

**托福** 最新题型

**阅读训练**

殷颖华 主编

**Practice on  
TOEFL  
Reading  
Comprehension**

朝 华 出 版 社

译者:姚春生 蔡露敏 牛曼漪  
尹秀梅 次旦玉珍 钱翠静  
谷 红 张文君 李晓红  
孙凤兰 周秀玲 刘水兰  
吕正华 吴泽庆 陈 珍  
唐 伟 李永学

## 前 言

托福考试由美国教育考试服务处(Educational Testing Service)主办,始于1965年,但是在中国首次举行考试是在1981年12月11日。

托福考试在中国举行已经十余年,其热度不仅没有降低,而且有越升越高的趋势。鉴于此,我们决定编辑出版一套适合我国状况的托福模拟试题,即《托福阅读训练》和《托福语法突破》,希望我们所做的努力能给您带来帮助。

阅读理解是托福考试中很关键的部分,尤其是95年8月改题型之后,阅读理解又包含了以往的词汇测试内容。选编本书旨在帮助广大考生适应这种阅读测试,在最短的时间内掌握阅读测试的技巧,强化阅读训练,以获得理想成绩。

本书收集的77篇托福阅读文章,皆选自95年8月以来托福考试真题及模拟题,包括东南亚地区考题、中国地区考题、南美洲地区考题及美国本土的模拟题。文章内容涉及社会、政治、经济、人物、生态等诸多方面。所有文章附参考译文和答案。

本书不仅适用于托福考试,也适用于WSK, EPT, 英语四、六级和研究生入学考试。

书中如有不足及疏漏,希望读者朋友指正。

编者

1998年1月

于北京外国语大学

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## Passage 1

### Questions 1–9

Are organically grown foods the best food choices? The advantages claimed for such foods over conventionally grown and marketed food products are now being debated. Advocates of organic foods — a term whose meaning varies greatly — frequently proclaim that such products are safer and more nutritious than others.

The growing interest of consumers in the safety and nutritional quality of the typical North American diet is a welcome development. However, much of this interest has been sparked by sweeping claims that the food supply is unsafe or inadequate in meeting nutritional needs. Although most of these claims are not supported by scientific evidence, the preponderance of written material advancing such claims makes it difficult for the general public to separate fact from fiction. As a result, claims that eating a diet consisting entirely of organically grown foods prevents or cures disease or provides other benefits to health have become widely publicized and form the basis for folklore.

Almost daily the public is besieged by claims for “no-ag-ing” diets, new vitamins, and other wonder foods. There are numerous unsubstantiated reports that natural vitamins are superior to synthetic ones, that fertilized eggs are nutritionally superior to unfertilized eggs, that untreated grains are better than fumigated grains, and the like.

One thing that most organically grown food products seem to have in common is that they cost more than conventionally grown foods. But in many cases consumers are misled if they believe organic foods can maintain health and provide better nutritional quality than conventionally grown foods. So there is real cause for concern if consumers, particularly those with limited incomes, distrust the regular food supply and buy only expensive organic foods instead.

1. The word "Advocates" in line 3 is closest in meaning to which of the following?
  - (A) Proponents
  - (B) Merchants
  - (C) Inspectors
  - (D) Consumers
2. In line 6 the word "others" refers to
  - (A) advantages
  - (B) advocates
  - (C) organic foods
  - (D) products
3. The "welcome development" mentioned in lines 8-9 is an increase in
  - (A) interest in food safety and nutrition among North Americans
  - (B) the nutritional quality of the typical North American diet
  - (C) the amount of healthy food grown in North America
  - (D) the number of consumers in North America
4. According to the first paragraph, which of the following is

- true about the term "organic foods"?
- (A) It is accepted by most nutritionists.
  - (B) It has been used only in recent years.
  - (C) It has no fixed meaning.
  - (D) It is seldom used by consumers.
5. The word "unsubstantiated" in line 21 is closest in meaning to
- (A) unbelievable
  - (B) uncontested
  - (C) unpopular
  - (D) unverified
6. The word "maintain" in line 28 is closest in meaning to
- (A) improve
  - (B) monitor
  - (C) preserve
  - (D) restore
7. The author implies that there is cause for concern if consumers with limited incomes buy organic foods instead of conventionally grown foods because
- (A) organic foods can be more expensive but are often no better than conventionally grown foods
  - (B) many organic foods are actually less nutritious than similar conventionally grown foods
  - (C) conventionally grown foods are more readily available than organic foods
  - (D) too many farmers will stop using conventional methods to grow food crops
8. According to the last paragraph, consumers who believe that organic foods are better than conventionally grown



- foods are often
- (A) careless
  - (B) mistaken
  - (C) thrifty
  - (D) wealthy
9. What is the author's attitude toward the claims made by advocates of health foods?
- (A) Very enthusiastic
  - (B) Somewhat favorable
  - (C) Neutral
  - (D) Skeptical

### 【生词注释】

organically 有机地  
 conventionally 传统地  
 advocate 倡导  
 proclaim 正式宣布  
 nutritious 营养的  
 spark 引起, 引燃  
 inadequate 不充分的  
 preponderance 优势  
 fiction 虚构之事  
 folklore 民间传说  
 besiege 包围

no-aging 抗衰老的  
 vitamin 维生素  
 unsubstantiated 未列举事实支持的  
 superior to 优于  
 synthetic 人工合成的  
 fumigate 以烟熏消毒  
 proponent 提倡者  
 thrifty 节俭的  
 neutral 中性的

### 【参考译文】

有机栽培的食品是最佳食品吗? 这类食品相对于传统食品来讲有更多优点的说法, 目前尚处于争论中, 有机食品——一个

有很多不同含义的术语——常常被认为比其他种类的食品更安全、更富含营养成分。

消费者日益注重典型的北美食谱的安全性和营养性是一件好事，然而，这种兴趣很大程度上是被那些四处扩散的说法所激起的，即现在市面上供应的食品在营养标准方面既不安全又不充分。尽管这些说法大多数是没有科学根据的，但是，有些书刊报道也竭力宣扬这类观点，使得大众很难分清什么是事实。结果是，全部由有机食品组成的食谱能防病、治病或对健康有其他益处的说法广为流传并成为基本信条。

人们几乎每天都被淹没在“抗衰老”食谱、新型维生素和其他超级食品的宣传之中，其中许多是没有事实根据的：说什么天然维生素比人工合成的好；受精鸡蛋比没受过精的更富营养；未经加工的粮食比经烟熏消毒处理过的更好，如此等等。

大多数有机食品所共有的特点就是它们要比传统食品贵得多。但是，在很多情况下，消费者们会因迷信有机食品能维系健康且比传统食品更富营养而被引入歧途。如果他们，特别是那些收入有限的人们，不相信原来的食品而只买昂贵的有机食品的话，这不得不让我们感到忧虑和不安。

## Passage 2

### Questions 1-13

Atmospheric pressure can support a column of water up to 10 meters high. But plants can move water much higher, the sequoia tree can pump water to its very top, more than 100 meters above the ground. Until the end of the nineteenth century, the movement of water in trees and other tall plants was a mystery. Some botanists hypothesized that the living cells of plants acted as pumps. But many experiments demonstrated that the stems of plants in which all the cells are killed can still move water to appreciable heights. Other explanations for the movement of water in plants have been based on root pressure, a push in the water from the roots at the bottom of the plant. But root pressure is not nearly great enough to push water to the tops of tall trees. Furthermore, the conifers, which are among the tallest trees, have unusually low root pressures.

If water is not pumped to the top of a tall tree, and if it is not pushed to the top of a tall tree, then we may ask: How does it get there? According to the currently accepted cohesion-tension theory, water is pulled there. The pull on a rising column of water in a plant results from the evaporation of water at the top of the plant. As water is lost from the surface of the leaves, a negative pressure, or tension, is created. The evaporated water is replaced by water moving from inside the plant in unbroken columns that extend from the top of a plant

to its roots. The same forces that create surface tension in any sample of water are responsible for the maintenance of these unbroken columns of water. When water is confined in tubes of very small bore, the forces of cohesion (the attraction between water molecules) are so great that the strength of a column of water compares with the strength of a steel wire of the same diameter. This cohesive strength permits columns of water to be pulled to great heights without being broken.

1. How many theories does the author mention?
  - (A) One
  - (B) Two
  - (C) Three
  - (D) Four
2. The passage answers which of the following questions?
  - (A) What is the effect of atmospheric pressure on foliage?
  - (B) When do dead cells harm plant growth?
  - ~~(C) How does water get to the tops of trees?~~
  - (D) Why is root pressure weak?
3. The word "demonstrated" in line 7 is closest in meaning to
  - (A) ignored
  - (B) showed
  - (C) disguised
  - (D) distinguished
4. What do the experiments mentioned in lines 7-9 prove?
  - (A) Plant stems die when deprived of water.
  - (B) Cells in plant stems do not pump water.
  - (C) Plants cannot move water to high altitudes.
  - (D) Plant cells regulate pressure within stems.

5. How do botanists know that root pressure is not the only force that moves water in plants?
- (A) Some very tall trees have weak root pressure.
  - (B) Root pressures decrease in winter.
  - (C) Plants can live after their roots die.
  - (D) Water in a plant's roots is not connected to water in its stem.
6. Which of the following statements does the passage support?
- (A) Water is pushed to the tops of trees.
  - (B) Botanists have proven that living cells act as pumps.
  - (C) Atmospheric pressure draws water to the tops of tall trees.
  - (D) Botanists have changed their theories of how water moves in plants.
7. The word "it" in line 16 refers to
- (A) top
  - ~~(B) tree~~
  - (C) water
  - (D) cohesion-tension theory
8. The word "there" in line 18 refers to
- (A) treetops
  - (B) roots
  - (C) water columns
  - (D) tubes
9. What causes the tension that draws water up a plant?
- (A) Humidity
  - (B) Plant growth
  - (C) Root pressure

- (D) Evaporation
10. The word "extend" in line 24 is closest in meaning to
- (A) stretch  
(B) branch  
(C) increase  
(D) rotate
11. According to the passage, why does water travel through plants in unbroken columns?
- (A) Root pressure moves the water very rapidly.  
(B) The attraction between water molecules is strong.  
(C) The living cells of plants push the water molecules together.  
(D) Atmospheric pressure supports the columns.
12. Why does the author mention steel wire in line 30?
- (A) To illustrate another means of pulling water  
(B) To demonstrate why wood is a good building material  
(C) To indicate the size of a column of water  
(D) To emphasize the strength of cohesive forces in water
13. Where in the passage does the author give an example of a plant with low root pressure?
- (A) Lines 4-6  
(B) Lines 7-9  
(C) Lines 13-15  
(D) Lines 16-17

### 【生词注释】

sequoia 红杉, 红杉属

botanist 植物学家

hypothesize 假设

cell 细胞

demonstrate (实验等)说明, 证明

appreciable 可观的

conifer 针叶树

currently 公认地

cohesion-tension 内聚张力

evaporation 蒸气

maintenance 维持

confine 限制

bore 钻孔器

molecule 分子

diameter 直径

### 【参考译文】

大气压可支撑水柱到十米的高度,而植物却能使水升到更高的高度。红杉树可以把水一直送到离地面 100 多米的树顶。直到 19 世纪末,水在树木以及其他高大植物内部的运动还是一个谜。一些植物学家假设植物内部的活细胞充当了抽水机。但许多实验表明,即使植物的茎干中的细胞全部被杀死,水仍然可以被运送到可观的高度。另一些解释是把植物中水的运动归结为根的压力,认为植物底部的根给了水一种推力。但根的压力不会大到把水推到高大植物顶端的程度。而且,最高的树之一的针叶树,它的根的压力异乎寻常的小。

如果树中的水既不是被抽到顶上的,也不是被推到顶上的。那么大家会问:它是怎么上去的呢?根据现在普遍接受的内聚张力理论,水是被拉上去的。这种拉力来自于植物顶部的水的蒸发,它可以拉动水柱不断上升。当水分从叶片表面散失时,一种负压或张力就会产生。蒸发掉的水分就会被沿着植物茎上升而来的水所代替,水流自根至顶不会间断。任何形式的水都具有同样的产生表面张力的力,它们可以使水柱保持不间断。如果植物的茎比较细,那么水在其中的内聚力(水分子相吸的力)就大大加强。一柱水的力可以与相同直径的一股钢绳的力相等,这种内聚力使水柱能被拉到很高的高度也不断。

## Passage 3

### Questions 1—9

For a century and half the piano has been one of the most popular solo instruments for Western music. Unlike string and wind instruments, the piano is completely self sufficient, as it is able to play both the melody and its accompanying harmony at the same time. For this reason, it became the favorite household instrument of the nineteenth century.

The ancestry of the piano can be traced to the early keyboard instruments of the fifteenth and sixteenth centuries — the spinet, the dulcimer, and the virginal. In the seventeenth century the organ, the clavichord, and the harpsichord became the chief instruments of the keyboard group, a supremacy they maintained until the piano supplanted them at the end of the eighteenth century. The clavichord's tone was metallic and never powerful, nevertheless, because of the variety of tone possible to it, many composers found the clavichord a sympathetic instrument for intimate chamber music. The harpsichord with its bright, vigorous tone was the favorite instrument for supporting the bass of the small orchestra of the period and for concert use, but the character of the tone could not be varied save by mechanical or structural devices.

The piano was perfected in the early eighteenth century by a harpsichord maker in Italy (though musicologists point out several previous instances of the instrument). This instrument was called a piano forte (soft and loud), to indicate its



dynamic versatility; its strings were struck by a recoiling hammer with a felt-padded head. The wires were much heavier in the earlier instruments. A series of mechanical improvements continuing well into the nineteenth century, including the introduction of pedals to sustain tone or to soften it, the perfection of a metal frame, and steel wire of the finest quality, finally produced an instrument capable of myriad tonal effects from the most delicate harmonies to an almost orchestral fullness of sound, from a liquid, singing tone to a sharp, percussive brilliance.

1. What does the passage mainly discuss?
  - (A) The historical development of the piano
  - (B) The quality of tone produced by various keyboard instruments
  - (C) The uses of keyboard instruments in various types of compositions
  - (D) The popularity of the piano with composers
2. Which of the following instruments was widely used before the seventeenth century?
  - (A) The harpsichord
  - (B) The spinet
  - (C) The clavichord
  - (D) The organ
3. The words "a supremacy" in line 11 are closest in meaning to
  - (A) a suggestion
  - (B) an improvement
  - (C) a dominance