invest more than \$ 100 million in _____ by 2015.
- A. economy
 - B. science and technology education
 - C. industry
 - D. agriculture
- (4) By saying “to be makers of things, not just consumers of things”, Obama expects young people to _____.
- A. produce more goods
 - B. consume various goods
 - C. take part in science festivals, robotic competitions and fairs
 - D. create and invent new things
- (5) We can infer from the passage that _____.
- A. American students are not as clever as students in other countries
 - B. President Obama pays special attention to the country’s science education
 - C. informal ways of learning do no good to science education
 - D. museums, TV shows and after-school clubs are not important to teach kids science at all

Passage 3

Time Taken: _____ minutes

Directions: *In this section, there is a passage with ten blanks. You are required to select one word for each blank from a list of choices given in a word bank following the passage. Read the passage through carefully before making your choices. Each choice in the bank is identified by a letter. Please mark the corresponding letter for each item. You may not use any of the words in the bank more than once.*

Getting a university _____ (1) _____ isn't just good for your mind — it's good for your heart, says a new study in the journal BMC Public Health. The longer you spend in education, the lower your blood pressure is _____ (2) _____ to be. This is particularly true for women.

Scientists from the US, Canada, UK and Australia _____ (3) _____ 30 years of data from 3,890 people who were being followed as part of the Framingham Offspring Study, which tracked the education and _____ (4) _____ histories of 3,890 people.

Researchers divided subjects into three groups, low education (12 years or less), middle education (13 to 16 years) and high education (17 years or more). They then calculated the _____ (5) _____ systolic (心脏收缩的) blood pressure for the 30-year period.

Women with low education had a blood pressure 3.26 mmHg higher than those with a high _____ (6) _____ of education. In men the difference was 2.26 mmHg. Lead author Eric Loucks, assistant professor of community health at Brown University, said the analysis may explain a well-known association in the _____ (7) _____ world between education and heart disease.

Uneducated people _____ (8) _____ to end up in demanding jobs that give workers little control, which have been _____ (9) _____ with high blood pressure, said researchers. The effect is greater in women, said Loucks, because “women with less education are more likely to be experiencing depression, they are more likely to be single parents, more likely to be _____ (10) _____ in impoverished (贫穷的) areas and more likely to be living below the poverty line”. (245 words)

Abridged and revised from

<http://www.rd.com/health/wellness/education-lowers-blood-pressure/>

- | | |
|----------------|------------------|
| (A) likely | (I) examined |
| (B) extent | (J) degree |
| (C) learned | (K) living |
| (D) medical | (L) standard |
| (E) average | (M) associated |
| (F) possible | (N) existing |
| (G) level | (O) developed |
| (H) tend | |

Passage 4

Time Taken: _____ minutes

Directions: *In this section, you are going to read a passage with ten statements attached to it. Each statement contains information given in one of the paragraphs. Identify the paragraph from which the information is derived. You may choose a paragraph more than once. Each paragraph is marked with a letter.*

Top 10 Secrets of College Success

- A** A new book, *The Secrets of College Success*, which is now available “wherever books are sold” offers 10 best tips for college success:
- B Take control.** For many students, the most striking difference between college and high school is that at college there’s no one there to stand over you and tell you what to do. Getting to class, doing the homework, getting your papers in on time — all of these are things you’re going to have to do without a parent or teacher to beat on you. Step up to bat and take responsibility. You’re in charge of this thing.
- C Audition (试听) your professors.** Many entering students think they should just take the “standard first-year program” their adviser hands them, and be done with it. But a far better idea is to go to the first class or two and assess the professor. Ask yourself: Is the material presented clearly and forcefully? Does the class have a clear point? Is the professor at least moderately engaging? Is this someone I feel I can learn from? If the answer to any of these questions is “no”, drop the class and find another.
- D Get to class.** Most students have a “cutting budget”: the number of