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# 精编英语 阅读理解 220篇

石春祯 编著

English Reading  
Comprehension 220



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编 著 石春祯

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特别提示:本书附有免费赠两套考前英语全真模拟试卷及解答的科学防伪“回执卡”



# 第六次修订说明

(代前言)

本书第一版出版于 1999 年，每年修订一次，本次是第六次修订。

本书自问世以来，一直深受广大读者厚爱。看到本书对读者学习英语，尤其对提高英语阅读理解能力有所帮助，本人感到十分欣慰。听到许多读者对本书提出的各种宝贵建议，本人万分感激。

本书共选编英语阅读理解文章 220 篇。文章体裁以议论文和说明文为主；文章题材主要涉及科普、经济、社会生活、文化教育、人的生理和心理等方面。全部文章选自国外出版的书刊。

今年，根据读者的宝贵建议，对该书进行了大规模修订。修订的基本原则是为读者着想，进一步方便读者学习使用，增强本书的学习功能，更方便读者自学，有助于读者尽快提高英语阅读理解的真实能力。

本次修订后，本书共三大部分。每部分结构如下：

**第一部分 (Part One)** 为综合阅读练习，总计 120 篇文章，分为 20 个单元，每单元共 6 篇文章。前 4 篇为多项选择练习，每篇文章后附有 5 道阅读理解题。这些题目以深层次问题为主，主要涉及文章的主旨和大意、作者的观点和态度、根据文章的思路进行判断、推理和引申等。第 5 篇文章为选择搭配题，文章后有 7 个选项，要求从中选择合适的选项填到原文的 5 处空白中。第 6 篇文章为英译汉练习，要求把划线的 5 句话译成汉语。

为了方便读者学习使用，本书增强了学习功能。每个单元增加了该单元分篇的超纲词汇表，从而大幅度减少了读者查找生词的时间。

每个单元都附有该单元每篇文章的注释。从每篇文章中选择读者阅读时最难于理解的几句话（句尾有数字序号标示的句子）做了注释。每个注释不仅剖析了所涉及的长难句的句法结构，而且给出了该句的汉语译文。

每个单元还附有该单元每篇文章练习题目的答案注释，以及全部练习的答案。

**第二部分 (Part Two)** 为单项阅读练习，总计 76 篇文章，分为 19 个单元，每单元共 4 篇文章。每个单元后附有该单元分篇的超纲词汇表，以及每篇文章的注释。

**第三部分 (Part Three)** 为单项英译汉练习，总计 24 篇文章，分为 6 个单元，每单元共 4 篇文章。供读者练习英译汉使用。每个单元后附有英译汉答案。

本书最后有两个附录。

**附录一 超纲动词表**，其中列有 331 个超纲动词。动词是句子的核心，动词掌握得越

AC/94/03

多，越有利于快速读懂文章。

**附录二 超纲词汇总表**，其中列有本书所涉及的全部超纲词汇，共计 1782 个。

很多读者关心，是否有必要把本书所涉及的 1782 个超纲词汇都背下来。我认为，学习英语时，词汇固然很重要，但是，不应该把词汇当知识来学。学习词汇，首先是为了用，能在听、说、读、写的过程中熟练应用。学习词汇，不是知道的越多越好，而是会用的越多越好。

读者在使用本书过程中，首先应关注大纲词汇的熟练应用。本书每个单元的超纲词汇表以及附录二的超纲词汇总表是为了减轻读者阅读过程中查找生词的困难而设置的。绝对没有必要花大量时间背这些超纲词汇。如果有余力，建议读者先记住附录一中的 331 个超纲动词，可能更有一些。

本书可供准备参加研究生入学考试的读者使用。如果考生能把本书的 220 篇阅读理解文章全部读完，练习全部作完，必然会大幅度提高自己的英语阅读水平。

千万不要仅仅把本书当作模拟题使用，每篇文章后的题目或要求翻译的句子只不过是供读者自我检验理解程度的手段而已。每个单元做完后，能得多少分，并不代表考试时能考多少分。

本书的主要目的是帮助读者提高真正的英文阅读理解能力。如果读者把注意力放在切实读懂每一篇文章上，把 220 篇文章都彻底读懂了，研究生入学英语考试成绩必然会大幅度提高。

本书文章选材涉及的面相当广泛，希望能在扩充知识方面给读者带来一定益处。

本书可用作英语阅读教材，供大学英语四级以上水平的读者使用，或供那些对提高英语阅读理解能力感兴趣的读者使用。

石春祯

于 北京大学蓝旗营



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# ***PART ONE***

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**( UNIT 1 – UNIT 20 )**





# UNIT 1

## Text 01-1

Let's now briefly consider a generally honored but sometimes maligned type of scientist, the theorist. Theorists are considered separately, since they are the rarest, most fascinating, and most important of the species scientificus. Their motivational system most often is that of the Player, although occasionally it is that of the Operator.

Although theorists are often viewed as cold, rational, deliberate machines, they are generally almost the opposite of this popular picture. They are usually individuals of strong feelings who have the ego of actors and an irrational, almost mystic attachment to particular views of their discipline. The appearance of cool deliberation is their public face, which often represents only their disdain for contact with the spectators.

There are important occupational differences between theorists and other scientists. Theorists set the framework within which others do their research. Those other than the theorists do the important work of filling in details of existing theories. Nontheorists fulfill a relatively safe and useful function. *Their work contributes to science but does not threaten the individual scientist unless he or she happens to accumulate evidence contrary to the status quo.*<sup>1</sup>

What is the general personality makeup of theorists? Are they normal, neurotic, or even psychotic? They rarely fit the pattern of middle-class normality, and yet they are intensely in touch with their own reality. Perhaps they don't fit any of the usual categories. George Bernard Shaw once said "The reasonable man adapts himself to the world; the unreasonable one persists in trying to adapt the world to himself. Therefore, all progress depends on the unreasonable man." Perhaps his message was to tolerate the dissenters, the faddists, the kooks, and in general those who disagree with what we know is right—so long as they don't become too violent.<sup>2</sup> Tolerate them, not out of any sense of humanity but for crass self-interest. A few of them are innovators, and society needs them infinitely more than they need society.

In reviewing all the groups of scientists and science-trained individuals we have encountered, we find a range of individuals spread over the whole spectrum of human behavior but with some important common characteristics.<sup>3</sup> Scientists are neither supermen nor naive children. They are not foggily absent-minded or unrealistic; rather, many of the things they consider important and real are often quite different from those of the "everyday" world.

[389 words]

1. A theorist pursues science primarily for \_\_\_\_\_.  
 A. playing the game of science  
 B. the benefits of mankind  
 C. changing the world  
 D. challenging the status quo
2. It is generally thought that a theorist in science is an individual who is \_\_\_\_\_.  
 A. both cold and rational  
 B. both enthusiastic and irrational  
 C. both neurotic and psychotic  
 D. both self-important and self-righteous
3. Scientific theorists are \_\_\_\_\_.

- A. rarely admired  
C. usually isolated from ordinary people
- B. seldom discredited  
D. living in a reality different from that of ordinary people
4. Nontheorists in science are \_\_\_\_\_.  
A. usually absent-minded or unrealistic  
B. never interested in scientific theories  
C. rarely interested in details of existing theories  
D. willing to do their work within the framework set by theorists
5. In the author's opinion, \_\_\_\_\_.  
A. a scientist should never try to adapt himself to the world  
B. a nontheorist seldom tries to adapt the world to himself  
C. theorists contribute to the progress of human society  
D. theorists have little to do with the modern society

## Text 01-2

Why is it that each of several persons who share a common situation or setting will develop different beliefs? Why do individuals consider their beliefs true and others' beliefs false? Why do they value one thing as ugly while others value the same thing as beautiful? Or judge something or someone morally good or bad? Or accept something as real or not real? Why are we happy or unhappy? Can one of us contribute to the happiness of others? How do we learn to enjoy life? As we think about these kinds of questions, we are engaging in philosophical activity. This serves as the basis for formulating beliefs, a philosophy, related to the culture out of which the philosophical problems have grown. One's individual philosophy then can be defined as the organized system of convictions or beliefs adapted from this philosophical activity.

The literal meaning of philosophy is "love of wisdom". If one thinks of wisdom as "a high degree of knowledge", the extended literal meaning of philosophy becomes "love of a high degree of knowledge". On this point, Aristotle made a statement that typifies Greek thought: "All men by nature desire to know." Aristotle's statement does not specify "what" men and women desire to know. What to know as the essence of wisdom is something about which individuals disagree. Wisdom as the basis of philosophy encompasses religion, science, and art; it engages one's thinking and deals with abstract concepts and theory. One who is seeking wisdom is concerned with observations, values, mental pictures, spiritual beings, knowledge, and nature.

Philosophy is speculative in that it attempts to construct patterns from life experiences that give meaning to reality in the universe.<sup>①</sup> Philosophy is prescriptive in that it evaluates facts for the purpose of recommending what ought to be as well as what is. Questions examining good or bad, right or wrong, beautiful or ugly are questions of prescriptive philosophy. Philosophy extends scientific statements of fact by considering questions that lie beyond the scope of science.

There is general agreement that there are three fundamental questions that are important in describing philosophy:

What is real?

How do we know?

What is of value?



When you are able to determine your own answers to these questions, the answers will mean the most to you. Many individuals (teachers), however, borrow from existing systems of thought as they try to substantiate beliefs and discover wisdom. Classical philosophers tried to answer these basic questions; their speculations have proved of inexhaustible interest to all subsequent thinkers. Human life takes on meaning as the varied aspects of experience fall into some pattern. Philosophy tries to investigate the whole of reality by assessing experiences and then organizing those experiences in a way that is sensible to the individual. From this perspective, philosophy can be considered to be an inquiry into the whole human and cultural enterprise.

[477 words]

1. The questions at the beginning of this passage are designed to \_\_\_\_\_.
  - A. define philosophy
  - B. define personal philosophy
  - C. clarify what people usually think
  - D. illustrate what philosophical activity may involve
2. Aristotle's statement quoted in paragraph 2 \_\_\_\_\_.
  - A. clarifies what people desire to know
  - B. specifies the basis of philosophy
  - C. is used to explain what philosophy really means
  - D. is given to explain the essence of wisdom
3. According to this text, philosophy \_\_\_\_\_.
  - A. concerns more than scientific statements of fact
  - B. is able to solve all kinds of questions in the universe
  - C. attempts to substantiate human beliefs
  - D. encompasses nothing but religion, science and art
4. It can be inferred from the text that \_\_\_\_\_.
  - A. philosophy is a high degree of knowledge
  - B. philosophy is inquisitive in nature
  - C. philosophy is concerned with seeking truth
  - D. philosophy is able to answer all the fundamental questions in the universe
5. This text is mainly about \_\_\_\_\_.
  - A. the speculative nature of philosophy
  - B. the prescriptive nature of philosophy
  - C. the origin of philosophy
  - D. the meaning of philosophy

### Text 01-3

Making and selling fake copies of well-known products has been a nice little earner for crafty craftsmen over thousands of years; in Roman Gaul, unscrupulous potters would put the seals of better-known competitors on their urns so they would sell better. <sup>①</sup> Until the 1980s, counterfeiting was a relatively small-scale business, restricted mainly to copying luxury fashion items, such as watches and leather goods, in limited quantities. But in the 1990s it was transformed into a much bigger, broader industry, with large-scale production and distribution of false versions of such everyday items as biscuits and shampoo. Modern technology is making it ever easier to create near-perfect copies of branded goods for a fraction of the retail price of the real thing.

By its nature, the extent of counterfeiting is hard to measure precisely, but a study by the International Chamber of Commerce reckoned that it grew from perhaps 3% of world trade in 1990 to 5% in 1995. John Pepper, chairman of Procter & Gamble, a consumer-goods multinational, says it may now be 7% - 9%, or over \$450 billion a year.

In some developing countries, the authorities have had, at best, an ambivalent attitude towards the booming

manufacture of fake goods in their midst.<sup>2</sup> After all, it creates jobs for local people and, at first sight, appears only to hurt foreign firms. Thus the richer countries whose firms are the main victims have had to use a mixture of persuasion and threats to get poorer nations to crack down on the pirates. The Uruguay round of world trade talks, which ended in 1994, resulted in an Agreement on the Trade-Related Aspects of Intellectual-Property Rights (Trips), which obliges all member countries of the World Trade Organisation to impose penalties for counterfeiting and other breaches of intellectual-property rights; to enforce their piracy laws adequately; and to help firms inhibit trade in faked versions of their products.<sup>3</sup>

Besides offering poorer countries and regions trade privileges in return for a clampdown on counterfeiting, rich countries have tried convincing them that if they try harder to enforce intellectual-property rights, they will win more foreign investment. But, realising that persuasion is having little effect, they are also resorting to threats: on January 15th, America issued a warning to the Philippines and Taiwan, two of the world's leading piracy centres, that they may have their trade privileges taken away unless they crack down harder on the counterfeiting gangs.<sup>4</sup> Taiwan's justice minister, Chen Ding-nan, has vowed to rid the island of its reputation as a pirates' den. But the counterfeiters are mocking his efforts: some pirated video discs of the new James Bond film "Die Another Day", widely available on Taiwan's streets, carry the taunting message "Come and catch me, Chen Ding-nan".

**450 words**

1. The first paragraph is written to tell us that \_\_\_\_\_.
  - A. the history of counterfeiting is more than thousands of years
  - B. counterfeiting is an effective way to make more money
  - C. modern technology is responsible for the booming manufacture of fake goods
  - D. counterfeiting has become more and more rampant
2. The second paragraph is mainly about \_\_\_\_\_.
  - A. the extent of counterfeiting in world trade
  - B. the difficulty to measure the extent of counterfeiting
  - C. a study by the International Chamber of Commerce
  - D. what John Pepper, chairman of Procter & Gamble, says
3. The underlined word "ambivalent" in the third paragraph most probably means \_\_\_\_\_.
  - A. critical
  - B. contradictory
  - C. positive
  - D. negative
4. In order for poorer countries to crack down on counterfeiting, \_\_\_\_\_.
  - A. more jobs have to be created there for local people
  - B. rich countries resort to both persuasion and threats
  - C. the World Trade Organisation was set up
  - D. the Uruguay round of world trade talks was held in 1994
5. Rich countries intend to \_\_\_\_\_.
  - A. offer poorer countries trade privileges
  - B. take away the trade privileges they have given poorer countries
  - C. clamp down counterfeiting in poorer countries
  - D. threaten the counterfeiting gangs in Philippines and Taiwan



## Text 01-4

Polluted water is nothing new in the United States. We have lived through flaming rivers and caustic creeks that could take the hide off a hound. For decades, however, efforts to safeguard drinking water were hampered because no one had an accurate sense of the full range of contaminants in the water supply, nor of the geographic extent of the pollution.<sup>1</sup> This year two separate research teams unveiled sophisticated new tools to find out exactly what chemical dangers are lurking in freshwater streams.

“Research in Europe in the 1990s showed that pharmaceuticals were turning up in the water,” says Dana Kolpin, leader of a U. S. Geological Survey Water Resources Division research team that developed five new analytic methods for measuring water contaminants. “Our big effort was to develop methods to measure very small amounts of organic chemicals.” The research team fanned out across 30 states nationwide and conducted two years of sampling from 139 streams. They were chosen, says Kolpin, on the basis of their location downstream from “intense urbanization and livestock production.” In a study published in the March 15 *Journal of Environmental Science & Technology*, Kolpin and his colleagues reported they looked for 95 different contaminants, such as antibiotics, steroids, hormones, antioxidants, plasticizers, and various solvents. They found 82 of them. Nearly 80 percent of the streams showed one or more of the contaminants. The median stream contained seven. Even the good news—that the most frequently detected contaminants like fecal steroids, cholesterol, insect repellent, caffeine, disinfectant, fire retardant, and detergents were found in generally low concentrations—had to be qualified. Many of those compounds have no guidelines for safe amounts, and little is known about the effects of chronic exposure or the interactive effects of compounds that have been detected together.<sup>2</sup>

In a related Environmental Protection Agency study that is still in progress, a team of scientists at the Johns Hopkins Whiting School of Engineering is using gas chromatography and mass spectrometry to detect the presence of various anticonvulsants and anticancer drugs in drinking water. Led by Lynn Roberts and Ed Bouwer, the researchers track samples at sewage-treatment facilities in Massachusetts and Maryland to determine whether and in what quantities pharmaceuticals are getting through the waste-treatment plants and the extent to which they may be accumulating in coastal waters.<sup>3</sup>

The goal of both research teams is to provide a baseline of what organic compounds are in the water, in what quantities, and how they are getting there—key steps toward ensuring that the water we drink isn't killing us.<sup>4</sup>

[422 words]

- The second sentence of the first paragraph, “We have lived through off a hound”, intends to say that
  - many rivers and creeks have been excessively polluted by various contaminants
  - our lives depend on flaming rivers and caustic creeks
  - we cannot prevent rivers and creeks from being hounded
  - people cannot live without the supply of water from rivers and creeks
- According to this passage, two research teams
  - have determined the full range of contaminants in the water supply
  - have ascertained the geographic extent of the water pollution
  - have developed new methods to measure water contaminants



- D. have succeeded in preventing drinking water from being polluted
3. Which of the following statements is true?
- A. Altogether 95 different contaminants have been found in streams.
- B. Nearly 80 percent of the streams surveyed contains only the familiar contaminants.
- C. The most frequently detected contaminants are usually in low concentrations.
- D. The average number of contaminants in each stream surveyed is seven.
4. The two research teams mentioned in the passage endeavor \_\_\_\_\_.
- A. to track samples at more sewage-treatment facilities
- B. to determine latent chemical dangers in the water
- C. to measure the exact amount of any drug found in drinking water
- D. to find out the precise number of contaminants in freshwater streams
5. Which of the following can serve as the best title of the passage?
- A. The Organic Compounds in the Water                      B. Drinking Water Drugged
- C. Polluted Rivers and Streams                                  D. Guidelines for Safe Water

## Text 01-5

### [ 选择搭配题 ]

If civilizations exist around other stars, they are probably beginning to emerge right now, according to Space Telescope Science Institute theorist Mario Livio. He will detail his theory in a paper to be published in the *Astrophysical Journal*.

(1) \_\_\_\_\_

Some theorists believe that intelligent life forms, if they exist at all, appear on planets at some random time in the parent star's life. If this is true, our chances of discovering them—or of being discovered by them—would be slim, making earthlings a lonely, isolated quirk of cosmic evolution.

Instead, Livio makes the case for a possible causal link between the sun's lifetime and the appearance of intelligent life on earth. (2) \_\_\_\_\_

The second part of Livio's case is based on the possibility that carbon—the fundamental building block of life as we know it—may not have been widely available until the universe reached about half its present age.

Given the added billions of years required for biological evolution to take place, intelligent carbon-based life could not have made an appearance any earlier than roughly three billion years ago. <sup>①</sup>

Livio points out that before the universe could make life that is in any way like us, it had to make carbon atoms. (3) \_\_\_\_\_

Though life first emerged on earth a few hundred million years after earth's formation, it took a vastly longer time—nearly three billion years—for the first multi-celled organisms to appear. And then it took almost another billion years before life emerged from the sea onto the land.

(4) \_\_\_\_\_ This would make it unlikely that extraterrestrial civilization could come about at all; we would be alone in the universe, a mere novelty, a cosmic accident. <sup>②</sup>

Because sunlight provides far more energy for life than other chemical processes, biological evolution is

intimately linked to the sun's behavior, Livio maintains. The complex evolution of our atmosphere is interrelated with the sun. For example, our planet's atmosphere had to develop ozone to block out destructive UV radiation from the sun before animals could emerge on the land.

Livio says that other civilizations should also emerge not much sooner or later than about halfway through their parent star's life cycle.

(5)

Livio cautions that his work does not prove the existence of extraterrestrial civilizations, but only points out that earlier conclusions that they do not exist may be premature. He adds that it's risky to think such civilizations would colonize the Galaxy. "This assumes we have even the vaguest understanding of the psychology of extraterrestrial civilizations," he says.

- A. The earliest humans appeared less than four million years ago—at about the halfway point in our sun's lifetime. If this were purely coincidental, as other theoreticians have argued, then it would take much longer than the life of a star for most civilizations to arise.
- B. Meanwhile, Livio's theory tells us that if there are other civilizations out there, now is their time.
- C. If Livio is correct, and the Galaxy is blooming with new civilizations, then where are they and why haven't they visited us?
- D. Livio emphasizes that his theoretical work doesn't necessarily mean extraterrestrial civilizations really exist—but it shows that they cannot be dismissed.
- E. Carbon is created by nuclear fusion in the hearts of early stars, and then ejected when the stars lose their outer gas layers and leave their cores behind as white dwarfs.
- F. It's impossible to imagine the thinking of a civilization which might have evolved a million of years ahead of humans. We could be about as uninteresting to them as an amoeba is to us. Actual proof will have to await advances in biology and astronomy.
- G. This link should hold true for sun-like stars elsewhere in the universe, he says, offering an equal opportunity for intelligent life to arise somewhere else in space.

## Text 01-6

### 【英译汉】

(1) Water pollution involves the release into lakes, streams, rivers, and oceans of substances that become dissolved or suspended in the water or deposited upon the bottom and accumulate to the extent that they interfere with the functioning of aquatic ecosystems. It may also include the release of energy in the form of radioactivity or heat, as in the case of thermal pollution. Any body of water has the capacity to absorb, break down, or recycle introduced materials. (2) Under normal circumstances, inorganic substances are widely dispersed and have little or no effect on life within the bodies of water into which they are released; organic materials are broken down by bacteria or other organisms and converted into a form in which they are useful to aquatic life. But, if the capacity of a body of water to dissolve, disperse, or recycle is exceeded, all additional substances or forms of energy become pollutants. (3) Thus, thermal pollution, which is usually caused by the discharge of water that has been used as a



coolant in fossil-fueled or nuclear-power plants, can favour a diversity of aquatic life in waters that would otherwise be too cold. In a warmer body of water, however, the addition of heat changes its characteristics and may make it less suited to species that are considered desirable.

Pollution may begin as water moves through the air, if the air is polluted. Soil erosion adds silt as a pollutant. The use of chemical fertilizers, pesticides, or other materials on watershed lands is an additional factor contributing to water pollution. The runoff from septic tanks and the outflow of manures from livestock feedlots along the watershed are sources of organic pollutants. Industries located along waterways downstream contribute a number of chemical pollutants, some of which are toxic if present in any concentration. Finally, cities and towns contribute their loads of sewage and other urban wastes. (4) Thus, a community far upstream in a watershed may receive relatively clean water, whereas one farther downstream receives a partly diluted mixture of urban, industrial, and rural wastes. The cost of cleaning and purifying this water for community use may be high, and the process may be only partially effective. (5) To add to the problem, the cities and towns in the lower, or downstream, regions of the river basin contribute additional wastes that flow into estuaries, creating new pollution problems.

[392 words]

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## Notes to Unit 1

### [超纲词汇]

#### Text 01-1

crass	/kræs/	a.	粗鲁的,愚钝的,粗糙的
disdain	/dis'dein/	n.	轻蔑
dissenter	/di'sentə/	n.	不同意者,非国教派的人,反对者
ego	/'i:gəu/	n.	自我,利己主义,自负
faddist	/'fædist/	n.	趋于时尚者,好新奇的人
foggily	/'fɔgili/	ad.	多雾地
irrational	/'i:ræʃənl/	a.	无理性的,失去理性的
kook	/ku:k/	n.	[美口]怪人,疯子,傻瓜
malign	/mə'lain/	v.	诽谤
mystic	/'mistik/	a.	神秘的,神秘主义的
neurotic	/njuə'rɒtik/	n./a.	神经病患者,神经质的,神经病的
psychotic	/'sai:kɒtik/	a./n.	精神病的,精神病患者
status quo	/,steitəs'kwəu/	n.	[拉]现状

#### Text 01-2

Aristotle	/'æristɒtl/	n.	亚里士多德
encompass	/'in'kʌmpəs/	v.	包围,环绕