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考试突破系列

英语阅读突破

王 涛 韩跃勤 马松梅 主编

College English Focus Reading



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前 言

21 世纪是信息全球化,科学技术全球化的时代。针对新世纪对大学英语教学提出的挑战,教育部颁布了新修订的大学英语教学大纲。新大纲强调了英语在交流信息中的作用,在读、说、听、写、译诸方面均提出了较高的要求。为了有效地贯彻落实新大纲,我们组织编写了这套“新大纲大学英语四级考试突破系列”教材,包括《英语听力突破》、《英语语法·词汇突破》、《英语阅读突破》、《英语写译突破》及《四级冲刺》。

参加系列教材编写的人员均来自于四、六级英语统考成绩多年来连续优异的高等院校,且均为具有丰富教学经验的资深英语专家。他们懂得新大纲与原大纲的区别,他们懂得什么是新大纲的要素,他们懂得如何对这些要素进行强化。

《英语阅读突破》由 30 个单元组成,针对阅读是最常见的语言活动这一特点,以培养学生具有较高的阅读能力为目标,精选最新阅读材料 120 篇。每篇文章篇幅依照新大纲对阅读速度的要求取舍,题型涵盖了四、六级考试阅读部分有关的所有类型。不但有选择题,更有简答题和英译汉。使用本书读者会接触到与现代生活密切相关的大量常用词汇和用语。这不仅可以提高阅读能力,而且也为提高听、说、写、译能力创造了条件。您会发现,《英语阅读突破》是其他阅读教科书所不能替代的。

2000 级大学生已正式实施新大纲,相信本系列教材会给读者提供一定的帮助。

编 者

2001 年 3 月

Contents

Unit One	(1)	Unit Five	(46)
Passage 1	(1)	Passage 17	(46)
Passage 2	(4)	Passage 18	(48)
Passage 3	(7)	Passage 19	(51)
Passage 4	(9)	Passage 20	(54)
Unit Two	(13)	Unit Six	(57)
Passage 5	(13)	Passage 21	(57)
Passage 6	(15)	Passage 22	(59)
Passage 7	(18)	Passage 23	(62)
Passage 8	(20)	Passage 24	(65)
Unit Three	(24)	Unit Seven	(69)
Passage 9	(24)	Passage 25	(69)
Passage 10	(27)	Passage 26	(71)
Passage 11	(30)	Passage 27	(74)
Passage 12	(33)	Passage 28	(77)
Unit Four	(36)	Unit Eight	(80)
Passage 13	(36)	Passage 29	(80)
Passage 14	(39)	Passage 30	(83)
Passage 15	(41)	Passage 31	(85)
Passage 16	(44)	Passage 32	(88)

Unit Nine	(91)	Unit Fourteen	(147)
Passage 33	(91)	Passage 53	(147)
Passage 34	(93)	Passage 54	(149)
Passage 35	(96)	Passage 55	(152)
Passage 36	(99)	Passage 56	(154)
Unit Ten	(102)	Unit Fifteen	(157)
Passage 37	(102)	Passage 57	(157)
Passage 38	(105)	Passage 58	(159)
Passage 39	(108)	Passage 59	(162)
Passage 40	(111)	Passage 60	(164)
Unit Eleven	(115)	Unit Sixteen	(166)
Passage 41	(115)	Passage 61	(166)
Passage 42	(117)	Passage 62	(168)
Passage 43	(120)	Passage 63	(171)
Passage 44	(123)	Passage 64	(173)
Unit Twelve	(126)	Unit Seventeen	(175)
Passage 45	(126)	Passage 65	(175)
Passage 46	(128)	Passage 66	(177)
Passage 47	(131)	Passage 67	(179)
Passage 48	(133)	Passage 68	(181)
Unit Thirteen	(136)	Unit Eighteen	(184)
Passage 49	(136)	Passage 69	(184)
Passage 50	(138)	Passage 70	(186)
Passage 51	(141)	Passage 71	(189)
Passage 52	(144)	Passage 72	(191)

Unit Nineteen	(195)	Unit Twenty-four ...	(250)
Passage 73	(195)	Passage 93	(250)
Passage 74	(197)	Passage 94	(252)
Passage 75	(200)	Passage 95	(254)
Passage 76	(203)	Passage 96	(257)
Unit Twenty	(206)	Unit Twenty-five	(259)
Passage 77	(206)	Passage 97	(259)
Passage 78	(209)	Passage 98	(261)
Passage 79	(211)	Passage 99	(264)
Passage 80	(214)	Passage 100	(266)
Unit Twenty-one	(217)	Unit Twenty-six	(269)
Passage 81	(217)	Passage 101	(269)
Passage 82	(220)	Passage 102	(271)
Passage 83	(222)	Passage 103	(273)
Passage 84	(224)	Passage 104	(275)
Unit Twenty-two	(228)	Unit Twenty-seven ...	(279)
Passage 85	(228)	Passage 105	(279)
Passage 86	(230)	Passage 106	(281)
Passage 87	(232)	Passage 107	(284)
Passage 88	(234)	Passage 108	(286)
Unit Twenty-three ...	(238)	Unit Twenty-eight ...	(290)
Passage 89	(238)	Passage 109	(290)
Passage 90	(240)	Passage 110	(292)
Passage 91	(243)	Passage 111	(294)
Passage 92	(245)	Passage 112	(296)

Unit Twenty-nine ... (299)	Passage 117 (308)
Passage 113 (299)	Passage 118 (310)
Passage 114 (300)	Passage 119 (312)
Passage 115 (303)	Passage 120 (314)
Passage 116 (305)	Keys (317)
Unit Thirty (308)	

Unit One

Passage 1

Traditionally, access to ground-water has been limited only by ownership of the land directly above an aquifer and the landowner's financial capacity to drill or dig a well. But aquifers generally extend under large regions and are tapped by numerous users. No single property owner, therefore, is able to influence use or abuse by other users; furthermore, he or she has no incentive to invest in maintenance of the overall resource base. To the contrary, if there is an individual motivation, it is to use as much of the water as possible before others deplete the aquifer.

This problem, sometimes referred to as the "common pool effect", applies also to aquifers that overlap(与……交搭) state or provincial jurisdiction(管理范围) or, posing even greater difficulty, the separate jurisdictions of different sovereign nations. There are also competing claims to groundwater rights between the agricultural, industrial and municipal sectors, and ideological disputes as to whether groundwater is a publicly or privately owned resource.

Another trade-off that needs to be negotiated is meeting food needs while protecting groundwater resources.

Groundwater is the highest quality and most dependable source for irrigation, but dependence on groundwater to meet the demands of an expanding population and rising living standards is a risky business, in terms of polluting and over-extracting groundwater. In addition, a UN report finds that 90 million hectares of land will need to be brought into cultivation by 2010 to meet rising food demand, and half is likely to come from cutting down forest areas that presently provide valuable cover for groundwater resources.

Social dimensions are as important as technical dimensions in the evolution of approaches for ensuring the sustainability of key economic, health and environmental systems. Education, notably of youth, participation and dialogue are essential. Although urgent measures might need to be taken in specific areas of the world, it is crucial to recognize that emerging groundwater problems are not amenable (经得起检验或考查的) to rapid solutions. Rather they signal the need to develop management systems capable of flexibly addressing constraints as they arise.

If groundwater is viewed as a common heritage to which all have fundamental rights, it is most important not to delay further the start of this process.

1. From the passage we know that _____.
 - A. groundwater is a publicly owned resource
 - B. groundwater is a privately resource
 - C. there exist ideological differences as to whether ground-water is a publicly or privately owned resource
 - D. ground-water is neither a publicly nor privately owned

resource

2. No one likes to invest in maintenance of the overall resource base, because _____.
 - A. only the owner of the land directly above an aquifer has the right to use the groundwater
 - B. only those landowners who have financial capacity to drill or dig a well can invest
 - C. aquifers generally extend under large regions
 - D. aquifers can be tapped by numerous users and no one is able to control use or abuse of groundwater by other users
3. What's the author's attitude toward the groundwater problems?
 - A. Concerned.
 - B. Indifferent.
 - C. Optimistic.
 - D. Pessimistic.
4. The last sentence (Para. 3) implies that _____.
 - A. in order to meet rising food demand we should cut down forest areas to increase the cultivated areas
 - B. cutting down forest areas will destroy the valuable cover of groundwater resources
 - C. to meet rising food demand, we need to increase 90 million hectares of land
 - D. by 2010, half of our increased cultivated land will come from cutting down forest areas
5. The main idea of this passage is _____.
 - A. human being will fight with each other for possession of groundwater
 - B. for the sake of the whole population of the world, we should protect groundwater resources

- C. there are a lot of disputes as to how to resolve the groundwater problems
- D. there exists great difficulty in resolving the groundwater problems, but it is urgent and necessary for human being to take some measures

Passage 2

Thermography has given human beings a new way of seeing. It depends upon the fact that all objects give off infrared (红外线) energy. The strength of these infrared emissions depends on the temperature of the body from which they come. Although scientists have long been able to measure the strength of infrared emissions the problem was to turn these measurements into some sort of "picture".

Attempts were not notably successful until 1965, when Dr. Ray Lawson, of Montreal, made the first thermograms of the human body. Progress in the science has been rapid ever since, as industrial companies in Europe and the United States have come up with new developments.

Today's thermograph looks, for the most part, like a small television camera. You point it at the subject, make a few fairly simple adjustments—and on an accompanying screen appears a black-and-white heat picture of the subject. Normally the warm areas are light, the cold areas dark, and the picture looks something like an ordinary photograph negative (底片). However, in some systems, black and white are reversed, and in still others the picture comes out in brilliant colors, with the various tones representing given temperatures.

Using one of these systems, experimenters made a picture of the past. Focusing on an empty chair after someone had been sitting in it for a few minutes, they were able to see the heat pattern left by the body, still emanating from the chair's fabric. The picture was so clear that they could detect that the sitter's legs had been crossed.

Thermography's most valuable use has been in the field of medicine. Already it has helped to save lives, and added to doctors' skills in treating disease. It has proved especially helpful in detecting breast tumors.

The standard examinations for breast cancer are mammography (X-ray of the breast) and clinical examination. But, says Dr. Harold Isard, of Albert Einstein Center in Philadelphia, who has used thermography to examine some 20,000 women for breast cancer, "The two methods do not catch everything. Thermography can indicate the possibility of some small cancers that have been missed. And it's safe and cheap. We can do a thermogram in a couple of minutes, and although the machines cost around \$30,000 each, the price of operating them is a matter of pennies.

The American Cancer Society, working with the federal government, has begun pilot programs (小规模试验计划) to screen for breast cancer 270,000 women in the over-35 age range during the next six years, via 27 centers around the country. The women will be checked by mammography, thermography and clinical examination. Says Dr. Isard, "With the addition of thermography to the other two methods, we can get about 92 percent accuracy in detecting breast cancer."

6. Thermography depends on _____.
A. television cameras B. infrared energy
C. photograph negatives D. temperatures
7. The advantage in using thermography to detect cancer is that it _____.
A. is helpful in detecting breast cancer
B. can indicate very small cancers
C. adds to doctors' skills in treating disease
D. saves lives
8. Producing a thermogram is _____.
A. costly because of the high voltage the machine requires
B. a time-consuming process
C. inexpensive after the machine is purchased
D. an unsafe procedure
9. Which statement is NOT true?
A. Thermography can be used to discover the weak spots on the wall of a fiery furnace.
B. Thermography can be used to cure breast cancer.
C. Thermography can be used to detect a malfunctioning blood vessel.
D. Thermography can be used to make a picture of the past.
10. The main idea of this article is about _____.
A. a new way of detecting cancer
B. the history of thermography
C. the value of thermography
D. how to interpret a thermogram

Passage 3

Jogging has become the most popular individual sport in America. It has become commonplace to see people of all ages running along city streets, in parks, and along special jogger's trails that have been built in some cities. Many theories, even some mystical ones, have been advanced to explain the popularity of jogging. The plain truth is that jogging is a cheap, quick and efficient way to maintain physical fitness.

The most useful sort of exercise is exercise that develops the heart, lungs, and circulatory systems. If these systems are fit, the body is ready for almost any sport and for almost any sudden demand made by work or emergencies. One can train more specifically, as by developing strength for weight lifting or the ability to run straight ahead for short distance with great power as in football, but running trains your heart and lungs to deliver oxygen more efficiently to all parts of your body. It is worth noting that this sort of exercise is the only kind that can reduce heart disease, the number one cause of death in America.

Only one sort of equipment is needed — a good pair of shoes. Physicians advise beginning joggers not to try to run in a tennis or gym shoe. Many design advances have been made in only the last several years that make an excellent running shoe indispensable if a runner wishes to develop as quickly as possible, with as little chance of injury as possible. A good running shoe will have a soft pad for absorbing shock, as well as a slightly built-up heel and a full heel cup that will give the knee

and ankle more stability. A wise investment in good shoes will prevent blisters and foot, ankle, and knee injuries and will also enable the wearer to run on paved or soft surfaces.

No other special equipment is needed; you can jog in any clothing you desire, even your street clothes. Many joggers wear expensive, flashy warm-up suits, but just as many wear a simple pair of gym shorts and T-shirt; in fact, many people just jog in last year's clothes. In cold weather, several layers of clothing are better than one heavy sweater or coat. If joggers are wearing several layers of clothing, they can add or subtract layers as conditions change.

It takes surprisingly little time to develop the ability to run. The American Jogging Association has a twelve-week program designed to move from a fifteen-minute walk (which almost anyone can manage who is in reasonable health) to a thirty-minute run. A measure of common sense, a physical examination, and a planned schedule are all it takes.

11. The main purpose of this passage is to _____.
A. discuss jogging as a physical fitness program
B. describe the type of clothing needed for jogging
C. provide scientific evidence of the benefits of jogging
D. distinguish between jogging as a "commonsense" fitness program and a cult movement
12. The most useful kind of exercise is exercise that _____.
A. trains the body for weight lifting
B. enables a person to run straight ahead for short distance with great power