

● 大学英语一日一练丛书

大学 英语

(下册)

ENGLISH

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一
读

陈文光 俞 玲 王吉民 主编

浙江大學出版社

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目 录

Unit 1	1
Unit 2	5
Unit 3	9
Unit 4	13
Unit 5	17
Unit 6	22
Unit 7	27
Unit 8	32
Unit 9	37
Unit 10	41
Unit 11	46
Unit 12	51
Unit 13	56
Unit 14	60
Unit 15	64
Unit 16	69
Unit 17	73
Unit 18	78
Unit 19	83
Unit 20	87
Unit 21	91
Unit 22	95
Unit 23	99
Unit 24	103
Unit 25	108
Unit 26	113
Unit 27	118
Unit 28	123
Unit 29	128
Unit 30	133
Unit 31	138
Unit 32	143
Unit 33	148
Unit 34	152
Unit 35	157
Unit 36	162

Unit 37	167
Unit 38	171
Unit 39	176
Unit 40	180
Unit 41	185
Unit 42	190
Unit 43	195
Unit 44	200
Unit 45	205
Unit 46	210
Unit 47	215
Unit 48	220
Unit 49	226
Unit 50	231
Keys(Book II)	236

Unit 1

(1)

There are a number of stars whose brightness continually varies. Some of these variable stars show wholly irregular fluctuations, but the greater number repeat a fairly definite cycle of change. A typical variable grows brighter for a time, then fainter, then brighter once more, with irregular minor fluctuations during the cycle. Periods separating times of maximum brightness range all the way from a few hours to several years. Maximum brightness for some variables is only slightly greater than minimum brightness, but for others it is several hundred times as great. Since the sun's radiation changes slightly during the sunspot cycle, we may consider it a variable star with an extremely small range in brightness (a few percent at most) and a long period (about 11 years).

The light changes in a few variable stars are simply explained: the stars are actually double stars whose orbits we see edgewise, so that one component periodically eclipses the other. But the fluctuations in most variables cannot be accounted for so easily. In some the appearance of numerous spots at regular intervals may dim their light; others might be pulsating, expanding and contracting so that their surface areas change periodically.

Multiple Choice Questions

- Most variable stars _____.
A) fluctuate irregularly
B) have a fairly definite motion pattern
C) shift patterns over a number of years
D) have a generally consistent fluctuation cycle
- Times for the cycle of different variable stars _____.
A) are fairly uniform
B) range from a few seconds to many hours
C) range from a few days to infinity
D) range from a few hours to several years
- The sun is a variable star with _____.
A) a small range in brightness and a long period
B) an unusually short period
C) an irregular fluctuation cycle
D) a small range in brightness and a short period
- One usual explanation of the change in brightness is that _____.
A) the star is consuming its fuel
B) the distance is changing
C) spots dim the brightness
D) the star is eclipsed by its twin star
- Another possible explanation of most changes in brightness is that _____.
A) the star is dying
B) pulsation causes the surface area to change
C) the star is actually a double star
D) changes in the earth's atmosphere affect perception

Notes

- fluctuation *n.* 波动, 变化不定
- variable star 变星
- radiation *n.* 放射, 辐射
- sunspot *n.* (太阳)黑子, 日斑
- edgewise *adv.* 侧着, 斜着
- eclipse *v. & n.* 形成(日、月、行星等)食
- pulsate *v.* 有节奏地舒张及收缩, 有规律地振动

(2)

Every artist knows in his heart that he is saying something to the public. Not only does he want to say it well, but he also wants it to be something that has not been said before. He hopes the public will listen and understand — he wants to teach them, and he wants them to learn from him.

What visual artists like painters want to teach is easy to see but difficult to explain, because painters turn their experiences into shapes and colors, not words. They seem to feel that a certain selection of shapes and colors, out of the countless billions possible, is particularly interesting for them and worth showing to us. Without their work, we would never enjoy these particular shapes and colors, or feel the delight which they bring to the artist.

Most artists take their shapes and colors from nature and from human bodies in motion and rest. Their choices indicate that these aspects of the world are worth looking at, and that they contain beautiful sights. Some present-day artists might say that they merely choose subjects that provide an interesting pattern, and that there is nothing more to it. Yet these artists do not completely ignore the character of their subjects.

If one painter chooses to paint a gangrenous leg and another a lake in moonlight, each of them is directing our attention to a certain aspect of the world. Each painter is telling us something, showing us something, emphasizing something — all of which means that, consciously or unconsciously, he is trying to teach us.

Multiple Choice Questions

- An artist hopes that the public will _____.
 A) understand him and get something meaningful from his work
 B) notice only shapes and colors in his works
 C) teach him something he has never experienced before
 D) buy all his works at the highest possible price
- A painter chooses certain shapes and colors because he feels that they _____.
 A) have been used frequently in the past
 B) are easy to work with
 C) are worth showing to the public
 D) will be most attractive to the public
- According to the writer, a visual artist paints in order to _____.
 A) surprise viewers
 B) impress viewers
 C) recognize viewers
 D) warn viewers
- According to the writer, some present-day pattern paintings contain _____.
 A) nothing but meaningless patterns
 B) uninteresting aspects of the world
 C) subjects chosen partly for their meanings
 D) completely meaningless characters
- Which of the following can be inferred from the passage?
 A) A painting is more easily understood than a poem.
 B) Art is merely the arrangement of shapes and colors.
 C) Present-day artists always try to persuade the public.
 D) One should look beyond shape and color to find what the artist is saying.

Notes

- visual *adj.* 视觉的
- gangrenous *adj.* 腐烂的

(3)

There are various ways in which individual economic units can interact with one another. These basic ways may be described as the market system, the administered system, and the traditional system.

In a market system individual economic units are free to interact among each other in the marketplace. It is

possible to buy goods from other economic units or sell goods to them. In a market, transactions may take place through barter or money exchange. In a barter economy, **real** goods such as automobiles, shoes, and rice are traded against each other. Obviously, finding somebody who wants to trade my old car in exchange for a sailboat may not always be an easy task. Hence, the introduction of money as a medium of exchange eases transactions considerably. In the modern market economy, goods and services are bought or sold for money.

An alternative to the market system is administrative control by some agency over all transactions. This agency will issue commands as to how much of each goods and service should be produced, and consumed by each economic unit. Central planning may be one way of running such an economy. The central plan drawn up by the government shows the amounts of each goods produced by the various firms and shared among different households for consumption. This is an example of complete planning of production, consumption, and exchange for the whole economy.

In a traditional society, production and consumption patterns are governed by tradition: every person's place within the economic system is fixed by fatherhood or motherhood, religion, and custom. Transactions take place on the basis of tradition, too. People belonging to a certain group may have a responsibility to care for other persons, provide them with food and housing, care for their health, and provide for their education. Clearly, in a system where every decision is made on the basis of tradition alone, progress may be difficult to achieve. A society may result in little development.

Multiple Choice Questions

- What is the main purpose of the passage?
 - To outline different types of economic system.
 - To explain the science of economics.
 - To argue that one economic system is better than the others.
 - To compare barter and money-exchange markets.
- The word "real" could best be replaced by _____.
 - high quality
 - different
 - special
 - exact
- Which of the following statements is true according to the passage?
 - The author prefers market system to either administered system or the traditional system.
 - In an administered system only the government makes every decision.
 - In a market economy service can be sold or bought.
 - The traditional system is good for society which asks for little progress.
- According to the passage, a barter economy can lead to _____.
 - rapid speed of transaction
 - misunderstanding
 - inflation
 - difficulties for the traders
- Which of the following is NOT mentioned by the author as a condition for determining a person's place in a traditional society?
 - Family background.
 - Religious beliefs.
 - Age.
 - Custom.

Notes

- interact with 相互作用
- transaction *n.* 交易
- barter *n.* 物物交换
- alternative *n.* 供替代的选择
- consumption *n.* 消费

(4)

If Europeans thought a drought was something that happened only in Africa, they know better now. After four years of below-normal rainfall (in some cases only 10 percent of the annual average), vast areas of France, Spain, Portugal, Belgium, Britain and Ireland are dry and barren. Water is so low in the canals of northern France that waterway traffic is forbidden except on weekends. Oyster growers in Brittany report a 30 percent drop in production because of the loss of fresh water in local rivers necessary for oyster breeding. In southeastern England, the rolling green hills of Kent have turned so brown that officials have been weighing plans to pipe in water from Wales. In Portugal, farmers in the southern Alentejo region have held prayer meetings for rain — so far, in vain.

Governments in drought-plagued countries are taking drastic measures. Authorities in hard-hit areas of France have banned washing cars and watering lawns. In Britain, water will soon be metered, like gas and electricity. "The English have always taken water for granted," says Graham Warren, a spokesman of Britain's National Rivers Authority. "Now they're putting a price on it." Even a sudden end to the drought would not end the misery in some areas. It will take several years of unusually heavy winter rain, the experts say, just to restore normal water reserves.

Short Answer Questions

1. What is the main topic?

2. What problems does the drought bring about?

3. What measure does the southeastern England intend to take?

4. What might be a proper title for the passage?

5. How much do English people pay for water according to the passage?

Notes

1. drought *n.* 久旱, 干燥
2. barren *adj.* 贫瘠的

3. oyster *n.* 牡蛎
4. drastic *adj.* 严厉的, 极端的

Unit 2

(5)

I was 10 years old that Saturday in 1963. There was a knock at the door, and after I opened it I was surprised to see a group of five strange men standing there. I quickly shut the door and ran to get my father. I had been told many times before not to answer the door unless one of my parents had told me to, and now I understood why: these five men were without a doubt the first fifth of that famous "25 robbers at my door" from the old hide-and-seek rhyme, and I had almost let them in!

In fear I said something to my father about a group of robbers at the door, and he said, "Good. They're right on time." Much to my shock, Dad not only let them in but also shook all of their hands.

The men all worked at Fisher Body Plant No. 1 with my father, and they sat where he told them to at our dining room table. Dad then passed out pencils and paper and, from a box he had brought home earlier that day, handed each of them a printed sheet of paper with a series of math questions on it.

"We'll start with fractions," Dad said. "How to find the lowest common denominator?"

The men came for three hours every Saturday, Sunday, Wednesday and Friday for the next two months. Dad explained that they had taken a test at the factory to be promoted to skilled jobs and none had passed the math part. This test was said to be the reason why there was a very small percentage of African-Americans in any skilled job at Fisher Body. Dad said he knew they could do the job if they were given a chance. I understood what my father was doing, but it wasn't until many years later that I appreciated it.

I remember the great joy on my father's face when he came home from work one day and told my mother, "They all passed! The managers even want John to take the test again. They think he cheated somehow. He scored perfect on the math!"

Multiple Choice Questions

1. The 10-year-old boy shut the door in the face of the strangers because _____.
A) his mother told him to do so
B) he had been told not to talk with strangers
C) he was playing a trick on them
D) he thought they must have been robbers
2. The five strange men turned out to be _____.
A) members of a group of robbers
B) his father's students at college
C) his father's fellow workers at the factory
D) his father's friends who came for dinner
3. Which of the following is true according to the passage?
A) The boy's father helped the five men to prepare for a test.
B) The boy's father would be taking the test with the five men.
C) The five men were given a chance to go to college.
D) The five men were all jobless at the time.
4. Why did the five men take the math lessons?
A) Because they only needed to pass a math test to get a job at the factory.
B) Because math was part of a test that the workers should take to get promoted.
C) Because they were interested in math.
D) Because the factory asked them to take the lessons.

5. We may infer from the story that _____.

- A) the boy's father passed the test too
C) John did unbelievably well on the math test

- B) the boy's father helped John to cheat on the test
D) John must have cheated on the test

Notes

1. rhyme *n.* 童谣

2. common denominator 公分母

(6)

Physical fitness is the result of many factors — good medical and dental care, proper nutrition, adequate rest and relaxation, and sensible personal habits. But these are never enough. An essential factor is regular physical activity — exercise for a body that needs it to function well.

All of us know that ordinary movements — things like running, jumping, and bending — are made possible by muscles. Muscles also do many other things. They suck air into your lungs, push food along your digestive tract, and tighten your blood vessels to raise blood pressure when you need more pressure for an emergency. Your heart is a muscular pump.

When your muscles are not used, or are not used enough, they do not develop and grow properly. They soon become flabby and weak, shrink in size, and lose the ability to do the jobs they were meant to do.

Recent studies showed that the average high school student spends fifteen to thirty hours a week watching television and only two hours a week in organized play or exercise. That is one reason why one-third of the 200,000 pupils tested for the President's Council on Physical Fitness failed a simple test of strength, stamina, and flexibility. Some of the boys and girls could not raise themselves to a sitting position without using their hands!

Cars and buses, elevators and escalators, TV and push-button machines, all tend to reduce strenuous physical activity. But our bodies still need exercise. Without it they soon become weak, ineffective, and unattractive.

Multiple Choice Questions

- In the article, muscles are said to do all of the following except _____.
A) suck air B) run, jump, bend C) tighten blood vessels D) reflect pains
- The thing to keep physical fitness discussed in this article is _____.
A) strength B) nutrition C) skill D) exercise
- The author seems to urge _____.
A) replacing physical activity with TV watching B) failing 200,000 students on a physical fitness test
C) exercising our bodies regularly D) annual medical checkups
- According to the article, high school students _____.
A) are mostly flabby and weak B) often suffer from lung troubles
C) lack adequate exercise D) should watch less TV programs
- An essential factor of physical fitness mentioned in the passage is _____.
A) good medical care B) blood pressure
C) adequate rest and relaxation D) regular physical activity

Notes

1. nutrition *n.* 营养

4. stamina *n.* 耐力

2. digestive tract 消化道

5. flexibility *n.* 适应性

3. flabby *adj.* 松弛的

(7)

Frank Lloyd Wright probably is the greatest architect that the United States has ever produced. He was very talented and had a natural ability to design buildings. His buildings were not only beautiful, but they were also functional. They fit their purposes very well. Wright's churches, for example, make people feel like thinking and praying. His office buildings make people enjoy working, and his houses make people feel comfortable at home. However, Frank Lloyd Wright's beautiful, functional buildings are not the only reason that he is famous. There is another reason.

Frank Lloyd Wright is called the greatest American architect because he started an American style in architecture. Most of the architecture in the United States before Wright was really European, not American. Wright's buildings do not look like old European buildings. They have their own style. Wright's ideas about style are still used in the United States and in other parts of the world.

The most important idea in Frank Lloyd Wright's style of architecture is that a building must fit its purpose and the land around it. His houses are often called "grassland houses" because their lines are similar to the lines on the grass-land. Both the lines of the grassland and the lines of Wright's houses are parallel to the horizon, the place where earth and sky seem to meet. They are horizontal lines. Most European style houses, in contrast, have many vertical lines that form 90° angles with the horizon.

Multiple Choice Questions

- Which of the following would be the best title for this passage?
 - The Influence of European Architecture on American Architecture.
 - The Buildings Designed by the Greatest Architect Frank Lloyd Wright.
 - The Influence of Architect Frank Lloyd Wright on American Architecture.
 - Frank Lloyd Wright's Contribution to the Improvement of Environment.
- Which of the following best describes the character of the houses the Wright designed?
 - They were plain outside and well-decorated inside.
 - They were beautiful in design and practical in use.
 - They were spacious and very functional.
 - They could be used as a church as well as an office building.
- Which of the following conclusions can be drawn about American architecture before Wright's time?
 - It hadn't formed its own style yet.
 - It was combined with modern style.
 - Most of the houses were designed by Europeans.
 - Most of the houses were practical but not good-looking.
- What is the most important idea in Wright's style?
 - Architecture should present a variety of designs.
 - A building must have a large grassland around it.
 - Architectural design should match natural surroundings.
 - The function of a house is the most important element in design.
- Which of the following styles of architecture is true of Wright's "grassland houses"?
 - The houses appear to stand on the horizon.
 - The houses are built mainly on the grassland.
 - The houses have many lines that form a right angle with the horizon.
 - The houses are characterized by lines similar to those on the grassland.

Notes

1. functional *adj.* 实用的
2. parallel *adj.* 平行的
3. vertical *adj.* 垂直的

(8)

Men cannot manufacture blood as efficiently as women can. This makes surgery riskier for men. Men also need more oxygen because they do not breathe as often as women do. But men breathe more deeply and this exposes them to another risk. When the air is polluted, they draw more of it into their lungs.

A more recent — and chilling — finding is the effect of automobile and truck exhaust fumes on children's intelligence. These exhaust fumes are the greatest source of lead pollution in cities. Researchers have found that the children with highest concentration of lead in their bodies have the lowest scores on intelligence tests and that boys score lower than girls. It is possible that these low scores are connected to the deeper breathing that is typical of the male.

Men's bones are larger than women's and are arranged somewhat differently. The feminine walk that evokes sway is a matter of bone structure. Men have broader shoulders and a narrower pelvis, which enables them to stride out with no waste of motion. A woman's wider pelvis, designed for child-bearing, forces her to put more movement into each step she takes with the result that she displays a bit of a jiggle and sway as she walks.

If you think a man is brave because he climbs a ladder to clean out the roof gutters, don't forget that it is easier for him than for a woman. The angle at which a woman's thigh is joined to her knees makes climbing awkward for her, no matter whether it is a ladder or stairs or a mountain that she is tackling.

Short Answer Questions

1. Men suffer more from air pollution because they _____.

2. As far as body structures are concerned, who face more danger in climbing mountains?

3. What makes men's walking different from women's?

4. What differences between men and women are mentioned in this passage?

5. A proper topic for this passage may be _____.

Notes

1. exhaust fumes (机器排出的)废气, 尾气
2. lead *n.* 铅
3. evoke *v.* 引起, 产生
4. pelvis *n.* 骨盆
5. stride *v.* 大步行走
6. jiggle *n.* 很快地左右或上下移动
7. gutter *n.* 天沟, 排水沟
8. thigh *n.* 大腿, 股

Unit 3

(9)

After X rays showed no bones broken, I stopped for some takeout food and pulled onto the highway, worrying about the afternoon's appointments. I passed a carton of milk back to my son strapped in his baby seat directly behind me.

"Oh, mommy, I spilled it." My left hand tightened on the wheel as I tried to concentrate on the road while handing him a couple of napkins with my right hand. Then I gave him some chicken, not seeing the abandoned truck on the roadside. Suddenly the world exploded into a roar of tearing metal. Then stillness.

My car had turned 180 degrees and stopped. I was looking through a cracked windshield at three lanes of oncoming traffic. The right front corner of the car was gone.

Though I hurt all over and my mouth was full of blood, I unbuckled my seat belt, jumped from the car and got my son. He was conscious and shocked. "Mom..." he said softly. I grabbed him and rushed up the bank, where I clung to him, looking at the wreck that had been our family car.

We were lucky. We came away with our lives. We would be around tomorrow.

That evening my pediatrician called to inquire about my son's leg. When I recounted the accident and my stupidity in tending a child at 50 miles an hour, she told me of another mother who had done the same last winter. For her and two of her three children, there was no tomorrow.

Multiple Choice Questions

- When the author says that X rays showed no bones broken, she is referring to _____.
A) the baby B) herself C) her patient D) her car
- The author had the accident because _____.
A) there is a chicken on the road B) an explosion damaged the car
C) he ran into a truck D) some metal in the car was torn up
- When the author took her son out of the car and looked at the scene, she knew they would _____.
A) come there again B) take another road C) be all right again D) go to see the doctor
- Why did the author give a couple of napkins to her son?
A) Because he felt sleepy. B) Because he had spilled the milk.
C) Because he was hungry. D) Because he was crying.
- The pediatrician told a story about a mother and her children in which _____.
A) one of them survived the accident B) one of them died
C) none of them survived the accident D) all of them died

Notes

- takeout *adj.* 供外卖的
- strap *vt.* 用带扣住,束牢,捆扎
- cracked *adj.* 碎的,破裂的
- windshield *n.* 挡风玻璃
- unbuckle *vt.* 解开……的搭扣
- cling *vi.* 紧紧抓住,紧紧抱住
- wreck *n.* 残骸
- pediatrician *n.* 儿科医生,儿科专家

(10)

A scientist who wants to predict the way in which consumers will spend their money must study consumer behavior. He must obtain data both on the resources of consumers and on the motives that tend to encourage or discourage money spending.

If an economist were asked which of the three groups borrow most — people with rising incomes, stable incomes, or decreasing incomes — he would probably answer: those with decreasing incomes. Actually, in the years 1947–1950, the answer was: people with rising incomes. People with decreasing incomes were next and people with stable incomes borrowed the least. This shows us that traditional assumptions about earning and spending are not always reliable. Another traditional assumption is that if people who have money expect prices to go up they will hasten to buy. If they expect prices to go down, they will postpone buying. But research surveys have shown that this is not always true. The expectations of price increases may not stimulate buying. One typical attitude was expressed by the wife of a mechanic in an interview at a time of rising prices. “In a few months,” she said, “we’ll have to pay more for meat and milk; we’ll have less to spend on other things.” Her family had been planning to buy a new car but they postponed this purchase. Furthermore, the rise in prices that has already taken place may be disliked and buyer’s resistance may be produced. This is shown by the following typical moment: “I just don’t pay these prices; they are too high.”

The investigations mentioned above were carried out in America. The condition most helpful to spending appears to be price stability. If prices have been stable and people consider that they are reasonable, they are likely to buy. Thus, it appears that the common business policy of maintaining stable prices is based on a correct understanding of consumer psychology.

Multiple Choice Questions

- According to the passage, if one wants to predict the way consumers will spend their money, he should _____.
 - rely on traditional assumptions about earning and spending
 - try to encourage or discourage consumers to spend money
 - carry out investigations on consumer behavior and get data on consumers incomes and money spending motives
 - do researches in consumer psychology in a laboratory
- According to the second paragraph, research surveys have proved that _____.
 - price increases always stimulate people to hasten to buy things
 - rising prices may make people put off their purchase of certain things
 - women are more sensitive to rising in prices than men
 - the expectations of price increases often make buyers feel angry
- One traditional assumption is that people with _____ incomes borrow most.
 - average
 - stable
 - decreasing
 - rising
- From the results of the surveys, the author of this article _____.
 - concludes that the saving and spending patterns in Great Britain are better than those in America
 - concludes that the consumers always expect prices to remain stable
 - concludes that maintaining stable prices is a correct business policy
 - does not draw any conclusion
- Which of the following statements is always true according to the surveys mentioned in the passage?
 - Consumers will put off buying things if they expect prices to decrease.
 - Consumers will spend their money quickly if they expect prices to increase.

- C) The price condition has an influence on consumer behavior.
D) Traditional assumptions about earning and spending are reliable.

Note

mechanic *n.* 技工, 机修工

(11)

The term "satellite city" is used to describe the relationship between a large city and neighboring smaller cities and towns that are economically dependent upon it. Satellite cities may be connection and distribution points in the commercial linkages of a trading metropolis or they may be manufacturing mining centers existing with one-industry economies as the creatures of some nearby center. This latter form is what is generally meant when one uses the term "satellite city". Taken in this sense, the nineteenth-century Chicopee and Cowell Massachusetts, were satellites of Boston. Both were mall-towns created by Boston investors to serve the economy of that New England metropolis. Located on cheap land along water-power sites in the midst of a farming region that could supply ample labor, they were satellites in the fullest sense of the term. Pullman, Illinois, and Gary, Indiana, were likewise one-industry towns created in conjunction with the much broader economy of nearby Chicago. Such places, as Vera Schlakman and Stanley Buder have pointed out in their excellent urban biographies, had a one-dimensional quality, a paucity of social vigor. These cities could not stand alone; they were in a sense colonies of a multifunctional mother city.

Multiple Choice Questions

- Which of the following is characteristic of a satellite city?
 - It's a self-sufficient community.
 - It offers cheap land to people.
 - It tends to concentrate on a single product.
 - It lies within a space station orbiting Earth.
- According to the passage, Chicopee and Cowell were ideal locations for the development of towns because they had _____.
 - fully developed electric power plants
 - an adequate number of workers
 - farmland that would not be flooded
 - extremely rich investors
- The author describes each of the following as being economically dependent on another city EXCEPT _____.
 - Chicopee, Massachusetts
 - Cowell, Massachusetts
 - Pullman, Illinois
 - Chicago, Illinois
- It can be inferred from the passage that Vera Schlakman and Stanley Buder are _____.
 - authors
 - investors
 - social workers
 - factory workers
- It can be inferred from the passage that Vera Schlakman and Stanley Buder describe the economies of towns like Pullman and Gary as _____.
 - diversified(多样化的)
 - dependent
 - vigorous
 - primitive

Notes

- metropolis *n.* 大城市, 大都市
- distribution *n.* 分布, 分发
- linkage *n.* 联系, 连接
- mall-town *n.* 商城
- ample *adj.* 足够的
- in conjunction with 与……一道
- one-dimensional *adj.* 单维的
- paucity (of) 少量, 少许
- biography *n.* 传记, 传记文学

(12)

No country in the world has more daily newspapers than the USA. There are almost 2,000 of them, as compared with 180 in Japan, 164 in Argentina and 111 in Britain. The quality of some American papers is extremely high and their views are quoted all over the world. Distinguished dailies like the *Washington Post* or the *New York Times* exert a powerful influence all over the country. However, the *Post* and the *Times* are not national newspapers in the sense that *The Times* is in Britain or *Le Monde* is in France, since each American city has its own daily newspaper. The best of these present detailed accounts of national and international news, but many tend to limit themselves to state or city news.

Like the press in most other countries, American newspapers range from the "sensational" which feature crime, sex and gossip, to the serious, which focus on factual news and the analysis of world events. But with few exceptions American newspapers try to entertain as well as give information, for they have to compete with the lure of television.

Just as American newspapers cater for all tastes, so they also try to appeal to readers of all political persuasions. A few newspapers support extremist groups on the far right and on the far left, but most daily newspapers attempt to attract middle-of-the-road Americans who are essentially moderate. Many of these papers print columns by well-known journalists of differing political and social views, in order to present a **balanced picture**.

As in other democratic countries American newspapers can be either responsible or irresponsible, but it is generally accepted that the American press serves its country well and that it has more than once courageously exposed political scandals or crimes, for example, the Watergate Affair. The newspapers drew the attention of the public to the horrors of the Vietnam War.

Short Answer Questions

1. Why is it more difficult to have national newspapers in the USA than in Britain or France?

2. What topics do American newspapers include?

3. Why do American newspapers attempt to entertain their readers?

4. Many newspapers try to appeal to their readers on political and social issues by printing _____.

5. What does "a balanced picture" in the third paragraph mean?

Notes

- | | |
|---|------------------------------|
| 1. distinguished <i>adj.</i> 杰出的, 卓越的 | 宗派) |
| 2. lure <i>n.</i> 诱惑 | 6. scandal <i>n.</i> 丑闻, 丑行 |
| 3. cater for 迎合, 提供 | 7. the Watergate Affair 水门事件 |
| 4. appeal to (对某人)有吸引力, (使某人)感兴趣 | 8. the Vietnam War 越南战争 |
| 5. persuasion <i>n.</i> 持有(宗教的或政治的)信仰(的 | |

Unit 4

(13)

Looking back on my childhood, I am convinced that naturalists are born and not made. Although we were all brought up in the same way, my brothers and sisters soon abandoned their pressed flowers and insects. Unlike them, I had no ear for music and languages. I was not an early reader and I could not do mental arithmetic.

Before World War I we spent our summer holidays in Hungary. I have only the dim memory of the house we lived in, of my room and my toys. I could not remember my relatives clearly. Nor do I recall clearly the large family of next door. But I do have a crystal-clear memory of the dogs, the farm animals, the local birds, and above all, the insects.

I am a naturalist, not a scientist. I have a strong love of the natural world and my enthusiasm had led me into varied investigations. I love discussing my favorite topics and enjoy burning the midnight oil while reading about other people's observations and discoveries. Then something happens that brings these observations together in my conscious mind. Suddenly you fancy you see the answer to the riddle, because it all seems to fit together. This has resulted in my publishing 300 papers and books, which some might honor with the title of scientific research.

But curiosity, a keen eye, a good memory and enjoyment of the animal and plant world do not make a scientist: one of the outstanding and essential qualities required is self-discipline, a quality I lack. A scientist requires not only self-discipline but hard training, determination and a goal. A scientist, up to a point, can be made. A naturalist is born. If you can combine the two, you get the best of both worlds.

Multiple Choice Questions

1. The first paragraph tells us the author _____.
A) was interested in flowers and insects in his childhood
B) lost his hearing when he was a child
C) didn't like his brothers and sisters
D) was born to a naturalist's family
2. The author can't remember his relatives clearly because _____.
A) he didn't live very long with them
B) the family was extremely large
C) he was too young when he lived with them
D) he was fully occupied with observing nature
3. It can be inferred from the passage that the author is _____.
A) a scientist as well as a naturalist
B) a naturalist but not a scientist
C) no more than a born naturalist
D) first of all a scientist
4. The author says that he is a naturalist rather than a scientist probably because he thinks he _____.
A) has a great deal of trouble doing mental arithmetic
B) lacks some of the qualities required of a scientist
C) just reads about other people's observations and discoveries
D) comes up with solutions in a most natural way
5. According to the author, a born naturalist should first of all be _____.
A) ambitious
B) enthusiastic
C) knowledgeable
D) self-disciplined