英语智力题集萃

——阅读与理解1000题

ENGLISH READING AND COMPREHENSION 1000

环福泉　翟金莲

陕西人民教育出版社

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前　言

本书以美国科学研究会编的《阅读与理解》为蓝本，在内容上进行了筛选和归类，文字上未作改动。

本书涉猎面极广，包括天文、地理、自然、动物、植物、历史、人物轶事、教育、哲学、法律、政治、经济、军事、科技、工农业、交通运输、医药、艺术、体育、神话、宗教、传说、寓言、旅游、习俗等人类社会生活的各个主要领域。

全书共收集1000题。每题短小精练、内容完整、妙趣横生、注解详尽。

本书旨在扩大读者的知识面、词汇量，培养他们对英文原文的理解、判断和逻辑思维能力。

本书适合在校的大学生、大专生、中专生、高中生；中学英语教师；导游翻译；报考研究生及自学成材等人员使用。

1985年8月，编者曾将本书的部分内容胶印成册，作为南京大学报考硕士研究生外语补习班的材料，分别给十八个班级的1200多名大学生（主要来自南京大学、南京师范大学。南京航空学院、南京医学院等等在宁高校）上课用，反应不错，效果亦佳，一致认为这本教材利于迅速扩大知识面、词汇量和提高逻辑思维能力。

本书编注过程中承[redacted]黄鹂副教授指导审阅，谨致谢意。

由于我们水平有限，经验不足，书中难免有错误和不妥之处，敬请读者批评指正。

编　者

目　录

1 天文（Astronomy）

•1

In early times, before the physical reasons for an eclipse① were understood, people had fantastic notions② about the causes and meanings of this phenomenon③. People used to go into the streets and make a terrific④ noise to frighten away an imagined dragon that they thought was trying to swallow the sun. An eclipse of the sun is such a rare and spectacular⑤ sight that it is no wonder primitive⑥ people

A understood. B loved it. C feared it. D stopped it.

注解：①eclipse：食。 ②fantastic notion：奇异的想法。 ③phenomenon：现象。 ④terrific：极大的，骇人的。 ⑤spectacular：壮观的。 ⑥primitive：远古的。

•2

People used to believe that comets① were mysterious② events and that their occurrence③ and path could not be predicted. In 1682, a British astronomer④ named Edmund Halley⑤ noticed that the path of a comet he

observed in that year was identical with[5] the described paths of comets that had been observed in 1456, 1531 and 1607. Halley predicted that the comet would appear again in 1759 and at fairly regular intervals[7] after that. His prediction was verified[8]. This comet is named Halley's Comet. Astronomers have been predicting the appearances of Halley's Comet since Halley's death, and each time they are confident that they will not be

A observed. B correct. C verified. D disappointed.

注解：①comet，彗星。 ②mysterious，神秘的。 ③occurrence，发生。④astronomer，天文学家。 ⑤Edmund Halley，埃德蒙·哈雷。 ⑥be identical with……与……相一致。 ⑦interval，周期。 ⑧verify，证实。

·3·

There are nine planets[1] orbiting[2] around our sun and Earth is one of them. Ancient astronomers, who knew only five of the planets, considered earth to be the hub of the universe[3]. The three planets that they did not know about could not be seen with the naked eye[4]. These planets were discovered in 1781, 1346, and 1930 after astronomers had good

A libraries. B telescopes[5]. C calculations[6]. D vision[7].

注解：①planet，行星。 ②orbit，沿轨道运行。 ③the hub of the

universe：宇宙中心。 ④the naked eye：肉眼。 ⑤telescope：望远镜。 ⑥calculate：计算，运算。 ⑦vision：视力。

·4

If the earth were much smeller, its gravitational force① would be incapable② of holding an atmosphere③. Like the moon, the earth would be both cloudless and

A airless. B wet. C distant. D cold.

注解：①gravitational force：万有引力。 ②incapble：不能。 ③atmosphere：大气层。

·5

Stories of flights into outer space and visits to the moon, to planets in this solar system①, and to other solar systems have delighted② young and old for years. With the development of new rockets③ and space vehicles④, a trip to the moon was the first to take place. Mars⑤ and Venus⑥ are in the flight plans for tne next thirty years, and some scientists believe that we will be able to visit other solar systems in the next century⑦. Science is rapidly catching up with

A other planets. C science fiction⑧.

B past discoveries. D modern rocketry⑨.

注解：①solor system：太阳系。 ②delight：（使）高兴。 ③rocket：火箭。 ④space vehicle：太空运载工具。 ⑤Mars：火星。 ⑥Venus：金星。 ⑦century：世纪。 ⑧science-fictio 科幻小说。 ⑨modern rocketry：现代火箭技术。

6

Although asteroid① means starlike②; an asteroid is not a true star. The asteroids are really small planets that, like the large planets, travel around the sun. An asteroid should really be called a planetoid③ since it does not shine by its own light as does

A the moon. C a star.

B a sunspot. D the earth.

注解：①asteroid，星状的。 ②starlike，象星，星般的。

③planetoid，类似行星的物体。

7

Radio waves travelling at the speed of light would take six hours to reach the planet Pluto① from the earth. If there were someone on Pluto to whom we could send messages②, we could ask a question and receive an answer twelve hours later. However, if our question should be misunderstood and the receiver on Pluto should have to ask us to repeat it, the answer to our original question would not come until

A six hours later. C contact is③ made.

B Pluto moves closer. D the next day.

注解：①Pluto，冥王星。 ②message，电报。 ③contact，联络，接触。

8

From May 1973 to Febrary 1974 three teams of U.S astronauts① spent a total of 171 days in space and

brought back more than 300,000 photographs. Scientists are looking forward to learning from these records the answers to many of their questions, but they probably cannot hope to clear up all mysteries that have

A not been questioned.

B not been imagined before.

C been reported on by scholars.

D been puzzling[3] astronauts and scientists.

注解：①astronaut：宇航员。 ②puzzle：（使）为难，（使）迷惑。

9

Unlike stars, which seem to swing[1] in fixed circles round the earth and are so hot that give off light, planets travel in orbits round the sun. Which is a star, planets, also unlike stars, are too cool to give off light and are seen by the light from the sun that they

A absorb[2].

B diffuse[3].

C repel[4].

D reflect.

注解：①swing：旋转。 ②absorb：吸收。 ③diffuse：使（光线）漫射。 ④repel：排斥。

10

For centuries, seienists were intrigued[1] by the problem of what the eye would see on the other side of the moon. Scientists have solved many problems of the space arts[2] —propulsion[3], stabilization[4], control of

launching vehicles, and the transmittal③; reduction④, and analysis of data⑤. Although we are still looking at the moon from the earth side, scientists have now seen the other side of the moon, and our development of knowledge has taken us so far that we refer to our era⑥ as the

A automation⑦ age.　　C scientific age.

B electronic age.　　D space age.

注解：①intrigue：引起……的兴趣（或好奇心）。　②the space arts：空间技术。　③propulsion：推进，推进器。　④stabilization：稳定（作用）。　⑤transmittal：=transmission：播送，传输。　⑥radaction：归纳。　⑦data：数据，资料。　⑧era：时代。　⑨automation：机械化。

11

Astronomers can most successfully study the planet Mars when it is at perihelion①; that point in its orbit at which it is closest to the sun. This occurs every fifteen or seventeen years. When Mars next reaches its perihelion, astronomers will be

A successful.　　C measuring.

B numerous.　　D watching.

注解：①perihelion：近日点。

12

Groups of stars are called constellations①. The Arabs② who travelled long distances across the desert, used the stars as guides in their travels. As a result,

most stars have Arabic names. The Greeks named the constellations for their gods. We still use the Greek names for the constellations and the Arabic names for the

A moon.　　C planets.

B constellations.　　D stars

注解：①constellation：星座。　②Arab：阿拉伯人。

13

To most people a telescope is an optical instrument① through which the heavenly bodies② can be seen and photographed. For a long time, this was the only kind of telescope, but scientists now have another type called the radio telescopes③. Radio telescopes are being used to study radiations④ in interstellar space⑤. Huge dish antennas⑥ gather in radio energy⑦ from great distances and concentrate the signals at a ponit where they can be heard. Scientists who work in this field are called

A astronants.　　C space travellers.

B radio astronomers⑧.　　D optical astronomers⑨.

解：①optical istrument：光学仪器。　②the heavenly bodies：天体。　③radio telescope：射电望远镜。　④radiation：（宇宙）辐射。　⑤interstellar space：星际空间。　⑥dish antennas：截抛物面天线。　⑦radio energy：无线电能量。　⑧radio astronomer：射电天文学家。　⑨optical astronomer：光学天文学家。

14

The first group of U.S. astronauts has an average of 4.3 years of college and graduate school; the second had an average of 4.6 years; the third group had an average of 5.6 years. The complex① problems of reaching the moon and other accomplishments in② space repuire

A astronauts.
B education.
C courage.
D great cost.

注解：①complex：复杂的。 ②accomplishments：技能。

15

The planet on which we live is not the largest of the known planets, and the power of its sun is third-rate① among the other stars. But in spite of the massiveness② of the larger planets and in spite of the power of the stars, the earth is of prime③ importance to us because we

A can study it.
B can see it.
C inhabit④ it.
D control it.

注解：①third-rate：三等的。 ②massiveness：巨大。 ③prime：主要的。 ④inhabit：居住。

16

The performance① of astronomical telescopes is subject to interference② from atmospheric conditions. To avoid as much of this interference as possible, observatories③ have been built as high above sea level as possible. They are often

A mounted on ships.　　B on mountaintops.

C on islands.

D in the Northern Hemisphere④.

注解：①performance：作用，性能。　②be subject to interference：受干扰。　③observatory：天文台。　④the Northern Hemisphere：北半球。

17

The force of gravity on the surface of the moon is only one-sixth of the force of gravity on the earth. The moon has no atmosphere because the molecules① of gas move too swiftly to be contained by such a low gravitational pull② and consequently

A escape into space.

B one-sixth of them escape.

C the moon's gravity decreases.

D are absorbed by the sun.

注解：①molecule：分子。　②gravitational pull：万有引力。

18

Scientists tell us that the so-called falling stars we have all seen are not really stars. They are meteors① pieces of solid matter dropping from space into the earth's atmosphere. Those meteors that strike the earth are called meteorites, but most meteors burn up before they reach the earth. Most of the falling stars we see are

A meteorites.　　C small stars.

B planets.　　D meteors.

注解：①meteor：流星。　②meteorite：陨星。

19

Our calendar[2] is set up on a 24-hour day, 7-day week, 12-month year plan. The earth moves around the sun in exactly 365 days, 5 hours, 48 minutes, and 46 seconds. Since we cannot evenly divide 12 into 365 without having a few days left over, some of the months have

A more holidays than others. B more days than others.
C less day light than others. D more day light than others.

注解：②calendar：日历。

20

If a telescope is pointed directly at a star, the star's position appears slightly different from its actual position in space. The aberration[1] is caused by the rapid movement of the earth and can be compensated[2] by slanting[3] the telescope slightly. Stars could be observed through a telescope pointed directly at them if the earth

A moved more rapidly.
B moved at a constant rate.
C did not move.
D moved in a straight path.

注解：①aberration：光差。　②compensate：补偿。　③slant：使倾斜。

21

For many years, scientists have been able to make astronomical observations from the earth. It is now

possible to send equipment to great heights in balloons① and rockets controlled from the earth and to make observations not possible from observatories

A is very important.

B is prevented by storms.

C fails to happen.

D actually occurs.

注解 ①balloon：气球。

22

The temperature of the planet Saturn① is about -168 degrees Celsius②. The planet's atmosphere does not contain enough oxygen to support either plant or animal life. Scientists have concluded that Saturn

A has many satellites③.

B is too small to support life.

C is non inhabited.

D has shorter days than the earth.

注解：①Saturn：土星。 ②celsius：摄氏温度。 ③satellites：卫星。

23

Astrology① is the study of the sun, moon, planets, and stars in an attempt to predict events. It is based on the belief that the heavenly bodies control events on earth. Scientific astromoners do not believe that the destiny② of human beings is controlled by the stars and planets that are so far from the earth. Astrologers③ once predicted that the earth would be destroyed by a flood in