



普通高等教育“十二五”规划教材

英语时文选读

Selective Readings on Current Affairs

曹磊 杨欣 主编
崔雁 蒋莉 王琳 副主编



中国电力出版社
CHINA ELECTRIC POWER PRESS



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内 容 提 要

本书为普通高等教育“十二五”规划教材。

英语时文选读是一门实践性、应用性较强的课程。本书选材多取自于国内外报刊、杂志、网络，材料选取面广，内容新颖，有一定时效性，综合性较强。本书分八个单元。每单元设置一个主题，涉及性别之争、生活、科技、旅游、音乐、电子商务等方面。每单元由4部分组成：Part I部分通过文化知识小测试和小短文引入单元主题；Part II部分为单元的主体部分，由三篇文章组成，Passage 1着眼国内新闻事件，Passage 2着眼国外新闻事件，Passage 3为英美作家的经典美文诵读，每篇短文后都设置侧重点不同的综合性语言训练任务；Part III部分旨在通过观看与主题相关的视频，思考问题，提高学习者的英语听、说能力；Part IV部分旨在通过欣赏与主题相关的文化点滴，拓展知识面，促进学习者的知识积累。

本书可作为普通高等院校英语教材，也可作为英语学习爱好者的参考书。

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前 言

大学英语是高等教育的一个有机组成部分,是大学生一门必修的基础课程。中国大学英语教学完成了从结构语言学向认知语言学语境的转向,成绩有目共睹;但中国大学外语教学正经历新的危机,根源就是大学英语教学和专业人才培养的断裂。大学英语教学并不是一个独立的体系,它是专业人才培养体系的亚体系,必须呼应学习目标、专业指向的个性化诉求。

“卓越工程师大学外语”系列教材是为适应我国高等教育发展、工程人才培养和大学外语教学改革需要而开发。该系列教材是编者多年思考和实践的成果,分为“外语技能提升”、“工程文化拓展”、“工程学科认知”三大类。“外语技能提升”类主要针对学生听、说、读、写、译等单项技能培养,密切关注社会等级考试和外语能力证书考试。“工程文化拓展”类目的是拓展学生的国际视野,培养学生跨文化意识,密切关注时事背后的文化动因。“工程学科认知”类以专业学科为基础,培养学生以国际的眼光认知所从事的学科和基本学术规范。

《英语时文选读》为“外语技能提升类”教材,旨在通过地道、原汁原味的英文时文,提高学生英语阅读和欣赏能力;同时,开拓学生的视野,提升学生的英语思辨能力。本书适用于有一定大学英语基础的本科学生,建议修读学期为第二、第三学期。

本书由天印外语教育工作室组织编写,是教育部重点课题“卓越计划视野下的大学英语教学改革”(GPA11051)阶段性成果。本书编写任务如下:曹磊编写每个单元的Part III;杨欣编写第二单元、第四单元;崔雁编写第一单元、第三单元;蒋莉编写第五单元、第六单元;王琳编写第七单元、第八单元。南京工程学院外国语学院薛宁宁、周德宇、龚玲莉、李士芹、乔小六以及长春大学外国语学院刘晓征也参与了编写。曹磊、杨欣负责全书的统编定稿。

本书力求探索全新的教学模式,不妥之处在所难免,敬请各位同行和使用者批评指正。

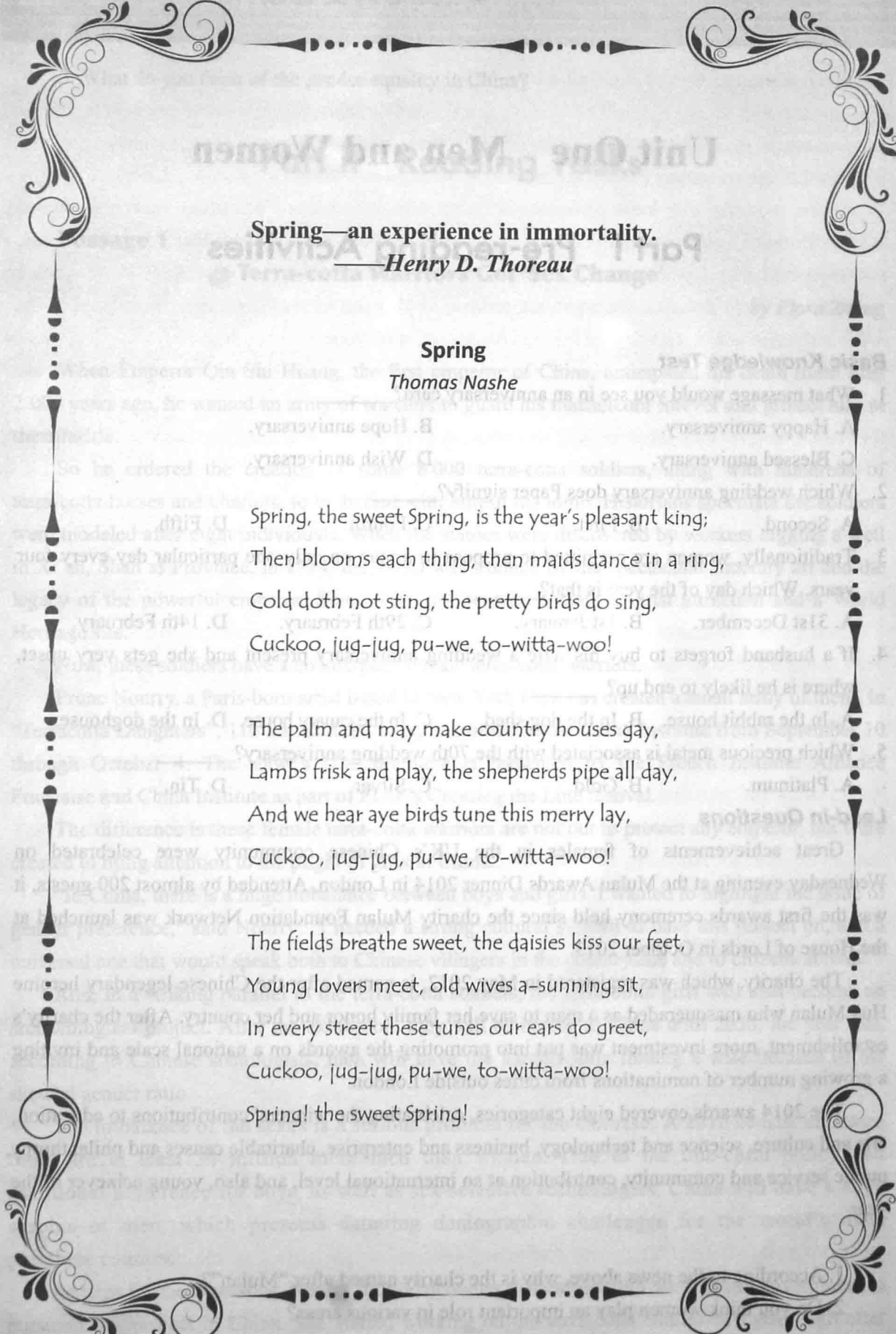
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Spring—an experience in immortality.
—Henry D. Thoreau

Spring

Thomas Nashe

Spring, the sweet Spring, is the year's pleasant king;
Then blooms each thing, then maids dance in a ring,
Cold doth not sting, the pretty birds do sing,
Cuckoo, jug-jug, pu-we, to-witta-woo!

The palm and may make country houses gay,
Lambs frisk and play, the shepherds pipe all day,
And we hear aye birds tune this merry lay,

Cuckoo, jug-jug, pu-we, to-witta-woo!

The fields breathe sweet, the daisies kiss our feet,
Young lovers meet, old wives a-sunning sit,
In every street these tunes our ears do greet,
Cuckoo, jug-jug, pu-we, to-witta-woo!

Spring! the sweet Spring!



Unit One Men and Women

Part I Pre-reading Activities

Basic Knowledge Test

1. What message would you see in an anniversary card? _____
A. Happy anniversary. B. Hope anniversary.
C. Blessed anniversary. D. Wish anniversary.
2. Which wedding anniversary does Paper signify? _____
A. Second. B. First. C. Fourth. D. Fifth.
3. Traditionally, women are permitted to propose to a man on only one particular day every four years. Which day of the year is that? _____
A. 31st December. B. 1st January. C. 29th February. D. 14th February.
4. If a husband forgets to buy his wife a wedding anniversary present and she gets very upset, where is he likely to end up? _____
A. In the rabbit house. B. In the dog shed. C. In the canary house. D. In the doghouse.
5. Which precious metal is associated with the 70th wedding anniversary? _____
A. Platinum. B. Gold. C. Silver. D. Tin.

Lead-in Questions

Great achievements of females in the UK's Chinese community were celebrated on Wednesday evening at the Mulan Awards Dinner 2014 in London. Attended by almost 200 guests, it was the first awards ceremony held since the charity Mulan Foundation Network was launched at the House of Lords in October 2013.

The charity, which was registered in May 2012, is named after the Chinese legendary heroine Hua Mulan who masqueraded as a man to save her family honor and her country. After the charity's establishment, more investment was put into promoting the awards on a national scale and inviting a growing number of nominations from cities outside London.

The 2014 awards covered eight categories, celebrating the winners' contributions to education, arts and culture, science and technology, business and enterprise, charitable causes and philanthropy, public service and community, contribution at an international level, and also, young achiever of the year.

1. According to the news above, why is the charity named after "Mulan"?
2. Do you think women play an important role in various areas?

3. What do you think of the gender equality in China?

Part II Reading Tasks

Passage 1

Terra-cotta Warriors Get 'Sex Change'

by Flora Zhang

When Emperor Qin Shi Huang, the first emperor of China, anticipated his death more than 2 000 years ago, he wanted an army of warriors to guard his mausoleum forever and protect him in the afterlife.

So he ordered the creation of some 8 000 terra-cotta soldiers, along with hundreds of terra-cotta horses and chariots, to be buried with him in his tomb. Historians speculate the soldiers were modeled after eight individuals. When the statues were discovered by workers digging a well in Xi'an, Shan xi Province, in 1974, the world was stunned by the spectacular funerary art and the legacy of the powerful emperor. Since then, it's become a major tourist attraction and a World Heritage site.

Now, these soldiers have a counterpart: female terra-cotta warriors.

Prune Nourry, a Paris-born artist based in New York City, has created a small army of them. In "Terracotta Daughters", 116 are featured in an exhibition at the China Institute from September 10 through October 4. The show's U.S. premiere is presented by the French Institute Alliance Francaise and China Institute as part of FIAF's Crossing the Line festival.

The difference is these female terra-cotta warriors are not out to protect any emperor, but were created to bring attention to the plight of girls in China.

"In China, there is a huge imbalance between boys and girls. I wanted to highlight the issue of gender preference," said Nourry. "I needed a strong cultural symbol to base this project on, and a universal one that would speak both to Chinese villagers in the countryside and to citizens abroad."

And, in a striking parallel to the terra-cotta soldiers, the terra-cotta girls will also become an archaeological project. After the exhibition, they will be buried in China until 2030, the year that, according to Chinese sociologists, men will have the hardest time finding a wife because of the skewed gender ratio.

The imbalance of the sexes is a serious problem for the Chinese. A 2010 census indicates there are at least 34 million more men than women. Due to the one-child policy and traditional preference for boys, as well as sex-selective technologies, China will have a huge surplus of men, which presents daunting demographic challenges for the world's most populous country.

Perhaps for those reasons, Nourry didn't encounter difficulties with the Chinese government in pursuing this project in China. She started working on the terra-cotta statues two years ago after

finishing an installation in India that also explored gender bias.

In deciding on the size of the female army, Nourry chose the number eight because of its auspiciousness in Chinese culture. She created the first eight statues modeled after eight girls whom she met through an orphan charity in China.

Then, working with local craftsmen in Xi'an, 108 permutations of statues were made based on Nourry's original eight statues by combining the different heads, torsos and legs. "For Xian Feng, the main craftsman I worked with in China, my project seemed at first impossible since women 'can't be soldiers.' But after we began the project, he changed his view and even turned one of the 108 combinations into a portrait of his own daughter." said Nourry.

The local craftsmen of Xi'an are used to making copies of the terra-cotta warriors which are sold primarily to tourists. When Nourry asked them to give their artistic interpretation in sculpting the female statues, they were initially tentative. Over time, they lost their hesitancy and gave each statue unique faces. No two statues have the same features.

Each terra-cotta warrior girl stands nearly 5 feet tall and weighs about 260 pounds. Their hairstyles are contemporary, as are their uniform, which is modeled after the orphan girls' school attire. Unlike the male warriors, they look approachable, friendly and even charming.

"It was a very enriching collaboration, based on exchange and mutual respect," said Nourry.

Her favorite moment was when the eight girls saw the terra-cotta statues of themselves and were delighted. Part of the proceeds from the sale of the eight original statues will pay for the cost of the eight girls' education for three years.

"Terracotta Daughters" is impressive in its artistic craftsmanship and social statement. It's a refreshing reinterpretation of one of China's national symbols. With these modern female warriors, Prune raises the pressing issue of gender discrimination without pointing fingers at anyone or anything. One looks at these amazing terra-cotta statues and feel compelled to ask—why aren't there more of them? And why aren't there more girls in China?

Terms & Notes

1. chariot [ˈtʃæriət] *n.* 敞篷双轮马车 (古代用于战争或竞赛), 战车
2. skewed [skju:d] *adj.* 歪曲的; 扭曲的
3. daunting [dɔ:ntɪŋ] *adj.* 令人畏惧的
4. permutation [ˌpɜ:mju'teɪʃn] *n.* 排列
5. tentative [ˈtentətɪv] *adj.* 犹豫的
6. French Institute Alliance Francaise: 法国文化协会
7. Crossing the Line festival (跨界艺术节): Crossing the Line is the French Institute Alliance Française (FIACF)'s annual fall festival presenting interdisciplinary works and performances created by artists from around the world in New York. The festival provides opportunities for New Yorkers to explore the dialogue between artist and participant, examine how artists help re-imagine the world, and engage in the vital role artists play as critical thinkers and catalysts for social evolution.

8. which presents daunting demographic challenges for the world's most populous country:
这也为这个世界人口大国带来严峻挑战。

Task 1 Match the words with their definitions.

speculate _____ highlight _____ auspiciousness _____ preference _____
surplus _____ anticipate _____ stun _____ contemporary _____
approachable _____ striking _____

- ① emphasize
- ② form opinions without having definite or complete knowledge or evidence
- ③ attracting attention or interest
- ④ good omen
- ⑤ expect
- ⑥ friendly and easy to talk
- ⑦ thing that is liked better or best
- ⑧ impress somebody greatly
- ⑨ modern
- ⑩ a quantity or amount over and above what is needed or used

Task 2 Complete the following sentences by using the terms listed above and translate the sentences into Chinese.

1. Once again, the "Free Press" prefers not to _____ these facts.

2. It is _____ that the equivalent of 192 full-time jobs will be lost.

3. Critics of the project _____ about how many hospitals could be built instead.

4. It is an iron-clad rule of the _____ business landscape: invest in China or imperil your future growth.

5. They _____ the fashion world with the freshness of their clothing.

Task 3 Choose the best answer to the unfinished statements or questions.

1. Emperor Qin Shi Huang ordered the creation of terra-cotta soldiers for _____.
A. his descendants admiring him
B. future archaeological studies
C. showing his talent and strong power of ruling

- D. guarding his mausoleum and protecting him in the afterlife
2. Prune Nourry has created the female terra-cotta warriors for _____.
- A. studying the female of ancient China
B. people's focus on the plight of girls in China
C. comparing the difference between male and female
D. initiating a new form of artistic creation
3. Why will the terra-cotta girls be buried in China until 2030? _____
- A. Because in that year people around the world will visit China to see them.
B. Because in that year Chinese men will be in the toughest time finding a wife.
C. Because in that year the terra-cotta girls will be sold at the best price.
D. Because in that year Prune Nourry will go to China again.
4. Why didn't Prune Nourry encounter difficulties with the Chinese government in pursuing her project in China? _____
- A. Because the Chinese considered her project as a fascinating one.
B. Because she had many friends who helped her a lot.
C. Because China has realized the serious situation of huge surplus of male citizens.
D. Because she requested the Chinese government to support her.
5. From this passage, we can infer that _____.
- A. the Chinese treated the female terra-cotta warriors as the alien
B. Prune Nourry created the female terra-cotta warriors for its beauty
C. the female terra-cotta warriors were created for commercial purpose
D. the female terra-cotta warriors were made for deep meaning



Task 4 Answer the following questions based on the passage.

1. Why did Prune Nourry decide to create "Terracotta Daughters" in China?

2. What caused the reality that there are many more men than women in China?

3. What is the significance of "Terracotta Daughters"?

Passage 2

More than Just Friends? 7 Secret Tests of Attraction

by Catherine de Lange

You're a smart, attractive person, so you wouldn't be surprised if one of your friends got the

hots for you and then started acting all kinds of crazy.

Your love-struck friend will wonder if you feel the same way, and will probably dream up subtle tests to find out. They could save themselves some effort by quickly surveying the scientific literature, though, because they will almost certainly be following one of seven well-trodden paths.

In a classic study led by Leslie Baxter at Lewis and Clark College in Portland, Oregon, and William Wilmot at the University of Montana, Missoula, a team of researchers interviewed 90 undergraduate students about their relationships with people of the opposite sex.

The interviewees admitted to a total of 158 “calculated acquisition strategies” or secret tests that they hoped would reveal how a fancied friend felt about them. Many of the tests were pretty similar, so Baxter and Wilmot were able to boil them down to just seven categories. Read on to see how infuriating, and downright calculating, friends can become in the pursuit of a relationship upgrade.

1. Endurance

This is most common type of test. In this category, the love-struck friend does their best to test the other person’s feelings by fishing for compliments or demanding help especially if it comes at a cost to the other.

A classic endurance gambit is the self-put-down. As one respondent recalled: “He was really getting down on himself, saying he wasn’t a very capable or nice person. He said it to get me to compliment him and verbalize how much I thought of him.”

Another type of endurance test is called forced choice, in which your friend wants to see if you will drop everything for them. “She came to where I work out and said that she was really depressed but didn’t want to bother me,” said one man in his interview. “She really wanted to see if I would stop what I was doing and show my concern, indicating how much I care for her.”

Finally, enamoured friends will behave like spoiled brats, pushing their friend’s buttons to see how much mistreatment they will put up with without complaining, will you still like them even when they’re being a pain?

2. Triangulation

The second most popular type of test was dubbed the triangle, because it relies on the age-old saying “three’s a crowd”.

Some people engineer “fidelity checks”, especially if the relationship has already strayed beyond the platonic. One of the interviewees wanted to test if her boyfriend was as keen as she was. “I would intentionally leave him alone with my room-mate and then ask him when I returned ‘What have the two of you been up to?’ If he acted uncomfortable, I would know that he wasn’t faithful or at least that he was thinking about being unfaithful to me.”

Others employ jealousy tests: “I tested her limits by going out with other women and making sure that she found out about it. I wanted to know what kind of relationship commitment she wanted,” said one man.

3. Hint, hint

Then there are the indirect suggestion tests: joking about serious feelings, hinting or getting increasingly intimate with bodily contact. “When we were just becoming romantic, he kept getting more and more bold with his touching, first his arm around my shoulder, then moving in real close, etc. He was waiting to see if I would tell him when to stop as a sign of how much I liked him,” said one interviewee.

4. Miss me?

Distance is supposed to make the heart grow fonder, and indeed physical separation is a common test. One respondent admitted: “To see if our relationship was really strong I tested it by going overseas for a few months.”

If you have felt like you didn't want to be the first to call, you could be using another separation test called initiation induction. “When I returned from Switzerland, he didn't call me even though he knew exactly when I was returning. He wanted to see if I still felt the same way about him by calling him first,” one woman recalls.

5. Heart to heart

The directness test is really the opposite of a secret strategy. Far more popular with men than women, it involves either asking a person straight out how they feel, or speaking openly about yourself in the hope your love interest will too.

“I was having trouble getting him to open up to me about his family and his background,” one woman said, “so I started talking about my folks and sisters, hoping that he would reciprocate and tell me about himself as a sign that he trusted me and wanted me to know more about him.”

6. Inside information

Ever tried to find out from someone's friends whether they might have a crush on you? Then you have employed what Baxter and Wilmot aptly call asking third party tests. It might sound like playground behaviour, but grown-ups do it too.

7. Hijacking

Most cringeworthy of all are public presentation tests, which basically involve backing your friend into a corner, in public.

As one woman put it, “I intentionally introduced him as my boyfriend to my best friend who came to visit and then watched how he reacted—you know, did he seem embarrassed?”

It is probably a good thing these tests are the least common of all. If you're on the receiving end while waiting for the ground to swallow you up, this might be the moment when you see your friend in a whole new light—just not the way they hoped.

Terms & Notes

1. well-trodden ['weltr'ɒdn] *adj.* 经常采用的, 惯常的
2. gambit ['gæmbɪt] *n.* 策略, 诡计
3. triangulation [traɪæŋgju'leɪʃn] *n.* 三角测量

4. platonic [plə'tɒnɪk] *adj.* 柏拉图的

5. reciprocate [ri'sɪprəkeɪt] *v.* 互换, 互给; 回报

6. aptly ['æptli] *adv.* 适当地, 适切地, 巧妙地

7. hijacking ['haɪdʒækiŋ] *n.* 劫持; 绑架;

8. cringeworthy ['krɪndʒwəði] *adj.* 令人感到尴尬的, 令人不舒服的

9. They could save themselves some effort by quickly surveying the scientific literature, though, because they will almost certainly be following one of seven well-trodden paths. 他(她)如果快速地翻阅一下科技文献, 其实可以给自己省下不少功夫, 因为以下这7条测试方法是很多人都会尝试的。

10. The interviewees admitted to a total of 158 “calculated acquisition strategies” or secret tests that they hoped would reveal how a fancied friend felt about them. 被访问者采用了158条“蓄意获取策略”, 也就是秘密测试, 他们希望通过这些测试来探知自己喜欢的朋友是怎么看待自己的。

11. Read on to see how infuriating, and downright calculating, friends can become in the pursuit of a relationship upgrade. 接下来让我们来看一看异性朋友为了追求一段恋情是如何让人抓狂又工于心计的。

Task 5 Match the words with their definitions.

subtle _____ infuriate _____ downright _____ enamoured _____ compliment _____
fidelity _____ verbalize _____ engineer _____ respondent _____ commitment _____

① put (ideas or feelings) into words

② delicately skillful or clever

③ loyalty; faithfulness

④ thorough; complete

⑤ to plan and direct skillfully

⑥ a person who responds

⑦ to cause to become very angry; enrage

⑧ thing one has promised to do

⑨ express praise or admiration of somebody

⑩ fond of or delighted by

Task 6 Complete the following sentences by using the terms listed above and translate the sentences into Chinese.

1. The early Christians adopted the fish as a symbol of courage and _____ to God.

2. City manager Hughes before an interview was very modest, greatly _____ tonight's opponents at war.

3. A woman will _____ all the items out loud in random order, mentioning all options and possibilities.
4. But such an action would have little effect other than to _____ the US and invite retaliation.
5. Within nations, such protection is illegal except in _____ and slight forms.



Task 7 Choose the best answer to the unfinished statements or questions.

1. Which type of test is the most common? _____
 A. Endurance. B. Triangulation. C. Miss me? D. Hint, hint.
2. Which type of test do “jealousy tests” belong to? _____
 A. Miss me? B. Triangulation. C. Hint, hint. D. Endurance.
3. If your friend joked about serious feelings, hinting or getting increasingly intimate with bodily contact, which test did he/ she follow? _____
 A. Inside information. B. Heart to heart. C. Miss me? D. Hint, hint.
4. What is supposed to make the heart grow fonder? _____
 A. Distance. B. Bodily contact. C. Background. D. Jealousy.
5. Which test is really the opposite of a secret strategy? _____
 A. Inside information. B. Endurance. C. Heart to heart. D. Miss me?



Task 8 Complete the summary of the passage.

In a study of relationships with people of the 1 sex, 90 undergraduate students admitted to a total of 158 “calculated acquisition strategies” or secret tests that they hoped would reveal how a fancied friend felt about them. Baxter and Wilmot were able to 2 the tests into seven categories. Endurance is most common type of test. In this category, the love-struck friend tries hard to test the other person’s feelings by 3 praise or demanding help especially if it comes at a cost to the other. The second most popular type of test was 4 the triangle, because it relies on the age-old saying “three’s a crowd”. Some people 5 “fidelity checks”, especially if the relationship has already 6 beyond the platonic one. In the third type of test, there are the indirect suggestion tests: joking about serious feelings, hinting or getting increasingly 7 to each other. Distance is supposed to make the heart become more 8 , and indeed physical separation is a common test. The directness test is really the opposite of a secret 9 . Most cringeworthy of all are public presentation tests, which basically involve forcing your friend into a 10 , in public.

- | | | | | |
|-------------|--------------|-------------|-----------------|--------------|
| A) deviated | B) nicknamed | C) opposite | D) affectionate | E) condensed |
| F) close | G) plight | H) plan | I) intentional | J) devise |

Passage 3

Charlotte Bronte (April 21, 1816 – March 31, 1855), English writer noted for her novel *Jane Eyre* (1847), the eldest of the three Bronte sisters, sister of Anne Bronte and Emily Bronte who survived into adulthood and whose novels have become classics of English literature. The three sisters are almost as famous for their short, tragic lives as for their novels. In the past decades, Charlotte Bronte's reputation has risen rapidly, and feminist criticism has done much to show that she was speaking up for oppressed women of every age. In 1847, She published her best known novel, *Jane Eyre*, under the pen name Currer Bell.

Jane Eyre

(an excerpt)

There was no possibility of taking a walk that day. We had been wandering, indeed, in the leafless shrubbery an hour in the morning; but since dinner (Mrs. Reed, when there was no company, dined early) the cold winter wind had brought with it clouds so sombre, and a rain so penetrating, that further outdoor exercise was now out of the question. I was glad of it: I never liked long walks, especially on chilly afternoons: dreadful to me was the coming home in the raw twilight, with nipped fingers and toes, and a heart saddened by the chidings of Bessie, the nurse, and humbled by the consciousness of my physical inferiority to Eliza, John, and Georgiana Reed. The said Eliza, John, and Georgiana were now clustered round their mama in the drawing-room: she lay reclined on a sofa by the fireside, and with her darlings about her (for the time neither quarrelling nor crying) looked perfectly happy. Me, she had dispensed from joining the group; saying, 'She regretted to be under the necessity of keeping me at a distance; but that until she heard from Bessie, and could discover by her own observation, that I was endeavouring in good earnest to acquire a more sociable and childlike disposition, a more attractive and sprightly manner—something lighter, franker, more natural, as it were—she really must exclude me from privileges intended only for contented, happy, little children.'

'What does Bessie say I have done?' I asked.

'Jane, I don't like cavillers or questioners; besides, there is something truly forbidding in a child taking up her elders in that manner. Be seated somewhere; and until you can speak pleasantly, remain silent.' A small breakfast-room adjoined the drawing-room, I slipped in there. It contained a bookcase: I soon possessed myself of a volume, taking care that it should be one stored with pictures. I mounted into the window-seat: gathering up my feet, I sat cross-legged, like a Turk; and, having drawn the red moreen curtain nearly close, I was shrined in double retirement. Folds of scarlet drapery shut in my view to the right hand; to the left were the clear panes of glass, protecting, but not separating me from the drear November day. At intervals,