

吉林大学合校纪念版 college


中国大学英语 测试教程

第四册

TESTING

English

for Chinese Students

 吉林大学出版社

中国大学英语

测试教程

第四册

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吉林大学出版社出版发行

(130021 长春市解放大路 125 号)

长春市朝阳彩印厂印刷

开本 787×1092 1/16 8.5 印张 197 千字

2000 年 8 月第 1 版 2002 年 8 月第 3 次印刷

ISBN7-5601-2413-5/H·233

定价:11.50 元

本版图书如有印装质量问题,可向承印厂调换。

中国大学英语测试教程

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序

大学英语是我国高等教育的一门重要的基础课程。无论是培养同现代化要求相适应的数以亿计的高素质劳动者，还是培养数以千万计的专门人才，都离不开对其外语（尤其是英语）运用能力的培养。时代发展趋势、经济发展趋势、科技发展趋势以及知识本身的信息化和市场化的总体趋势，都在使我们不断加快大学英语教学改革步伐。

应当看到，改革开放以来，我国大学英语教学质量和师资水平，都有长足的进步。十年来，我国大学英语四、六级统考成绩不断提高，考试体系引人注目，师资队伍更新换代已经基本完成。然而，我国大学英语教学质量还是跟不上社会发展的要求，这也是一个不争的事实。大学毕业生从中学到大学，学了十年英语，大部分人仍然不具备用英语去阅读、交际的能力，更谈不上用英语去工作的能力。从教育经济学的角度看，这不能不说是教育资源的浪费；至少也是教育资源的低效益使用。造成这种状况的原因很多：有教学指导思想的偏差；有课程设置的失当；有师资水平的不平衡；有教学条件的欠缺等等，然而，大学英语教材体系的种种弊端，也是造成这种英语教学低效益的重要原因。我国现有千余所高等学校，各校教学条件、师资水平和生源差异很大。而一个教学大纲，一种课程模式，一套统编教材，显然既不能满足需要，也是不切实际的。因此，在遵循大学英语教学大纲的基础上，统一教材体系和课程设置的矛盾，在主干教材中加大交际能力培养的比重；在自主教材中培养学生自学能力，走内涵式发展的道路，成为必然。基于此，孙怀庆教授等长期从事大学英语教学的同志提出构建 2+3 中国大学英语教材体系。本体系力求既强调语言知识的传授和研习，又注意英语交际能力的培养和发展，同时既限制教学课时的无限膨胀，又培养学生自主学习的习惯和能力，巧妙地解决教与学、学与考、短期教学与长期应用的矛盾。

首先，本套教材体系符合大学英语教学目标。大学英语教学的目的是培养学生具有较强的阅读能力和一定的听、说、写、译能力，使他们能用英语交流信息。本套教材体系完全贯彻了 1999 年教育部最新颁布的《大学英语教

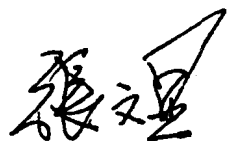
学大纲》对学生的语言应用能力在二个层次上的要求精神，培养学生全方面的英语交际和应用能力。

其次，本套教材体系符合大学英语教学实际。一周 4 课时的教学量，很难同时完成 5 种课程任务，导致教师左冲右突，学生无所适从，既浪费了教学资源，也伤害学生的学习热情，其结果是造成学习效益低下。而本套教材体系分课堂主干教材和自主学习教材，目标一致，却分工不同，既给教师发挥主导作用创造了广泛的课堂讲授空间，也给学生保留了自由的课后自学余地，充分发挥了学生是教学的主体作用，培养他们掌握良好的语言学习方法，自觉理解、吸收外国文化素养，提高英语学习和效益。

第三，本套教材体系符合中国国情。在我国，英语是在讲汉语的环境中作为一门外语来教的，而不是在英语环境中作为第二语言来教的，因此，不能照搬国外的 TESOL 那套做法。本套教材体系以交际教学法作为基本进路，对其它教学法博采众长，兼收并蓄，从材料选择、体例设计、课堂活动、课后自学、到学业测试全部贯彻培养和发展学生的英语交际能力的教学宗旨，实事求是地采用各种行之有效的方法提高教学效果。

综上，2+3 中国大学英语教材体系是一种先进、合理、实用的教材模式。在庆祝新吉林大学建立之际，谨祝 2+3《中国大学英语》系列教程的出版。这套教程是新吉林大学建立后出版的第一套教材，也是与其它高校联合科研的成果。愿我们各高校之间加强联系、交流和合作，创作具有中国特色的大学英语教材精品，走一条具有中国特色的大学英语教学之路。

吉林大学副校长



前 言

2+3《中国大学英语》是根据1999年教育部最新颁布的《大学英语教学大纲》(高等学校本科用)编写的一套系列教程。所谓“2”是指课堂主干教材:大学英语精读教程和大学英语听说教程;所谓“3”是指学生自主学习教材:大学英语泛读教程、大学英语语法教程、大学英语测试教程。精读、听说教程纳入教学课时,供四个学期使用,其它三种教程以教师指导、学生自学、阶段检测为主,亦在四个学期内同步完成。

本套教材以培养学生具有较强的阅读能力和一定的听、说、写、译能力为宗旨;以体现语言交互活动和激发学生自主学习兴趣的设计为形式;增加内容价值含量,扩大教师的讲授空间,突出学生的学习地位,巧妙地处理了教与学、学与考的关系,追求教学素质、效率和效果的合谐统一。

本套教材具有以下鲜明特色:

1. 中国性:大学英语教材的使用环境在中国,所以本套教材遵循中国学生学习英语的规律,照顾中国学生学习英语的习惯,即体现大学英语教材的中国特色。

2. 大学性:大学英语教材的使用主体是大学生,因而本套教材体现了与中学英语教材的衔接性和差异性,充分发挥大学生的自主学习热情,培养大学生的自主学习能力。

3. 科学性:本套教材无论是选材,还是设计都注意思想性、实用性和趣味性,妥善处理了知识性与可思性、系统性与灵活性、可接受性与前瞻性、语言典范和时代气息的关系。

4. 实用性:本套教材体现了课堂教学与课后自学的关系,博采众长,揉进各种先进的语言学习理论和方法,以在最短时间以最快速度和最高质量把英语教好、学好为目标,把素质教育做为重点,使教师在传授知识、培养能力和提高素质上下大力气,使学生在语言索取、语言应用与语言创造性上协调发展,最大限度地提高大学英语教学的综合效益。

全套教材由吉林大学、长春工业大学、长春理工大学、吉林建筑工程学院合作编写。吉林大学副校长张文显教授,全国大学外语教学指导委员会副主任、全国大学英语四、六级考试委员会委员刘龙根教授对本套教材的设计与编写自始至终给予关心和支持。

《中国大学英语测试教程》由吉林大学、长春理工大学、长春工业大学、吉林建筑工程学院合作编写。王丽荣、孙怀庆教授担任总主编。由于编者水平与经验有限,教材中难免还有不足之处,希望广大教师和学生批评指正。

编 者

使 用 说 明

本书为《中国大学英语测试教程》第四册,供大学英语四级学生使用。

本书以新大纲的要求和教学内容为基本编写依据;以大学英语标准化测试形式为体例,适当兼顾一定比例的主观试题;以教师指导、学生自主学习、阶段考试检测为手段,着重考核语言基础和语言应用能力。本书讲练结合,融学习与测试为一体,使学习的过程同时成为自我测试的过程,并且使学生通过测试提供的反馈信息不断调整学习过程,使语言测试真正达到信度和效度完美结合的理想境界。

全书共分十个单元,每一单元包括 *Listening Comprehension*, *Vocabulary and Structure*, *Reading Comprehension*, *Short Answer Questions*, *Translation*, *Cloze* 和 *Writing* 等项目。

Listening Comprehension 以 CET4 & 6 大纲构建内容,适当兼顾新题型,做到题材广泛,体裁多样,设题科学、规范。

Vocabulary and Structure 按 CET4 & 6 大纲组织考点,同时增设改错题型,做到全面性与典型性并重,使学生接受标准化英语测试的训练。

Reading Comprehension 按 CET4 & 6 大纲构建内容,在题材和体裁选择上,体现时代性、知识性、趣味性和多样性,所设题项涉及词汇和语法、事实和细节、概括和逻辑等,有助于提高学生在语篇水平上的理解能力。

Short Answer Questions 是一种新型的阅读理解题型,它既避免了多项选择题的文字游戏,又避免了猜测成分,因此本书加大了它的测试力度和深度。

Translation 是一种理解与表达兼顾的题型,它既符合大学英语的教学目的,也是一种有效的练习手段,因此,本书赋予它很重要的测试位置。

Cloze 是一种传统的标准化测试题型,本书在它的内容选择和题项设置上都符合测试规范,具有一定的信度和效度。

Writing 以 CET4 & 6 大纲作文题型为练习形式,同时吸纳其它优秀题型,在主题和体裁上,与 CET4 & 6 的重心、目标接轨,使学生在作文表达上更上一层楼。

新大纲指出:测试是贯彻执行教学大纲的重要保证。科学的测试结果可以为教学提供良好的反馈,帮助教师了解教学效果,改进教学方法,提高教学质量;还可以帮助学生了解自己的学习情况,改进学习方法。因此,各院校在使用本教程时,可以因地制宜,严格在总体教学目标的指导下进行测试教学,使大学英语测试真正为大学英语教学服务。

编 者

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Unit One

Part I Listening Comprehension

Section A Conversations

Directions: In this section, you will hear 10 short conversations. At the end of the conversation, a question will be asked about what was said. The conversation and the question will be spoken only once. After each question there will be a pause. During the pause, you must read the choices marked A, B, C and D, and decide which is the best answer. Then mark the corresponding letter on your book and check your answer with the KEY.

- | | | | |
|--|--|-------------------|---------------------------|
| 1. A. She bought it in a store. | B. She had a tailor made it. | | |
| C. She made it herself. | D. She got it as a gift. | | |
| 2. A. France. | B. Sweden. | C. Germany. | D. Scotland. |
| 3. A. He is in the classroom. | B. He is in the library. | C. He is at home. | D. He is riding his bike. |
| 4. A. Neither liked it. | | | |
| B. They both liked it. | | | |
| C. The mother didn't like it, but the father did. | | | |
| D. The mother didn't like it because it wasn't in English. | | | |
| 5. A. \$ 6.50. | B. \$ 6.40. | C. \$ 6.35. | D. \$ 6.30. |
| 6. A. In front of a public library. | B. Near a stadium. | | |
| C. At a stop sign. | D. Outside a bookstore. | | |
| 7. A. She wanted to get ready for the party. | B. She is afraid of going out at night. | | |
| C. She is so eager to see her aunt. | D. She wanted to get ready for the trip. | | |
| 8. A. Allen has trouble breathing. | B. Allen breathes very heavily. | | |
| C. Allen reads very slowly. | D. Allen never returns anything. | | |
| 9. A. Husband and wife. | B. They are dating each other. | | |
| C. Teacher and student. | D. Manager and his secretary. | | |
| 10. A. She thought they were extremely difficult. | B. She thought they were reasonably difficult. | | |
| C. She thought they were too easy. | D. She thought they were something too hard to answer. | | |

Section 3 Passages

Directions: In this section, you will hear 3 short passages. At the end of each passage, you will hear some questions. Both the passages and the questions will be spoken only once. After you hear a question, you must choose the best answer from the four choices marked A, B, C and D. Then mark the corresponding letter on your book and check your answer with KEY.

Passage 1

Questions 11 to 13 are based on the passage you have just heard.

- | | |
|---|--|
| 11. A. Life in modern cities is exactly the same. | B. Life in modern cities is quite similar. |
|---|--|

- C. Life in American cities is different.
 12. A. They usually go to school by car.
 C. They have class over the radio.
 13. A. Farm life is dull and uninteresting.
 B. Farm life is not as good as city life.
 C. Farmers always help each other a lot.
 D. Modern machines have changed the farm life a great deal.

- D. Life on the farm in America is different.
 B. They usually go to school by bus or on foot.
 D. They have class on TV.

Passage 2

Questions 14 to 16 are based on the passage you have just heard.

14. A. Some new political ways.
 C. How to trap animals.
 15. A. The European settlers found the winter hard to deal with.
 B. The European settlers were well aware of the hard time they would have.
 C. The settlers taught Indians how to domesticate animals.
 D. The settlers brought tools to the new-found continent.
 16. A. They had a lot in England.
 C. They did not have these in England.

- B. Some new ways of water transportation.
 D. Some new skills of fishing.
 B. They thought them not edible.
 D. Only a small number of people ate these before.

Passage 3

Questions 17 to 20 are based on the passage you have just heard.

17. A. Television.
 B. Radio broadcast.
 C. Printed words.
 D. Oral communication.
 18. A. It is not difficult to understand.
 C. It can communicate with one another.
 19. A. The importance of the printed words.
 B. Newspapers, books and magazines are printed words.
 C. Printed words is a means of communication.
 D. People can not imagine life without communication.
 20. A. By drawing and signing.
 C. By sending signals.

- B. It can avoid misunderstanding.
 D. Large numbers of people can be involved.
 B. By talking to each other.
 D. By gesture.

Part II Vocabulary and Structure

Section A

Directions: For each sentence in this section, there are four choices marked A, B, C and D. Choose the one that best completes the sentence. Then mark the corresponding letter on your book and check your answer with the KEY.

1. We _____ him with a detached house but he specifically asked for a small flat.
 A. must have provided
 C. might provide
 2. She had just been to the hospital to see her husband and had returned home rather _____ by her experience.
 A. had been distressed
 B. to be distressed
 C. distressed
 D. being distressed
 3. Many people are unaware that prairies once existed _____ is now the state of Michigan.

- A. in what B. in that C. in which D. where
4. British snakes are shy animals and are far more frightened of you _____ of them.
A. that you possibly are B. than could you possibly be
C. than you could possibly be D. as you could possibly be
5. _____ there is no opposition we shall hold the meeting here.
A. In order that B. Provided that C. In case D. Lest
6. If television _____ a thousand years ago, would nations be significantly more homogeneous(相同的) than they are now?
A. were invented B. was invented C. has been invented D. had been invented
7. Martin Luther King, Junior, is well known for his work in civil rights and for his many famous speeches, _____ his moving "I HAVE A DREAM" speech.
A. among them B. among which C. among them is D. among which being
8. I readily forgive the prejudice which leads my friend to wrong conclusions because I understand it. It is a minor error into which I myself, _____ the grace of some happy chance, ! might have fallen.
A. except for B. apart from C. but for D. let alone
9. To what extent will future scientific discoveries _____ the lengthening of the human life?
A. be made possible B. make it possible C. make possible D. be made it possible
10. Computers have made access _____ information instantly available just by pushing a few buttons.
A. for B. to C. of D. from

Section B

Directions: For each sentence in this section, there are four underlined parts marked A, B, C, and D. Identify the part of the sentence that is incorrect. Then mark the corresponding letter on your book. Then check your answer with the KEY.

11. That many of the important laws of science were discovered during experiments designed to illuminate other phenomena suggests that experimental results be the consequence of inevitable natural forces rather than of planning.
A B C D
12. Because they are generally taken simply to obtain a recognizable and relatively clear image, most nonprofessional photographs demand few equipments.
A B C D
13. Although it was no longer the big business that it was in the forties, radio continues to be a medium of essential communication, especially at the local level.
A B C D
14. She would make a teacher far superior to those of the average.
A B C D
15. Among the world's 44 richest countries there has been not war since 1945.
A B C D
16. For centuries large communities of people have been living on houseboats in parts of the world there the climate is warm and the waters are calm.
C D A B
17. A statue, a monument, a building, or a park may be dedicated to honor a distinguished individual.
A B C D
18. In the last ten years, Mexican government has reduced the number of its state-owned companies to about half.
A B C D

19. Too much electric current may flow into a circuit as a result either of a fault in the circuit and of an outside event
 A B C D
 such as lightning.
20. The United States Constitution requires that the President be a natural-born citizen, thirty-five years of age and
 A B
 older, who has lived in the United States for a minimum of fourteen years.
 C D

Section C

Directions: For each sentence in this section, there are four choices marked A, B, C and D. Choose the one that best completes the sentence. Then mark the corresponding letter on your book and check your answer with the KEY.

21. No matter how angry he was he would never _____ violence.
 A. resort to B. apply to C. stick to D. pull out
22. The star of the show is a _____ performer who acts, sings, and dances with equal facility.
 A. competent B. various C. versatile D. outstanding
23. Buying in _____ enables one to make substantial savings.
 A. stock B. proportion C. multitude D. bulk
24. The post of headmaster fell _____, so I'm going to apply for it.
 A. bare B. empty C. vacant D. unemployed
25. The reception was attended by various _____ members of the local community and representatives of regional industries.
 A. notorious B. peculiar C. profound D. prominent
26. When the man _____ after the operation he found himself back in bed.
 A. got through B. got over C. came round D. came over
27. He has been offered the job _____ his passing a medical examination.
 A. prior to B. subject to C. regardless of D. irrespective of
28. In many societies, the person who fails to _____ to conventional behavior is likely to be avoided by others.
 A. abide B. confirm C. conform D. comply
29. Unless _____ directed by a doctor, this medicine should be taken three times a day.
 A. appropriately B. respectively C. thus D. otherwise
30. Because aluminum is lighter and cheaper than copper, it is frequently used for high tension power _____.
 A. transmission B. transportation C. transition D. transformation
31. Jack is good, kind, hard-working and intelligent. _____, I can't speak too highly of him.
 A. As a result B. In a word C. In other words D. Above all
32. He has impressed his employers considerably and _____ he is soon to be promoted.
 A. simultaneously B. eventually C. virtually D. accordingly
33. In calculating daily calorie requirements for an individual, variations in body size, physical activity, and age should be taken into _____.
 A. account B. mind C. judgement D. decision
34. Although the false banknotes fooled many people, they did not _____ close examination.
 A. run out of B. stand up for C. stand up to D. go in for
35. The large crowds lingering in the streets were quickly _____ by heavy rain.
 A. removed B. dispersed C. detached D. chased

36. Desert animals need a _____ of retaining moisture in such a hot, dry climate if they are to survive.
A. strategy B. technique C. principle D. means
37. An ambulance must have priority as it usually has to deal with some kind of _____.
A. crisis B. pressure C. emergency D. urgency
38. The diary has much interesting _____ to throw on this last point
A. light B. truth C. reality D. information
39. I feel sure that _____ qualification, ability and experience, you are abundantly suited to the position we have in mind.
A. on account of B. in terms of C. in spite of D. by virtue of
40. The holder of this letter is my student who shows great _____ in language learning, and I should like to introduce him to you.
A. requirement B. desire C. will D. promise

Part III Reading Comprehension

Directions: There are four passages in this part. 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 mark the corresponding letter on your book. Then check your answer with the KEY.

Passage 1

You are watching a film in which two men are having a fight. They hit one another hard. At the start they merely fight with their fists. But soon they begin hitting one another over the heads with chairs. And so it goes on until one of the men crashes through a window — and falls thirty feet to the ground below. He is dead!

Of course he isn't really dead. With any luck he isn't even hurt. Why? Because the men who fall out of high windows or jump from fast-moving trains, who crash cars or even catch fire, are professionals. They do this for a living. These men are called stuntmen. That is to say, they perform tricks.

There are two sides to their work. They actually do most of the things you see on the screen. For example, they fall from a high building. However, they do not fall on to hard ground but on to empty cardboard boxes covered with a mattress(床垫). Again, when they hit one another with chairs, the chairs are made of soft wood and when they crash through windows, the glass is made of sugar!

But although their work depends on tricks of this sort, it also requires a high degree of skill and training. Often a stuntman's success depends on precise timing. For example, when he is "blown up" in a battle scene, he has to jump out of the way of the explosion just at right moment.

Naturally stuntmen are well paid for their work, but they lead dangerous lives. They often get seriously injured — and sometimes killed. A Norwegian stuntman, for example, skied over the edge of a cliff a thousand feet high. His parachute(降落伞) failed to open — and he was killed.

In spite of all the risks, this is no longer a profession for men only. Men no longer dress up as women when actresses have to perform some dangerous action. For nowadays there are stuntgirls too!

1. Stuntmen are those who _____.
A. often dress up as actors B. prefer to lead dangerous lives
C. often perform seemingly dangerous actions D. often fight each other for their lives
2. Stuntmen earn their living by _____.

- A. playing their dirty tricks
 - B. selling their special skills
 - C. jumping out of high windows
 - D. jumping from fast moving trains
3. When a stuntman falls from a high building, _____.
- A. he needs little protection
 - B. he will be covered with a mattress
 - C. his life is endangered
 - D. his safety is generally guaranteed
4. Which of the following is the main factor of a successful performance?
- A. Strength
 - B. Accuracy
 - C. Speed
 - D. Carefulness
5. What can be inferred from the author's example of the Norwegian stuntman?
- A. Sometimes an accident can occur to a stuntman.
 - B. The incidence of fatal accidents is high.
 - C. Parachutes must be of good quality.
 - D. The cliff is too high.

Passage 2

How men first learnt to invent words is unknown; in other words, the origin of language is a mystery. All we really know is that men, unlike animals, somehow invented certain sounds to express thoughts and feelings, actions and things, so that they could communicate with each other; and that later they agreed upon certain signs, called letters, which could be combined to represent those sounds, and which could be written down. Those sounds, whether spoken or written in letters, we call words.

The power of words, then, lies in their associations—the things they bring up before our minds. Words become filled with meaning for us by experience; and the longer we live, the more certain words recall to us the glad and sad events of our past; and the more we read and learn, the more the number of words that mean something to us increases.

Great writers are those who not only have great thoughts but also express these thoughts in words which appeal powerfully to our minds and emotions. This charming use of words is what we call literary style. Above all, the real poet is a master of words. He can convey his meaning in words which sing like music, and which by their position and association can move men to tears. We should therefore learn to choose our words carefully and use them accurately, or they will make our speech silly and dull.

6. The origin of language is _____.
- A. a legend handed down from the past
 - B. a matter that is hidden secretly
 - C. a question difficult to answer
 - D. a problem not yet solved
7. One of the reasons why men invented certain sounds to express thoughts and actions was that _____.
- A. they could agree upon certain signs
 - B. they could write them down
 - C. they could communicate with each other
 - D. they could combine them
8. What is true about the words?
- A. They are used to express feelings only.
 - B. They can not be written down.
 - C. They are simply sounds.
 - D. They are mysterious.
9. In expressing their thoughts, great writers are able _____.
- A. to confuse the readers
 - B. to move men to tears
 - C. to move our actions
 - D. to puzzle our feelings
10. Which of the following statements about the real poet is NOT true?
- A. He is no more a master of words than an ordinary person.
 - B. He can convey his ideas in words which sing like music.
 - C. He can move men to tears.
 - D. His style is always charming.

Passage 3

A new technology is brewing, one that could transform our daily lives, help to form new industries, even unseat world economic powers. Unlike the wave of industrialisation that began in the West and spread later to the rest of the world, the new developments are taking place in research labs all over the globe — and Asians are in the forefront. Physicists are grinding out a new class of materials that display an amazing property unanticipated even two years ago — superconductivity.

Used today only in specialized equipment, superconductors have the potential to radically alter most of the electrical and electronic appliances found in the home, making them smaller, more powerful and efficient. They could free our cities of pollution by replacing petrol and diesel(柴油机的) vehicles with electric cars, and cut the cost of electricity. The new materials do something that even the best of conductors such as copper and silver cannot — they eliminate all electrical resistance. The implications for energy storage — even on the scale of the needs of an entire city — are immense.

The technology is in its infancy, still accessible to countries that decide to invest brains and money. For 75 years it had remained little more than a scientific curiosity with limited practical use. Reason: the phenomenon occurred only at extremely low temperatures. It was first observed in 1911 by a Dutch scientist named Heike Kamerlingh Onnes, who cooled mercury(水银) to temperatures below -269°C with liquid helium(氦). Then in January last year, two IBM scientists, K. Alex Muller and J. George Bednorz, found a metal oxide ceramic(陶瓷器) that superconducted at -243°C . Their report went largely unnoticed until last December, when it was verified(证实, 鉴定) at a scientific meeting in Boston. Today Japan, India, China and other Asian countries all have their share of workaholics who spend their days and nights in labs, acting as midwives to a new technology.

11. The word "brewing"(Line 1, Para. 1) means _____.
A. arising B. flourishing C. climbing D. developing
12. The new technology differs from the others in that _____.
A. it began in the East and spread later to the West
B. it began in the West and spread later to the rest of the world
C. it is being cultivated in the research labs around the world
D. it is accessible to Asian physicists
13. It can be anticipated that the changes the new technology will bring to the world would be _____.
A. sophisticated B. effective C. practical D. dramatic
14. From the passage, we may conclude that _____.
A. Asian scientists gain the lead in the growth of the new technology
B. Dutch scientists kept reporting new findings for the last 75 years
C. IBM scientists' report received immediate attention all over the world
D. the West was astonished at the new technology developed by the Asians
15. Which of the following would be the best title for the passage?
A. The Prospect of a New Technology
B. Superconductivity: A New Technology
C. A New Technology: The Key to Changing the Way of Our Lives
D. A New Technology: A Joint Effort of Many Countries

Passage 4

Everything seemed set for a remarkably trouble-free flight one Sunday morning last August as I prepared to leave Gatwick for a holiday in Greece.

The check-in process had been unusually smooth and queue-free, and the display screens showed no delays for our flight. Then, just as we thought we were all ready for take-off, the captain announced that we would be delayed because six passengers who had checked in had not reported at the gate.

The missing passengers — who presumably had gone into a trance in the duty-free shop — finally appeared rather sheepishly and took their seats, but by that time we had lost our departure slot and we eventually left 40 minutes late.

That experience will have a familiar ring for frequent travellers. But that four-letter word “slot” is one which we never used to hear when airports were less congested(拥挤) than they are today — and when airlines were able, within limits, to land or take off more or less when they pleased. But as our airports have become busier, so the allocation of arrival and departure slots has become a major concern for airline planners.

Airport congestion is no longer a problem which crops up only at weekends in July and August. Gatwick, for example, is now operating at 90 per cent of capacity in terms of aircraft movements for the whole of the June to September period. And even during the “off-peak” months of May and October the airport is still operating at 83 per cent of capacity. Heathrow’s traffic is more evenly spread but nevertheless operates at between 80 and 86 per cent of capacity right through from April to November.

Other big European airports at, or near, their capacity limits include Frankfurt, Milan, Munich and Palma, while others such as Paris(Orly), Geneva and Madrid will reach saturation(饱和) point by 1995.

Given this picture of congested airports, the allocation of limited slots between all the competing airlines is clearly a complicated process. A simple round trip between, say, Heathrow and Rome involves the negotiation of four slots for arrival and departure at each end of the route. For there is no point in agreeing on a departure time from Heathrow if the aircraft then has to sit on the ground at Rome for three hours to await an arrival slot back at Heathrow.

16. A departure slot is _____.

- A. a missing passenger
- B. a duty-free shop
- C. a time when the plane can take off
- D. a place where the plane can wait to take off

17. We used not to hear so much talk about slots because _____.

- A. it was a four-letter word
- B. a different word was used instead
- C. airports were not used by so many planes
- D. missing passengers were not allowed to take their seats

18. For Gatwick, May and October _____.

- A. are much less busy than the other months
- B. are only slightly less busy than the other months
- C. are much less busy than for Heathrow
- D. are much busier than for Heathrow

19. Other major European airports _____.

- A. have the same problem as Gatwick or Heathrow
- B. are all much less busy than Gatwick or Heathrow
- C. are all much busier than Gatwick or Heathrow
- D. do not have the same problem as Gatwick or Heathrow

20. According to this passage, a round trip between Heathrow and Rome _____.

- A. can normally be completed in three hours
- B. requires a complicated arrangement of slots
- C. usually goes according to schedule
- D. involves relatively simple planning

Part IV Short Answer Questions

Directions: In this part, there is a short passage with five questions or incomplete statements. Read the passage carefully. Then answer the questions or complete the statements in the fewest possible words on your book and check your answer with the KEY.

The story of the eels' journey to their mating, and the elvers' (幼鳗) journey back, has always fascinated me, and I was once fortunate enough to witness the very beginning of the journey. I was driving my car late one September evening when the headlights picked out what looked like a water-splash rippling across the road. I slowed down and saw that the foot-wide strip of gleaming silver was not water, but was made up of a great company of eels, wriggling in procession from one side of the road to the other.

When I told the story to my wife, it was received with disbelief, but eels they were all right, and the shining silver of their coats was the outward and visible sign of their destiny. They were off to the Sargasso, and so they had changed their yellowish-grey colour for the universal argent (银白色) of the seas. They had equipped themselves for the voyage in other ways too, and when the adaptation was complete they had heard the ancient imperious (紧急的) call which drew them willy-nilly (杂乱的) toward the sea. There was no disobeying the call, for it is death to disobey. If they had stayed, their skins, fitted out to withstand the pressures below the surface of the sea, would have blistered (起水疱) and burst. So they had wriggled through the mud until they reached the painful obstacle of the highroad. Safely across it, they had water all the rest of the way, and thereafter they would navigate themselves, as accurately as any mariner equipped with compass, sextant or radar, across 3,000 miles of ocean. Then they would mate, lay their eggs and die. No adult eel has ever returned from that long journey.

1. What did the author think he saw in the headlights of his car?

2. Why are the eels described as being "in procession"?

3. In what way was the color of their coats "the outward and visible sign of their destiny"?

4. Why was the high-road "a painful obstacle"?

5. What was surprising about the navigation of the eels?

Part V Translation

Directions: Read the following passage carefully and translate the underlined sentences into Chinese on your book. Then check your answer with the KEY.

Americans smoke six thousand million cigarettes every year (1970 figures). This is roughly the equivalent of 4,195 cigarettes a year for every person in the country of 18 years of age or more. It is estimated that 51% of American men smoke compared with 34% of American women.

Since 1939, numerous scientific studies have been conducted to determine whether smoking is a health hazard. The trend of the evidence has been consistent and indicates that there is a serious health risk. 1) Research teams have conducted studies that show beyond all reasonable doubt that tobacco smoking, particularly cigarette smoking, is as-