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大学英语

《阅读与理解》—等级过关考试备览

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前 言

我们编写此书的目的：是想帮助大学生较快地获得和提高英语阅读与理解的能力，及等级统考的应试能力。

本书是我们在大学英语教学和多年等级统考辅导过程中，不断总结经验的基础上编成的。

本书的编制体现了英语教学大纲和等级统考大纲的要求：“阅读是使用英语最主要的技能”。“阅读理解是等级考试的重点”。这部分试题在试卷的计分中占40%。那么，如何提高英语的阅读与理解能力呢？我们认为应该进行大量和广泛地阅读，在阅读中扩大词汇量和扩充知识面，同时在阅读中注意积累一些有用的词组，习惯表达法以及各种语言结构。只有这样，才能从根本上提高阅读能力。

本书阅读材料，内容新颖，题材广泛，知识面广，词汇丰富，注释务求翔实。

全书共124篇阅读材料，每篇材料配有练习和注释。材料难易程度及其练习类型与大学英语等级试题基本一致。书后附有练习答案。

本书除适用于大学级统考外，也是一本内容丰富的自学读物。

由于我们的水平有限，经验不足，难免有错误和不妥之处。衷心地希望广大读者和使用本书的英语教师批评指正。

编 者

一九九四年七月

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UNIT 1

TEXT

Connection of Continents

A rare fossil of an ancient "crab" recently discovered in South Carolina has many geologists convinced that part of the Southeastern United States was once African or European soil. Sara Samson, a graduate student of the University of South Carolina, stumbled upon the fossil on a field trip. The particular type of crab-like creature that she found lived 500 million years ago and is, according to geologists, definitely not American. For years geologists have argued about whether or not the Carolina slate belt, which runs from Alabama to eastern Virginia, represents foreign soil picked up when continents collided and then separated 400 million years ago. Samson's find, along with others discovered at the site, convinced even the skeptics. These fossils are the first hard evidence that a piece of Africa or Europe was left behind when the continents collided. Geologists now hope to match these fossils with others found in Africa, France or Spain.

QUESTIONS

1. What is the main topic of this talk?
 - (A) The importance of fossil hunting.
 - (B) Recent geological research in the States.
 - (C) The geological connection between continents.
 - (D) The finding of European fossils in America.
2. Where was the fossil crab discovered?
 - (A) In South Africa.
 - (B) In South Carolina.
 - (C) In South America.
 - (D) In Southern Europe.
3. When was the fossil crab discovered?
 - (A) 500 million years ago.
 - (B) 400 million years ago.
 - (C) A million years ago.
 - (D) A short time ago.
4. What happened when the continents collided?
 - (A) Some European soil was left behind.

- (B) The Carolina slate belt appeared.
 - (C) Some European fossils were found.
 - (D) Some crab-like creatures appeared.
5. How are geologists reacting to the discovery of the fossil?
- (A) They are still arguing.
 - (B) They are very skeptical.
 - (C) They are now convinced.
 - (D) They are unconvinced.

NOTES

- 1. a rare fossil of an ancient "crab" 稀有古蟹化石
- 2. has...convinced... 使...相信...
- 3. stumble upon v. 偶然发现
- 4. argue v. 争论, 辩论
- 5. slate belt 板石带
- 6. collide v. 碰撞, 互撞
- 7. skeptics n. 怀疑论者

UNIT 2

TEXT. How to Prevent Heart Disease

Heart disease typically strikes people in their forties or fifties. But there is now evidence that the malady can sometimes be traced to the early habits of childhood. The American Heart Association states that the arteries of American infants and children can accumulate fatty plaque, the principal promoter of heart disease. For that reason they have recently recommended dietary restrictions for children two years or older. Restrictions include limiting the intake of fat, salt, and most important, cholesterol. The new focus on children's diets started when the American Heart Association considered statistical studies showing that U. S. children have higher blood-cholesterol concentrations than do children of other populations. A prudent diet during childhood, the Association concludes, will reduce the risk of heart attack throughout life.

QUESTIONS

- 1. What is the main topic of the talk?
 - (A) The prevention of heart disease.
 - (B) Restricted diets for children.

- (C) Childhood feeding habits.
- (D) The age when heart disease strikes.
- 2. Which group does heart disease generally attack?
 - (A) Young children.
 - (B) Middle-aged people.
 - (C) Infants under two years old.
 - (D) Children over two years old.
- 3. Which restriction in children's diets is most effective?
 - (A) Fat and salt.
 - (B) Fat.
 - (C) Salt.
 - (D) Cholesterol.
- 4. What is thought to be the main cause of heart disease?
 - (A) Too much salt in the diet.
 - (B) An imprudent diet.
 - (C) Fatty plaque in the arteries.
 - (D) Low blood-cholesterol.
- 5. What was shown in the A. H. A. studies?
 - (A) The accumulation of fatty plaque.
 - (B) The effects of early childhood habits.
 - (C) Higher blood-cholesterol levels than normal.
 - (D) The effects of a prudent diet.

NOTES

- 1. malady n. 疾病
- 2. arteries n. 动脉
- 3. infants n. 幼儿, 婴儿
- 4. accumulate v. 积聚, 堆积
- 5. fatty plaque 含脂肪的斑点(块)
- 6. principal promoter 促使发病的主要原因
- 7. dietary restrictions 饮食限制
- 8. intake n. 摄入, 引入
- 9. cholesterol n. 胆固醇
- 10. prudent a. 慎重, 谨慎

UNIT 3

TEXT

Mosquitoes

Good morning, students. Today we will continue our investigation of the

mosquito. We all thought that mosquitoes follow skin odors, but no such odor has been identified. It turns out, in fact, that no skin seems to be as attractive to a mosquito as a current of air having the right degree of warmth and humidity. But, a mosquito can be turned off its course by a repellent. This is how it works: a mosquito senses humidity in an airstream by means of tiny pores in the hairs located on its antennae. These hairs send electrical impulses to the central nervous system whenever they encounter humidity in the air. The repellent blocks the pores through which mosquitoes sense the presence of water vapor in the air. As a mosquito comes in for a landing on a warm moist body, the repellent blocks the mosquito's sensors, and realizing it has lost its moist current of air, it instinctively changes its course.

QUESTIONS

1. What is the main topic of this talk?
 - (A) Identification of skin odors.
 - (B) Interaction between mosquitoes and repellents.
 - (C) The mosquito's central nervous system.
 - (D) Components of air currents.
2. According to the speaker, what are mosquitoes attracted to?
 - (A) Water vapor.
 - (B) Skin odors.
 - (C) Air currents.
 - (D) Warmth and moisture.
3. What does the mosquito repellent do?
 - (A) It changes the humidity of the skin.
 - (B) It blocks the pores in the hairs.
 - (C) It changes the moisture in the air.
 - (D) It blocks the hairs in the sensors.
4. What happens when the mosquito comes into contact with the repellent?
 - (A) It quickly moves off in another direction.
 - (B) It sends an electrical impulse to its central nervous system.
 - (C) The pores in the hairs on its skin become blocked.
 - (D) Its sensors become blocked by the water vapor in the repellent.
5. According to the talk, what can be inferred about mosquito repellents?
 - (A) A degree of instability in their use has emerged.
 - (B) More research is needed into their efficiency.
 - (C) They appear to be highly effective.
 - (D) Their reliability has yet to be proved.

NOTES

1. mosquito n. 蚊子
2. odor n. 气味,香气,臭气
3. humidity n. 湿度
4. repellent n. 防护剂,驱虫剂
5. tiny pores 毛孔,气孔
6. antennae n. 触角,天线
7. impulses n. 脉冲
8. instinctively ad. 本能地

UNIT 4

TEXT

Animal Imprinting

This afternoon I should like to talk about an interesting aspect of animal behavior. To start, let me ask you a question: Do you know why salmon return to spawn in the stream where they were first hatched? Well, we now believe that this is because of a phenomenon that biologists call imprinting. Let me give you an example. Many kinds of birds treat the first moving object they see as their mother. Of course, in fact, the first moving object that they see generally is their mother, but during the first few hours of life a bird will imprint on almost anything. They will accept foster mothers of their own species, or adults of another species or even mechanical or inanimate objects. Even color, shape and motion does not seem to be essential. They will just imprint on any object that contrasts with the environment.

This process is not limited to birds but occurs in mammals as well. Imprinting, in fact, has been extended beyond the original "mother figure". If we return to our question at the beginning of the talk, we can see that the salmon returning to the home stream after years in the ocean can be attributed to a form of imprinting. It is believed that the salmon's behavior is the result of imprinting of the stream odor on the newly hatched fish. They then seek out the stream odor on their return to fresh water and rarely end up in the wrong stream.

QUESTIONS

1. What is the main topic of this talk?
 (A) Animal behavior. (C) Birds' habits.

- (B) Imprinting. (D) Salmon spawning.
2. When does imprinting occur?
- (A) Years after they are hatched.
(B) During the first few days.
(C) A few hours after hatching.
(D) When they return to fresh water.
3. What do young birds accept as foster mothers?
- (A) Just about anything at all.
(B) Only adults of their own species.
(C) A wide range of adults.
(D) Only moving objects.
4. What is essential when young birds imprint?
- (A) The object has the right color.
(B) The object has a certain shape.
(C) The object has motion.
(D) The object contrasts with its surroundings.
5. According to the speaker, which animals use imprinting?
- (A) Birds, fish and mammals.
(B) All mother figures.
(C) Only mammals.
(D) Only birds.
6. How does imprinting affect the salmon?
- (A) They are compelled to follow their mother figure.
(B) It helps them find their home stream to spawn.
(C) It impels them to hatch in the ocean.
(D) Newly-hatched fish are able to find their way to the sea.

NOTES

1. salmon n. 大马哈鱼
2. spawn v. 产卵
3. hatch v. 孵化
4. phenomenon n. 现象, 征兆
5. imprinting n. 铭刻, 牢记, 胎教
6. foster v. n. 培养, 抚养, 养育
7. inanimate objects 无生物
8. mammals n. 哺乳动物
9. be attributed to 归因于

UNIT 5

TEXT

How to Check a Book

Any information about materials prior to 1981 can be found in the card catalog. Access is possible by author, title, series and subject, and the call number is in the upper left hand corner.

When the item you want is not on the shelf you should:

Look on book trucks holding materials waiting to be shelved.

Check the reserve call number file located on the circulation counter.

Ask for help at the circulation counter. Staff will check the hold shelf, material to be shelved, and the circulation file.

If the title is checked out, you can place a hold on it or ask that it be recalled for you. If the title is not checked out, you can request that a search be made; you will be notified by mail of the results of the search. Searches for periodicals and microforms must be approved at the Reference Desk. If the title is lost, students and staff can request that it be borrowed through the University Interlibrary Loan Service.

QUESTIONS

1. Where is the announcement probably taking place?
 - (A) At a college bookstore.
 - (B) In a college library.
 - (C) In the students' common room.
 - (D) In the staff common room.
2. What is the first thing you should do if the item you want is not on the shelf?
 - (A) Look on the circulation counter.
 - (B) Check the hold shelf.
 - (C) Search the book trucks.
 - (D) Ask the staff for the circulation file.
3. What does the speaker suggest you do if a missing title is not checked out?
 - (A) Place a hold on it.
 - (B) Ask for it to be recalled.
 - (C) Ask for it to be mailed to you.
 - (D) Request a search.
4. What must be approved at the Reference Desk?

- (A) The reserve call number file.
- (B) Requests for periodicals.
- (C) Searches for lost titles.
- (D) The circulation file.

NOTES

1. prior to 在...之前,早于
2. card catalog 卡片目录
3. access n. 方法,捷径
4. book truck 运书车
5. reserve call number file 查询号档案
6. circulation counter 图书流通台
7. notify v. 通知
8. periodicals and microforms 期刊和缩微印刷品
9. approved at the Reference Desk 在参阅台得到同意
10. the University Interlibrary Loan Service 大学图书馆内借服务部

UNIT 6

TEXT

History of Chocolate

Good morning students. I hope you have been able to visit the museum of social history to see the exhibition, presented by the Food Industry, that is currently showing. Today's lecture deals with the history of chocolate.

Our knowledge of the origin of chocolate is rather vague but we are aware that the Mayans and Aztecs of South America made a drink from the beans of the cacao tree and called it xocoatl. Then in 1528 this was taken home by the conquering Spanish who named it chocolate. This was the first experience the Europeans had of chocolate but by the late 1600's it had spread to most countries in Europe.

In the eighteenth and nineteenth centuries, drinking chocolate became a well-established activity but it wasn't until 1847 that Fry and Sons in England introduced "eating chocolate". This remained much of a novelty until Daniel Peter, the famed Swiss chocolatier, was inspired to try to improve the smoothness and taste of the new confection.

Peter's idea was to combine some other ingredient with chocolate to balance its rough flavor. His early experiments with cheese were notoriously unsuccessful and a number of other ill-fated mixtures followed. Finally, in 1874

Peter stumbled on the perfect answer: milk.

Nowadays milk chocolate is made of at least ten percent chocolate mass ("raw" chocolate pressed from cacao nibs) and twelve percent milk solids combined with sugar, cocoa butter (the fat from the nibs) and vanilla. It is also the type of chocolate most often chosen by children because it is less "bitter" than the dark varieties.

QUESTIONS

1. Where does this lecture take place?
 (A) In a museum.
 (B) At an exhibition.
 (C) At a college.
 (D) In a food industry factory.
2. Which part of the world did chocolate originally come from?
 (A) Europe. (C) Spain.
 (B) South America. (D) England.
3. When was chocolate first known throughout most of Europe?
 (A) 1528. (C) The late 1600's.
 (B) 1847. (D) The eighteenth century.
4. What did Daniel Peter try to improve in chocolate?
 (A) The dark color. (C) The smooth taste.
 (B) The coarse flavor. (D) The rough texture.
5. What is milk chocolate made of nowadays?
 (A) Cacao nibs, milk and sugar, butter and vanilla.
 (B) Chocolate mass, milk solids, cocoa butter and vanilla.
 (C) Raw chocolate, sugar, milk solids, fat from nibs, and vanilla.
 (D) Chocolate mass, solid sugar, cocoa butter, milk, and vanilla.

NOTES

1. origin of chocolate 巧克力的由来
2. vague a. 不清楚, 不明确
3. Mayans and Aztecs 玛雅人和阿兹台克人
4. beans of the cacao tree 可可树咖啡豆
5. xocoatl n. (食物名)
6. conquering Spanish 西班牙征服者
7. novelty n. 新颖, 新奇
8. Daniel Peter n. (人名)
9. chocolatier n. 巧克力商

10. confection n. 糖果, 点心
11. ingredient n. 配料, 佐料
12. rough flavor 野生味
13. notoriously ad. 臭名昭著地
14. ill-fated mixture 注定不成功的混合食品
15. stumble on v. 偶然碰见
16. cacao nibs 咖啡(或可可豆)的碎粒
17. vanilla n. 香精, 香料

UNIT 7

TEXT

Universal Studios Tour

May I have your attention, please. Anyone wanting to go on the Universal Studios tour should join the line beside the kiosk, near the shops. The next tour will be leaving in 5 minutes so don't delay. Places visited will include the backlot where much of the filming takes place. You will also have the chance to imagine what it would be like to be attacked by a killer shark or caught up in a battle between the galaxies. When visiting the Special Effects Studio you can see revealed some of the magic tricks of the film trade. Or if you would like to appear in a movie with a famous film star look out for the Screen Test Comedy Theater. For the children there is a new game where they can search for props and win some very special prizes. In the Entertainment center there is an explosive live show and Hollywood's most daring stuntmen will perform death defying acts in the Stunt Show. Finally, after seeing animals perform incredible tricks in the Animals Actors Stage the tour will finish at the restaurant where you can refresh yourselves, in the style of the 1880's, after all the excitement of the tour.

QUESTIONS

1. Where should you wait to join the Universal Studios tour?
 - (A) Beside the shop.
 - (B) Behind the backlot.
 - (C) Near the kiosk.
 - (D) At the restaurant.
2. What happens at the backlot?
 - (A) You will be attacked by a shark.
 - (B) You will be caught up in an intergalactic war.