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考试全真模拟试题

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申富英 吴瑾瑾 编著

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前 言

本书是作者根据《高校英语专业八级考试大纲(2004 年新版)》和《高等学校英语专业高级阶段英语教学大纲》,并在总结多年来在英语专业教学工作和八级考试辅导中所取得的经验的基础上,编写而成的。本书有以下显著特点:

紧扣大纲,全真模拟 作者严格按照《高校英语专业八级考试大纲(2004 年新版)》和《高等学校英语专业高级阶段英语教学大纲》的要求,并参考近 2005 年全真试题的难度和题型,编写了这本《征服英语专业八级考试全真模拟试题》。

内容全面,重点突出 在选材上,无论是听力理解,还是阅读理解,无论校对与改错,还是翻译和写作,作者都力争做到既内容全面,又重点突出。

难易适中,适合练兵 在编写过程中,作者注意克服了某些模拟试题集中的一套试题和另一套试题在难度上相差很大的缺点,严格按两个《大纲》进行操作,使试题的难度始终与真题保持一致。因此,本书可以使读者准确地了解自己的英语水平,发现自己的长处与不足,以便指导将来的学习与复习。

本书可供参加英语专业八级考试的考生使用,也可作为准备报考研究生的人员以及专业英语教师的参考资料,还可以作为成人教育和英语自学者学习和考前练兵的有益帮手。

由于编写时间仓促,作者水平有限,书中难免有不当之处,敬请读者谅解。

中富英 吴瑾瑾

2005 年 10 月 18 日

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征服

英语专业八级考试模拟试题一

TEM-8

PART I LISTENING COMPREHENSION

[25 MIN]

SECTION A MINI-LECTURE

In this section you will hear a mini-lecture. You will hear the lecture ONCE ONLY. While listening, take notes on the important points. Your notes will not be marked, but you will need them to complete a gap-filling task after the mini-lecture. When the lecture is over, you will be given two minutes to check your notes, and another ten minutes to complete the gap-filling task on ANSWER SHEET ONE. Use the blank sheet for note-taking.

LAND USE

A problem related to the competition for land use is whether crops should be used to produce food or fuel. (1) _____ areas will be examined in this respect. Firstly, the problem should be viewed in its (2) _____ perspective. When oil prices rose sharply (2) _____

in the 1970s, countries had to look for alternatives to solve the resulting crisis.

In developing countries, one of the possible answers to it is to produce alcohol from (3) _____ material. This has led to a lot of research in this area particularly in the use of (4) _____. The use of this material resulted from two economic reasons: a (5) _____ in its price and low (6) _____ costs.

There are other starchy plants that can be used to produce alcohol, like the sweet (7) _____ or the cassava plant in tropical regions, and (8) _____ and sugar beet in non-tropical regions. The problem with these plants is that they are also the people's staple food in many poor countries.

Therefore, farmers there are faced with a choice: crops for food or for fuel. And farmers naturally go for what is more (9) _____. As a result, the problems involved are economic in nature, rather than technological. This is my second area under consideration.

Finally, there have already been practical applications of using alcohol for fuel. Basically, they come in two forms of use: pure alcohol as is the case in (10) _____, and a combination of alcohol and gasoline known as gasohol in Germany.

SECTION B INTERVIEW

Questions 1 to 5 are based on an interview. At the end of the interview you will be given 10 seconds to answer each of the following five

questions.

Now listen to the interview.

1. What subject is Mr. Pitt good at?
 - [A] Art.
 - [B] French.
 - [C] German.
 - [D] Chemistry.
2. What does Mr. Pitt NOT do in his spare time?
 - [A] Doing a bit of acting and photography.
 - [B] Going to concerts frequently.
 - [C] Playing traditional jazz and folk music.
 - [D] Traveling in Europe by hitch-hiking.
3. When asked what a manager's role is, Mr. Pitt sounds _____.
 - [A] confident
 - [B] hesitant
 - [C] resolute
 - [D] doubtful
4. What does Mr. Pitt say he would like to be?
 - [A] An export salesman working overseas.
 - [B] An accountant working in the company.
 - [C] A production manager in a branch.
 - [D] A policy maker in the company.
5. Which of the following statements about the management trainee scheme is TRUE?
 - [A] Trainees are required to sign contracts initially.
 - [B] Trainees' performance is evaluated when necessary.
 - [C] Trainees' starting salary is 870 pounds.
 - [D] Trainees cannot quit the management scheme.

SECTION C NEWS BROADCAST

Question 6 is based on the following news. At the end of the news item, you will be given 10 seconds to answer the question.

Now listen to the news.

6. The blast brought about heavy casualty _____.

- [A] because some houses are near the gas station
- [B] because the gas station is located in a provincial capital
- [C] because the gas station is near a mosque
- [D] because the gas station runs small businesses

Questions 7 and 8 are based on the following news. At the end of the news item, you will be given 20 seconds to answer the questions.

Now listen to the news.

7. The police searched _____ homes in attempt to find attack-related explosives and computer files.
- [A] three
 - [B] four
 - [C] five
 - [D] six
8. The London blasts began at _____.
- [A] 8:20 a.m.
 - [B] 8:30 a.m.
 - [C] 8:40 a.m.
 - [D] 8:50 a.m.

Questions 9 and 10 are based on the following news. At the end of the news item, you will be given 20 seconds to answer the questions.

Now listen to the news.

9. The reason why Sandra Day O'Connor resigned from the Supreme Court was _____.
- [A] that she failed to please either party in the Congress
 - [B] that she had served too long a time in the Court
 - [C] that she was 80 years old and ailing with thyroid cancer
 - [D] not mentioned
10. All of the following qualities EXCEPT _____ have been mentioned by President Bush as qualities that a nominee should possess.
- [A] a good character to please both Democrats and Republicans
 - [B] being intellectual and competent for the job
 - [C] sense of justice and faithful interpreter of the Constitution
 - [D] standing for the American mainstream and its values

PART II READING COMPREHENSION

[30 MIN]

In this section there are four reading passages followed by a total of twenty multiple-choice questions. Read the passages and then mark your answers on your colored answer sheet.

TEXT A

In the world of entertainment, TV talk shows have undoubtedly flooded every inch of space on daytime television. And anyone who watches them regularly knows that each one varies in style and format. But no two shows are more profoundly opposite in content, while at the same time standing out above the rest, than the Jerry Springer and the Oprah Winfrey shows.

Jerry Springer could easily be considered the king of "trash talk". The topics on his show are as shocking as shocking can be. For example, the show takes the ever-common talk show themes of love, sex, cheating, guilt, hate, conflict and morality to a different level. Clearly, the Jerry Springer show is a display and exploitation of society's moral catastrophes, yet people are willing to eat up the intriguing predicaments of other people's lives.

Like Jerry Springer, Oprah Winfrey takes TV talk show to its extreme, but Oprah goes in the opposite direction. The show focuses on the improvement of society and an individual's quality of life. Topics range from teaching your children responsibility, managing your work week, to getting to know your neighbors.

Compared to Oprah, the Jerry Springer show looks like poisonous waste being dumped on society. Jerry ends every show with a "final word". He makes a small speech that sums up the entire moral of the

show. Hopefully, this is the part where most people will learn something very valuable.

Clean as it is, the Oprah show is not for everyone. The show's main target audience are middle-class Americans. Most of these people have the time, money, and stability to deal with life's tougher problems. Jerry Springer, on the other hand, has more of an association with the young adults of society. These are 18-to 21-year-olds whose main troubles in life involve love, relationship, sex, money and peers. They are the ones who see some value and lessons to be learned underneath the show's exploitation.

While the two shows are as different as night and day, both have ruled the talk show circuit for many years now. Each one caters to a different audience while both have a strong following from large groups of fans. Ironically, both could also be considered pioneers in the talk show world.

11. Compared with other TV talk shows, both the Jerry Springer and the Oprah Winfrey are _____.
 [A] more family-oriented [B] unusually popular
 [C] more profound [D] relatively formal
12. Though the social problems Jerry Springer talks about appear distasteful, the audience _____.
 [A] remain fascinated by them
 [B] are ready to face up to them
 [C] remain indifferent to them
 [D] are willing to get involved in them
13. Which of the following is likely to be a topic of the Oprah Winfrey show?
 [A] A new type of robot. [B] Racist hatred.
 [C] Family budget planning. [D] Street violence.
14. We can learn from the passage that the two talk shows _____.

- [A] have monopolized the talk show circuit
- [B] exploit the weaknesses in human nature
- [C] appear at different times of the day
- [D] are targeted at different audiences

TEXT B

In the 1950s, the pioneers of artificial intelligence (AI) predicted that, by the end of this century, computers would be conversing with us at work and robots would be performing our housework. But as useful as computers are, they're nowhere close to achieving anything remotely resembling these early aspirations for humanlike behavior. Never mind something as complex as conversation: the most powerful computers struggle to reliably recognize the shape of an object, the most elementary of tasks for a ten-month-old kid.

A growing group of AI researchers think they know where the field went wrong. The problem, the scientists say, is that AI has been trying to separate the highest, most abstract levels of thought, like language and mathematics, and to duplicate them with logical, step-by-step programs. A new movement in AI, on the other hand, takes a closer look at the more roundabout way in which nature came up with intelligence. Many of these researchers study evolution and natural adaptation instead of formal logic and conventional computer programs. Rather than digital computers and transistors, some want to work with brain cells and proteins. The results of these early efforts are as promising as they are peculiar, and the new nature-based AI movement is slowly but surely moving to the forefront of the field.

Imitating the brain's neural network is a huge step in the right direction, says computer scientist and biophysicist Michael Conrad, but it still misses an important aspect of natural intelligence. "People tend to treat the brain as if it were made up of color-coded transistors", he explains,

"but it's not simply a clever network of switches. There are lots of important things going on inside the brain cells themselves." Specifically, Conrad believes that many of the brain's capabilities stem from the pattern-recognition proficiency of the individual molecules that make up each brain cell. The best way to build an artificially intelligent device, he claims, would be to build it around the same sort of molecular skills.

Right now, the notion that conventional computers and software are fundamentally incapable of matching the processes that take place in the brain remains controversial. But if it proves true, then the efforts of Conrad and his fellow AI rebels could turn out to be the only game in town.

15. The author says that the powerful computers of today _____.
 - [A] are capable of reliably recognizing the shape of an object
 - [B] are close to exhibiting humanlike behavior
 - [C] are not very different in their performance from those of the 50's
 - [D] still cannot communicate with people in a human language
16. The new trend in artificial intelligence research stems from _____.
 - [A] the shift of the focus of study on to the recognition of the shapes of objects
 - [B] the belief that human intelligence cannot be duplicated with logical, step-by-step programs
 - [C] the aspirations of scientists to duplicate the intelligence of a ten-month-old child
 - [D] the efforts made by scientists in the study of the similarities between transistors and brain cells
17. Conrad and his group of AI researchers have been making enormous efforts to _____.
 - [A] find a roundabout way to design powerful computers
 - [B] build a computer using a clever network of switches
 - [C] find out how intelligence developed in nature

- [D] separate the highest and most abstract levels of thought
18. What's the author's opinion about the new AI movement?
- [A] It has created a sensation among artificial intelligence researchers but will soon die out.
- [B] It's a breakthrough in duplicating human thought processes.
- [C] It's more like a peculiar game rather than a real scientific effort.
- [D] It may prove to be in the right direction though nobody is sure of its future prospects.

TEXT C

Birds that are literally half-asleep-with one brain hemisphere alert and the other sleeping-control which side of the brain remains awake, according to a new study of sleeping ducks.

Earlier studies have documented half-brain sleep in a wide range of birds. The brain hemispheres take turns sinking into the sleep stage characterized by slow brain waves. The eye controlled by the sleeping hemisphere keeps shut, while the wakeful hemisphere's eye stays open and alert. Birds also can sleep with both hemispheres resting at once.

Decades of studies of bird flocks led researchers to predict extra alertness in the more vulnerable, end-of-the-row sleepers. Sure enough, the end birds tended to watch carefully on the side away from their companions. Ducks in the inner spots showed no preference for gaze direction.

Also, birds dozing at the end of the line resorted to single-hemisphere sleep, rather than total relaxation, more often than inner ducks did. Rotating 16 birds through the positions in a four-duck row, the researchers found outer birds half-asleep during some 32 percent of dozing time versus about 12 percent for birds in internal spots.

"We believe this is the first evidence for an animal behaviorally

controlling sleep and wakefulness simultaneously in different regions of the brain," the researchers say.

The results provide the best evidence for a long-standing supposition that single-hemisphere sleep evolved as creatures scanned for enemies. The preference for opening an eye on the lookout side could be widespread, he predicts. He's seen it in a pair of birds dozing side-by-side in the zoo and in a single pet bird sleeping by a mirror. The mirror-side eye closed as if the reflection were a companion and the other eye stayed open.

Useful as half-sleeping might be, it's only been found in birds and such water mammals as dolphins, whales, and seals. Perhaps keeping one side of the brain awake allows a sleeping animal to surface occasionally to avoid drowning.

Studies of birds may offer unique insights into sleep. Jerome M. Siegel of the UCLA says he wonders if birds' half-brain sleep "is just the tip of the iceberg." He speculates that more examples may turn up when we take a closer look at other species.

19. A new study on birds' sleep has revealed that _____.

- [A] half-brain sleep is found in a wide variety of birds
- [B] half-brain sleep is characterized by slow brain waves
- [C] birds can control their half-brain sleep consciously
- [D] birds seldom sleep with the whole of their brain at rest

20. According to the passage, birds often half sleep because _____.

- [A] they have to watch out for possible attacks
- [B] their brain hemispheres take turns to rest
- [C] the two halves of their brain are differently structured
- [D] they have to constantly keep an eye on their companions

21. The example of a bird sleeping in front of a mirror indicates that _____.

- [A] the phenomenon of birds dozing in pairs is widespread

- [B] birds prefer to sleep in pairs for the sake of security
 - [C] even an imagined companion gives the bird a sense of security
 - [D] a single pet bird enjoys seeing its own reflection in the mirror
22. While sleeping, some water mammals tend to keep half awake in order to _____.
- [A] alert themselves to the approaching enemy
 - [B] emerge from water now and then to breathe
 - [C] be sensitive to the ever-changing environment
 - [D] avoid being swept away by rapid currents

TEXT D

The two modern writers whose influence on young novelists has been most pervasive are probably James Joyce and Ernest Hemingway. There is no telling how many young writers have gone astray trying to emulate Joyce's complexity of language and Hemingway's misleading simplicity.

I was reminded of that as I read Nicholas Delblanco's *Fathering*, an often exasperating novel, because it is so needlessly obscure and reveals so much talent and so little disciplining of that talent.

The internal maundering of Delblanco's characters would probably interest a psychoanalyst, trained to decipher their significance as sign-posts. But novelists should not write for the edification of psychoanalysts. Ostensibly reproducing the unorganized thoughts, memories and impressions flowing through a character's mind is not often the best way to make that character comprehensible.

Such thoughts, memories and impressions become chaotic. The job of the artist is to bring some order and meaning out of that chaos, not to compound it, and to clarify, not befog, the nature of the character.

23. According to the passage, what do many young novelists try to do?

- [A] They try to imitate Joyce's symbolism.
- [B] They try to influence Delblanco.