

- 文化拾趣
- 阅读技能训练
- 大学英语四、六级阅读新题型

# 英美文化

## 阅读技能训练

**BRITISH & AMERICAN**  
**CULTURE**  
**AND READING SKILLS**  
**TRAINING** (第二版)

● 主编 张艳 刘慧云



华南理工大学出版社  
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## 第二版说明

《英美文化与阅读技能训练》出版至今已有四年多。当年编写和出版这本书，初衷是为广大学生提供英美文化知识和导读资料，并提高学生的英语阅读技能。没想到出版后受到广大师生的欢迎，出版社根据图书市场反馈信息，提出修订再版。更重要的是，自2013年12月起，全国大学英语四、六级考试委员会将对四、六级考试的试卷结构和测试题型作局部调整。调整后，原快速阅读理解题调整为长篇阅读理解题（信息匹配题），其篇章长度和难度不变，而完形填空题则将被取消。为了使本书更加贴近四、六级考试新题型变化，给学生带来更大的实用性，此次再版把原来的快速阅读理解题改为了类似四、六级考试的长篇阅读理解题型；考虑到完形填空题对于提高学生对篇章意义的整体判断、理解能力的促进作用，完形填空模块我们还是决定保留。

因此，我们在收集了广大学生对本书的宝贵意见的基础上，结合四、六级考试最新题型的变化和要求，经过仔细酝酿和推敲，终于完成了修订工作。

此次修订工作主要集中在以下三点：

1. 原来四、六级考试中的快速阅读训练题型改为最新的长篇阅读理解题（信息匹配题），因为版面有限，原来的快速阅读练习题模块已经删除。
2. 增加了九篇英美文化阅读材料，以让学生从历史根源角度了解英美文化的源头，希望能从一定程度上增强广大学生对西方文化的了解深度，满足学生完善自身知识的愿望。
3. 在文化阅读部分各个篇章的安排顺序上做了较大调整，第二版把这些文章按照英国文化和美国文化进行分类，以方便广大读者阅读，集中了解英国和美国文化。

此次修订也一改第一版中令人疑惑之处，我们深信，第二版会给读者使用起来得心应手的感觉。

我们更期待各位师生和读者的无私指点，使下次的修订更加完美、实用。

本次修订由张艳、刘慧云和王思思完成。

编者

2013年9月

## 前言

根据《全国大学英语四、六级考试改革方案（试行）》，全国大学英语四、六级考试新题型分别于2007年1月、2007年6月全面实施，改革后的四、六级考试试卷由四部分构成，阅读理解部分仍占重要地位，其分值比例为35%；其中仔细阅读部分（Reading in Depth）占25%，快速阅读部分（Skimming and Scanning）占10%。仔细阅读部分分为：①选择题型的篇章阅读理解；②篇章层次的词汇理解（Banked Cloze）或短句问答（Short Answer Questions）。快速阅读理解部分测试的是浏览阅读和查读能力。完形填空和阅读理解关系紧密，在某种意义上可以说是阅读的一部分，其分值比例为10%。二者相加的分值比例为45%，其重要性可见一斑。

虽然阅读在大学英语学习和考试中的地位举足轻重，作为教学实践者，我们发现学生的阅读能力还需要大大提高。要做到这点，一方面，学生需要具备各方面的知识，包括社会、文化、宗教等，另一方面也需要一定的阅读技巧。但是他们却普遍缺少全面的知识，尤其是英美文化知识，因此本书编排了“文化阅读”部分，以增加学生的英美文化知识。另外，好的阅读技巧，如快速阅读技巧、仔细阅读技巧、完形填空解题技巧等是在一定的实践训练中取得的。为此，本书以大学英语四级考试的阅读题型为切入点，每种题型提供了专门的技巧指导，并包括20篇短文进行专题训练，一方面以平时的训练提高学生的阅读水平，另一方面可以让学生熟悉四、六级考试的新题型，在丰富学生语言知识的同时可以顺利通过考试。本书所选内容都是最新题材，分成不同的专题、板块，内容丰富、全面，便于学生阅读、训练、总结和提高。

本书编者均是一线大学英语教师，她们拥有丰富的教学经验，熟悉教学要求，了解学生基础，因此能针对学生需求、根据学生水平，编出既适合教师讲授，又方便学生自学的教材。

本书的读者对象是致力于增加英美文化知识、提高英语语言知识和阅读能力或为大学英语四、六级考试作准备的本科学生和社会人士。

编者

2008年11月

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# Cultural Reading

## Passage 1

### How *The Bible* Fits into English History

In English history, William the **Conqueror**, a French speaker, crowned himself king of England on Christmas day in 1066. His French supporters became the upper classes lording over Anglo-Saxon natives, who spoke **dialects** of an old form of German. A **pidgin** became necessary. Three hundred years later, it was that pidgin, now a **creole** that we call Middle English, in which Geoffrey Chaucer wrote *The Canterbury Tales*. Grammatically, it sounded childish and embarrassingly simple. **Phonologically**, it sounds like a **comical collision** of **glottal** German and **nasal** French, but that collision left speakers with a large and colorful word-base and, unlike the French, no compulsion to protect the purity of their language. Therefore, they borrowed words from other languages or made up new ones as needed, building the word-base still further. In that same period, Gutenberg developed a movable type press on the Continent which had increased the supply of books, including *The Bible*, lowered their cost, and subsequently increased the literacy rates of English speakers. However, early *Bible* translators were burned at the **stake** for daring to write God's word in this **vulgar** creole, yet by 1539, Henry VIII required *Bibles* be available in each **parish** in what linguists call Early Modern English.

At this point, their language is becoming worthy of God. He spoke this creole to create the heavens and the earth. Jesus prayed in it. Therefore, the people of England could too. By 1549 the Latin **liturgy** was translated into the English book of Common Prayer.

Additionally in this era, several external forces **converged** to elevate perceptions of English. Firstly, there was William Shakespeare, whose use of this once-laughable creole language created characters that came to life on the stage, whether they be kings or **paupers**, capturing the **bawdy** and the **sublime** in one language with inventive wordplay and clever **metaphor**. The poetry of its sounds and rhythm of its **meter** rendered this creole musical, even beautiful.

Secondly, in 1588 the British Navy defeated a much larger Spanish fleet sent by King

Phillip to force the English to restore a Catholic to the throne. For many English believers, the victory unified them, confirming that this God that now spoke English was on their side.

Thirdly, James came to the throne in 1601, an English-speaking king calling for an authorized translation of *The Bible* for all English Christians. English had risen from the marketplace to the throne, to the scholars of the land involved in the translation to the very heights of heaven.

This status of the authorized version, backed by scholarship and government, and its widespread availability contributed to (i) the formalization of English, both in the nation-wide establishment of standards for spelling, usage and grammar, and (ii) the slowing of foundational changes within the language, a natural result of printing on a language. One need only look at the continued use of Thee and Thou in religious songs and prayers to recognize that reluctance of English-speaking culture to move too far from the language of the KJV (King James Version of *The Bible*).

Since it first appeared, the KJV has emerged as what Geddes MacGregor called “the most influential version of the most influential book in the world, in what is now its most influential language.” Part of that elevation of English from laughable creole to its status 400 years later must be attributed to the linguistic influence of the King James Version.



## Word Bank

conqueror [ˈkɒŋkərə] *n.* 征服者, 占领者

dialect [ˈdaɪəlekt] *n.* 方言, 土语

pidgin [ˈpɪdʒɪn] *n.* (在贸易或交往中形成的不同语种的) 混杂语言

creole [ˈkriːəʊl] *adj.* 克里奥尔人的; 克里奥尔语的 *n.* 克里奥尔人; 克里奥尔语

phonologically [ˌfəʊnəˈlɒdʒɪkəli] *adv.* 语音 (或音位) 体系地

comical [ˈkɒmɪkəl] *adj.* 好笑的, 滑稽的; 怪里怪气的; 喜剧的

collision [kəˈlɪʒn] *n.* 碰撞, 冲突, 抵触

glottal [ˈglɒtl] *adj.* 声门的; 用声门发声的

nasal [ˈneɪzl] *adj.* 带鼻音的

stake [steɪk] *n.* 桩, 柱; 火刑

vulgar [ˈvʌlgə(r)] *adj.* 庸俗的, 粗俗的, 低级的

parish [ˈpærɪʃ] *n.* 教区

liturgy [ˈlɪtədʒɪ] *n.* (英国国教的) 祈祷书

converge [kənˈvəːdʒ] *v.* 聚集; 集中

pauper [ˈpɔːpə(r)] *n.* 穷人, 贫民; 靠救济过活的人

bawdy [ˈbɔːdi] *adj.* 低级的, 下流的

sublime [səˈblaɪm] *adj.* 崇高的; 壮丽的; 宏伟的; 令人赞叹的; 令人崇敬的

metaphor [ˈmetəfə(r)] *n.* 隐喻

meter [ˈmi:tə(r)] *n.* 韵律



## 知识链接

### 1. 《圣经》(The Bible)

《圣经》是亚伯拉罕诸教(包括基督新教、天主教、东正教、犹太教等宗教)的宗教经典,由《旧约圣经》(*The Old Testament*)与《新约圣经》(*The New Testament*)组成,《旧约圣经》是犹太教的经书,《新约圣经》是耶稣基督以及其使徒的言行和故事的记录。但是,犹太教和伊斯兰教并不承认《新约圣经》为正典。《圣经》是西方文化很重要的一部分,英语里的很多短语和谚语都来源于《圣经》和《圣经故事》。

### 2. Anglo-Saxon

盎格鲁-撒克逊(Anglo-Saxon)是五世纪初到1066年诺曼征服之间,生活于大不列颠东部和南部地区,在语言、种族上相近的民族。他们使用非常相近的日耳曼方言,被历史学家比德认为是三个强大的日耳曼部族——源自日德兰半岛的盎格鲁人(Angles)和朱特人(Jutes)以及来自之后称作下萨克森地区的撒克逊人(Saxons)的后裔。

## Passage 2

### British Religion

The United Kingdom guarantees its citizens religious freedom without interference from the state or the community, and most of the world's religions have followers in Britain.

The United Kingdom has two established churches: the Church of England and the Church of Scotland. An established church is the legally recognized official church of the state. The Church of England, also called the Anglican Church, is a Protestant Episcopal Church. It is the parent body of churches belonging to the Anglican **Communion**, which includes the Episcopal Church of the United States. The Church in Wales and the Church of Ireland, once members of the Church of England, belong to the Anglican Communion but are not the official churches of their states.

The Church of England claims to be an **apostolic** church, meaning it traces a direct line of **bishops** back to the 12 **apostles** of Jesus. Anglicans also speak of themselves as a **catholic** or universal church, with a **lowercase c**, meaning that their beliefs are intended for humankind as a whole. Since its **inception** in the 16th century, the Church of England has debated how close its practices should be to those of the Roman Catholic Church. The history of the Church of England is marked by the division between High Church, with practices that favor Roman Catholicism, and Low Church, with practices that are more Protestant. In the last quarter of the 20th century, the Anglican Church was involved in a serious **controversy** over the **ordination**



of women, which it finally allowed in 1992, and in 1994 the first women were **ordained** as priest in the Anglican Church. This action caused many Anglican **clerics** and **lay** people to convert to Roman Catholicism.

The British monarch, who must be a member of the Anglican Church, holds the titles of Supreme Governor of the Church of England and Defender of the Faith. The **monarch** appoints **archbishops** and bishops upon the advice of the prime minister, who consults a commission that includes both lay people and **clergy**. Two archbishops and 24 senior bishops sit in the House of Lords. The archbishop of Canterbury holds the title of Primate of All England (主教长); another archbishop presides as York. Changes in church ritual can only be made with the consent of Parliament. About 20 percent of the estimated 8.4 million churchgoers in Britain are Anglicans.

The established church in Scotland is the Church of Scotland, which is Presbyterian. The Presbyterian Church (长老教会) is governed by courts composed of ministers and elders. The Church of Scotland is not subjected to state control. It is the principal religious group in Scotland and has about 715,000 members.

Besides the two established churches, there are many other religious groups in the United Kingdom.



## Word Bank

communion [kə'mju:njən] *n.* 宗教团体

apostolic [ˌæpəs'tɒlik] *adj.* 使徒的

bishop ['bɪʃəp] *n.* 主教

apostle [ə'pɒsəl] *n.* (A-) (基督教的) 使徒; 早期基督教的传教士

catholic [ˈkæθəlik] *adj.* 天主教的; 统括一切的; 包罗万象的; 宽容大量的

lowercase [ˌləʊə'keɪs] *n.* 小写字母; 小写字体

inception [ɪn'sepʃən] *n.* 开始, 开端, 初期

controversy [ˈkɒntrəvɜːsi] *n.* 公开辩论, 论战

ordination [ˌɔːdɪ'neɪʃən] *n.* [宗] 圣职授任; 任命; 分类, 排成等级

ordain [ɔː'deɪn] *v.* 任命 (某人) 为牧师, 授予 (某人) 圣职

cleric ['klerɪk] *n.* 牧师, 教士, 神职人员

lay [leɪ] *adj.* 普通教徒 (有别于神职人员) 的, 在俗的

archbishop [ɑːtʃ'bɪʃəp] *n.* (基督教会的) 大主教

monarch ['mɒnək] *n.* 君主, 帝王; 最高统治者

clergy ['klɜːdʒi] *n.* (尤指基督教堂内的) 牧师, 教士



## 知识链接

### 英格兰圣公会 (the Anglican Church)

英格兰圣公会 (亦称 the Church of England), 在英王亨利八世 (Henry VIII) 时脱离了罗马教皇 (Pope) 的统治, 从此英国国王或女王成了英国国教的最高统治者。在现今英国, 一般由英国首相提名, 然后由英国女王伊丽莎白二世任命两位英国大主教 (archbishops) 和所有主教。英国国教不从国家获取金钱赞助, 因为它本身就是一个大财团, 而且拥有大量的证券和国债。

英格兰圣公会的两位大主教分别为坎特伯雷大主教 (the Archbishop of Canterbury) 和约克大主教 (the Archbishop of York), 本身皆为同名教区的主教。坎特伯雷大主教是英格兰圣公会的实际领导教主, 其次为约克大主教及其他主教 (bishops)。英国每一个城市都有一个大教堂 (cathedral), 而其他的郡 (county) 就只有普通教堂 (church)。英格兰圣公会的牧师是允许结婚的, 1987 年开始英格兰圣公会提出可以让妇女担当牧师一职。当时, 尽管许多教堂成员支持英格兰圣公会这一决定, 还是有一些男牧师离开了教堂, 皈依了罗马天主教, 以示抗议。

## Passage 3

### Higher Education and Universities in Britain

Higher education, also known as **tertiary** education, constitutes an important part of the British education system. Higher education in Britain is not compulsory and students have to pay tuition and fees.

There are also many **polytechnics**, usually known as colleges, which are largely vocational to give students further education by teaching sciences and applied technology. An education act passed in 1992 raised the status of these colleges to universities. Britain founded the Open University in 1969, which offers courses taught through correspondence, television and radio programs.

Colleges and universities provide necessary training for individuals wishing to enter professional careers. They also strive to develop students' creativity and analytical skills. By providing students with an intellectually stimulating environment, colleges and universities prepare students for future careers. They give students critical thinking and problem-solving skills. Most professions, such as engineering, teaching, law, medicine, and information science, require higher education qualification in Britain.

Each British university has its own governing council composed of some businessmen, a

few politicians and several professors. The chairman of the council is normally called **Chancellor** who is usually a **prominent** public person. The Chancellor gets no pay from the university, for he is only a **figurehead**. But the university benefits from his prestige. The effective chief is the Vice-Chancellor who is usually a professional academic. He is in charge of the day-to-day administration work.

Universities and colleges select their first-year students according to the students' grades of examination performance. Some colleges admit a few students for special purposes, such as students with special skills or from families of **eminent** citizens who are usually generous donors. All university students have to pay tuition, fees and living costs. But students from less well-off families are entitled to financial assistance from the local authority of the place where they live. The money, known as **grants** towards the cost of university education, is enough to pay the full costs, including the cost of lodging and food. Most students, poor or rich, try to earn some money by taking jobs in summer for six weeks. Besides, all the university students are entitled to borrow money from banks. They need not repay the loan until they have found a job after graduation.

Most students prefer to choose those universities that are far away from their homes. About 90% of the university students are not local residents. In most cases the university's **halls of residence** can only **accommodate** half of the students. The rest of the students have to live, three or two together, in rented flats outside the campus. Some universities have very old halls in which meals are provided. But the newly-built halls of residence are separated from kitchens. Campus residence halls provide common settings for students to form new bonds with peers.

English universities have different **syllabuses**. And the academic standards they set for students also vary. But efforts are being made to achieve **uniformity** of standards of all universities. The principal method is to employ outside examiners for all university examinations. Degree titles are based on courses and credits. First-degree (bachelor) courses require full-time attendance. The most common titles for a first degree are Bachelor of Arts (BA) and Bachelor of Science (BSc), granted to students who have passed examinations at the end of three or four years' study. But medical and **veterinary** courses usually require five or six years of study.

Bachelors' degree is of two levels: Honor and Pass. The Honor's degree, granted to graduates who excel in academic performance, is further divided into the first class (about 15%), upper second class (about 30%), and lower second (about 40%). Some 15% of university students fail to win the first degree at the end of three or four years' study.

The first post-graduate degree is that of Master, including Master of Arts (MA) and

Master of Science (MSc). These degrees are usually awarded at the end of one and a half years' full-time study after the Bachelor's degree is attained. Oxford and Cambridge University grant the Master of Art's degree to every student at the end of the seventh year from his first admission.



## Word Bank

tertiary [ˈtɜːʃəri] *adj.* 第三的, 第三级的

polytechnics [ˌpɒliːˈtekniks] *n.* 理工学院 (polytechnic 的名词复数)

chancellor [ˈtʃɑːnsələ(r)] *n.* 大臣; (英国大学的) 名誉校长

prominent [ˈprɒmɪnənt] *adj.* 杰出的; 著名的; 卓越的

figurehead [ˈfɪɡəhed] *n.* 挂名的首脑

eminent [ˈemɪnənt] *adj.* 知名的; 受人尊崇的

grant [ɡrɑːnt] *n.* 拨款; 补助金; 授给物 (如财产、授地、专有权、补助等)

hall of residence 学校公寓

accommodate [əˈkɒmədeɪt] *v.* 向……提供住处; 提供住宿 (或膳食、座位等)

syllabus [ˈsɪləbəs] *n.* 教学大纲, 课程提纲; (讲义等的) 摘要, 提纲; 课程表

uniformity [ˌjuːniˈfɔːməti] *n.* 均匀性; 单调, 无变化; 同样, 一样

veterinary [ˈvetnri] *adj.* 兽医的



## 知识链接

### 英国开放大学 (Open University)

英国开放大学是英国 20 世纪 70 年代初出现的以广播、电视、函授与暑期学校相结合的成人高等教育机构。1969 年获英国政府颁发皇家特许状并准予颁发学位。1971 年正式成立, 大学总部设在白金汉郡米尔顿·凯恩斯新城, 总部下设地区分部, 各地区又设学习中心。开放大学规定, 凡 21 岁以上有能力接受大学教育的英国公民, 不论性别、学历和社会地位, 都可申请入学。名额比例力求各地区平衡, 并照顾不同职业的报名者。根据先来先收的原则, 按报名先后顺序录取。入学年龄从 21 到 70 岁不等, 60% 的学生为 30~40 岁。学生中在职教师所占比例最大, 其次为文、法、医、技术人员和家庭主妇。



## Passage 4

## Elizabeth I

Elizabeth I (1533 – 1603) was the daughter of Henry VIII and his second wife, Anne Boleyn, whose marriage with the king was the immediate cause of the reform of the church in England.

Elizabeth suffered a lot in her early years. Before she was three years old, her mother was put to death for **alleged adultery** and the marriage was declared invalid. As a result, Elizabeth's birth became **illegitimate** and she subsequently lost her claim to the English **throne**. Elizabeth lived in danger and was once imprisoned in the Tower of London. Her opponents pressed hard for her execution because, they argued, her very birth identified her with the anti-**papal** tendency. But Elizabeth was clever enough to know what to do to escape danger. She wisely attended Mass which was restored under the reign of Queen Mary, her half-sister. Her intelligence and good command of several foreign languages, such as Greek, Latin, French, Italian, and Spanish, also contributed to her popularity. On Mary's death (1558), therefore, Elizabeth's succession to the English throne was received with general welcome. Elizabeth's reign witnessed the growth of English nationalism and great achievements in literature and in battle.

Generally speaking, Elizabeth I was able to work with Parliament, but there were also problems. Parliament, for example, wished its **customary** right of free speech confirmed in writing; and it wanted to have the right to discuss important questions at will, not by the king's invitation. Elizabeth regarded the demand of Parliament as violations of her **prerogative**.

Elizabeth's religious reform was a compromise of views. She **repudiated** the papal supremacy over religious affairs by declaring herself "defender of the faith" in England. She broke religious ties with Rome and restored the independence of the Church of England, but she kept to Catholic **doctrines** and practices. Confronted with troubling religious conflicts, Elizabeth tried to create a society where "there should be outward **conformity** to the Established Religion, but that opinion should be left free." She imposed *The Book of Common Prayer*, the English selection of *The Bible*, on all churches in England, but at the same time she tolerated secret **dissenters** who were allowed to use prayer books of their own choice at home. Her moderate religious policy was unacceptable either to the extreme **Protestants** known as Puritans or to **ardent** Catholics.

Externally, Elizabeth successfully played off against each other the two great Catholic powers, France and Spain. She made political use of the offers of marriage **alliance** made by