

 **决胜高考英语**
Victory English

阅读理解 专项突破

重庆名校名师倾力打造
把握高考英语最新动向



紧扣课标，精选话题
呼应教材，探究难点
科学设题，精准解析

重庆市教育科学研究院 组编
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前 言

阅读作为语言学习的主要输入方式,在听、说、读、写四项技能中占着举足轻重的地位。阅读理解是英语考试中分值最高的题型,考生阅读水平的高低直接影响其高考成绩。众所周知,阅读技能的提高离不开大量的阅读训练,科学系统的阅读训练在高三有限的学习时间内,尤为重要。为了让考生走出题海,提高阅读技能和对英语学习的兴趣,做到事半功倍,我们精心编写了本书。本书紧扣新课标与教材,由话题分类阅读和综合训练两个部分组成,是高三英语复习尤其是第一轮复习的良师益友,具有很强的实战性和可靠性。与同类资料相比,本书具有如下特点:

一、紧扣新课标要求,按话题进行分类训练

高中英语课程标准包含 24 个话题,如自然环境、文学艺术、兴趣爱好等。我们从中选择了 16 个重点话题,旨在通过科学系统的阅读训练,培养学生的阅读策略和阅读技能,提高阅读练习的效率。同时,在每个话题开头,都给出了与此话题相关的单元,让学生体会到教材实际是高考阅读中话题的来源,在用好教材的基础上对阅读相关话题进行拓展是提高阅读技能和语言学习的有效途径。

二、权威选题,历年高考真题与模拟题结合

高考阅读题材多样化、信息量大、语言地道、思想内涵深刻,对考生的思维空间有很高要求。我们把历年来具有很高参考价值的高考真题和模拟题纳入此书,力图提供一个重要和主流的实战经验来源,从而使学生更好地把握好高考阅读。另一方面,编者也加入了一些具有丰富思想性、知识性、趣味性和强烈时代感的英美报刊原文,各种选材深浅结合,鲜活灵动,原汁原味,让学生在可读性很强的文章里形成良好的阅读习惯,提高阅读能力。

三、引导学生总结反思重难点题型

高考阅读题型的考查包括细节理解、主旨大意、词义猜测和推理判断。编者在每个话题中,给出了此话题中有可能遇到的高考重难点题型透析,旨在为学生提供一个引子,让学生不是为了做题而做题,而是针对不同的题型进行总结反思,提高解题效率。

我们希望,这本书能帮助考生在枯燥的阅读训练中找到方向。预祝莘莘学子在不远的将来,好运。

编 者

2016 年 8 月

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第一部分 话题分类阅读

Period One: 人物篇

复习必读

外研版:必修1 Module 2 必修2 Module 3 必修4 Module 4

重大版:必修2 Unit 2 必修4 Challenging Yourself III 选修8 Unit 4

人教版:必修1 Unit 5 必修4 Unit 1 选修7 Unit 3

关键词及线索

job/ characters (qualities) / achievement (influence) / how to become successful/ childhood experiences/ family background...



技巧点拨

有关人物篇的主旨大意

有关人物的文章脉络往往非常清晰。作者为什么要写这个人,一定是因为他在某个领域的成就或个人魅力。因此,人物篇主旨的标题一般是人物+人物成就(影响)或人物+人物特点,如:Yuan Longpin—a Leading Figure in Agriculture, Madam Curie—the Mother of Radium。掌握了这一点,人物篇的主旨大意题型就迎刃而解了。

Louis Armstrong had two famous nicknames. Some people called him Bagamo. They said his mouth looked like a large bag. Musicians often called him Pops, as a sign of respect for his influence on the world of music.

Born in 1901 in New Orleans, he grew up poor, but lived among great musicians. Jazz was invented in the city a few years before his birth. Armstrong often said, "Jazz and I grew up together."

Armstrong showed a great talent for music when he was taught to play the cornet (短号) at a boy's home. In his late teens, Armstrong began to live the life of a musician. He played in parades, clubs, and on the steamboats that traveled on the Mississippi River. At that time, New Orleans was famous for the new music of jazz and was home to many great musicians. Armstrong learned from the older musicians and soon became respected as their equal.

In 1922 he went to Chicago. There, the tale of Louis Armstrong begins. From then until the end of his life, Armstrong was celebrated and loved wherever he went. Armstrong had no

equal when it came to playing the American popular song.

His cornet playing had a deep humanity (仁爱) and warmth that caused many listeners to say, "Listening to Pops just makes you feel good all over." He was the father of the jazz style and also one of the best-known and most admired people in the world. His death, on July 6, 1971, was headline news around the world.

Which would be the best title for the text?

- A. The Invention of the Jazz Music. B. The Father of the Jazz Style.
C. The Making of a Musician. D. The Spread of Popular Music.

解析:人物篇标题选择题应首先排除记事的标题,故排除 A 和 D。这篇短文讲述了 Armstrong 成为爵士乐之父的过程,同时短文的最后一段中的“He was the father of the jazz style and also one of the best-known and most admired people in the world.”点明了这篇短文的主题,所以最好的题目应该是:The Father of the Jazz Style。



A

字数:307 words

难度:★★

建议用时:5 minutes

Jane Austen, a famous English writer, was born at Steventon, Hampshire, on December 16, 1775, and died on July 18, 1817. She began writing early in life, although the prejudices of her times forced her to have her books published anonymously (匿名地).

But Jane Austen is perhaps the best known and best loved of Bath's many famous local people and visitors. She paid two long visits here during the last five years of the eighteenth century and from 1801 to 1806, Bath was her home. Her deep knowledge of the city is fully seen in two of her novels, *Northanger Abbey* and *Persuasion*, which are largely set in Bath. The city is still very much as Jane Austen knew it, keeping in its streets and public buildings the well-ordered world that she described so well in her novels. Now the pleasure of learning Jane Austen's Bath can be enhanced (增强) by visiting the Jane Austen Centre in Gay Street. Here, in a Georgian town house in the heart of the city, you can find out more about Bath in Jane Austen's time and the importance of Bath in her life and work.

The Centre has been set up with the help and guidance of members of the Jane Austen Society. After your visit to the Centre, you can look round the attractive shop, which offers a huge collection of Jane Austen related books, cards and many specially designed gifts. Jane Austen quizzes are offered to keep the children busy.

You can also have walking tours of Jane Austen's Bath, which is a great way to find out more about Jane Austen and discover the wonderful Georgian city of Bath. The tour lasts about one and a half hours. The experienced guides will take you to the places where Jane lived, walked and shopped.

1. Jane Austen paid two long visits to Bath _____.

- A. in her early twenties B. in her early teens
C. in her late twenties D. in her late teens



2. What can we learn about Bath from the passage?
 - A. Bath has greatly changed since Jane Austen's death.
 - B. The city has changed as much as Jane Austen knew it.
 - C. Bath remains almost the same as in Jane Austen's time.
 - D. No changes have taken place in Bath since Jane Austen's time.
3. The author writes this passage in order to _____.
 - A. attract readers to visit the city of Bath
 - B. ask readers to buy Austen's books
 - C. tell readers about Jane Austen's experience
 - D. give a brief introduction to the Jane Austen Society
4. It takes you about one and a half hours to _____.
 - A. get to the Jane Austen Centre in Gay Street
 - B. buy Jane Austen related books, cards and gifts
 - C. find a guide to take you to the Centre
 - D. look around the city of Bath on foot

B

字数:388 words

难度:★★★

建议用时:6 minutes

Since 1989, Dave Thomas, who died at age 69, was one of the most recognizable faces on TV. He appeared in more than 800 commercials for the hamburger chain named for his daughter. "As long as it works," he said in 1991, "I'll continue to do those commercials."

Even though he was successful, Thomas remained troubled by his childhood. "He still won't let anyone see his feet, which are out of shape because he never had proper fitting shoes," Wendy said in 1993. Born to a single mother, he was adopted as a baby by Rex and Auleva Thomas of Kalamazoo in Michigan. After Auleva died when he was 5, Thomas spent years on the road as Rex traveled around seeking construction work. "He fed me," Thomas said, "and if I got out of line, he'd beat me."

Moving out on his own at 15, Thomas worked, first as a waiter, in many restaurants. But he had something much better in mind. "I thought if I owned a restaurant," he said, "I could eat for free." A 1956 meeting with Harland Sanders led Thomas to a career as the manager of a Kentucky Fried Chicken restaurant that made him a millionaire in 1968.

In 1969, after breaking with Sanders, Thomas started the first Wendy's Old Fashioned Hamburgers, in Columbus, Ohio, which set itself apart by serving made-to-order burgers. With 6,000 restaurants worldwide, the chain now makes \$6 billion a year in sales.

Although troubled by his own experience with adoption, Thomas, married since 1954 to Lorraine, 66, and with four grown kids besides Wendy, felt it could offer a future for other children. He started the Dave Thomas Foundation (基金会) for Adoption in 1992.

In 1993, Thomas, who had left school at 15, graduated from Coconut Creek High School in Florida. He even took Lorraine to the graduation dance party. The kids voted him Most Likely to Succeed.

“The Dave you saw on TV was the real Dave,” says friend Pat Williams. “He wasn’t a great actor or a great speaker. He was just Joe Everybody.”

1. What is the article mainly about?
 - A. The life of Dave Thomas.
 - B. The dream of Dave Thomas.
 - C. The schooling of Dave Thomas.
 - D. The growth of Dave Thomas’s business.
2. What do we know about his childhood?
 - A. He lived a poor life.
 - B. He had caring parents.
 - C. He stayed in one place.
 - D. He didn’t go to school.
3. Choose the right time order of the following events in Thomas’s life.
 - a. graduated from high school
 - b. started his own business
 - c. became a millionaire
 - d. started a foundation
 - e. met Harland Sanders
 - A. e, b, c, d, a.
 - B. a, e, c, b, d.
 - C. e, c, b, d, a.
 - D. a, e, b, c, d.
4. “He was just Joe Everybody.” (in the last paragraph) means _____.
 - A. Dave was famous
 - B. Dave was ordinary
 - C. Dave was showy
 - D. Dave was shy

C

字数:259 words

难度:★★★

建议用时:5 minutes

Anyone who cares about what schools and colleges teach and how their students learn will be interested in the memoir (回忆录) of Ralph W. Tyler, who is one of the most famous men in American education.

Born in Chicago in 1902, brought up and schooled in Nebraska, the 19-year-old college graduate Ralph Tyler became hooked on teaching while teaching as a science teacher in South Dakota and changed his major from medicine to education.

Graduate work at the University of Chicago found him connected with honorable educators Charles Judd and W. W. Charters, whose ideas of teaching and testing had an effect on his later work. In 1927, he became a teacher of Ohio State University where he further developed a new method of testing.

Tyler became well-known nationally in 1938, when he carried his work with the Eight-Year Study from Ohio State University to the University of Chicago at the invitation of Robert Hutchins.

Tyler was the first director of the Center for Advanced Study in the Behavioral Sciences at Stanford, a position he held for fourteen years. There, he firmly believed that researchers should be free to seek an independent spirit in their work.

Although Tyler officially retired in 1967, he never actually retired. He served on a long list of educational organizations in the United States and abroad. Even in his 80s he traveled



across the country to advise teachers and management people on how to set objectives (目标) that develop the best teaching and learning within their schools.

- Who are most probably interested in Ralph W. Tyler's memoir?
 - Top managers.
 - Language learners.
 - Serious educators.
 - Science organizations.
- The words "hooked on teaching" underlined in Paragraph 2 probably mean _____.
 - attracted to teaching
 - tired of teaching
 - satisfied with teaching
 - unhappy about teaching
- Where did Tyler work as the leader of a research center for over 10 years?
 - The University of Chicago.
 - Stanford University.
 - Ohio State University.
 - Nebraska University.
- Tyler is said to have never actually retired because _____.
 - he developed a new method of testing
 - he called for free spirit in research
 - he was still active in giving advice
 - he still led the Eight-Year Study

Period Two: 哲理故事篇

复习必读

外研版:必修1 Module 3

重大版:必修2 Unit 2 Unit 3 Challenging Yourself II

必修3 Unit 1 Unit 2 Unit 3 Unit 4

人教版:选修7 Unit 3



关键词及线索

experience/ unforgettable/ meaningful/ conclude/ eventually/ teach sb. a lesson...

技巧点拨

排序中的小窍门

对于记叙文中的排序题,不少同学觉得既浪费时间,又容易出错。实际做排序题是有捷径可走的。比较常用的方法是首尾定义法,即先理清最先发生的事和最后发生的事,缩小选择范围,再对发生在中间的事进行选项之间的对比,下面我们在具体的实例中来讲讲首尾定义法的应用。

Ellie Wen, 18, was volunteering at a community center in Los Angeles. The center was set up to help immigrant families. She happened to meet adults in an EFL (English as a foreign language) class. "When I saw them struggling hard, I wondered how people in poor countries

could learn English,” Ellie said.

So she started a Website, “Repeat After Us”, when people can listen to English and practise their accents. Volunteers have helped Ellie record more than 6,600 texts, including Abraham Lincoln’s “Gettysburg Address”.

Hard work pays off. There were so many times that Ellie was discouraged, but she stuck to it. The Website crashed early on, and all the recordings were lost. But volunteers worked together vigorously to start over, and the visitors returned to the site.

“Just follow your idea and know that the world is so kind. Even if you do have trouble, people will help you,” Ellie said.

“I was really excited the first month, when we had 49 visitors,” she said. Now, more than 480,000 people from all over the world have visited the site. “I get e-mails from China, Egypt, India and Brazil. They say ‘Thank you so much for this resource; we’ve been waiting for it for so long!’” Ellie loves knowing she is helping so many people.

Anybody can be negative, but it takes somebody brave to be positive. Are you the brave one?

Which of the following is the correct order of the events?

- a. Ellie started the Website “Repeat After Us”.
- b. Ellie happened to meet adults in an EFL class.
- c. All the recordings were lost.
- d. More than 480,000 people from all over the world visited the site.
- e. Visitors returned to the site.

A. c, b, a, e, d.

B. a, e, d, c, b.

C. b, a, c, e, d.

D. b, c, a, d, e.

解析:答案 C。根据原文,最先发生的事是 b,最后发生的事是 d,可知答案为 C。

实战演练

A

字数:490 words

难度:★★

建议用时:6 minutes

Compassion is a desire within us to help others. With effort, we can translate compassion into action. An experience last weekend showed me this is true. I work part-time in a supermarket across from a building for the elderly. These old people are our main customers, and it’s not hard to lose patience over their slowness. But last Sunday, one aged gentleman appeared to teach me a valuable lesson. This untidy man walked up to my register (收款机) with a box of biscuits. He said he was out of cash, had just moved into his room, and had nothing in his cupboards. He asked if we could let him have the food on trust. He promised to repay me the next day.

I couldn’t help staring at him. I wondered what kind of person he had been ten or twenty years before, and what he would be like if luck had gone his way. I had a hurt in my heart for this kind of human soul, all alone in the world. I told him that I was sorry, but store rules



didn't allow me to do so. I felt stupid and unkind saying this, but I valued my job.

Just then, another man, standing behind the first, spoke up. If anything, he looked more pitiable. "Charge it to me," was all he said.

What I had been feeling was pity. Pity is soft and safe and easy. Compassion, on the other hand, is caring in action. I thanked the second man but told him that was not allowed either. Then I reached into my pocket and paid for the biscuits myself. I reached into my pocket because these two men had reached into my heart and taught me compassion.

- The aged gentleman who wanted to buy the biscuits _____.
 - promised to obey the store rules
 - forgot to take any money with him
 - hoped to have the food first and pay later
 - could not afford anything more expensive
- Which of the following best describes the old gentleman?
 - Kind and lucky.
 - Poor and lonely.
 - Friendly and helpful.
 - Hurt and disappointed.
- The writer acted upon the store rules because _____.
 - he wanted to keep his present job
 - he felt no pity for the old gentleman
 - he considered the old man dishonest
 - he expected someone else to pay for the old man
- What does the writer learn from his experience?
 - Wealth is more important than anything else.
 - Helping others is easier said than done.
 - Experience is better gained through practice.
 - Obedying the rules means more than compassion.

B

字数:526 words

难度:★★★★

建议用时:9 minutes

Even before my father left us, my mother had to go back to work to support our family. Once I came out of the kitchen, complaining, "Mom, I can't peel potatoes. I have only one hand."

Mom never looked up from sewing. "You get yourself into that kitchen and peel those potatoes," she told me. "And don't ever use that as an excuse for anything again!"

In the second grade, our teacher lined up my class on the playground and had each of us race across the monkey bars, swinging from one high steel rod to the next. When it was my turn, I shook my head. Some kids behind me laughed, and I went home crying.

That night I told Mom about it. She hugged me, and I saw her "we'll see about that" look. The next afternoon, she took me back to school. At the deserted playground, Mom looked carefully at the bars.

"Now, pull up with your right arm," she advised. She stood by as I struggled to lift

myself with my right hand until I could hook the bar with my other elbow. Day after day we practised, and she praised me for every rung I reached. I'll never forget the next time, crossing the rungs, I looked down at the kids who were standing with their mouths open.

One night, after a dance at my new junior high, I lay in bed sobbing. I could hear Mom come into my room. "Mom," I said, weeping, "none of the boys would dance with me."

For a long time, I didn't hear anything. Then she said, "Oh, honey, someday you'll be beating those boys off with a bat." Her voice was faint and cracking. I peeked out from my covers to see tears running down her cheeks. Then I knew how much she suffered on my behalf. She had never let me see her tears.

1. Which of the following expressions can be used most suitably to describe Mom's attitude when she made the child to peel potatoes?
A. Cruel. B. Serious. C. Strict. D. Cold.
2. From the passage, we know monkey bars can help a child train _____.
A. the skill to throw and catch things
B. the speed of one's hand movement
C. the strength and skill to hang and sway
D. the bodily skill to rotate round a bar
3. What does the sentence "I saw her 'we'll see about that' look" imply?
A. Mom believed every aim could be achieved if you stuck to it.
B. The race across monkey bars was not difficult enough for a child to give up.
C. Mom was determined to prove she herself was better than the teacher.
D. What the child had said brought Mom great attraction and curiosity.
4. The most probable conclusion we can draw after reading the passage is _____.
A. the last incident was sad enough to make Mom weep
B. the child's experience reminded Mom of that of her own
C. Mom could solve any problem except the one in the last paragraph
D. in fact Mom suffered more in the process of the child's growth

C

字数:475 words

难度:★★★

建议用时:7 minutes

On Christmas morning, I went to the Cockhedge Mall. People there were all busy buying their last minute requirements. I needed to buy a birthday card for my son-in-law whose birthday is the 29th of December. Picking up a few more things as well as my card I went to join the line for the express checkout which was for people who only had a few items in a basket and not a trolley load. This line was next to the Customer Service desk.

Seemingly waiting quite a long time, I was jogged out of my thoughts by a voice behind me making comments on the things I bought.

It was so funny when I realized that she was describing the contents of my basket. The owner of the voice was a very pretty young lady. I said to her that I was going to buy a box of Christmas cookies but the only ones left were not to my liking. The lady told me that just

opposite Cockhedge in Superdrug they had lots of cookies. I said, "I'm not going to bother now. I had enough of shops and I'm going home."

The assistant from the Customer Service came across at this time saying, "If there is anyone in the line with a few items in their basket, none of which needed to be weighed, I will check out their groceries at the desk." Because I had the sprouts which needed to be weighted, the young lady accepted the offer and walked away waving goodbye.

Eventually my turn came at the checkout. I was walking away when I met my new friend once again who handed me a beautiful box of Christmas cookies. With a big hug she said, "Hope you have a lovely Christmas." She had been into Superdrug to buy the cookies while I was still queuing in Cockhedge.

What a generosity to a stranger! I was so surprised that you could have knocked me down with a feather. My Good Samaritan would never know what a joyful Christmas day I had with my family. Telling them this story, as we ate around the table, kept everyone spellbound.

- The underlined word "spellbound" in the last paragraph probably means _____.
A. interested B. disappointed C. astonished D. frightened
- Which of the following could be the best title of the story?
A. A Piece of Lucky Feather. B. A Surprise Christmas Gift.
C. The Boring Shopping Experience. D. The Unforgettable Big Hug.
- How does the writer feel about the pretty young lady?
A. Worried. B. Satisfied. C. Grateful. D. Proud.
- What can we learn from the story?
A. Nobody is sure what will happen the next moment.
B. A simple action can bring other people happiness.
C. Being patient will decrease the waiting time.
D. Life without hope and faith is a full thing.

Period Three: 兴趣爱好篇

复习必读

外研版:必修2 Module 4 Module 6 必修5 Module 3

重大版:必修1 Unit 3 Unit 4 Unit 5 Challenging Yourself II

人教版:必修2 Unit 5

关键词及线索

entertainment/have special favor to/be keen on/surf the Internet/chat online/develop an interest in/play musical instrument...



技巧点拨

登高阅读法

新课标要求学生创造性地学习。如果同学们能做到这一点,那一定会事半功倍。很多同学一提到阅读理解就觉得头昏眼花,笔者建议不如放下习题,外出登山放松一下。事实上,阅读理解和登高望远有很多相似之处,用登高望远来解释阅读理解未尝不可,我们暂且可以把这种方法称之为“登高阅读法”。下面笔者就具体来解释一下什么叫“登高阅读法”。

当你爬到山顶,山下的美景尽收眼底,何处高楼林立,何处鸟语花香,站在山顶的人一清二楚。做阅读题也是如此,考生在第一遍阅读时通过对文章的总体把握,就能对文章结构了然于胸,进而得出文章大意。在此过程中,读者需要重点关注以下几点:

1. 首段(首段的作用:①中心大意 ②抛砖引玉);
2. 尾段(尾段的作用:①中心大意 ②总结全文 ③引申(提出建议、希望、解决措施、用途等));
3. 首末句原则,即除了首段和末段,其余各段的首末句一定要读。

很多登山的人喜欢携带望远镜,体会了“会当凌绝顶,一览众山小”的豪情壮志之后,就会拿出望远镜对几处感兴趣的地方做细致入微的观察。这就好比学生在通读全文后,仔细审题回到原文细微之处去找寻答案。

学习应当是快乐的,快乐地、创造性地学习不仅能提高学习效率,而且会带来意想不到的学习效果。希望我们的同学都能创造性学习,感受快乐,提高成绩。

实战演练

A

字数:370 words

难度:★★

建议用时:5 minutes

Welcome to one of the largest collections of footwear (鞋类) in the world that will make you green with envy. Here at the Footwear Museum you can see exhibits (展品) from all over the world. You can find out about shoes worn by everyone from the Ancient Egyptians to pop stars.

<p>Room 1</p> <p>The celebrity (名人) footwear section is probably the most popular in the entire museum. Started in the 1950s there is a wide variety of shoes and boots belonging to everyone from queens and presidents to pop stars and actors! Most visitors find the celebrities' choice of footwear extremely interesting.</p>	<p>Room 2</p> <p>Most of our visitors are amazed and shocked by the collection of “special purpose” shoes on exhibition here at the Museum of Footwear. For example, there are Chinese shoes made of silk that were worn by women to tie their feet firmly to prevent them from growing too much!</p>
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Continued

<p>Room 3</p> <p>As well as shoes and boots the museum also exhibits shoe shaped objects. The variety is unbelievable. For example, there is a metal lamp that resembles a pair of shoes, and Greek wine bottles that like legs!</p>	<p>The Footwear Library</p> <p>People come from all over the world to study in our excellent footwear library. Designers and researchers come here to look up information on anything and everything related to the subject of footwear.</p>
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- Where would you find a famous singer's shoes?
 - Room 1.
 - Room 2.
 - Room 3.
 - The Footwear Library.
- All exhibits in each room _____.
 - share the same theme
 - have the same shape
 - are made of the same material
 - belong to the same social class
- Which of the following is true according to the text?
 - The oldest exhibits in Room 1 were made in the 1950s.
 - Room 2 is the most visited place in the museum.
 - Room 3 has a richer variety of exhibits than the other two.
 - Researchers come to the Footwear Library for data.
- The purpose of the text is to get more people to _____.
 - do research
 - design shoes
 - visit the museum
 - follow celebrities

B

字数:429 words

难度:★★★

建议用时:6 minutes

You may think that sailing is a difficult sport, but it is really not hard to learn it. You do not need to be strong. But you need to be quick. And you need to understand a few basic rules about the wind.

First, you must ask yourself, "Where is the wind coming from? Is it coming from ahead or behind or from the side?" You must think about this all the time on the boat. The wind direction tells you what to do with the sail.

Let's start with the wind blowing from the behind. This means the wind and the boat are going in the same direction. Then you must always keep the sail outside the boat. It should be at a 90° angle (角度) to the boat. Then it will catch the wind best.

If the wind is blowing from the side, it is blowing across the boat. In this case, you must keep the sail half way outside the boat. It should be at a 45° angle to the boat. It needs to be out far enough to catch the wind, but it shouldn't flap (摆动). It shouldn't look like on a flagpole. If it is flapping, it is probably out too far, and the boat will slow down.

Sailing into the wind is not possible. If you try, the sail will flap and the boat will stop. You may want to go in that direction. It is possible, but you can't go in a straight line. You must go first in one direction and then in another. This is called tacking. When you are tacking, you must always keep the sail inside the boat.

1. What should you consider first while sailing?
A. Sailors' strength. B. Wave levels.
C. Wind directions. D. Size of sails.
2. What does the underlined word "It" in Paragraph 4 refer to?
A. The boat. B. The wind. C. The sail. D. The angle.
3. What do you have to do when sailing against the wind?
A. Move in a straight line. B. Allow the sail to flap.
C. Lower the sail. D. Tack the boat.
4. Where can you probably find the text?
A. In a popular magazine. B. In a tourist guidebook.
C. In a physics textbook. D. In an official report.

C

字数:554 words

难度:★★★

建议用时:8 minutes

Deputy Agriculture Secretary Kathleen Merrigan sees an epidemic (流行病) sweeping across America's farmland. It has little to do with the usual challenges, such as flood, rising fuel prices and crop-eating insects. The country's farmers are getting older, and there are fewer people standing in line to take their place. National agricultural census (普查) figures show that the fastest-growing group of farmers is the part over 65. Merrigan is afraid the average age will be even higher when the 2012 statistics are completed.

Merrigan, a former college professor, is making stops at universities across the country in hopes of encouraging more students to think about careers in agriculture. Aside from trying to stop the graying of America's farmers, her work is made tougher by a recent blog posting that put agriculture at No. 1 on a list of "useless" college degrees. Top federal agriculture officials are talking about the posting, and it has the attention of agricultural organizations across the country.

"There couldn't be anything that's more incorrect," Merrigan said. "We know that there aren't enough qualified graduates to fill the jobs that are out there in American agriculture."

In addition, a growing world population that some experts predict will require 70% more food production by 2050, she said.

"I truly believe we're at a golden age of agriculture. Global demand is at an all-time record high, and global supplies are at all-time record lows," said Matt Rush, director of the Texas Farm Bureau. "Production costs are going to be valuable enough that younger people are going to have the opportunity to be involved in agriculture."

The Department of Agriculture has programs aimed at developing more farmers and at increasing interest in locally grown food. The National Young Farmers' Coalition has also been