

全国高等教育自学考试辅导与应试丛书（英语专业基础科段）
自学导读系列

英语国家概况 自学导读及应试指南

上海外国语大学成人教育学院 编

**A Guide to
English-Speaking
Countries:
A Survey**



上海外语教育出版社

SHANGHAI FOREIGN LANGUAGE EDUCATION PRESS

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自学导读系列 总主编 齐伟钧 副总主编 罗杏焕

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A Guide to
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图书在版编目(CIP)数据

《英语国家概况》自学导读及应试指南/王栋,罗杏
焕,沈玲编. - 上海:上海外语教育出版社,2004
(全国高等教育自学考试辅导与应试丛书)
ISBN 7-81095-133-5

I. 英… II. ①王…②罗…③沈… III. 英语-
高等教育-自学考试-自学参考资料 IV. H31
中国版本图书馆 CIP 数据核字(2004)第 004810 号

出版发行: 上海外语教育出版社

(上海外国语大学内) 邮编: 200083

电 话: 021-65425300 (总机), 35051812 (发行部)

电子邮箱: bookinfo@sflep.com.cn

网 址: <http://www.sflep.com.cn> <http://www.sflep.com>

特约编辑: 陈 佳

责任编辑: 王冬梅

印 刷: 上海复旦四维印刷有限公司

经 销: 新华书店上海发行所

开 本: 850×1168 1/32 印张 16.125 字数 416 千字

版 次: 2004 年 6 月第 1 版 2004 年 6 月第 1 次印刷

印 数: 5 000 册

书 号: ISBN 7-81095-133-5 / G · 080

定 价: 22.00 元

本版图书如有印装质量问题,可向本社调换

总 序

我国高等教育自学考试作为考生通过自学成材、为改革开放做出更大贡献的一条知识教育和素质教育途径,有着不可替代的特点与优势。我国高等教育自学考试开考二十多年来,前后跨越了3个十年,在20世纪80年代,自学考试使一大批企事业的生产骨干得以根据自己的工作实际继续“充电”,并通过努力取得社会认可的高等教育学历。90年代前后,我国高等教育的招生规模相对较小,形成“千军万马过独木桥”的局面,自学考试起了缓和和补充的作用。21世纪的前十年,随着高校扩招、创建民办高校等一系列教育改革措施的实行,自学考试将与时俱进,开拓创新,进一步发展成为继续教育和终身教育体系中的一个重要组成部分。

在我国,高等教育自学考试已成为一种大众教育形式,考生通过个人自学、社会助学、国家考试,获得国家认可的学历文凭。当前的经济全球化、知识与信息化社会,对高等教育自学考试提出了更进一步的要求,尤其是外语专业类的自学与助考。中国加入WTO以后,对外语人才的需求量越来越大,对外语技能的要求也越来越高,外语,特别是英语作为一种国际通用语言,成为新世纪里现代中国公民所必须掌握的一项基本技能。由于特定的语言环境和文化背景等种种因素,自考学员在学习外语方面往往会遇到比自学其他专业更大的困难。长期以来,上海外国语大学成人教育学院在英语教学和自学英语辅导方面积累了丰富的经验,培养了一大批专职和兼职的自考辅导教师。为了帮助更多的考生通过外语自学考试,熟练运用外语,我们特邀其中具有丰富英语自考助学经验的资深教师,组

织编写了本系列辅导教材,针对自考学员的特点和专业英语的要求,注释详尽,注重操练,力争在尽可能短的时间内,帮助学生取得最佳的学习效果。本系列辅导教材的出版将进一步完善高等教育自学考试这一继续教育和终身教育体系,为新世纪我国社会发展和经济建设所需各类人才的培养作出贡献。

上海外国语大学 齐伟钧

2002 年 11 月 12 日

前 言

自 1998 年以来,“英语国家概况”课程的自学考试已实行了全国统一考试。而由余志远主编、外语教学与研究出版社出版的《英语国家概况》一书是该课程的指定考试教材。在学习过程中,不少读者反映该书内容庞杂,词汇量大,有一定的难度和深度,许多考生感到把握不准各章的重点和核心内容。为适应广大读者要求,使原教材发挥更大的作用,我们编写了这本《〈英语国家概况〉自学导读及应试指南》,以解决他们在学习过程中遇到的困难。该辅导用书围绕教材重点编配了与考试大纲相适应的分项练习,以帮助广大自考生更好地掌握教材内容。

本辅导书包括以下几部分内容:

一、每章学习目的和要求

二、每章考核目标

以上两部分可帮助学生了解每个章节的学习和考试重点。

三、分项练习:帮助学生测试自己对各章节的掌握情况。

四、课后问题参考答案

五、模拟题

由于编者水平及时间所限,疏漏之处在所难免,请使用本书的广大师生以及专家学者不吝指正。

编 者

2002 年 11 月于上海

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第一编 英国概况

The United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland

第一章 国土与人民

Land and People

本章学习目的和要求

了解英国不同名称的含义, 英国的地理特征、河流和湖泊、气候的特点以及影响气候的因素, 了解英国的人口结构及其特点。

本章考核目标

1. Different names for Britain and its parts
2. Geographical features of Britain
3. Rivers and lakes in Britain
4. Britain's climate and factors that influence it
5. Distribution of Britain's population

6. Characteristics of the English
7. Characteristics of the Welsh
8. Characteristics of the Scots
9. Characteristics of the Irish
10. Immigrants in Britain

1. Read the following unfinished statements or questions carefully. For each unfinished statement or question four suggested answers marked A, B, C, and D are given. Choose the one you think best completes the statement or answers the question.

1. Great Britain is separated from the rest of Europe by _____ in the south.
A. Atlantic Ocean B. North Sea
C. English Channel D. "Chunnel"
2. The two large islands that make up the British Isles are _____.
A. Scotland and Ireland
B. Britain and Scotland
C. Great Britain and Northern Ireland
D. Great Britain and Ireland.
3. About a hundred years ago, Britain ruled an empire that had _____ of the world's people and land area.
A. one third B. one fourth
C. one fifth D. one sixth
4. Ben Nevis, the highest mountain in Britain is located in _____.
A. England B. Wales

- C. Scotland D. Northern Ireland
5. There are three natural zones in Scotland. Which of the following is the exception? _____.
A. Highlands in the north B. the central Lowlands
C. the Eastern Uplands D. the Southern Uplands
6. There are _____ political divisions on the island of Great Britain.
A. two B. three C. four D. five
7. Britain's longest rivers are _____.
A. the Severn and the Clyde
B. the Thames and the Clyde
C. the Clyde and the Humber
D. the Severn and the Thames
8. The English Channel separates the island of Great Britain from _____.
A. Denmark B. Belgium C. France D. Italy
9. _____ is the largest and most populous of the three political divisions of Great Britain.
A. Scotland B. England
C. Wales D. Northern Ireland
10. The Eisteddfod is a (an) _____ festival of poetry, music and other arts.
A. English B. Scottish C. Welsh D. Irish
11. The British Empire was replaced by the British Commonwealth or the Commonwealth of Nations in _____.
A. 1930 B. 1931 C. 1949 D. 1945
12. About three million people have migrated to Britain since World War II. They are mainly from the West Indies,

_____ and Pakistan.

A. Indonesia

B. India

C. Hong Kong

D. Singapore

13. In Northern Ireland _____ make up the dominant group.

A. Roman Catholics

B. English Protestants

C. Non-religious people

D. Jewish people

14. The largest lake in the British Isles is _____.

A. Loch Lomond

B. Lough Neagh

C. Windermere

D. Ullswater

15. The capital of Scotland is _____.

A. London

B. Belfast

C. Manchester

D. Edinburgh

KEY: 1. C 2. D 3. B 4. C 5. C 6. B 7. D 8. C

9. B 10. C 11. B 12. B 13. B 14. B 15. D

II. Fill in each of the following blanks.

1. The two larger islands that make up the British Isles are Great Britain and _____.
2. There are three political divisions on the island of Great Britain: England, _____ and Wales.
3. The _____ is a free association of independent countries that were once colonies of Britain.
4. Britain is separated from the rest of Europe by the English Channel between England and France in the south and _____ in the east.

5. The north and west of Britain are mainly _____.
 6. The second largest and most important river in Britain is _____.
 7. The largest lake in Britain is _____ in Northern Ireland which covers an area of 396 square kilometers.
 8. The _____, which is a warm current, passes the western coast of the British Isles and warms them.
 9. The _____ is a Welsh festival of poetry, music and other arts.
 10. It had been said that the uncertainty about _____ has had a definite effect upon the Englishman's character.
 11. The English language developed mainly from the Anglo-Saxon and _____ languages.
 12. People in the East End section of London speak a harsh dialect called _____.
 13. New Immigrants since World War II are mainly from the West Indies, India and _____.
 14. The ancestors of _____ were the ancient Britons who escaped from the invading Angles and Saxons and found shelter in the wild mountains of Wales.
 15. Many Scottish names begin with M', Mc or Mac, which means "_____" in Gaelic, the old Celtic language of the Scots.
-

KEY: 1. Ireland 2. Scotland 3. Commonwealth 4. the North Sea 5. highlands 6. the Thames River 7. the Lough Neagh 8. North Atlantic Drift 9. Eisteddfod 10. the

weather 11. Norman-French 12. cockney 13. Pakistan
14. the Welsh 15. son of

III. Define each of the following terms in English.

1. The United Kingdom

The United Kingdom is a country in northern Europe. It consists of four political divisions — England, Scotland, and Wales, which make up the island of Great Britain, and Northern Ireland. The nation's official name is the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland. When people refer to the country, most shorten its name to the United Kingdom; the UK; Great Britain; or Britain.

2. British Empire

Britain has been one of the most important countries in the world. About a hundred years ago, as a result of its imperialist expansion, Britain ruled an empire that had one fourth of the world's people and one fourth of the world's land area. It had colonies not only in North America, but also in Asia, Africa and Australia. However, the two world wars greatly weakened Britain. The British colonies became independent one after another. The British Empire gradually disappeared and it was replaced by the British Commonwealth or the Commonwealth of Nations in 1931.

3. British Commonwealth or the Commonwealth of Nations

It is a free association of independent countries that were once colonies of Britain. Member nations are joined together economically and have certain trading arrangements. The

Commonwealth has no special powers. The decision to become a member of the Commonwealth is left to each nation. At present there are 50 member countries within the Commonwealth (1991).

4. National Eisteddfod

Eisteddfod is the Welsh word for “sitting”. National Eisteddfod is the most famous festival of music and verse in Wales. It takes place each August and lasts for about a week. The highlight of the festival is competition for the best epic poem about Wales written and read in Welsh. The winner is crowned Bard, considered the supreme honor in Wales. In this way the Welsh people keep the Welsh language and culture alive.

5. The Thames River

The Thames River is the second largest and most important river in Britain. It is 336 kilometers long, rising in Southwest England and flowing through England and out into the North Sea. It flows rather slowly, which is very favorable for water transportation.

6. The Chunnel

In 1985 the British government and French government decided to build a channel tunnel, which is called “Chunnel”, under the Straits of Dover so that England and France could be joined together by road. The Chunnel was open to traffic in May 1994.

7. Immigrants in Britain

About 3 million people have migrated to Britain since World War II. They are mainly from the West Indies, India and Pa-

kistan.

8. The Severn

Britain's longest river (189 miles, or 290 km), which rises in northeast Wales and flows east and south into the Bristol Channel. It is famous for its periodic 'bore' (tidal wave) which, for a short time, makes the water flow back up the part of the river nearest the sea.

9. The Lough Neagh

The largest lake in the British Isles, in Northern Ireland of Belfast. It is popular with yachtsmen and walkers. 'Lough' is the Irish word for 'lake'.

10. The Lake District

The Lake District is in north-west England and North Wales. The Lake District is one of the popular tourist attractions in Britain. It is well known for its wild and beautiful scenery and 15 lakes. The largest ones are Windermere, Ullswater, Derwentwater and Coniston Water. It was also the home of the Lake poets William Wordsworth, Samuel Taylor Coleridge and Robert Southey of 19th century Britain.

IV. Questions and answers on the chapter.

- 1. What are the differences between Britain and the British Isles, Great Britain, England, the United Kingdom and the British Commonwealth?**

Strictly speaking, the British Isles, Great Britain and England are geographical names. They are not the official name of the country. The British isles lie off the west coast of Eu-