

新概念英语

NEW CONCEPT ENGLISH 第四册

真题题源阅读

新概念英语学习中心 编

梅雪 主编

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所谓“罗马不是一天建成的”，英语学习也并非一日之功。阅读在英语学习中占有重要位置。从学英语的第一天开始，认识了26个英文字母，学习了简单的英语单词，逐渐掌握了由词组句，由句组成文章，再到后来的专业文章、专业书籍。伴随着英语学习的全过程，阅读始终贯穿其中。

阅读能力的提高，不是一蹴而就的，需要点滴积累，持之以恒，不可一味寻求捷径。本书深入《新概念英语》第四册教材本身，匹配该册学习目标要求，将内容精编为260 Topics，分成52周量化学习，通过科学合理的计划，引导读者每周拿出时间专门用于阅读训练，从而每周都会有新的收获。

本书题目设置从易到难、循序渐进，使读者既得到了全面的提高，又激发了对英语学习的积极性。另外，本书题目均选自历年大学英语六级、考研、专八真题，加以精心整合，紧扣考试重点难点，为广大读者的英语学习指明了方向，并起到了事半功倍的效果。以下是我们为大家精心准备的《新概念英语真题题源阅读》的精彩内容：

“阅读理解”板块内容新颖，题材多样，涵盖知识面广。在真题阅读中，读者朋友们不仅能提高自己的英语阅读水平，还能够拓宽知识面，同时对英美文化和风俗有多方面了解，可谓一举多得。

“完型填空”板块是本书的一大亮点，真题练兵，形式多样，综合考查读者的英语基本功和应试能力。

“课文填空”板块将本书的习题内容与《新概念英语》第四册课文的内容紧密联接，及时帮助读者巩固课文知识，保证学习效果。

“英汉互译”板块是对阅读能力的一个拔高。翻译能力是英语技能的实践环节，其水平的高低直接反映语言学习者的语言功底。本书精选了一部分作为阅读训练的一个补充和调剂。希望读者能有所收获。

“改错”板块是让读者从一个纠错的角度来审视文章，有利于巩固基础语法知识、提高逻辑思考能力。

“美文欣赏”板块是第四册的主要特别之处，保留了原有的经典译文，给出了重点词汇的词义解释，帮助读者很好的理解原文寓意，并学习和揣摩其中的翻译技巧。

本书是为读者精心准备的一顿大餐，也可以说是不乏美丽风景的一次旅程，从第一周开始，从你拿到这本书的那一刻开始，让自己每一周都充实和丰富起来吧！接连不断的惊喜在前面等待你！加油吧！

由于编者水平有限，疏漏之处在所难免，敬请广大读者指正。

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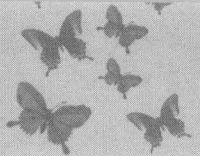
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The Brief History of Pathan 帕坦人的一段历史

 阅读理解

Campaigning on the Indian frontier is an experience by itself. Neither the landscape nor the people find their counterparts in any other portion of the globe. Valley walls rise steeply five or six thousand feet on every side. The columns crawl through a maze of giant corridors down which fierce snow-fed torrents foam under skies of brass. Amid these scenes of savage brilliancy there dwells a race whose qualities seem to harmonize with their environment. Except at harvest-time, when self-preservation requires a temporary truce, the Pathan tribes are always engaged in private or public war. Every man is a warrior, a politician and a theologian. Every large house is a real feudal fortress made, it is true, only of sun-baked clay, but with battlements, turrets, loopholes, drawbridges, etc. complete. Every village has its defence. Every family cultivates its vendetta; every clan, its feud. The numerous tribes and combinations of tribes all have their accounts to settle with one another. Nothing is ever forgotten, and very few debts are left unpaid. For the purposes of social life, in addition to the convention about harvest-time, a most elaborate code of honour has been established and is on the whole faithfully observed. A man who knew it and observed it faultlessly might pass unarmed from one end of the frontier to another. The slightest technical slip would, however, be fatal. The life of the Pathan is thus full of interest; and his valleys, nourished alike by endless sunshine and abundant water, are fertile enough to yield with little labour the modest material requirements of a sparse population.

Into this happy world the nineteenth century brought two new facts: the rifle and the British Government. The first was an enormous luxury and blessing; the second, an unmitigated nuisance. The convenience of the rifle was nowhere more appreciated than in the Indian highlands. A weapon which would kill with accuracy at fifteen hundred yards opened a whole new vista of delights to every family or clan which could acquire it. One could actually remain in one's own house and fire at one's neighbour nearly a mile away. One could lie in, wait on some high crag, and at hitherto unheard-of ranges hit a horseman far below. Even villages could fire at each other without the trouble of going far from home. Fabulous prices were therefore offered for these glorious products of science. Rifle-thieves scoured all India to reinforce the efforts of the honest smuggler. A steady flow of the coveted weapons spread its genial influence throughout the frontier, and the respect which the Pathan tribesmen entertained for Christian civilization was vastly enhanced.

The action of the British Government on the other hand was entirely unsatisfactory. The great organizing, advancing, absorbing power to the southward seemed to be little better than a monstrous spoil-sport. If the Pathan made forays into the plains, not only were they driven back (which after all was no more than fair), but a whole series of subsequent interferences took place, followed at



intervals by expeditions which toiled laboriously through the valleys, scolding the tribesmen and exacting fines for any damage which they had done. No one would have minded these expeditions if they had simply come, had a fight and then gone away again. In many cases this was their practice under what was called the "butcher and bolt policy" to which the Government of India long adhered. But towards the end of the nineteenth century these intruders began to make roads through many of the valleys, and in particular the great road to Chitral. They sought to ensure the safety of these roads by threats, by forts and by subsidies. There was no objection to the last method so far as it went. But the whole of this tendency to road-making was regarded by the Pathans with profound distaste. All along the road people were expected to keep quiet, not to shoot one another, and above all not to shoot at travellers along the road. It was too much to ask, and a whole series of quarrels took their origin from this source.

(八级真题)

- The word debts in "very few debts are left unpaid" in the first paragraph means _____.
A. loans B. accounts C. killings D. bargains
- According to the passage, the Pathans welcomed _____.
A. the introduction of the rifle B. the spread of British rule
C. the extension of luxuries D. the spread of trade

· 参考答案 ·

1-2 CA

Sleep 睡眠

完型填空

Ninety-five percent of adult Americans sleep seven to eight hours a night. 1 seem to need more than nine hours, or get along nicely on less than six. What distinguishes the long and short sleepers 2 the majority? To get some answers, psychologist Ernest Hartmann advertised in Boston and New York papers for long and short sleepers 3 an eight-night "sleep-in" at Boston State Hospital's Sleep and Dream laboratory. His findings indicate that such people differ from ordinary sleepers, and each other— 4 much physically as psychologically.

Testing showed significant psychological differences between long and short sleepers. The shorts 5 be emotionally stable. Their entire life-style involved keeping busy and avoiding psychological problems 6 facing them. They were also awakened seldom during the night and rose in the morning refreshed and ready 7.

Long sleepers, in contrast, checked out as shy, somewhat withdrawn. 8, they slept fitfully, waked often and typically got up with a mild case of the morning blah.

9 the long sleeper shows more symptoms of emotional problems than the short sleeper, it seems that he may use his hours in bed to give his 10 sleeping self more time to examine these problems and, if possible, to work them out.

- | | | | |
|-----------------------|-----------------|--------------------|------------------|
| 1. A. Another | B. The best | C. Else everyone | D. The other |
| 2. A. against | B. between | C. of | D. from |
| 3. A. involved in | B. to engage in | C. concerning with | D. to turn in |
| 4. A. not so | B. not very | C. fairly | D. never that |
| 5. A. were used to | B. tended to | C. used to | D. are meant to |
| 6. A. in the place of | B. instead | C. rather than | D. hardly ever |
| 7. A. of going | B. for go | C. in going | D. to go |
| 8. A. However | B. Moreover | C. Therefore | D. Provided that |
| 9. A. As soon as | B. As long as | C. But | D. Although |
| 10. A. unconscious | B. conscious | C. subconscious | D. sound |

* 参考答案 *

1-5 DDBAB

6-10 CDBDC

Finding Fossil Man 发现化石人

* 课文填空 *

We can 1 of things that happened 5,000 years ago in the Near East, 2 people first 3 to write. But there are some parts of the world where 4 now people cannot write. The only way that they can 5 their history is to 6 it as sagas— 7 handed 8 from one generation of 9 to another. These legends are 10 because they can tell us something about migrations of people who lived long ago, but none could write down what they did. Anthropologists 11 where the 12 ancestors of the Polynesian peoples now living in the Pacific Islands came from. The sagas of these people explain that some of them came from Indonesia about 2,000 years ago.

* 参考答案 *

1. read 2. where 3. learned 4. even 5. preserve 6. recount
7. legends 8. down 9. storytellers 10. useful 11. wondered 12. remote

How to Measure the Age of the Omcient Tree Stumps

* 美文欣赏 *

When “Seahenge” was discovered near the English village of Holme next to the Sea last year, archaeologists were ecstatic. The ancient English monument— a circle of 55 timbers surrounding an upside-down oak wedged into the ground—had long been hidden beneath a layer of peat. Tidal erosion finally wore away that natural shield, exposing the well-preserved grouping



for the first time in recorded history. But scientists were stymied by the exact age of the small circle: it's only 22 feet in diameter. Educated guesses varied by thousands of years. A team of English archaeologists think they've finally nailed the answer, right down to the seasons in which the trees were felled. In this week's issue of the journal *Nature*, the researchers contend that the central oak died between April and June 2050 B. C.; and that the surrounding timbers survived another year, until the spring of 2049 B. C. If the findings are accurate, then Seahenge predates its famous inland cousin, Stonehenge, by at least 150 years.

To pinpoint such precise dates, the researchers used an innovative statistical method that integrated two different types of data. Wood samples were first subjected to radiocarbon testing, a dating mechanism with a large margin of error. The archaeologists then analyzed tree-ring growth. Each year, trees in temperate zones add a layer of new wood under the bark, creating a ring that is visible in a trunk's cross section. Trees growing at the same time, under the same conditions, have similar patterns.

Rings from the timber were compared with "master chronologies"—previously assembled time lines of tree rings going back 7,000 years. Analysis of the Seahenge samples suggested several possible dates, which were then cross-referenced with the radiocarbon results. The two dating methods together allowed for only one date, says Alex Bayliss of England's Ancient Monuments Laboratory.

The exact season in which the trees were felled was divined by analyzing the fragmented nature of the final rings, which were only partially formed. Since tree rings begin growing in the spring, Bayliss concluded that the central oak must have fallen before summer's onset. The surrounding stumps all featured an additional ring, indicating that they lived a year longer.

The precise dating should help researchers explore Seahenge's other mysteries, the significance of the ancient monument and the motivations of its builders. Some scholars believe that Seahenge represented a communication channel to the underworld, or that it served as a venue for sacrifices.

1. When they did pinpointing, the researchers _____.
 - A. used a complicated method
 - B. combined two new methods
 - C. based their conclusion on the tree-rings analysis plus radiocarbon testing
 - D. only applied radiocarbon testing to the well-preserved grouping
2. Alex Bayliss believes that the central oak fell before a summer's onset because _____.
 - A. it lived a year shorter than the surrounding stumps
 - B. the surrounding stumps have one ring more than it
 - C. its final ring growing in spring is fragmented
 - D. it grew slower than the surrounding stumps

参考答案

1-2: C C





peat *n.* 泥煤, 泥炭块
margin of error 误差幅度

stymie *vt.* to thwart; stump; 妨碍; 阻挠
underworld *n.* 地狱, 阴间

参考译文

研究人员如何测定古代木桩的年龄

去年,在英格兰一个近海的村庄 Holme 附近发现了“海上史前英格兰的圆形木结构”,考古学家们欣喜若狂。这个古英格兰历史遗迹由围成一圈的 55 个木桩组成,中间还倒插着一根橡木。长年以来被埋在了一层泥碳下,后来潮汐腐蚀了这一天然保护层,使这个完好的纪念物自有历史记载以来第一次显露出来。但这个不大的圆形物的真实年龄却让科学家们迷惑:它直径仅有 22 英尺。对此有各种猜测,相差甚至上千年。

一组英格兰的考古学家认为他们已经找到了历史遗迹年龄的答案,时间具体到了树木被砍伐的季节。在这周的《自然》杂志中,研究者认为中间的橡木被伐于公元前 2050 年的 4 月到 6 月之间,周围的树木是在公元前 2049 年的春天才被伐倒的。如果这个发现准确的话,“海上史前英格兰的圆形木结构”比内陆同时代著名的“史前英格兰的石结构”至少早上 150 年。

为了确定如此精确的日期,研究者使用了一种新的统计方法,即结合两种不同类型的数据。树木的样本首先接受放射性碳元素测试,这是一种误差较大的测定年代的方式。然后考古学家们分析树木年轮的增长。温带的树木每年会在老树皮下新增一层木质,在树干横截面形成了可视的年轮,在同一时期相同条件下生长的树木,其模式是相同的。

英格兰的古代遗迹研究室的 Alex Bayliss 介绍,把树桩的年轮与“标准年系”——以前整理的过去 7000 年的树木年轮时间表对比,圆形木结构的样品分析得出几个可能的日期,与放射性碳素测试结果结合分析。两者结合就能得到一个惟一的日期。

最后形成的年轮不完整,通过分析它的碎片性质,可以推测出树木被砍伐的确切季节。这是因为树木的年轮春季开始生长。Rayliss 认为,中间的橡树肯定是在夏季开始之前被伐的,周围的一圈树桩都比它多一圈年轮,这意味着它们多存活了一年。

准确的时间界定可帮助研究者解开圆形木结构的其他奥秘:其作用和建造动机。一些学者认为它象征与阴间交流的渠道,或者是祭祀的场所。



Benefits of Birds' Communal Roosts 鸟儿集体栖息的益处

阅读理解

Birds that feed in flocks commonly retire together into roosts. The reasons for roosting communally are not always obvious, but there are some likely benefits. In winter especially, it is important for birds to keep warm at night and conserve precious food reserves. One way to do this is to find a sheltered roost. Solitary roosters shelter in dense vegetation or enter a cavity—horned larks dig holes in the ground and ptarmigan burrow into snow bands—but the effect of sheltering is magnified by several birds huddling together in the roosts, as wrens, swifts, brown creepers, bluebirds, and anis do. Body contact reduces the surface area exposed to the cold air, so the birds keep each other warm. Two kinglets huddling together were found to reduce their heat losses by a quarter, and three together saved a third of their heat.

The second possible benefit of communal roosts is that they act as “information centers”. During the day, parties of birds will have spread out to forage over a very large area. When they return in the evening some will have fed well, but others may have found little to eat. Some investigators have observed that when the birds set out again next morning, those birds that did not feed well on the previous day appear to follow those that did. The behavior of common and lesser kestrels may illustrate different feeding behaviors of similar birds with different roosting habits. The common kestrel hunts vertebrate animals in a small, familiar hunting ground, whereas the very similar lesser kestrel feeds on insects over a large area. The common kestrel roosts and hunts alone, but the lesser kestrel roosts and hunts in flocks, possibly so one bird can learn from others where to find insect swarms.

Finally, there is safety in numbers at communal roosts since there will always be a few birds awake at any given moment to give the alarm. But this increased protection is partially counteracted by the fact that mass roosts attract predators and are especially vulnerable if they are on the ground. Even those in trees can be attacked by birds of prey. The birds on the edge are at greatest risk since predators find it easier to catch small birds perching at the margins of the roost. (托福真题)

- The word “magnified” in line 5 is closest in meaning to _____.
A. caused B. modified C. intensified D. combined
- The word “counteracted” in line 20 is closest in meaning to _____.
A. suggested B. negated C. measured D. shielded

参考答案

1-2: CB

Spare that Spider 不要伤害蜘蛛

课文填空

Why, you may 1, should spiders be our friends? 2 they 3 so many insects, and