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华

大学英语 分阶阅读教程

第3册

 苏州大学出版社

大学英语 分阶阅读教程

第3册

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图书在版编目(CIP)数据

大学英语分阶阅读教程. 第3册/黄锦华主编. —
苏州: 苏州大学出版社, 2014. 7
ISBN 978-7-5672-0908-4

I. ①大… II. ①黄… III. ①英语-阅读教学-高等
学校-教材 IV. ①H319.4

中国版本图书馆 CIP 数据核字(2014)第 151712 号

书 名: 大学英语分阶阅读教程 第3册

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出版发行: 苏州大学出版社(Soochow University Press)

社 址: 苏州市十梓街1号 邮编: 215006

印 刷: 苏州工业园区美柯乐制版印务有限责任公司

网 址: www.sudapress.com

邮购热线: 0512-67480030

销售热线: 0512-65225020

开 本: 787mm×960mm 1/16 印张: 8 字数: 131 千

版 次: 2014 年 7 月第 1 版

印 次: 2014 年 7 月第 1 次印刷

书 号: ISBN 978-7-5672-0908-4

定 价: 17.00 元

凡购本社图书发现印装错误, 请与本社联系调换。服务热线: 0512-65225020

《大学英语分阶阅读教程》

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前言

《大学英语课程教学要求》指出,大学阶段的英语阅读教学要求要分为三个层次,即一般要求、较高要求和更高要求。随着形势的发展,特别是自2013年12月大学英语四级考试起,对阅读能力的要求提出了新的要求。为此,结合《大学英语课程教学要求》和四级新题型对词汇阅读理解、长篇阅读理解和仔细阅读理解能力的要求,考虑到地区和个性化教学之需要,我们编写了这套教材。

根据由浅入深、由易到难、循序渐进的原则,本套教材具有如下特点:

一是选材具有时代气息。教材所选内容新颖,富有时代感,能给读者以耳目一新的感觉。

二是体裁和题材出现多样化。教材兼顾了各类体裁和题材,尤其是侧重考试性的题材,比如知识性、科技类、人文性等。其范围分为文科、理科、工科、医科,即文化、语言、教育、生活、媒介、历史、科技、人性、哲学、文学等,同时兼顾各地区文化、风俗等,注重文理工医等学科的通识教育。

三是词汇难度适当控制,对过难词汇进行了改写,对一些生词词义作了适当标注。

四是趣味性。教材所选取的文章有趣,能使读者读起来感到顺畅有意思。

本教材共四个分册,是集体努力的结晶,由张树德(广西科技大学)任总主编,实行分册责任制(其中第一册和第二册的主编单位为河池学院,第三册的主编单位为广西科技大学鹿山学院,第四册的主编单位为广西科技大学)。第一册的主编为谢雨利、龙星源,副主编为何秋萍、梁菊宝;第二册的主编为李晓兰、钟伟轩,副主编为雷炎炎、刘稳亮;第三册的主编为黄锦华,副主编为孙远用、邝江红、董月琳、陆梅华、卢淑玲、刘甜甜、宋琳琳、韦俊;第四册的主编为周柳琴,副主编为黄影妮、赵足娥、吴玲、莫旻荧。

由于时间紧迫,加之水平有限,本教材难免有所疏漏,敬请读者批评指正。

本教材的出版得到了苏州大学出版社的大力支持,在此,我们表示衷心感谢!

编者

2014年6月

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Unit 1



Technology

Section A

Directions: *In this section, there is a passage with ten blanks. You are required to select one word for each blank from a list of choices given in a word bank following the passage. Read the passage through carefully before making your choices. Each choice in the bank is identified by a letter. Please write down your answer to each item in the corresponding blank. You may not use any of the words in the bank more than once.*

Questions 1 to 10 are based on the following passage.

Ever feel like you've been hit on the head after a bad night's sleep? According to scientists, the thought isn't as far-fetched (难以置信的, 牵强的) as it seems. A study found going without sleep for just one night causes changes in the brain similar to those that occur after a blow to the head. The researchers said the healthy young men 1 in the study showed a spike in the same chemicals which indicate brain damage. Professor Christian Benedict, of Uppsala University, Sweden, explained

that the chemicals NSE and S-100B are biomarkers (生物标记) for brain damage, such as concussion (脑震荡). He said: "What we found was their 2 in the blood rose in the group that went without sleep for a night. This was not to the extent that would happen after a head injury, for instance, but it was still significant. During sleep, the brain cleans itself of toxic substances and NSE and S-100B increase in 3 to these substances." He said the findings backed up previous research showing how the brain used sleep to cleanse itself. Professor Benedict also said his study could support previous studies which 4 a lack of sleep with increased risk of Alzheimer's, Parkinson's and multiple sclerosis (硬化). The rise of the 5 in the blood after sleep loss may suggest not getting enough sleep is conducive to a loss of brain tissue, he explained. Professor Benedict, whose study is 6 in the journal *Sleep*, added: "In conclusion, the findings of our trial indicate a good night's sleep may be 7 for maintaining brain health." A third of the UK population 8 from sleep-related problems, while the average person now sleeps for only seven hours a night, 9 with almost nine a few decades ago. Many scientists believe irregular sleeping patterns lead to illnesses ranging from aches and pains to heart disease, while less than eight hours' sleep a night can 10 the IQ the next day.

(<http://www.dailymail.co.uk/health/article-2537723/A-lack-sleep-damages-brain-similar-way-hit-head.html>)

A. attached	F. critical	K. suffer
B. linked	G. compared	L. response
C. together	H. published	M. chemicals
D. lower	I. original	N. represent
E. levels	J. deprivation	O. examined

Your Answers:

1. _____ 2. _____ 3. _____ 4. _____ 5. _____
6. _____ 7. _____ 8. _____ 9. _____ 10. _____

Section B

Directions: *In this section, you are going to read a passage with ten statements attached to it. Each statement contains information given in one of the paragraphs. Identify the paragraph from which the information is derived. You may choose a paragraph more than once. Each paragraph is marked with a letter. Please write down your answer in the corresponding blank.*

From Smart Phones to Smart Watches

- A For much of the developed world, 2013 marked the beginning of a new technological era. More than half the people in North America, the UK, Japan, Republic of Korea and the Nordic countries now own a smart phone, market researchers have concluded. According to a November estimate by analysts at US investment bank Canaccord Genuity, Apple and Samsung captured a “remarkable” 109 percent (correct) of handset industry profits in the third quarter of 2013, a figure that makes sense only if the losses suffered by suppliers such as BlackBerry, Nokia and HTC are counted as “negative profits”.
- B But it is not just their mobile rivals’ earnings that Apple’s iPhone and Samsung’s Galaxy devices have gobbled up. Cameras, music and radio players, alarm clocks, navigation systems, even torches and compasses are now absorbed into a glowing screen. Yet as smart phones increase in sophistication, they are also enabling new categories of gadget (小器具, 小装置) that harness (控制) their always-on connection, sensors and processing power. Wearable (可佩戴的) technology, “smart home” devices such as lights and security systems, fitness trackers and even toys are all orbiting the smart phone, making

connected devices(可连接设备) one of 2013's hottest gadget trends.

- C As innovation in smart phones themselves starts to slow down, the platform that they are enabling is just getting started—even if analysts say mass-market adoption is still years away. “The nice thing about the Internet is it’s not monolithic,” says Rob Chandhok, president of Qualcomm’s interactive platforms division, who predicts a “Cambrian (寒武纪的) explosion” of smart devices. “I expect wearables to be on a very fast cadence(节奏,韵律) as form factors fall out.”
- D Pebble, one of the best-known independent makers of smart watches, which raised \$10 million on US-based crowd funding platform Kickstarter last year, said in November that it had sold 190,000 watches in total—impressive for a start-up but hardly the sort of volume that would have Apple rushing its rumored iWatch to market. As most smart watches, Pebble mainly acts as a way to notify the wearer of incoming messages or other alerts from a Bluetooth-tethered(蓝牙共享的) smart phone.
- E The September launch of Samsung’s Galaxy Gear marked a significant moment for the smart watch market. Although the device has had mixed reviews, the endorsement of the form factor by Republic of Korean electronics group—coupled with persistent rumors that Google, Microsoft and others are all working on similar watches—signaled that smart watches may not be a niche(商机) for much longer. Even Casio’s G-Shock now has a Bluetooth connection to receive message notifications—and has the benefit of actually looking like a watch.
- F At the same time as the Galaxy Gear was unveiled, Qualcomm launched the Toq, a smart watch that uses its Mirasol screen to showcase the potential of the technology. Unlike the Gear, which needs charging every day and does not keep its watch face-lit all the time, the Toq’s screen is always on and the battery lasts for several days. “Being able to do things at a glance is very powerful,” says Mr Chandhok. “I don’t want to replicate the smart phone, but I do want to

use it to raise things above the noise level. Notification really only works when it's at a glance."

G Partner at the design agency Ammunition Group, which works on products such as Beats by Dr Dre headphones, says the appearance of these devices is just as important as what they do. "We are in the fashion business," Mr Brunner said at a recent GigaOm conference in San Francisco. "The things that people carry and use define (明确) us almost as much as the clothes we wear. Wearable technology needs to understand fashion." A similar challenge lies in the smart home market, where devices such as the Internet fridge (冰箱) are solutions searching for a problem.

H Dozens of new devices have emerged in recent months, from smart locks such as August and Lockitron, which open with a wave of a smart phone, to Philips' Hue light bulbs, which can be set to match the color of a photo from a mobile app, as well as other features. Some are aimed at security-conscious folk: Dropcam's \$200 ProCamera constantly monitors its owner's home, alerting them to movement after they've left the house and letting them watch a live video feed. Smart things sell kits (配套元件) that enable garage doors to be locked remotely or send notifications to a phone when the kids get home from school. Large retailers such as Home Depot, Staples and Lowe's are devoting more and more floor space to such products, even though it is unclear how large the market for them is today.

I Chief executive of Nest, Tony Fadell, says "learning" thermostat (恒温器) and app-enabled smoke alarm have attained an Apple-like cult (狂热, 时尚) following among early adopters of the "connected home". "Most people are just jamming things together because that's the fastest thing to do. They don't rethink the experience from top to bottom. Just because it can be connected doesn't mean it should," he says. Ben Wood, analyst at tech consultancy CCS Insight, sees great potential in smart watches, but says the connected home is "just too

hard for the man on the street right now". The plethora(过多, 过量) of single-purpose "point solutions" is still a long way from the joined-up(明智而协调的) vision touted(标榜) at trade shows, he says.

- J Amanda Peyton, co-founder of Grand St, a marketplace for creative technology, admits that the "independent, creative, alternative electronics" market is worth just a fraction of the \$1tn (trillion) consumer electronics market today. "But it is absolutely the fastest growing of any sector," she says. "Over the next few years, you will see this section of the market just growing enormously. It's going to cut into some of the existing consumer electronics market, but it's going to grow the whole thing overall." Wearables and other "smart" devices might not overtake the smart phone market any time soon—but they promise to be a much livelier arena(竞争舞台) for innovation in the coming years.

(<http://www.ft.com/cms/s/0/6ff6a206-5534-11e3-866c-00144feabdc0.html#axzz2tpcR4vJNq>)

1. The rise of the smart phone has already created new winners and losers in the consumer electronics market.
2. Smart watches made by Pebble mainly act as a way to notify the wearers of incoming messages or other alerts from Bluetooth-tethered smart phones.
3. Smart watches' market has great potential, but it takes time for everybody to adopt the connected home.
4. The smart watches may not be a niche for much longer, as Google, Microsoft and others are all working on similar watches.
5. Wearables and other "smart" devices might not overtake the smart phone market any time soon, but they promise to be a much livelier arena for innovation in the coming years.
6. Some experts predict a "Cambrian explosion" of smart devices will begin, although innovation in smart phones themselves starts to slow down.
7. Unlike the Galaxy Gear made by Samsung, the Toq's screen is always on and the battery lasts for several days.
8. Dozens of new devices have emerged in recent months, from smart locks to Hue

- light bulbs, even though it is unclear how large the market for them is today.
9. As smart phones increase in sophistication, many new categories of gadgets are all orbiting the smart phone.
10. The appearance of these devices is just as important as what they do.

Your Answers:

1. _____ 2. _____ 3. _____ 4. _____ 5. _____
 6. _____ 7. _____ 8. _____ 9. _____ 10. _____

Section C

Directions: *There are 2 passages in this section. Each passage is followed by some questions or unfinished statements. For each of them there are four choices marked A, B, C and D. You should decide on the best choice and write down your answer in the corresponding brackets.*

Passage One

Questions 1 to 10 are based on the following passage.

While some people believe the idea of alien invasion is the stuff of science fiction, others fear it may be just around the corner, after a number of UFO (unidentified flying object) sightings occurred in China last month. Airline pilots and several witnesses reported seeing “a huge spherical illuminant (球状发光体)” in the sky above Beijing and Shanghai on August 20, reported *China Daily*. Then on August 25, some strange objects were seen hovering above Xi'an for hours, according to a news program by Shaanxi Television.

People have claimed UFO sightings around the world for centuries, and there are still more questions than answers. The United States is a

particular center for alien spotting. Former American presidents Ronald Reagan and Jimmy Carter both reportedly saw UFOs. In 1952, the US Air Force began Project Blue Book, a study program on UFOs. However, in 1969 the government officially ended the program, stating that the incidents posed no threat and there was no evidence of space aliens.

Private UFO research organizations have since taken on the task of providing the American public with the means to report UFO encounters. Mutual UFO Network (MUFON) is one of the largest private UFO researchers in the US. According to Roger Marsh, director of communications for MUFON, the organization collected 14 UFO reports from New York in July. However, with their shoestring (金额极少的) budgets, these nongovernmental organizations can do little more than collect reports. In 2007, a panel of experts called on the US government to resume UFO investigations through the US Air Force or NASA (美国航空航天局). The US Air Force, however, insisted: "Since the termination of Project Blue Book, nothing has occurred that would support a resumption of UFO investigations."

The British government also tries to keep quiet UFO sightings because of "a lack of funds" to deal with them, said former Ministry of Defense UFO Project chief Nick Pope. "We were trying to do two things," he told *the Huffington Post* in August. "Either kill any media story on the subject, or if a media story ran, ensure that it ran in such a way that it would make the subject seem ridiculous and that it would make people who were interested in this seem ridiculous." Even so, UFO sightings keep coming—even in the UK.

(<http://en.dict.cn/news/view/15341>)

1. Project Blue Book begun by the US Air Force in 1952 was a study program on _____.
A. economy B. counterterrorism C. UFOs D. spies
2. The reason that the US nongovernmental organizations keep silent UFO sightings is _____.

- A. its military strategy B. its foreign policy
C. lack of funds D. lack of public support
3. Which of the following is the best title of the passage?
A. Mysterious deaths of UFO researchers.
B. UFO: A space oddness.
C. Britain closes down UFO investigations.
D. Aliens might come here for holidays.
4. The underlined word “resumption” (Line 11, Para. 3) means “_____”.
A. recommencement B. discontinuity
C. deprivation D. prematurity
5. According to the passage, which of the following statements is true? _____
A. Some airline pilots reported seeing several aliens in China last month.
B. The US government began the Project Blue Book again in recent years.
C. The British government also tries to begin a study program on UFOs.
D. Although people all over the world have claimed UFO sightings for many years, there are still more questions than answers.

Your Answers:

1. _____ 2. _____ 3. _____ 4. _____ 5. _____

Passage Two

Questions 6 to 10 are based on the following passage.

The US National Security Agency (NSA) is building a quantum (量子) computer to break the encryption (加密) that keeps messages secure, reports *The Washington Post*.

The NSA project came to light in documents passed to the newspaper by whistle-blower Edward Snowden. The spying agency hopes to harness the special qualities of quantum computers to speed up its code-cracking efforts. The NSA is believed to have spent about \$80 million (about £49 million) on the project but it has yet to produce a working machine.

If the NSA managed to develop a working quantum computer it would be put to work breaking encryption systems used online and by foreign

governments to keep official messages secure, suggest the documents excerpted in *The Washington Post*.

The quantum computer is being developed under a research program called Penetrating Hard Targets and is believed to be conducted out of a lab in Maryland. Many research groups around the world are pursuing the goal of creating a working quantum computer but those developed so far have not been able to run the algorithms (算法) required to break contemporary encryption systems.

Current computers attempt to crack encryption via many different means but they are limited to generating possible keys to unscramble (整理) data one at a time. Using big computers can speed this up but the huge numbers used as keys to locking away data limit the usefulness of this approach. By contrast, quantum computers exploit properties of matter, under certain conditions, which means the machine can carry out lots of calculations simultaneously. This makes it practical to try all the possible keys protecting a particular message or stream of data. The hardest part of creating a working quantum computer is keeping enough of its constituent computational elements, called qubits, stable so they can interact and be put to useful work.

The NSA is not believed to have made significant breakthroughs in its work that would put it ahead of research efforts elsewhere in the US and Europe. However, the documents passed to *The Washington Post* by Edward Snowden suggest the agency's researchers are having some success developing the basic building blocks for the machine.

(<http://www.bbc.co.uk/news/technology-25588605>)

6. According to the passage, who firstly disclosed the NSA was making a study on the quantum computer? _____
 A. Edward Snowden. B. *The Washington Post*.
 C. A spying agency. D. A Russia spy.
7. If the quantum computer is built successfully, it would be put to be used in _____.

- ### Your Answers:

6. _____ 7. _____ 8. _____ 9. _____ 10. _____