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新东方口译考试培训班指定辅导用书

上海市英语中级口译岗位资格证书考试



中级口译 全真模拟试题

Intermediate Interpretation
Simulation Tests

主编 汪海涛 邱政政



口若悬河
译统天下

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图书在版编目(CIP)数据

中级口译全真模拟试题 / 汪海涛, 邱政政主编. —
杭州: 浙江教育出版社, 2014.8
ISBN 978-7-5536-2045-9

I. ①中… II. ①汪… ②邱… III. ①英语—口译—
水平考试—习题集 IV. ①H315.9-44

中国版本图书馆CIP数据核字(2014)第156811号

中级口译全真模拟试题

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责任编辑 孔令宇
责任校对 杜 玲
责任印务 陆 江
封面设计 大愚设计+赵文康
出版发行 浙江教育出版社
(杭州市天目山路40号 邮编: 310013)
印 刷 北京市清华园胶印厂
开 本 787×1092 1/16
印 张 13.25
字 数 180 000
版 次 2014年8月第1版
印 次 2014年8月第1次印刷
标准书号 ISBN 978-7-5536-2045-9
定 价 32.00元
联系电话 0571-85170300-80928
电子邮箱 bj62605588@163.com
网 址 www.zjeph.com

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序

上海市英语口译岗位资格证书考试经过十几年的辉煌发展，目前已经成为中国影响力最大、考生最多的口译考试。“世博”、“奥运”、“国际化都市”、“世界500强”等概念使得外语热燃遍长三角，由此催生的大量商务会议、博览会以及国际商务谈判对口译人才产生了强烈的需求。

随着国民英语水平节节攀升，越来越多的外语学习者把目标指向国内高难度的外语考试——中、高级口译，通过学习和挑战，把自己的外语水平带到更高境界，为自己在职场上赢得绝对优势。500强企业录取人才时，除了面试和技能测试外，对中、高级口译证书格外重视。众多的学子在经历了中、高考和四、六级的洗礼后，都对高含金量的口译考试跃跃欲试。考生人数已经突破十万，考点覆盖外企云集的长江南北十大城市，而考生也从大学生、白领阶层延伸到中小學生乃至六七十岁的老人。

中、高级口译考试是国内含金量最高的素质英语考试之一，试题难度大，题量多，通过率控制严格，其证书也就有了很高的可信度。在每份口译试卷中，主客观考题科学分布，仅翻译内容就细分为听译、笔译和口译，语言又覆盖到汉译英和英译汉，难度从句子翻译升级到段落翻译，内容上跨越了科技、经贸、旅游、城市发展、时事新闻、历史文化等多个领域。阅读部分则精选了各类财经刊物的最新时文，改动变化不多，考查学生对地道英文的理解和判断能力，同时拓展了他们的逻辑思维和视野。因为一次性通过口译考试意味着巨大挑战，学生在复习口译教材和参加培训的基础上就需要大量的模拟训练。

上海新东方学校在新东方集团首开口译培训项目，在口译教学领域拥有数十名资深翻译和口译专家，通过多年高质量的口译培训，在业界打造了卓越的教学口碑。“上海口译风采大赛”吸引各路精英参与，让“口若悬河，译统天下”的理念广为传播，同时精妙阐释了口译在职场的威力。

经过多年的教学研究，上海新东方学校口译研究中心开发了“口译”系列丛书，力求帮助众多的考生顺利过关。我们在数百场考前高校大型巡讲的过程中，发现考生非常需要真题以外的模考题，而模考题在备考的冲刺阶段具有重要作用。同时，由于此类图书在市场上极为紧缺，上海新东方组织口译研究中心的骨干专家们开始逐步编写，专家组前期花了大量时间进行题型细分、考试趋势分析、资料收集筛选、难度评估讨论，才正式进行题目编写。题目都是在大量储备的试题库中精选改造而成的，争取每一套试题都能反映最新考试趋势，在仿真度上与真题接轨。凭借雄厚的教学和教研实力，新东方口译专家们一起打造的“中、高级口译全真模拟试题”系列终于和广大考生见面了。

由于口译考试除了教材的知识点以外，没有完整的考试大纲知识汇编，考题内容广泛，包罗万象，因而模拟题学习是必经之路，考生需要大大扩充练习量，以提高应试技能，这也意味着这两本模考试题会发挥巨大的助考作用。考生可以根据模拟题适当安排进度，磨练答题的节奏、质量和熟练度，在考前做到胸有成竹。

当然，学习口译不仅仅是为了考试。读者除了把这两本全真模拟试题用作应试训练外，还可以把其中的内容作为重要的英语学习资料，积累词汇和重要知识点，分析长难句，增加新闻听说机会，苦练听、说、读、写、译技能，奠定坚实基础，实现职场飞跃。

感谢长期以来对上海口译教学和教研大力支持的新东方创始人俞敏洪老师，感谢上海市口译岗位资格证书考试办公室领导们多年来的指导与帮助，感谢为本套丛书作出突出贡献的上海新东方口译研究中心的专家们，感谢新东方大愚文化，是大家一起做出了这两本精美、实用和高效的图书。

汪海涛
于上海新东方学校

前言

近年，随着就业形势的日益严峻，英语中、高级口译岗位资格证书考试已经在全国的中学、大学校园和白领职场成“燎原之势”。口译证书为何如此受宠？上海市外语口译岗位资格证书考试办公室主任殷勤认为，中、高级口译证书的高含金量和低通过率是其成为中学生、大学生和职场人士首选的重要原因，而我们上海新东方学校口译研究中心早在多年前提出的“一纸证书+真才实学”的教学宗旨，也恰恰体现了中、高级口译考试的本质。

秉承“口译成就梦想”的教学理念，口译项目已经成为上海新东方学校最具活力和人气的培训项目，其招生人数连续多年在申城乃至全国位居第一，考试通过率也一直在全国名列前茅，上海新东方已经成为驰名全国的中、高级口译培训基地。

从2003年项目启动至今，上海新东方培养出15名高级口译最高分得主和18名中级口译最高分得主，年纪最小的中级口译证书获得者9岁的朱哲敏、年纪最小的高级口译证书获得者12岁的骆静怡、金琪，以及全国高级口译最高分得主傅蓉（257.5分）均接受过新东方的口译培训。

同时，令人欣喜的是：2005年至2010年的8位上海市高考文、理科状元也都不约而同地来到上海新东方接受口译培训。上海新东方的口译项目更是独家荣获了上海市教育博览会“口译金牌项目”的称号，这标志着口译进入了新东方时代！

当然，“模得好，才能考得好！”，毕竟口译水平最终要通过考试来检验，而应对考试最有利的武器除了深入研究历年考题，还要通过大量的全真模拟来达到事半功倍的效果。因而每年十多万的口译考生需要一系列高质量的模拟试题来进行针对性的训练。

上海新东方口译研究中心在广大口译考生的强烈渴望和要求下，果断决策，集合“中心”70多位口译专家、学者、笔试题卷人及口译考官，编著了《中级口译全真模拟试题》和《高级口译全真模拟试题》这两本图书。书中各包括10套全真模拟试题，并配有权威的参考答案和精准的听力原文供考生模考后进行比对和分析，以达到迅速提升考试成绩的目的，为广大口译考生的备考提供了最为强大的助力。

为保证这两本图书的权威性与专业性，新东方口译研究中心下设的听力课题组、阅读课题组和翻译课题组在进行了多年权威口译模考的基础上，严格遵循中、高级口译最新走势、紧扣考试大纲及出题思路，分别从800多篇最新英美时文，60万字精选听力语料和400篇权威笔译段落中甄选考试素材，可谓精益求精，相信一定会使广大口译考生在实战考试中“如虎添翼”。

考生们如有任何关于备考的问题，可以登陆新东方口译名师博客群<http://blog.hjenglish.com/kiuzhengzheng>与广大老师互动交流。最后衷心祝愿大家考试成功！

邱政政
于上海新东方学校

新东方口译顶尖学员心声摘录

2007全国高级口译最高分得主，上海新东方高级口译班（GY097）傅蓉同学（北京国际关系学院）：

衷心感谢上海新东方高口老师们的悉心辅导，没有他们的帮助与鼓励，我也不可能取得如此好的成绩。预祝所有准备参加高口考试的同学们都能取得满意的成绩！

全国获得高级口译证书年龄最小的纪录保持者，12岁的金琪（上外附中初一预备班）：

上海新东方为所有的口译爱好者提供了最大、最亮的展示平台。在这里，没有谁是失败者；在这里，希望长存，成功仅一步之遥！

12岁的高级口译证书获得者（2009）骆静怡（育才实验中学初中预备班）：

我在新东方的高级口译班上学到了真正的英语。

13岁的高级口译证书获得者（2008）邝毅（天山二中预备班）：

在上海新东方的高级口译课堂中，我学到了不少知识和技巧。正所谓“授人以鱼，不如授人以渔。”“从绝望中寻找希望，人生终将辉煌。”我想，只要我一直追随新东方，辉煌的彼岸终将到达。

上海市2007年高考状元胡文琦（上海中学）：

口译，是上海近几年越来越热的一门证书考试，含金量非常高。我也不例外，充分利用暑期，力求英语能力更上一层楼。早就听说新东方蜚声海内外，但苦于一直没有机会报读。高考成绩出来后，我便第一时间报读了新东方的中级口译暑期强化班。

2007第三届上海口译风采大赛冠军毕竞邨（上海交大）：

学习高口时我选择了上海新东方，除了口碑之外，一方面也是冲着新东方“绝望中寻找希望”的精神。事实证明，这个选择是相当正确的。也正是通过在新东方的那段口译经历，我重新树立起了自信。我热爱新东方的氛围，更希望有朝一日能够加入新东方大家庭！

上海国际银行金融学院最年轻的市场总监林晓东：

在新东方学口译的成果真是大大的出乎意料，新东方听说速成班和高级口译班上的四位著名的口译专家，为我的英语学习带来了一种全新的理念和态度，还包涵着对西方文化的深入理解和探讨！

上海电视台“第一财经”编辑王明月：

在口译老师的帮助下，我逐渐感到口译似乎不再那么可怕了，规律也仿佛尽在掌握。贴心的新东方老师还根据我们的实际水平量身定制每日甚至是每小时的考前系统复习计划，这般如有神助，自然得心应手。在最专业和权威的指导下，我顺利地拿到了中级和高级口译证书。

中国翻译家协会最年轻的会员之一：Henry Liang

没有在上海新东方高级口译课堂上的强化训练和新东方口译老师的精神鼓励，就没有我的现在，没有我的一切成就。成为新东方的口译老师是我的梦想。

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上海市英语中级口译资格证书第一阶段考试

全真模拟试题一

SECTION 1: LISTENING TEST (45 minutes)

Part A: Spot Dictation

Directions: In this part of the test, you will hear a passage and read the same passage with blanks in it. Fill in each of the blanks with the word or words you have heard on the tape. Write your answer in the corresponding space in your **ANSWER BOOKLET**. Remember you will hear the passage **ONLY ONCE**.

You might enjoy a cup of coffee at your local coffee shop. But coffee is part of _____ (1). Research shows that as many as one-third of the people in the world drink coffee. Some people drink coffee for its _____ (2). Others like the awakening effect of caffeine, a _____ (3) in coffee. But not everyone may know the story of coffee and how it is produced.

One popular story about _____ (4) coffee long ago is about Kaldi, a keeper of goats. Kaldi was taking care of his goats in the highlands of Ethiopia where coffee trees _____ (5). He noticed that his goats became very excited and active _____ (6) small fruits from a tree. Kaldi reported this discovery to a group of _____ (7). When they made a drink out of the fruit, the religious workers realized they could _____ (8) for long hours of prayer. This knowledge about coffee _____ (9) all over the world.

Coffee trees are _____ (10) eastern Africa and areas of the Arabian Peninsula. Coffee was first grown and traded _____ (11). Most coffee came from what is now Yemen. Soon, coffee was _____ (12) all over the Middle East. By the seventeenth century coffee had been _____ (13) to Europe. European traders started bringing coffee plants to other parts of the world. The Dutch brought coffee to the _____ (14). And by the twentieth century, most of the world's production came from Central and South America. Today, Brazil is the _____ (15) of coffee in the world.

Most people know what a coffee bean looks like, but what about the plant? Coffee trees can grow up to _____ (16), but they are cut short for production. These trees have shiny dark green leaves that grow on _____ (17) of each other on a stem. The plant produces a fruit that is called _____ (18). When the coffee cherries are ripe and ready to pick, they are _____ (19). Inside the fruits are the green coffee beans. After these beans are roasted _____ (20) they are ready to be made into a drink.

Part B: Listening Comprehension

1. Statements

Directions: *In this part of the test, you will hear several short statements. These statements will be spoken **ONLY ONCE**, and you will not find them written on the paper; so you must listen carefully. When you hear a statement, read the answer choices and decide which one is closest in meaning to the statement you have heard. Then write the letter of the answer you have chosen in the corresponding space in your **ANSWER BOOKLET**.*

1. (A) Nadia didn't exercise much.
(B) Nadia was not a good badminton player.
(C) Nadia hurt herself because she couldn't play badminton.
(D) Nadia lacked badminton exercise so she played last night.
2. (A) What I longed for was to be a leader. (B) I didn't know if I was suitable to be a leader.
(C) To get into business appealed to me. (D) What truly interested me was business.
3. (A) Iris felt Beatles' tunes were not out of date.
(B) Iris preferred her brother's hip-hops songs to Beatles' tunes.
(C) Iris enjoyed Beatles' tunes more than hip-hop songs.
(D) Iris liked to play hip-hop songs with her brother.
4. (A) Now the bottled-water costs 1.5 *yuan* each. (B) Now the bottled-water costs 3 *yuan* each.
(C) Now the bottled-water costs 4.5 *yuan* each. (D) Now the bottled-water costs 6 *yuan* each.
5. (A) Lauren wants people to believe that she is rich.
(B) Lauren was not rich, but she is made to be rich now.
(C) Lauren is not as rich as people believe her to be.
(D) Lauren is pretty rich after inheriting a fortune.
6. (A) Proper shops, even foreign, should be allowed in the Forbidden City.
(B) The coffee shops do harm to the Forbidden City, so we should get rid of them.
(C) Whether the shops are harmful depends on which country they are from.
(D) The coffee shops in the Forbidden City used to be harmless, but not now.
7. (A) Though sunshine is free, we still need to purchase fuel to operate a solar heating system.
(B) We need to purchase a solar heating system before we can use the sunshine.
(C) If we want to use sunshine for the solar heating system, we must buy fuel first.
(D) It's not necessary to buy fuel to run a solar heating system, for sunshine doesn't cost anything.
8. (A) Jeffery continued to give his opinion on me.
(B) Jeffery cared about me when giving opinions.
(C) Jeffery didn't care what I felt.
(D) Jeffery had a lot of opinions to give on the matter.
9. (A) Since there are more jobs available, more students choose computer science as their major.
(B) There are not enough grads qualified for computer science employment.
(C) More students graduating with computer science degrees can meet the qualifications.
(D) There are more than enough grads qualified for computer science employment.
10. (A) We can climb a high mountain very quickly.
(B) It's possible to climb this mountain in no time.

- (C) It's impossible to climb a high mountain.
- (D) Climbing a high mountain takes time.

2. Talks and Conversations

Directions: In this part of the test, you will hear several short talks and conversations. After each of these, you will hear a few questions. Listen carefully because you will hear the talk or conversation and questions **ONLY ONCE**. When you hear a question, read the four answer choices and choose the best answer to that question. Then write the letter of the answer you have chosen in the corresponding space in your **ANSWER BOOKLET**.

Questions 11~14

- | | |
|---|------------------------------------|
| 11. (A) Relaxing at the seashore. | (B) Visiting her parents. |
| (C) Sailing on a boat. | (D) Preparing for a race. |
| 12. (A) She was invited only for the weekend. | (B) The weather was too hot. |
| (C) She had an appointment. | (D) She had schoolwork to do. |
| 13. (A) She had to go home. | (B) She was too tired to continue. |
| (C) She had to finish her schoolwork. | (D) She was thirsty. |
| 14. (A) She didn't know how to swim. | (B) The water was too deep. |
| (C) The water was too cold. | (D) She didn't have enough time. |

Questions 15~18

15. (A) The advantages of traditional surveying methods.
(B) Using satellites to communicate with mountain climbers.
(C) Obtaining new information about a mountain.
(D) Controlling satellites from the top of a mountain.
16. (A) To indicate how climbers communicated.
(B) To show that climbers enjoyed many comforts.
(C) To show that modern telephones can work at high latitude.
(D) To emphasize how small some equipment had become.
17. (A) Detailed maps from previous studies. (B) Recent advances in technology.
(C) Plenty of funding for the study. (D) Experience carrying heavy loads up mountains.
18. (A) To carry information that would help determine elevation.
(B) To provide accurate weather reports.
(C) To relay information from scientists around the world.
(D) To indicate which route the mountain climbers should take.

Questions 19~22

- | | |
|---|-----------------|
| 19. (A) A primary school teacher. | (B) A doctor. |
| (C) A psychologist. | (D) A musician. |
| 20. (A) It can be used to measure all types of intelligence a child has. | |
| (B) It can be used to measure certain types of intelligence a child has. | |
| (C) It can sometimes be used to measure a child's musical or linguistic talent. | |
| (D) It cannot be used to measure a child's numerical or sports talent. | |
| 21. (A) They are fascinated by all kinds of sounds. | |
| (B) They are interested in noises. | |

- (C) They are keen on playing the piano.
 - (D) They are born to be able to play all musical instruments.
22. (A) A child should be judged on his IQ scores.
- (B) A child should be judged on his individual gifts.
 - (C) A child should be judged by his parents who know him better than anybody else.
 - (D) A child should be judged by his teachers.

Questions 23~26

23. (A) How the president proposes new laws. (B) How a bill is passed by lawmakers in Congress.
- (C) How the president can reject a proposed law. (D) How the president usually signs a bill.
24. (A) Why the president opposes a bill. (B) How the president wants to revise a bill.
- (C) Why a deadline has not been met. (D) When lawmakers plan to end their session.
25. (A) They send the message to the President within ten days.
- (B) They officially state reasons for rejecting the message.
 - (C) They meet with the President.
 - (D) They revise the vetoed bill.
26. (A) The bill becomes law immediately.
- (B) The bill can't become law unless the whole process begins again.
 - (C) Lawmakers must review the bill within ten days.
 - (D) The president must sign the bill if it's passed again.

Questions 27~30

27. (A) A vacation trip to Yellowstone Park. (B) A lecture by a visiting professor.
- (C) Her biology thesis. (D) A research project.
28. (A) More buffalo are surviving the winter. (B) Fewer buffalo are dying of disease.
- (C) More buffalo are being born. (D) Fewer buffalo are being killed by hunters.
29. (A) She is from Wyoming. (B) She needs money.
- (C) She has been studying animal diseases. (D) Her thesis adviser is heading the project.
30. (A) Collecting information about the bacteria. (B) Working on a cattle ranch.
- (C) Writing a paper about extinct animals. (D) Analyzing buffalo behavior.

Part C: Listening and Translation

1. Sentence Translation

Directions: In this part of the test, you will hear 5 sentences in English. You will hear the sentences **ONLY ONCE**. After you have heard each sentence, translate it into Chinese and write your version in the corresponding space in your **ANSWER BOOKLET**.

(1)

(2)

(3)

(4)

(5)

2. Passage Translation

Directions: In this part of the test, you will hear 2 passages in English. You will hear the passages **ONLY ONCE**. After you have heard each passage, translate it into Chinese and write your version in the corresponding space in your **ANSWER BOOKLET**. You may take notes while you are listening.

(1)

(2)

SECTION 2: STUDY SKILLS(50 minutes)

Directions: In this section, you will read several passages. Each passage is followed by several questions based on its content. You are to choose **ONE** best answer, (A), (B), (C) or (D), to each question. Answer all the questions following each passage on the basis of what is stated or implied in that passage and write the letter of the answer you have chosen in the corresponding space in your **ANSWER BOOKLET**.

Questions 1~5

Lichens, probably the hardiest of all plants, live where virtually nothing else can—not just on rugged mountain peaks but also on sunbaked desert rocks. They are usually the first life to appear on a mountainside that has been scraped bare by an avalanche.

Unlike other members of the plant kingdom, lichens are actually a partnership between two plants. The framework of a lichen is usually a network of minute hairlike fungus that anchors the plant. The other component is an alga, similar to the green film of plant life that grows on stagnant pools, that is distributed throughout the fungus. Being green plants, algae are capable of photosynthesis—that is, using energy from the Sun to manufacture their own food. The fungi are believed to supply water, minerals, and physical support to the partnership.

Lichens are famous for their ability to survive water shortage. When water is scarce (as is often the case on a mountain), lichens may become dormant and remain in that condition for prolonged periods of time. Some lichens can even grow where there is no rain at all, surviving on only occasional dew—the moisture that

condenses on the surface of the plants at night, And unlike most other plants, lichens are little affected by the strong ultraviolet rays in the mountains.

Lichens use little energy, for they grow slowly. Some grow so slowly and are so old that they are called “time stains.” You may find lichens that are centuries old; certain of these lichen colonies have been established for an estimated 2,000 years.

For decades, scientists wondered how the offspring of an alga and a fungus got together to form a new lichen, it seemed unlikely that they would just happen to encounter one another. It was finally discovered that in many cases the two partners have never been separated. Stalklike “buds” that form on certain lichens are broken off by the wind or by animals; these then are blown to a new location.

1. Which of the following questions does the passage answer?
 - (A) Where can the oldest lichens be found?
 - (B) How long does it take for lichens to establish themselves?
 - (C) How large can lichens be?
 - (D) Where do lichens usually occur?
2. The word “framework” in paragraph 2 is closest in meaning to _____.
 - (A) structure
 - (B) fragment
 - (C) condition
 - (D) environment
3. The author mentions “the green film of plant life that grows on stagnant pools” in paragraph 2 in order to explain _____.
 - (A) how the sun affects lichens
 - (B) why plants depend on water
 - (C) where fungi become algae
 - (D) what algae are
4. It can be inferred from the passage that lichens use less energy and grow more slowly when _____.
 - (A) the environment is polluted
 - (B) they are exposed to ultraviolet rays
 - (C) they are very old
 - (D) the supply of water is inadequate
5. All of the following statements are mentioned in the discussion of lichens EXCEPT: _____.
 - (A) They are capable of producing their own food.
 - (B) They require large amounts of minerals to prosper.
 - (C) They are a union of two separate plants.
 - (D) They can live thousands of years.

Questions 6~10

The web hasn’t changed the fundamentals of smart investing. It has made it easier to invest, but the problem with online investing is that most novice investors think they can make a lot of money with no skills and no investment knowledge. One of the reasons why rookie investors have the misconception that they do not need any skills or investment knowledge to make money is because over the past seven years, the markets have been pushing ahead with a strong bullish trend, where almost any buy-and-hold strategy made big profits for the common investor. But once the markets begin to show signs of bearish signals such as they have in the past month of March (Nasdaq down 30%), possibilities of making investment mistakes come at even greater speed. People begin to realize that maybe it’s time to implement smart financial planning.

Know what you’re getting yourself into: Always inform yourself with the basics of the company. You need to do some fundamental analysis to determine if the stock is worth the price. Otherwise, you’ll be gambling on a hunch. If you don’t have the time or know-how to analyze the company, you can always let someone else do

it for you by researching the net. Use the net carefully, avoid bulletin boards and chat rooms. You will be better off looking at sites of major brokerage houses, finance publications and mutual-fund companies, such as smartmoney.com, marketguide.com, bloomberg.com, redherring.com.

Bull market vs. the Genius: Don't confuse a bull market with smart investing. If you were lucky enough to be in the right place at the right time you would have made money without any effort. People sometimes feel smart when the market is going up, so we're tempted to trade more often and take on riskier positions.

Active trading: With today's online investing, trading is only one mouse click away and investors are easily tempted to trade often. But it's tough to beat the market on a consistent basis and make money with day trading. A buy-and-hold strategy is the best way to invest for the long-term.

Day trading vs. longer-term: Over the course of a year, frequent trading can be very costly. But what really hurts from day trading is your contribution to the "Uncle Sam Foundation". Income taxes triggered by profits from active trading can reach as high as 40% of your capital gains, whereas if you buy and hold over a period of one year, you will qualify for the lower capital gains rate of 20%.

Margin traps: Buying on margin (borrowing in order to invest) can backfire on any investor. People buy on margin when the market is going up because it allows them to accumulate a greater investment position quickly. In volatile markets, however, you may have to put additional cash or securities to cover losses. In some cases, the brokerage firm will actually sell your stocks to meet a margin call (more often than you think). Read your broker's fine print in the margin agreements.

6. The word "rookie" in paragraph 1 is closest in meaning to _____.
(A) sophisticated (B) naive
(C) single-minded (D) new
7. Which of the following is NOT true about the market in the past seven years?
(A) The investments of stock market showed a great rate of profitability.
(B) The frequent trading strategy worked well in a bearish market environment.
(C) The trend of growth might come to an end in a short time.
(D) A bearish market triggered mistakes.
8. The expression "on a hunch" in paragraph 2 is closest in meaning to _____.
(A) on intuition (B) by chance
(C) by degrees (D) in a moment
9. Margin traps usually occur _____.
(A) in a bullish market (B) in a bearish market
(C) in an emerging market (D) in a frequently changing and unstable market
10. Which of the following is true according to the passage?
(A) Knowing fundamentals of the firm before investing via redherring.com is a must.
(B) Long-term investment wastes time and money.
(C) Income taxes could be ignored in a bearish market.
(D) A bullish market sometimes tempts people into risk.

Questions 11~15

The atmosphere that originally surrounded Earth was probably much different from the air we breathe today. Earth's first atmosphere (some 4.6 billion years ago) was most likely hydrogen and helium—the two most abundant gasses found in the universe—as well as hydrogen compounds, such as methane and ammonia. Most

scientists feel that this early atmosphere escaped into space from the Earth's hot surface.

A second, more dense atmosphere, however, gradually enveloped Earth as gasses from molten rocks within its hot interior escaped through volcanoes and steam vents. We assume that volcanoes spewed out the same gasses then as they do today: mostly water vapor (about 80 percent), carbon dioxide (about 10 percent), and up to a few 10 percent nitrogen. These same gasses probably created Earth's second atmosphere.

As millions of years passed, the constant outpouring of gasses from the hot interior—known as outgassing—provided a rich supply of water vapor, which formed into clouds. Rain fell upon Earth for many thousands or years, forming the rivers, lakes, and oceans of the world. During this time, large amounts of carbon dioxide were dissolved in the oceans. Through chemical and biological processes, much of the carbon dioxide became locked up in carbon sedimentary rocks, such as limestone. With much of the water vapor already condensed into water and the concentration of carbon dioxide dwindling, the atmosphere gradually became rich nitrogen.

It appears that oxygen, the second most abundant gas in today's atmosphere, probably began an extremely slow increase in concentration as energetic rays from the sun split water vapor into hydrogen and oxygen during a process called photodissociation. The hydrogen, being lighter, probably rose and escaped into space, while the oxygen remained in the atmosphere.

This slow increase in oxygen may have provided enough of this gas for primitive plants to evolve, perhaps two to three billion years ago. Or the plants may have evolved in an almost oxygen-free (anaerobic) environment. At any rate, plant growth greatly enriched our atmosphere with oxygen. The reason for this enrichment is that plants, in the presence of sunlight, process carbon dioxide and water to produce oxygen.

11. What is the main idea of the passage?

- (A) The original atmosphere on Earth was unstable.
- (B) The atmosphere on Earth has changed over time.
- (C) Hot underground gasses created clouds, which formed the Earth's atmosphere.
- (D) Plant growth depended on oxygen in the Earth's atmosphere.

12. According to the passage, outgassing eventually led to all of the following EXCEPT _____.

- (A) increases in the carbon dioxide content of sedimentary rocks
- (B) increases in the level of nitrogen
- (C) the formation of oxygen
- (D) the formation of clouds

13. The passage suggests that oxygen remained in the atmosphere because _____.

- (A) it was caused by outgassing
- (B) it was heavier than hydrogen
- (C) hydrogen became trapped in limestone
- (D) rays from the sun created equal amounts of hydrogen and oxygen

14. The author organizes the discussion of the Earth's atmosphere in terms of _____.

- (A) the role of volcanoes in its formation
- (B) the changes occurred
- (C) the time it took for the Earth's surface to cool and nitrogen to appear
- (D) the chemical and physical features of gasses

15. Which of the following items does the passage mention as necessary for both the production of oxygen by photodissociation and the production of oxygen by plants?

- (A) Water.
- (B) Hydrogen.
- (C) Carbon dioxide.
- (D) Nitrogen.