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中学英语标准化考试(NMET)

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董正璟 编

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《中学生英语之友》丛书

中学英语标准化考试(NMET)

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编 者 的 话

提高学生阅读理解能力是高中阶段外语教学的主要目标。阅读理解又是中学英语标准化考试及其它各种考试的重点项目。本书根据《全日制中学外语教学大纲》和中学教材的要求以及学生的实际水平，参考了大量国内外最新教材和试卷，精心选编了百篇语言地道、内容新颖、题材广泛，难度适中、针对性强的短文，供广大学生和教师选用。为帮助学生适应高考标准化考试，本书按照由浅入深的原则以及高考题型，将百篇文章按四篇一组分为25个单元，每单元20个多项选择题，多层次地检查学生对文章的理解，特别是检查学生对文章的深层意义的理解。文章把新单词量压缩到最低限度，有少量新单词未加中文注释，是用以培养学生从上下文来理解单词意思的能力。书后还附有近年来全国高考英语标准化试题的阅读理解部分及答案，供学生们参考。

本书适合于高中二、三年级学生及同等水平的英语学习者使用，对参加高考的毕业班学生进行有针对性的复习迎考更有裨益。

本书编写过程中，蒙徐美华、王仁元、姜蓉、孙燕、朱善萍等同志给予热情帮助。南京大学刘纯豹教授在百忙之中抽空审订了全书，在此深致谢意。

囿于水平，书中难免有不妥之处，恳请广大读者不吝指教。

编 者

1991年3月

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Unit 1

(A)

The piano was invented about 200 years ago. Its name is a short form of "pianoforte" meaning "soft and loud" in Italian. It was called this because the instrument can play both softly and loudly.

Inside the piano there are many small hammers that hit metal strings to produce a noise. The piano can make many different levels of sounds, from very low sounds to very high sounds. This is gained by strings of different lengths inside the instrument. The longer the string is, the deeper is the sound made by it.

The earliest pianos were made completely out of wood, but modern pianos are made out of both wood and metal. This is much stronger, and lasts longer.

1. According to the passage, the piano
 - A. was invented by an Italian.
 - B. can play two different sorts of sound.
 - C. was first made in about 1790.
 - D. has 200 different names.
2. The passage suggests that
 - A. the best pianos are made out of wood.
 - B. metal is tougher than wood.
 - C. the piano can play higher than any other musical instrument.
 - D. the piano has to be very large to have so many strings.
3. The sound of a piano is

- A. like that of a violin.
 - B. made by striking pieces of rope.
 - C. both high and low at the same time.
 - D. sometimes loud, and sometimes quiet.
4. The piano must be
- A. the first instrument invented.
 - B. very difficult to play.
 - C. able to play many different musical sounds.
 - D. taken great care of, because it is easily broken.

(B)

While travelling abroad, Mr Jackson Frank ran short of money. So he wrote to his brother, asking for £500. 'Send the money by telegram,' he wrote, 'to the Fisher Bank in P...'

After a week he began calling at the Fisher Bank. He showed his passport (护照). 'Nothing has come for you,' he was told. This went on for two weeks, and Mr Frank got very worried. He sent a telegram to his brother, asking where the money was. There was no reply, and no money arrived for him.

In the fourth week Mr Frank was arrested for failing to pay his hotel bill. His passport and baggage (行李) were taken from him. He tried to explain the problem, but no one believed him. He was sent to prison for sixty days.

When he came out, he went immediately to the Fisher Bank. The clerk he spoke to was a new man. 'Have you received £500 for me?' he asked, 'My name is Jackson Frank.'

The clerk checked his books. 'Yes, Mr Jackson, it's here. It came by telegram—let me see—oh, more than two months ago. We wondered where you were.' He showed Mr Frank the order.

The order read: 'Pay Mr Frank Jackson the sum of £500...'

'But my name is Jackson Frank, not Frank Jackson.'

'Oh, that's all right, Sir. It was in our books under the letter "J", but it's your money.' The clerk laughed. 'A human mistake, Sir! We're all human beings, aren't we? And so we all make mistakes. A family name like Frank sounds strange to me.'

Mr Frank was silent. He really wanted to hit somebody. At last he said, 'A human mistake—is that what you call it? I think some humans need kicking.'

5. The passage mainly tells us that

- A. Jackson Frank was the victim of a human mistake.
- B. banks play the most important part in people's daily life.
- C. it is unwise to travel without enough money.
- D. telegrams are an unreliable (不可靠的) way to send money.

6. Which of the following is true?

- A. Mr Jackson Frank called at the Fisher Bank every day for his money.
- B. Mr Frank's brother sent him the money while he was in prison.
- C. The police didn't believe Frank's story.
- D. Mr Frank told the clerk that he wanted to kick him.

7. When Mr Frank was out of prison, he went to the bank and found that the clerk he spoke to was

- A. a very young man.
- B. a man who had been ill but was now better.
- C. a very rude old man.
- D. a stranger to him.

8. In the passage the writer suggests that

- A. humans often make mistakes.
- B. machines should replace humans.
- C. the clerk's mistake was excusable (可原谅的) because we all make mistakes.

D. the excuse that we all make mistakes is a poor one.

9. The best title for the passage is

A. A Phone Call to the Fisher Bank.

B. A Sum of £500.

C. A Human Mistake.

D. A Short Prison Sentence.

(C)

Few animals except monkeys have handlike paws. The monkey, like man, has an opposable thumb—that is, it can place its thumb (拇指) opposite its other fingers. By pressing its forefinger (食指) against its thumb a monkey can pick up a very tiny object. Because other animals don't have this thumb, it is difficult for them to pick up small things and carry them.

A monkey is able to grasp rice with its paw and just because of that, it is often caught by people. Hunters put a handful of rice into a coconut (椰子), leaving a hole in the shell of the nut. The monkey has no trouble sliding its paw through the hole. But it can't draw the paw out while it is holding rice in its hand.

Since it is often too stupid or greedy to open its hand, the monkey is unable to free itself from this simple trap.

10. Not many animals have

A. fingers.

B. hands.

C. paws.

D. handlike paws.

11. An opposable thumb is a thumb that can

A. pick up things.

B. be placed against the other fingers.

C. press against the opposite thumb.

- D. press against anything.
12. A monkey can pick up small objects by pushing its thumb against
- A. its paw
 - B. its fingers.
 - C. its forefinger
 - D. the objects.
13. Hunters put rice in the coconut trap because monkeys
- A. can get the rice out easily.
 - B. have trouble picking up rice.
 - C. must close their hands to hold rice.
 - D. both B and C
14. The success or failure of a coconut trap depends on
- A. what kind of rice is in the trap.
 - B. how large the coconut is.
 - C. how many holes are in the coconut.
 - D. whether the monkey will give up the rice.

(D)

- W: I haven't seen you for a while. Have you been away?
- M: Yes, I just got back from holidays. I made a journey to the Great Lakes. Have you ever been there?
- W: Oh, yes! When I was young I lived in Erie County in New York and I used to go swimming in Lake Erie (伊利湖) all the time. We also went to Lake Ontario (安大略湖) in Canada.
- M: But I thought that Lake Erie was so polluted that almost everything living in it had died.
- W: At one time Lake Erie was almost dead. There was so much algae (海藻) that the oxygen supply was practically used up.
- M: It was the amount of phosphate detergents (磷酸盐洗涤剂) that

caused the great growth of algae, wasn't it?

W: Yes, but since both the United States and Canada have now limited phosphate detergents, there have been a lot of gains in the fight against water pollution. In fact all the Great Lakes will be ninety percent improved within the next 30 years.

M: I'm glad to hear an environmental (环境的) success story at last!

15. What is the main subject of this talk?

A. United States-Canadian agreements.

B. Unlimited growth in population.

C. Pollution in the Great Lakes.

D. The limited supply of phosphates.

16. Where has the man been?

A. Swimming in a lake.

B. Washing clothes in a lake.

C. Visiting his hometown.

D. Visiting lakes.

17. What did the woman use to do as a child?

A. Grow algae for experiments.

B. Read a lot of stories.

C. Fish in the ocean.

D. Swim in the Great Lakes.

18. What has been the main problem in the Great Lakes in recent years?

A. Too much algae.

B. Too many visitors.

C. Lack of rainfall.

D. Too much water.

19. What have the United States and Canada agreed to do about the Great Lakes?

A. To forbid swimming.

- B. To limit boating and fishing.
 - C. To limit phosphate detergents.
 - D. To kill all algae.
20. What do people expect to happen to the Great Lakes within the next 30 years?
- A. They will have limited oxygen supplies.
 - B. They will become part of Canada.
 - C. They will increase in size.
 - D. They can be used again.

Unit 2

(A)

Dad said it would be an unusual present, and he was quite right.

He said. 'Go to the telephone and call a ten-figure number. It must begin with 010. Got that—010? You can please yourself about the other seven figures.'

I called the number 010 3612597. A few moments later I heard a man's clear voice at the other end: the voice said. 'Kikri 2597. Don Flower speaking.'

I said, 'Hullo, Mr Flower. I'm Robert West, and this call to you is one of my birthday presents. I'm thirteen today—'

'Oh, that's great. Many happy returns of the day! Where are you calling from, Robert? You sound very clear.'

'I'm at home in London. Where are you?'

'You're in London! Well, well—I've never had a call from Lon-

don before. I live in Kikri, Australia. About a hundred miles from Kikri actually, but it's the nearest place. I've got a small farm here, with about ninety thousand sheep on it. You ought to come and visit me one day.'

'I'd like to, very much. Your farm must be very big, Mr Flower, if you've got ninety thousand sheep on it.'

'Well, there may be only eighty thousand by now. I'm not too sure. There's not a lot of feed for them, you know, and two of my wells have gone dry this month. So we've been driving the sheep around a bit. If you go straight across the middle of my farm, it's a hundred and ten miles. That isn't a great size for a farm in Australia, but it's big enough for me!'

We talked for three minutes, and it was very interesting. I gave Mr Flower my telephone number. He promised to ring me on my birthday next year.

1 . If you live in London, what number calls Australia?

A. 010 2597.

B. 3612579.

C. 010 3612579.

D. Kikri 2597.

2 . As far as we can tell from the passage

A. Robert West had never rung Australia before.

B. telephone calls to Australia are expensive.

C. Mr Flower is a friendly man.

D. Mr Flower wishes that he had a large farm.

3 . Which of the following is untrue?

A. Mr Flower lives in Kikri.

B. Australia can have periods with no rain.

C. Robert did not know Mr Flower when he first spoke to him.

D. We do not know exactly how many sheep Mr Flower has on his farm.

- 4 . From the passage it seems that
- A. Australia has the best conditions for sheep farming.
 - B. to make a living in Australia, you must have a large farm to raise sheep.
 - C. Mr Flower is finding it difficult to raise sheep successfully because he has a small farm.
 - D. sheep farming in Australia can be a difficult job at times.
- 5 . The best title for the passage is
- A. A Surprise Phone Call.
 - B. An Unusual Present.
 - C. A Phone Call to Australia.
 - D. A Ten-Figure Number.

(B)

Indians called the small animal opossum (负鼠). He's one of the best actors in the business. Hunters know that when they find an opossum, he puts on an act of being "dead". He's "playing opossum". They can twist his toes. No sign of life. The opossum doesn't seem to be breathing. His mouth is open. His tongue hangs out. Even his heartbeat is hard to feel.

Is the opossum really asleep? Is he paralyzed (瘫痪)?

A team of California biologists put a little opossum on the lab table. They wired his brain. Then they "attacked" him. A dog's bark was played on a record. They grabbed the opossum's neck with a pair of pliers (钳子). He thought the dog was biting him. So he played dead. His act was good—he looked dead all right. But the machine the scientists used showed his brain to be active and attentive. He was just "playing opossum".

- 6 . When hunters find an opossum,

A. the opossum puts on an act to amuse them.

- B. the opossum stops breathing.
 - C. the opossum heart stops beating.
 - D. the opossum plays "dead".
7. When the biologists got the opossum into the lab, they
- A. attacked him.
 - B. let a dog bite him.
 - C. recorded his brain waves on a record.
 - D. made him think he was being attacked.
8. On the lab table, the scientists found that
- A. he was asleep.
 - B. his brain was attentive
 - C. he was in pain.
 - D. his breathing had stopped.
9. The passage deals mainly with
- A. the opossum's size.
 - B. what goes on when the opossum plays dead.
 - C. how the opossum defeats his enemies.
 - D. the work of California biologists.

(C)

Inventors like Thomas A. Edison were called mad. Their inventions were made fun of. John Fitch, who invented the steamboat, became so discouraged that he killed himself. Charles Goodyear's family lived in poverty while he carried on his experiments. When Charles Newbold's cast-iron (铸铁) plough first appeared, farmers refused to use it. They said it would poison the soil. In both England and America, the canal companies were opposed to the use of railroads because they feared the competition (竞争). Horse breeders (饲养者) fought the introduction of cars and trucks. In France, tailors destroyed sewing machines that were being used to make

clothes for the army. Weavers wrecked the home of Richard Arkwright, the inventor of the power loom. Everywhere resistance to invention was strong.

10. This passage is about
 - A. Thomas A. Edison.
 - B. obstacles (障碍) to invention.
 - C. how inventions were made.
 - D. how inventions have changed our lives.
11. The best statement of the main idea of this passage is that
 - A. inventors were called mad.
 - B. resistance to inventions was strong.
 - C. inventors have lived in poverty.
 - D. farmers refused to use the cast-iron plough.
12. The inventor of the power loom was
 - A. Richard Arkwright.
 - B. Thomas A. Edison.
 - C. John Fitch.
 - D. Charles Newbold.
13. Horse breeders fought the introduction of cars and trucks because
 - A. they were unsafe.
 - B. the horse was more useful.
 - C. the horse was stronger.
 - D. they cared more about their own economic interests.
14. The passage shows that in the past people generally
 - A. welcomed inventions.
 - B. respected inventors.
 - C. were short-sighted.
 - D. were open-minded.