

大学英语

作文与综合改错

6级考试



新东方学校大学英语考试培训教材

大学英语作文与综合改错分册

大学英语六级考试 作文与综合改错分册

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第一部分 大学英语六级考试短文写作

一、六级英语作文评分标准

大学英语六级考试作文的目的旨在考核学生英语书面表达的能力。作文考试时间为30分钟,要求写出不少于120个词的短文。六级考试作文的出题方式有:命题作文,看图画或图表作文,根据所给文章(英文或中文)写出文章摘要或大意,给出关键词作文等。考试的作文内容为社会、文化或日常生活的一般常识,不涉及知识面过广、专业性太强的内容。对作文的要求是:切题,文理通顺,表达正确,意思连贯,无重大语言错误。

下面介绍六级考试作文的评分原则和标准,并通过五份样卷作一个详细说明。

(一)、作文评分原则

1. CET 是检查考生是否达到大学英语教学大纲规定的六级教学要求,对作文的评判应以此要求为准则。
2. CET 作文题采用总体评分(Global Scoring)方法。阅卷人员就总的印象给出奖励分(Reward Scores),而不是按语言点的错误数目扣分。
3. 从内容和语言两个方面对作文进行综合评判。内容和语言是一个统一体,作文应表达题目所规定的内容,而内容要通过语言来表达。要考虑作文是否切题,是否充分表达思想,也要考虑是否用英语清楚而确切地表达思想,也就是要考虑语言上的错误是否造成理解上的障碍。
4. 避免趋中倾向。该给高分的给高分,包括满分;该给低分的给低分,包括0分,一名阅卷人员在所阅的全部作文卷中不应只给中间的几种分数。

(二)、作文评分标准

1. 本题满分为15分。
2. 阅卷标准共分五等:2分、5分、8分、11分及14分。各有标准样卷一至二份。
3. 阅卷人员根据阅卷标准,对照样卷评分,若认为与某一分数(如8分)相似,即定为该分数(即8分);若认为稍优或稍劣于该分数,即可加一分(即9分)或减一分(即7分),但不得加或减半分。

4. 评分标准:

2分……条理不清,思路紊乱,语言支离破碎或大部分句子均有错误,且多数为严重错误。

5分……基本切题。表达思想不清楚,连贯性差。有较多的严重语言错误。

be similar to

1段 地道的英文
2段 主题句位置明显
3段 总结归纳、发挥

主谓一致
时态一致
单复数一致
拼写

搭配

提高语言质量,少修改内容

抄格写
一段落一行

8分……基本切题。有些地方表达思想不够清楚,文字勉强连贯;语言错误相当多,其中有一些是严重错误。

11分……切题。表达思想清楚,文字连贯,但有少量语言错误。

14分……切题。表达思想清楚,文字通顺,连贯性好。基本上无语言错误,仅有个别小错。

[注:白卷,作文与题目毫不相关,或只有几个孤立的词而无法表达思想,则给0分。]

5. 字数不足应酌情扣分

120~129 3 130~139 2 140~149 1

累计字数	CET6	110~119	100~109	90~99	80~89	70~79	60~69
扣 分		24	25	26	27	29	2

[注:] 1. 如题目中给出主题句,起始句,结束句,均不得计入所写字数

2. 只写一段者:0~4分;只写两段者:0~9分(指规定三段的作文)

3. 为了便于阅卷人员掌握评分标准,现将各档作文分相当于百分制的得分,列表如下,称为得分率。其中9分的得分率为60(相当于百分制的60分)。

作文分	15	14	13	12	11	10	9	8	7	6	5	4	3	2	1
得分率	100	94	87	80	74	67	60	54	47	40	34	27	20	14	7

经原国家教委批准,四、六级考试已从1997年6月份起采用“作文最低分”制计算成绩,其中足见国家对提高大学英语写作能力的重视程度。按规定,考生作文若为0分,无论其总分是否高于60分,均作不及格处理;若其作文分高于0分,低于6分,报导成绩时,需从总分中减去6分,再加上实得作文分。也就是说,要从总分中减去实得作文分与6分之间的差额部分。

实例一

2000年6月 Range—finder

① A test of spoken English will be included as an optional component of the College English Test (CET). Many people think that a test of spoken English is necessary. They have two reasons. The first, we have made a tight ties with many other countries, which needs not only read and write but also speak. Second, if English is not spoken, that is not true English.

But some other people are against it. They say spoken English is important, but including it as an optional component of the College English Test is too early.

I agree with the first opinion. I know the importance of spoken English. We study English in order to make easy communication with foreigners. But how to do it if we don't practice spoken English? As a college student, I must study hard in 4 years. English is one of my major lessons. I will speak more in order to improve my spoken English.

And of the above two opinions, I agree with the former one.

14 ② A test of spoken English will be included as an optional component of the College English Test (CET). Many people believe a test of spoken English is necessary because spoken English is an important part of the language. ^{强调} Only when one speaks fluent English can one say he has really mastered the language. ^{regard point out claim argue agree suggest} So a test ought to be devised to ^{代替用词 不要重复某个表达} assess one's ability in spoken English. ^{如何}

^{提出} (However, some people think that a test of written English is enough and a test of spoken English is not necessary.) They ^{强调} hold that one's ability in English can be shown in a test of written English and a test of spoken English will ^{加一个新鲜的表现法(高档次)} add to the burden of students.

I believe it is of great importance for every foreign language learner to speak the language with fluency. A test of spoken English will ^{value/help/use} stimulate students to improve their oral English. So such a test is necessary. And I ^{打算} intend to take it if possible.

5 ③ A test of spoken English will be included as an optional component of the College English Test (CET). Many people think it is necessary. Because English is a language, spoken English is an important part for learning English people. If people doesn't speak English, he must can't talk with people who come from other country.

But other people think test of spoken English is too difficult for college students. Because Chinese is different English, and many college students will not speak English when they left College, so test of spoken English isn't necessary.

I think test of spoken English is necessary. Because in the future, people who come from different country will connect with each other more and more frequent. And English is a international language. So college student must can speak English. Then we can do better in our job.

2 ④ A test of spoken English will be included as an optional component of the College English Test (CET). Study English must writing and speaking. They all good. Study English just can communicate with somebody. If we don't speaking, so it's fail. So somebody think spoken English must included as an optional component of the College English Test.

But somebody think just I can writing, I just can speaking. But this point is wrong.

I think oral English is important. Sometime we meet foreigners, we must talk with them, do not writing. So Spoken English is commoner than writing. If we want to improvement our oral English. we must usually talking each other. Study language need an environment. So when we talk with somebody, don't worry. In the future, oral English more important.

11 ⑤ A test of spoken English will be included as an optional component of the College English Test (CET). Is it necessary? Many people think so because spoken English is widely used in the everyday life. If a person who is good at written English can't speak it, how can he communicate with others?

Some people think spoken English is less important than written English because they think most science books are written in English. One can't understand the content if he can only speak English. And furthermore, the test of spoken English is not so fair. A teacher can give the scores according to his own like.

Anyway, I think it is necessary. A test of spoken English can encourage us spend more time speaking English in the spare time. It is also contribute to our written English learning. I will try my best to study spoken English hard and practice it as often as possible. I think where there is a will there is a way.

2000 年 1 月 Range—finders

8 ① After I came into the college, there is a question how I finance my college education.

There are many way to solve the tuition and fees of college education. The most usual way is use the family's money. Most of the students get money from their parents. If someone's family situation is not well he can apply for loan to bank. The government will help the students like this. Other way is find a job through school's help. Of course we still put study in the first place.

④ In my opinion, I choose the way is to combine getting money from parents and working. On one hand, most of the education fees can be got from my parents. On another hand, I spend my spare time doing some jobs as private teaching. Through doing part-time job I can not only earn money but also obtain some social experience. Social experience is also very important to me. This is the way how I finance my college education.

④ ② Nowadays, if we want to go to college, we'll have to pay a big sum of money. It's a problem to many students. Many ways can contribute to solve this serious problem. But the following ones may be the most effective. First, you can ask your parents for help if they have nice careers. Another way to solve this problem is to apply for a bank loan. Finally, we can find a part-time job to get enough money.

As to me, I'm in favor of the second idea. My reasons of choice can be listed as follows: first of all, my parents are not rich enough to afford me. Secondly, you'll not have enough time and energy to study after finishing the part-time job. Finally, I'm sure that I'll get a nice job after graduation, then I'll be able to pay back the loan.

Through above analysis, I believe that bank loan is my best choice.

2 ③ How I finance my college education? Following way is my think to the question.

There have many of different roads to finance one's college tuition and fees. The different people has different idea, example is you can do some work for your tuition and fees, or do your best in your studying, then you will get money. But, in mains is your mother and father's money.

Though, I doesn't leave off my mother. I have done some work out of school, something is myself to find. It can get only little money, but I'm very happy in my heart. It can't finance my university tuition. It can reduce my mother's money.

It is mine that How I finance my college education.

④ We are in the college. The tuition and fees is very expensive. We can get it in many ways. Example, we can through our parents get it, also we can earn money out of class get it, and even we can through the school get it and so on. If you study hard and get a high score, the school will be pride of you with money. You can also borrow it from school.

But I would be better to earn money out of class. Because It can adapt me a chance which is doing something by myself. It let me know that the money is not easy earn. I should make good use of money. I must also study harder than other, because I lost my time of studying. So it let me make good use of time.

This is just how I finance my college education.

⑤ Nowadays, tuition and fees for college are much higher than ever before. How to finance your college education has become a matter of concern for many. You can deal with in many ways. You can get all of the money from your parents. You can apply for a loan especially set up for college students. You can also acquire the money completely by yourself, doing a full-time job in summer or winter holiday. In addition, you can ask your parents for most of it and earn the rest in your spare time in college, by doing a part-time job.

In my opinion, I prefer the last way. Having acquired most of the tuition and fees from my parents, I needn't worry too much about the money and can concentrate on my study; on the other hand, a part-time job in my spare time makes my campus-life colorful. I can make a lot of friends, improve my abilities and learn lots of knowledge. So, I choose this way to cover my tuition and fees.

实例二

Reading Selectively Or Extensively?

Outline: 1. 有人认为读书要有选择

2. 有人认为应当博览群书

3. 我的看法

① When it comes to reading, some people think that reading selectively is a good way, but some other people do not agree with them, they think that reading extensively is better.

Those people, who think that reading selectively is better, believe that good books are as many as bad books. Those good books can give us pleasure and knowledge, while those bad books can only lead us to the wrong way. So, they suggest that we should only choose the good books to read and never touch the bad books.

But, the other people, who hold that reading extensively is better, think that one kind of books can only give us one aspect of knowledge. Even the best book only contains one field of information. So, they can easily come to the conclusion that "to know more, to read more". So they believe that reading extensively is better.

To my point, we should choose good books to read and read good books as many as possible. By this way, we can increase the quality and quantity of reading.

② I think reading not only selectively but also extensively. Because the two sides are not contradict. Our time is limited. So we can not read every book in the world. However, we will not be interested in every book. We should read those books may be useful to ours, read

those books which we like. But those books which we choose must be extensively so it can give ours all kinds of knowledge, news and so on, it also make ours become a wise man. On the one hand reading selectively let ours not waste our time which it is limited. Moreover it can emphasis among all books that we can read. On the other hand reading extensively can deal with all kinds of need in our life. They are all useful to ours.

③Most people thought that read books should have been selected. But others belived reading extensitvely was correction.

Selective books or reading extensively?

Sure, you can choice one from previous ideas,

on one hand, There are too book to read for us. We should choose those which we in-
trested, and it would be helpful for us.

on another hand. Someone's intresting was wide. Each book could bring you specific
contain we couldn't reading at only one level.

I confirmed all of these ideas were good but weren't wise.

As a reader, the main task is to discover more and more books the second task is to held
some which wonderful and helpful for us. Don't treat these books with rackless abandon.

The best technology of reading is connect.

④How should we read? Should we read selectively or extensively? Everyone has his
own view.

Some people think we should read selectively. They argue that with the development of
modern science and technology, more and more books are published. It is impossible for us to
read all the books. What's more, there are many bad books that are poisonous to our mind,
and we shouldn't read them. Since we can't read all the books and we shouldn't read bad
books, we must read selectively.

But others may not agree. They emphasize that today's society is not what it was. If
one man has many kinds of knowledge he'll have more chances to succeed. If a man knows
much in one field but knows nothing in other fields, he may be useless. Since we must have
many kinds of knowledge, we must read extensively.

Who's right? I think both of them have something right. But I think we should read
extensively first. We should read books in many fields, and read selectively in one field.

⑤Some people think reading shall be choosed. Because some books are good to hummen
beings and some books are harmful to people.

Some people think that men shoud read books widely. Because wide reading can help
man get much knowledge. And man can use it to change the world.

It is my point that reading must be selectively. Because reading is important to man.
Some books can help man but some books can lead some people to crime. It can be seen in
the newspapers and watched on TV. We can make full use of some good books and gain more

useful knowledge. It can make our life more beautiful. We must give up those unhelpful books. They are not good to us. Reading them is wasting time and money. So reading selectively is an important part in reading.

1995 年 5 月

Directions: For this part, you are allowed 30 minutes to write a composition on the topic: "Should We Read Selectively?" You should write at least 120 words, and you should base your composition on the outline (given in Chinese) below.

1. 有些人认为应该广泛阅读
2. 有些人认为应该选择性阅读

1994 年 4 月

Directions: For this part, you are allowed 30 minutes to write a composition on the topic: "Reading Selectively or Extensively?" You should write at least 120 words, and you should base your composition on the outline (given in Chinese) below.

1. 有些人认为应该广泛阅读
2. 有些人认为应该选择性阅读

1993 年 1 月

Directions: For this part, you are allowed 30 minutes to write a composition on the topic: "Should We Read Selectively or Extensively?" You should write at least 120 words, and you should base your composition on the outline (given in Chinese) below.

1. 有些人认为应该广泛阅读
2. 有些人认为应该选择性阅读

1992 年 8 月

Directions: For this part, you are allowed 30 minutes to write a composition on the topic: "Should We Read Selectively or Extensively?" You should write at least 120 words, and you should base your composition on the outline (given in Chinese) below.

1. 有些人认为应该广泛阅读
2. 有些人认为应该选择性阅读

1991 年 1 月

Directions: For this part, you are allowed 30 minutes to write a composition on the topic: "Should We Read Selectively or Extensively?" You should write at least 120 words, and you should base your composition on the outline (given in Chinese) below.

二、六级英语作文题型

(一)正反阐释题

2000年6月

Directions: For this part, you are allowed 30 minutes to write to a composition on the topic **Is a Test of Spoken English Necessary?** The First sentence has already been written for you. You should write at least 120 words, and you should base your composition on the outline (given in Chinese) below:

1. 很多人认为有必要举行英语口语考试,理由是.....
2. 也有人持不同意见,.....
3. 我的看法和打算

1999年6月

Directions: For this part, you are allowed 30 minutes to write to a composition on the topic **Reading Selectively or Extensively?** You should write at least 100 words and you should base your composition on the outline (given in Chinese) below:

1. 有些人认为读书要有选择
2. 有些人认为应当博览群书
3. 我的看法

1998年6月

Directions: For this part, you are allowed 30 minutes to write to a composition on the topic **Do Lucky Numbers Really Bring Good Luck?** You should write at least 120 words and you should base your composition on the outline (given in Chinese) below:

1. 有些人认为某些数字会带来好运
2. 我认为数字和运气无关.....

1997年6月

Directions: For this part, you are allowed 30 minutes to write to a composition on the topic **My View on job-hopping.** You should write at least 120 words and you should base your composition on the outline (given in Chinese) below:

1. 有些人喜欢始终从事一种工作,因为.....
2. 有些人喜欢经常更换工作,因为.....
3. 我的看法

1996年1月

Directions: For this part, you are allowed 30 minutes to write to a composition based on the title: **Why I Take College English Test Band 6.** You should base your composition on the

following outline (given in Chinese).

1. 有些人认为没有必要参加大学英语六级考试
2. 我参加 CET-6 考试的理由

1995 年 6 月

Directions: For this part, you are allowed 30 minutes to write to a composition on the topic **Should Firecrackers Be Banned?** You should write at least 100 words and you should base your composition on the outline (given in Chinese) below:

1. 有人认为放鞭炮是好事,为什么?
2. 有人认为放鞭炮是坏事,为什么?
3. 我的看法

1993 年 6 月

Directions: For this part, you are allowed thirty minutes to write a composition on the topic **MY VIEW ON OPPORTUNITY**. Your composition should be no less than 120 words. You must base your composition on the following instructions (given in Chinese):

1. 有的人认为机会是极少的。
2. 另一些人则认为人人都会有某种机会。
3. 你的看法如何?

(二) 阐释原因、描述危害题

2000 年 1 月

For this part, you are allowed thirty minutes to write a composition on the topic **How I finance My College Education**. You should write at least 100 words, and base your composition on the outline (given in Chinese) below:

1. 上大学的费用(tuition and fees)可以通过多种途径解决。
2. 哪种途径适合我(说明理由)。

1999 年 1 月

Directions: For this part, you are allowed thirty minutes to write a composition on the topic: **Don't Hesitate to say "No"**. You should write at least 120 words and you should base your composition on the outline (given in Chinese) below:

1. 别人请求帮助时,在什么情况下我们会说“不”。
2. 为什么有些人在该说“不”的时候不说“不”。
3. 该说“不”时不说“不”的坏处。

1997 年 12 月

For this part, you are allowed thirty minutes to write a composition on the topic **My View on Fake Commodities**. You should write at least 100 words, and base your composition on the outline (given in Chinese) below:

1. 假冒伪劣商品的危害
2. 怎样杜绝假冒伪劣商品

(三) 永恒话题

1997年1月

For this part, you are allowed thirty minutes to write a composition on the topic **Haste Makes Waste**. You should write at least 120 words and you should base your composition on the outline (given in Chinese) below.

1. 为什么“欲速则不达”?
2. 举例说明。

More Haste Less Speed

(四) 图表题

1996年6月
1992年1月
1991年6月

P3

三、六级英语作文范文

✓ 1. People Learn More Outside the Classroom

I believe that we get more knowledge outside the classroom than we do inside. A classroom can give us only limited kinds of information. If we look at the beginning of civilization, for example, we will note that people back then did not have formal classrooms, yet many of them were well informed. There were no classrooms to teach the first men how to plant or how to build huts. The great early poets of the first and second centuries didn't learn their poems in a classroom, nor did the women find out how to sew their clothes there.

Let me use another approach to support my opinion. Suppose there were two children, the first limited to getting his knowledge entirely from the classroom, the second one able to get information from any source. Which would learn more? Most likely the second one because he would learn from his environment, from his parents, from the books he read, from TV, and from private study.

Both history and common sense suggest, therefore, that the greatest source of useful, practical knowledge comes from outside the school. What we get in a classroom is only a small part of that total, but of a specialized and abstract nature.

2. Scientific Discovery - Curse Or Blessing

New scientific discovery nearly always brings to mankind a blessing. Take electricity for example. Since its discovery, it has ushered in an era of countless inventions in close connection with it. Nowadays people can read and write by means of lights instead of candles. Fire is another example of discoveries which made human beings survive in ancient times and generates electricity in modern times. Again, minerals such as oil or coal discovered by man have long been used as fuel to develop industry and agriculture.

Yet sometimes scientific discoveries may prove a curse upon the human race. As we know ^{corn} everything has two sides, Electricity can shock one to death if used carelessly. Smoke from factories and gases from cars are terrible pollutants. Radium used in nuclear power plants can lead to a nuclear war.

The misuse of scientific discoveries must be prevented. Since chemical elements or substances were discovered, some have been made use of for purposes of war. Such weapons as ^{atomic} atomic bombs or ^{poisonous} poisonous gases have proved to be destructive to mankind. Therefore, it is the whole world's duty to prevent them which menace the human race.

✓ 3. Benefits of Sports and Games

Sports and games do a lot of good to our health. They can make us strong, prevent us

from getting too fat, and keep us healthy. Especially they can be of great value to people who work with their brains most of the day, for sports and games give people valuable practice in exercising the body.

What's more, they make our life richer and more colorful. "All work and no play makes Jack a dull boy", just as the saying goes. So persons of all ages enjoy watching and taking part in various kinds of sports - track and field, skating, swimming, volleyball, basketball, football, etc.

Sports and games are also very useful in character - training. They demand not only physical skill and strength but also courage, enthusiasm, discipline and usually, teamwork. For boys and girls, what is learned in the playground often has a deep effect on their character. If each of them learns to work for his team and not for himself on the football field, he will later find it natural to work for the good of his country instead of only for his own benefit.

4. Preferable Work

way of living in the city or in the country

Some people prefer to work with people. Work with people usually makes one feel interesting and efficient. At the same time, it can give people power and competition and provides rivalry which can be a very effective motive in improving one's ability. In addition, people can get better ideas by way of consultation and conference with other people.

On the other hand, other people like jobs which mainly involve with objects or machine. They probably think that working with objects or machine will provide more peace and quiet. Under such peaceful conditions, one can do more practical work, improve one's skill and make technical renovations.

Of these two ways of working, I prefer working with people. First of all, I like working with people because of companionship. Second, although there are competition and rivalry, we can learn something from other people even if we don't like them.

5. Part-time Job for College Students

There are some controversies on part-time jobs for college students. People who are against it hold that the sole purpose of higher education is for the students to acquire knowledge. If they are engaged in part-time job they will be invariably distracted from their studies and as a result they can not fulfil the requirements mapped out by the State Education Commission. The writer, however, thinks that there are several advantages for college students involved in part-time jobs.

Firstly, part-time jobs provide opportunities for students to contact society so as to know the situation of the talent market. For instance, if a student works as a part-time governess, he or she will know what kind of professionals are urgently needed by the market and this will help him to choose a future job. Secondly, there are some financial gains from

part-time jobs. Since the reform was carried out institutions of higher education have started to collect tuition fees from students. Doubtless to say this means another financial burden on parents. And part-time jobs can serve as a partial solution to this problem. Last but not least, part-time job can cultivate students' sense of independence. =fin 最 但不是最重

To sum up, part-time jobs can do a lot more good than bad to students as long as they can make best use of their time and raise the efficiency of their study.

6. Exams: Good or Bad

the advantages outweigh the disadvantages

Some students complain that they have too many exams. They seem to be always engaged in preparing for all kinds of quizzes or tests without any time to do something that really interests them. They suggest that exams be abolished. However, all schools have exams towards the end of a semester or after a session. There are some reasons for doing that.

First, knowledge needs rehearsal to be memorized. (复习) As we all know, before each exam students are always kept busy doing preparations. They are expected to go over the course books one by one and try to memorize everything learnt. This can serve as a sort of rehearsal to what they have learnt and help store the newly acquired knowledge into their long-term memory for later use.

Secondly, exams can act as a kind of evaluation as to how much students can understand what is taught in class and how well they can put the knowledge into practice. (应用) A student who understands all concepts and formulas in the math class will take interest in solving difficult problems. And if he does succeed, the satisfaction and contentment he gains from doing it are beyond description. (那)

Thirdly, good exams can develop intelligence. By providing correct solutions to each question students not only learn the methods of science but also train their ability to deal with difficult problems which will do them a lot of good in developing their thinking.

So examinations at school are necessary and helpful. Students can strengthen their knowledge and at the same time develop their intelligence.

7. Cars

Wherever one lives—in the city or in the country, there are some good reasons for owning a car. First, cars have become an important part of life in many countries. The car provides the most convenient form of transportation. With a car, a person can get around freely, without spending a lot of time. Second, a car is a comfortable way to travel, especially in the winter time. A driver stays warm and dry even in the cold, rainy weather. Finally, a driver is usually safe in his car when he is out at night.

There are, on the other hand, many good reasons against owning a car. For one thing, it can be very expensive to purchase and run a car. The gas shortage has caused a big problem for drivers, and the price of fuel continues to go up each year. In addition, it costs a great

deal to maintain, repair and insure a car. For another, owning a car can also cause worry and stress. It is exhausting to drive a car in heavy traffic. It often happens that a driver can be held up on his way because of a traffic jam. What is worse, cars are responsible for most of the smog in cities, which pollutes the environment seriously.

In spite of all the above-mentioned, I still favour owning a car. The reason is that the car gives a person the freedom to schedule his own time. Though we are confronted with a problem of energy crisis, I am sure that the real solution will have to be a new kind of car, one that uses cheap, efficient fuel and does not contaminate the air.

8. Should Firecrackers Be Banned?

Some people think that setting off firecrackers is a good thing. They say that it is an ancient Chinese custom which should be preserved. They also claim that firecrackers make festivals and holiday occasions more colorful and entertaining for both adults and children.

On the other hand, there are many people who say that firecrackers should be banned. They point out that firecrackers are responsible for fires which destroy property, and for injuries and burns suffered both by the people who set them off and by innocent bystanders. They also say that firecrackers are a waste of money and resources.

My own point of view is that we should preserve the old custom of letting off firecrackers, while at the same time making them harmless. We can do this by banning firecrackers from public places. In addition, we should restrict the setting off of firecrackers to festival days.

9. Do "Lucky Numbers" Really Bring Good Luck?

There are people who believe that some numbers bring good luck, while others bring bad luck. For instance, in China the number eight is thought to be lucky. Turning our attention to the West, we find that the number seven is considered lucky, but the number 13 is avoided like the plague.

In spite of all these claims, most people would agree that there is little evidence that numbers have any influence on our lives. In fact, they say, the reverse seems to be the case. For one thing, we might expect calculators to break down every time they note the number 13, and for another, although every week has seven days we know that not every week is lucky for us.

Weighing the pros and cons of these arguments, I am inclined to agree with the latter point of view. It is obvious that there is no scientific basis for the belief that there is a connection between luck and numbers. All in all, it seems to me to be superstition.

总之 In sum
In conclusion 迷信 = I think
it is —