

高中英语阅读新编

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前 言

随着国家英语新课程的全面贯彻实施, 英语阅读教学得到了更为量化的重视。根据国家英语新课程标准的要求, 初三毕业五级水平的课外累计英语阅读量为 15 万词, 高三毕业八级水平的课外累计英语阅读量为 36 万词。与之相适应的是, 中学英语测试, 尤其是高考与中考都加大了英语阅读题的分值比例, 例如上海卷 2005 年高考英语就增加了一篇六选五的阅读新题。全国各地卷也纷纷增加对阅读理解的考查要求: 浙江省 2005 年高考英语增加了一篇任务型阅读, 阅读理解的篇数为 6 篇, 分值为 50 分, 占了英语总分的三分之一; 湖南卷也增加了教育部考试中心公布的阅读理解主观新题型。

如何适应英语新课程和高考英语提出的新要求, 在高中三年大幅度提升英语的阅读理解能力, 同时赢得英语测试的高分呢? 笔者从一位英语测试学专业研究者的视角出发, 精心挑选了全国各地最新高中英语模拟试题的阅读理解部分, 分成记叙文、说明文、议论文、应用文、阅读新题型五个模块。这些文章选材新颖、范围深广、形式多样: 既有印度洋的海啸事件, 又有探索火星的报道; 既有对流行乐队的介绍, 又涉及对宇宙黑洞概念的理解; 既有对社会热点话题的议论, 又有各种五彩缤纷的广告信息; 既有阅读理解测试的传统客观题型, 又有反映阅读理解测试的各地最新题型, 尤其是填空题这种新题型。如果高中生能够有的放矢地阅读其中的文章, 并且仔细推敲文章后的习题和答案, 相信一定能唤起对英语阅读理解的兴趣, 从而全方位地提升自己的英语综合运用能力。

在本书的编写过程中, 王志、李滢、赵刚等几位老师提供了珍贵的阅读材料, 上海科学技术出版社英语编辑室张晨老师自始至终给予支持和建议, 在此一并致谢! 由于本人水平有限, 疏漏之处在所难免, 欢迎读者在使用过程中提出批评、指正。

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第一部分 记叙文

Passage 1

I was in the southern most district in India when the tsunami (海啸) waves struck Madras on the morning of December 26.

I visited some of the affected areas. My uncle Boss who is involved in social work took me to a spot that stuck me most.

Kotilpadu, five days after the killer waves hit, was deserted except for a few residents coming from the relief camps to pick up some goods.

Most of the about 600 houses were severely damaged. A tractor was pulling down the damaged houses so that they did not fall later and cause more deaths.

Another tractor was pulling out the remains of the buildings—and sometimes decomposed (腐烂的) bodies—from a water channel running to the sea.

The channel separates the densely populated village from the mainland. On that day after Christmas, children were playing in the channel.

A good number of women were bathing, washing clothes and gossiping (闲聊) there. When the giant waves hit, the village people couldn't cross over to the mainland because of the channel in-between. This explains why most people who died in the village are women and children.

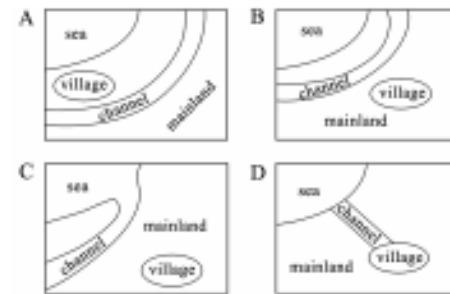
And there was an open place where a couple of days ago about 500 bodies were dumped for identification. The entire town and surrounding areas smelled of bodies.

I asked a reporter to cover this out-of-the-way fishing village too. The tsunami did not discriminate between fishing folk and urban people on the beach for a holiday. But at least this time, the dead were cared for better than the thousands of poor people who were killed by the floods around the turn of the century. I hope service organizations don't make the mistake of

keeping fishing folk away from the sea for a long time. The best thing they could do would be to give them fishing nets and boats and counsel them so that they could go back to the sea with confidence.

Life has to move on. A livelihood (生计) is the basic need for a life of dignity (尊严). I hope more people will help with the relief and rehabilitation.

- Which of the following words best describes the small village after the tsunami?
A. Deserted. B. Grief. C. Frightened. D. Panic.
- The underlined word "This" in the seventh paragraph probably refers to _____.
A. women bathing and gossiping there
B. children playing with water in the channel
C. the channel preventing them from crossing over
D. giant waves hitting villages without warning earlier
- From the passage, we learn the writer eventually tries to _____.
A. express his sympathy over the dead
B. describe the ruined village by tsunami
C. help to deliver fishing nets and boats
D. call on to aid villagers to move on with their life
- Which drawing shows the correct locations of the village, the channel, the sea and the mainland?



Passage 2

Skiing is my favorite sport, even though I have only skied for 4 days in my whole life! Last year my father promised that if my brother did well in his exams, he would take us to have a special holiday. When Victor got straight “A”s, Dad said, “How about a weekend visit to the Botanical Gardens?” But my mother said, “No, you promised it. I think you ought to keep your word.” And, despite the expense, he did.

Victor’s dream was to see some real snow. So we flew to Seoul (汉城), and then took a bus to Muju Resort. As it climbed through the mountains, we saw the snow on the trees, I was dying to get out and play with it. At last we reached the resort, and scrambled out of the bus quickly. No one in my family had ever touched snow before. We were all like little children: we picked it up, made snowballs, and threw them at each other.

Then I noticed that the tour guide was watching us, with a smile on his face. “I think we should go and check in” my Dad said. And so we did. Our room overlooked one of the ski slopes. The slopes were floodlit, and we watched people skiing until 10p.m. We couldn’t wait to try it ourselves.

The next day we had our first skiing lesson and we found we couldn’t even walk. Our instructor took us onto a gentle slope, and showed us some basic skills. If you want to go up hill, you have to stand sideways, and go up step by step. If you want to stop, you must point the tips of your skis together. But the tips mustn’t cross, or you’ll fall. To be honest, that first lesson wasn’t a great success, and I spent a lot of time sitting down.

However, the next day, I definitely improved. I only fell over a few times, and I managed to do a few longer runs. Although it was very cold, I spent most of that holiday skiing.

But it was all over too soon. I have decided to do a part-time job this summer, and perhaps I can earn enough money for another super skiing holiday.

1. What made Father hesitate when it came to him to decide the destination

of their holiday?

- A. The excellent exam-results of her brother.
 - B. Her mother’s mention of her father’s promise.
 - C. The great attraction of the Botanical Gardens.
 - D. The expensive costs of the special holiday.
2. We can learn from the passage that ____.
- A. the slopes can be skied on even in the evening
 - B. the hotel we live in lies in the bottom of the mountains
 - C. the snow in Muju Resort is artificially made
 - D. the family behave like children in the resort
3. It can be concluded that the writer ____.
- A. complains a lot about her instructor
 - B. improves slowly during the skiing
 - C. feels great about herself after her first lesson
 - D. falls over all the times throughout the skiing
4. The passage is mainly about ____.
- A. a happy experience of a sporting holiday
 - B. a description of a beautiful resort in Seoul
 - C. some necessary skills needed for skiing
 - D. a heated discussion over the special holiday

Passage 3

Do you have Bright ideas? Ideas for inventions that change society or , at least, make life easier for somebody? Perhaps we all do sometimes, but we don’t often make the idea a reality. Recently, in Britain there was a competition called British Designers for Tomorrow. The competition encouraged young people to carry out their bright ideas. There were two groups in the contest: Group One was school children under 16. Group two was for school children over 16. And there were 11 Prize-winners altogether.

Neil Hunt was one of the prize-winners. It’s important to be able to record sunshine accurately (准确地) when people study the weather. We need

to know how many hours of sunshine we have and how strong it is. Most sunshine recorders only record direct sunlight. Neil's is more accurate and this is very important for research into ways of using solar power. With his prize of £100, Neil plans to carry on inventing.

You can do so much with animation (动画片). Look at Simon West's idea for animated road signs. He uses pictures which appear to move as you go nearer to or farther from them. This isn't a new idea. But it is new to use these pictures on road signs. "We found that people were more likely to see moving signs," said Simon. So now, you can really see rocks falling, trains moving, horses running or a car falling over the edge of a cliff. Quite a warning!

The ideas in the competition are so inventive that we are surprised that British industry doesn't ask more school children for suggestions. Perhaps this will be the start of "pupil power".

1. The writer holds that people seldom _____.
A. have bright ideas
B. turn their bright ideas into realities
C. make their life easier
D. think of inventing something
2. The organizers of the competition hoped the school children who took part in it would _____.
A. become good designers for future British
B. invent something for immediate use
C. design something useful for the next day
D. win as many prizes as they could
3. What's the use of Simon West's animated road signs?
A. To warn people to be careful while working.
B. To warn people of the danger ahead.
C. To add to the beauty of a city.
D. To help make a car trip more exciting.

4. The writer seems to be encouraging the British industry to _____.
A. take better care of school children
B. help school children in their studies
C. stop asking school children for suggestions
D. pay more attention to school children's inventive power

Passage 4

John H. Johnson was born in a black family in Arkansas City in 1981. His father died in an accident when John was six. He was reaching the high school age, but his hometown offered no high school for blacks.

Fortunately he had a strong-willed caring mother. John remembered that his mother told him many times, "Son, you can be anything you want really to be if you just believe." She told him not to depend on others, including his mother. "You have to earn success," she said. "All the people who work hard don't succeed, but the only people who do succeed are those who work hard."

These words, came from a woman with less than a third grade education. She also knew that believing and hard work don't mean everything. So she worked hard as a cook for two years to save enough to take her son, who was then 15, to Chicago.

Chicago in 1933 was not the promised land that black southerners were looking for. John's mother and stepfather could not find work. But here John could go to school, and here he learned the power of words —as an editor of the newspaper and yearbook at Du Sable High School. His wish was to publish a magazine for blacks.

While others discouraged him, John's mother offered him more words to live by: "Nothing beats a failure but a try." She also let him pawn (典当) her furniture to get the \$ 500 he needed to start the Negro magazine.

It is natural that difficulties and failures followed John closely until he became very successful. He always keeps his mother's words in mind: "Son, failure is not in your vocabulary!" Now John H. Johnson is one of the 400

richest people in America—worth \$150 million.

- John's mother decided to move to Chicago because _____.
A. his father died when John was very young
B. life was too hard for them to stay on in their hometown
C. John needed more education badly
D. there were no schools for Negroes in their hometown
- John's mother _____.
A. didn't believe in or depend on others
B. thought one could be whatever one wanted to be
C. believed one would succeed without working hard
D. thought no one could succeed without working hard
- The sentence "Nothing beats a failure but a try" means _____.
A. if you try, you would succeed
B. a failure is difficult to beat, even if you try
C. a try is always followed by a failure
D. no failure can be beaten unless you try
- The story mainly tells us _____.
A. how John H. Johnson became successful
B. about the mental (精神的) support John's mother gave him
C. about the importance of a good education
D. about the key to success for blacks

Passage 5

Hong Kong comedian Sun Xing said he came to Shanghai to work for "his wife". In fact, he came here to make new TV serials (连续剧). "people working with me are likely (可能的) to have a stomachache, for I am able to please them so much that they forget to eat." Sun joked.

Sun has played the role of Master Shen in the TV serials "Fairly Wife", and many Shanghainese have since known and liked him. Instead of giving his own name, he had Master Shen printed on name-card together with a

cartoon of himself: a smiling face with dark glasses and very short hair.

Though he is a Hong Kong citizen, Sun is able to speak perfect putonghua. Born and brought up in Beijing, he moved to Hong Kong at ten. In 1986, he came out of 3,600 contestants (竞争者) in the competition for "Mr. TV" held by Hong Kong's Asian TV station. In recent years, Sun is living and trying to develop in Taiwan.

According to Sun, his understanding of stages performance comes from ten-year-long experience in work and life, though he has had no regular training in acting. "Life is hard for me. I have worked as a porter, waiter, postman, salesman." Sun recalled. "At the age of 14, I was employed as an office boy in my mother's factory." Once he was hurt by sulfuric acid (硫酸), but he showed no sign of pain, because he did not want to worry his mother. Having tasted various hardships, Sun learned how to find happiness in life.

Sun is not good-looking, but he is able to make all kinds of funny movements in front of the camera. That's why all directors agree that he is very special.

After the return of Hong Kong to the motherland, Sun planned to develop his stage work more in the mainland. Not long ago, He got in touch with Qiong Yao, a well-known Taiwan writer, to make a TV program for the mainland. Besides, he has joined hands with famous actors and actresses in Hong Kong, Taiwan and the mainland to wait for more TV plays.

- Sun Xing is _____ now.
A. an ordinary-looking player B. husband of Fairly Wife
C. a successful director D. a well-known actor
- The underlines, Sun's joke, probably means that "to work with him _____".
A. is a great pleasure for you
B. will never make you feel hungry
C. may bring stomachaches to you
D. can cause you to forget everything
- It can be learnt from the passage that _____.

- A. Sun had an experience of hardship
 - B. most people in mainland are tired of Sun
 - C. Sun is a born clever man
 - D. it's too easy for Sun to find cooperators
4. Sun often goes back and forth among mainland, Hong Kong, and Taiwan to ____.
- A. get in touch with more important persons
 - B. do more business for more money
 - C. make more TV plays
 - D. write more and better TV plays

Passage 6

I always felt sorry for the people in wheelchair. Some people, old and weak, cannot get around by themselves. Others seem perfectly healthy, dressed in business suits. But whenever I saw someone in a wheelchair, I only saw a disability, not a person.

Then I fainted at Euro Disney due to low blood pressure. This was the first time I had ever fainted, and my parents said that I must rest for a while after First Aid. I agreed to take it easy but, as I stepped toward the door, I saw my dad pushing a wheelchair in my direction! Feeling the color burn my cheeks, I asked him to wheel that thing right back to where he found it.

I could not believe this was happening to me. Wheelchairs were fine for other people but not for me, as my father wheeled me out into the main street, people immediately began to treat me differently.

Little kids ran in front of me, forcing my father to stop the wheel chair suddenly. Bitterness set in as I was thrown back and forth. "Stupid kids — they have perfectly good legs. Why can't they watch where they are going?" I thought. People stared down at me, pity in their eyes. Then they would look away, maybe because they thought the sooner they forgot me the better.

"I'm just like you!" I wanted to scream. "The only difference is you've got legs, and I have wheels."

People in wheelchairs are not stupid. They see every look and hear each word. Looking out at the faces, I finally understood: I was once just like them. I treated people in wheelchairs exactly the way they did not want to be treated. I realized it is some of us with two healthy legs who are truly disabled.

1. The author once ____ when she was healthy.
 - A. laughed at disabled people
 - B. looked down upon disabled people
 - C. imagined herself sitting in a wheelchair
 - D. saw some healthy people moving around in wheelchairs
2. Facing the wheelchair for the first time, the author _____.
 - A. felt curious about it
 - B. got ready to move around in it right away
 - C. refused to accept it right away
 - D. thought it was ready for his father
3. The experience of the author tells us that "_____".
 - A. life is the best teacher
 - B. people often eat their bitter fruit
 - C. life is so changeable that nobody can foretell
 - D. one should not do to others what he would not like others do to him
4. Which is the best title for this passage?
 - A. How to Get Used to Wheelchairs
 - B. The Wheels Are as Good as Two Legs
 - C. People with Two Legs Are Truly Healthy
 - D. The Difference between Healthy People and the Disabled

Passage 7

Feeling hopeless and sick at heart, Tom turned away. For a quick moment his eyes met those of the cook, and he saw there a light of such hatred and fear that no words could describe.

The cook moved quietly closer. He whispered to Tom in a rough voice,

“Don’t be too clever. Mark my words.” And he went away.

Tom’s thoughts did not stay focused on the cook and his words. His friend was in trouble. How could he help him? He decided to slip away as soon as possible in search of information that would clear Jay of all doubts and bring the true criminal to justice.

He had noticed a piece of old sailcloth (帆布) lying on the ship floor. With this and a length of string (绳子) he made a package which looked very much like the one the police had seized. His plan was to step to the shore and hand it over just as the cook had ordered Jay to, hoping in this way to learn the truth about the criminal’s activities. He could then persuade the police of his friend’s innocence.

By now it was dark. Taking the blankets out of Jay’s empty bed, Tom piled them up in his own bed in the shape of a sleeping figure. How real it looked! With the blanket pulled up high around the figure’s head he could almost believe he saw it breathing. Pleased with this, Tom moved quietly to the door.

He was about to open it when he felt the handle turning the other way. Someone was outside and about to come in. Had his plan failed? Slipping quickly back behind the door as it opened, Tom waited.

It was the cook who was leaning forward now over the figure in the bed. His arm swung up and a long knife plunged down.

1. The main cause of Tom’s worry was that he ____.

- A. failed to save his friend out of trouble
- B. knew the truth about the criminal
- C. knew his friend was in trouble
- D. felt such hatred and fear of the cook

2. Paragraph Five of the passage mainly describes ____.

- A. Tom’s hope to catch an intruder (闯入者)
- B. the unknown sleeping figure in Jay’s bed
- C. the danger Tom faced in Jay’s empty bed
- D. what Tom did to carry out his plan

3. Tom’s plan was to ____.

- A. help his friend slip away
- B. pretend to know the plan of the criminal
- C. find out Jay was not the criminal
- D. pretend to bring the true criminal to justice

4. If asked, Tom would probably say, “I risked danger because ____”.

- A. I wanted to help the police
- B. I knew my friend was innocent
- C. I knew the cook was a murderer
- D. I wasn’t to dismiss the criminal’s plan

Passage 8

A qualified doctor who rarely practised but instead devoted his life to writing. He once said, “Medicine is my lawful wife, and literature is my lover.” Russian writer Anton Pavlovich Chekhov (契诃夫), was a great playwright (剧作家) and one of the masters of the modern short story.

When Chekhov entered the Moscow University Medical School in 1879, he started to publish hundreds of comic short stories to support his family. After he graduated, he wrote regularly for a local daily newspaper.

As a writer he was extremely fast, often producing a short story in an hour or less. Chekhov’s medical and science experience can be seen through the indifference (冷漠) many of his characters show to tragic events. In 1892, he became a full-time writer and published some of his most memorable stories.

Chekhov often wrote about the sufferings of life in small town Russia. Tragic events controlled his characters who were filled with feelings of hopelessness and despair.

It is often said that nothing happens in Chekhov’s stories and plays. He made up for this with his exciting technique for developing drama within his characters. Chekhov’s works combined the calm attitude of a scientist and doctor with the sensitivity (敏感) of an artist.

Some of Chekhov's works were translated into Chinese as early as the 1940s. One of his famous stories, *The Man in a Shell* (《装在套子里的人》), about a school teacher's extraordinarily orderly life, was selected as a text for Chinese senior students.

- Anton Pavlovich Chekhov _____.
A. had a lawful lover B. was an illegal writer
C. used to be a lawyer D. was a competent doctor
- In 1880, Chekhov _____.
A. became a full-time writer
B. studied medicine in Moscow University
C. practiced medicine in his hometown
D. published his most memorable stories
- Which of the following adjectives can't be used to describe Chekhov?
A. Sensitive. B. Cool. C. Quick-minded. D. Warm-hearted.
- Which of the following is the right order of the events?
a. became a doctor b. became a full-time writer
c. started to publish comic short stories
d. wrote regularly for a local daily newspaper
e. entered the Moscow University Medical School
A. e c a d b. B. d a b c e. C. e c b a d. D. a e c b d.

Passage 9

About ten years ago, a young and very successful businessman named Josh was traveling down a Chicago neighborhood street. He was going a bit too fast in his shiny, black, 12 cylinder Jaguar XKE, which was only two months old.

He was watching for kids rushing out from between parked cars and slowed down when he thought he saw something. As his car passed, no child came out, but a brick sailed out and-WHUMP!-it hit the Jag's shiny black side door! SCREECH... !!!! Immediately Josh stopped the car, jumped out,

seized the kid and pushed him up against a parked car. He shouted at the kid, "What was that all about and who are you? Just what the heck are you doing?!" Building up a head of steam, he went on. "That's my new Jag, that brick you threw is gonna cost you a lot of money. Why did you throw it?"

"Please, mister, please... I'm sorry! I didn't know what else to do!" begged the youngster. "I threw the brick because no one else would stop!" tears were streaming down the boy's face as he pointed around the parked car. "It's my brother, mister," he said. "He rolled off the curb (路沿) and fell out of his wheelchair and I can't lift him up." Sobbing, the boy asked the businessman, "Would you please help me get him back into his wheelchair? he's hurt and he's too heavy for me."

Moved beyond words, the young businessman tried hard to swallow the rapidly swelling lump in his throat. Straining, he lifted the young man back into the wheelchair and took out his handkerchief and wiped the scrapers and cuts, checking to see that everything was going to be OK. He then watched the younger brother pushing him down the sidewalk toward their home.

It was a long walk back to the black, shining, 12 cylinder Jaguar XKE — a long and slow walk. Josh never did fix the side door of his Jaguar. He kept the dent (凹痕) to remind him not to go through life so fast that someone has to throw a brick at him to get his attention. Feel for the bricks of life coming at you.

- The boy threw a brick at the businessman's car because _____.
A. the businessman drove at a high speed
B. he envied the brand-new car very much
C. he wanted to ask for some money
D. he wanted to get help from the driver
- Which of the following is the right order of the story?
a. The younger brother threw a brick at Josh's car.
b. The elder brother fell out of his wheelchair.
c. The younger brother begged Josh for help.

- d. Josh lifted the elder brother back into his wheelchair.
 e. Josh shouted at the younger brother.
 A. b a e c d B. a c d b e
 C. b a c e d D. a c b e d
3. What can we learn from the passage?
 A. Josh would accept the money from the kids.
 B. The two kids were Josh's neighbors.
 C. Josh was a kind-hearted man.
 D. Josh's new car broke down easily.
4. According to the passage, the last sentence means _____.
 A. trying to get ready for the trouble in your future life
 B. driving fast in a neighborhood street is dangerous
 C. trying to be more understanding seeing others in trouble
 D. protecting oneself from being hurt

Passage 10

BROOKSVILLE—It's the time of year again, when young bears are on their own for the first time. And that means more sightings where bears usually aren't supposed to be.

This weekend, a 258-pound black bear took a brief tour of Brooksville, with police and firefighters chasing.

Another black bear, weighing just 100 pounds, was spotted Saturday, crossing busy U. S. 19 near a retirement community in Spring Hill. Several other bear reports have come from Citrus County.

"It is really difficult for the younger bears to find their own land around here," said Niki Everitt, bear hot line director for the Gulf Coast Conservancy.

Brooksville's bear first was spotted late Thursday crossing State Road 50, headed toward Tom Vam Park. Police and firefighters tracked the bear through the park and the Brooksville Quarry golf course.

The bear then wound down the middle of Broad Street before being

surrounded near Luigi's Pizza. An official with the Florida Game and Fresh Water Fish Commission came with a tranquilizer spear (加入镇静的剂的矛), planning to stick the bear by hand.

"The guy saw the size of the bear and figured that wasn't a great idea," said Capt. Frank Phillips of the Brooksville Fire Department.

Emergency officials waited until a tranquilizer gun was brought from Land O'Lakes. The bear then got a free ride to the Chassahowitzka Wildlife Management Area.

It is not unusual for bears to move into living areas this time of year, experts say. Mothers give their male baby bears the boot once the youngsters are 2 years old. With living areas growing, the young bears keep finding smaller and smaller areas in which they can set up their own land.

"They're trying to find a land of their own, where they won't get beat up," said Lt. Rip Stalvey, a game commission spokesman.

Everitt said people should not be too concerned about the recent bear sightings, since "we have never had a bear attack in Florida."

Black bears mainly eat the tender and fresh leaves of Sabal palms, as well as acorns and berries. Recent weeks of dry weather likely have reduced their food supply.

"If we don't get some relief soon," Everitt said, "we're probably going to see a lot more of it."

- What's the main idea of this passage?
 A. Bear sightings in living areas worry people.
 B. Policemen try hard to get the bears controlled.
 C. People take up too much land from bears.
 D. Bears come out to disturb people's lives.
- Which is true according to the passage?
 A. The 100-pound bear was caught near Luigi's Pizza.
 B. The Gulf Coast Conservancy makes bears homeless.
 C. Brooksville's bear was too large to be caught by hand.

- D. Bears frequently visit humans' living areas.
3. Bear sightings can usually be expected ____.
- A. in the cold season B. in the warm season
- C. near lakes or rivers D. near Luigi's Pizza
4. The underlined phrase "give their male baby bears the boot" means "____".
- A. make them wear the boots B. find new homes for them
- C. drove them away from home D. keep them in safe places

Passage 11

I grew up in a small town. My father raised chickens and ran a construction company. I was barely 10 years old when my dad gave me the responsibility (责任) of feeding the chickens and cleaning up the stable. He believed it was important for me to have those jobs to learn responsibility. Then, when I was 22, I found a job in Natchbill at a country music club called the Natchbill Palace, I washed dishes and cooked from 4:00 pm to 9:00 pm and then went on stage and sang until 2:00 in the morning. It wasn't long before I became known as a singing cook. I had been rejected so many times by record companies that it was hard not to be discouraged. One night, a woman executive (董事) from a company named Warner Brothers Records came to hear me sing. When the show was over, we sat down and talked and after she left, I said to myself it was one more rejection. A few weeks later, my manager received a phone call—Warner Brothers wanted to sign me to a record deal. Soon after, I released my first record in June, 1986. It sold over 2 million copies. My best efforts had gone into every job I've ever held. It was the sense of responsibility that made me feel like a man. Knowing that I had done my best filled me with pride. I still feel that way today, even though I have become a well-known singer.

1. Why was the writer once known as the singing cook?
- A. Because he was a cook at a country-music club.
- B. Because he sang for guests while he worked as a cook.

- C. Because he often sang while cooking.
- D. Because he liked singing better than cooking.
2. Who first recognized his talents and helped make his career successful?
- A. Warner Brothers. B. His manager.
- C. His father. D. A businesswoman.
3. What made the writer proud of himself?
- A. His ability to live independently.
- B. His sense of responsibility in whatever he did.
- C. His courage in the face of rejections.
- D. His hard work in his early days.

Passage 12

About 1966 or so, a NASA (美国航空航天局) team doing work for the Apollo moon mission took the astronauts near Tuba City. There the landscape of the Navajo Reservation (保留地) looks very much like the lunar surface. Among all the trucks and large vehicles were two large figures that were dressed in full lunar space suits.

Nearby a Navajo shepherd (牧羊人) and his son were watching the strange creatures walking about, occasionally being watched over by other NASA workers. The two Navajo people were noticed and approached by the NASA people. Since the shepherd and his son did not know English, they asked the NASA people who the strange creatures were. The NASA people told them that they were just men that were getting ready to go to the moon. The shepherd became very excited and asked if he could send a message to the moon with the astronauts.

The NASA officials thought this was a great idea so they provided a tape recorder. After the man gave them his message, they asked his son to translate. His son would not.

Later, they tried a few more people on the reservation to translate and every person they asked would chuckle (偷偷地笑) and then refuse to translate. Finally, with cash in hand someone translated the message, "Watch

out for these guys, they have come to take your land!”

- The appearance of the Navajo Reservation is very similar to that of _____.
A. the Tuba City B. the moon
C. the NASA research center D. the Apollo moon mission
- When the older Navajo heard that the men in front of him were going to the moon, he _____.
A. felt frightened and ran away quickly
B. chatted excitedly with the NASA workers
C. got on the modern trucks and large vehicles for fun
D. tried to say something to the moon creatures
- The son did not translate the words his father said because _____.
A. he had trouble in understanding his father
B. the words his father used were too difficult to be translated
C. his father was sending a warning against the NASA people
D. he believed that the NASA workers could understand their language
- According to this passage, we can know that the shepherd was _____.
A. patient and brave B. foolish and impolite
C. humorous and intelligent D. knowledgeable and talkative

Passage 13

If you can't catch the bad guy, it's game over—this is the rule of life for computer game players. But similar thoughts might be worrying US President George W. Bush as he prepares for election year with the world's most wanted man still out of his reach.

The hunt for Laden has been going on since the attack on New York's World Trade Center on September 11, 2001. Progress has been slow and, with John Kerry winning the race last Tuesday to compete against Bush in presidential elections, the president needs results.

“If Laden can be caught before the presidential election. Bush will get an upper hand”, a senior US official told the New York Times.

The American public's support for the war in Iraq has been falling, especially as the Bush government cannot find the banned weapons it said were in the country. But the way in which the president's popularity rose following the arrest of former Iraqi President Saddam Hussein in December shows how useful the capture of Laden would be.

The latest information suggests the election will be close, with 48 percent of Americans saying they will vote for Bush and 46 percent backing Kerry.

In order to seize Laden, thousands of US soldiers were moved from Iraq to Afghanistan (阿富汗) earlier this week, according to a US official. Further efforts have been made to strengthen Afghanistan's border area with Pakistan, with soldiers checking nearby villages more frequently than before.

- Which of the following statements is true?
A. The arrest of Saddam did Bush some good.
B. The American soldiers have sent Laden to prison.
C. The arrest of Laden will make no difference to the election.
D. Laden may hide himself far away from the border between Pakistan and Afghanistan.
- We can infer from the passage that _____.
A. it's difficult to catch Laden
B. Bush will lose the presidential election
C. Americans didn't set out to catch Laden until 2003
D. American presidential election will take place in October
- What does the underlined word “banned” in Paragraph 4 mean?
A. advanced B. dangerous C. forbidden D. expensive

Passage 14

A traveler, after losing his way in the mountain, took refuge for the night in a cave. He saw at once that another had preceded (先于) him and was now warming himself before a fire of sticks and leaves. When the traveler entered,

the other man said, "I'm an untouchable(member of the lowest class in India). Be careful not to stumble and fall against me."

The traveler sat on the other side of the fire watching his companion. He wondered what differences made one of them an honorable man and the other a homeless one. Not seeing any great physical difference between them, he thought perhaps the solution lay in another field. He said, "Tell me, do you feel hate and joy and love, as I do? Are you capable of feeling hope and jealousy and regret?"

"Yes." said the untouchable, "I feel all those things. I also feel shame, envy, sorrow and pity."

And so the two men talked. They tried to discover some differences between them but did not succeed. Then the traveler said, "As far as I can see, we are very much alike." and added, "Do you know why you're an untouchable and I am not?"

"No." said the other, "I only know I was born an untouchable of parents who were like myself."

There was a long silence while the two men examined each other across the fire. Finally the traveler said, "I wonder what would happen if I touched you."

The eyes of the traveler widened at his own audacity (胆识), and he said, "You know I'm going to touch you and find out." The homeless fellow drew back against the wall and covered his eyes. The traveler stretched out his arms and touched the untouchable. After a time the homeless fellow asked in a frightened voice, "Did the mountain shake? Did the river dry up? Did the moon fall out of the sky?"

The traveler said in astonishment, "Nothing at all happened. Everything's exactly as it was before."

1. The traveler came into the cave _____.
A. to find companionship B. because he needed shelter
C. because it was a familiar place D. because he was cold and hungry
2. The man in the cave told the traveler, "be careful not to stumble and fall

against me" because _____.

- A. he didn't want the traveler to hurt himself
 - B. it was very dark in the cave
 - C. he didn't want the traveler to injure him
 - D. he was an untouchable
3. The untouchable drew back when the traveler reached out to touch him because _____.
A. he was afraid of what would happen when he was touched
B. he thought the traveler would hurt him
C. he was angry at the traveler
D. he was afraid the traveler would become an untouchable himself
 4. Which of the things below did happen after the traveler touched the untouchable?
A. The river beside the cave dried up.
B. The traveler was astonished.
C. The moon disappeared from the sky.
D. The outcast drew back against the wall and covered his eyes.

Passage 15

Have you ever suddenly felt that someone you know was in trouble and he was? Have you ever dreamed something that came true later? Maybe you have ESP.

ESP stands for Extra Sensory Perception. It may be called a sixth sense. It seems to let people know about events before they happen, or events that are happening some distance away.

Here is an example: A woman was doing washing. Suddenly she screamed. "My father is dead! I saw him sitting in the chair!" Just then, a telegram came. The woman's father had died of a heart attack. He died sitting in a chair.

There are thousands of stories like this on record. Scientists are studying them to find out what is behind these strange mental messages. Here's

another example—one of hundreds of dreams that have come true.

A man dreamed he was walking along a road when a horse and carriage came by. The driver said, “There’s room for one more.” The man felt the driver was Death, so he ran away. The next day the man was getting on a crowded bus. The bus driver said, “There’s room for one more.” Then the man saw the driver’s face was the same face he had seen in the dream. He wouldn’t get on the bus. As the bus drove off, it crashed and burst into flames. Everyone was killed!

Some people say stories like these are lies or coincidences (巧合). Others, including some scientists say that ESP is true. From studies of ESP, we may some day learn more about the human mind.

1. People with ESP may know about _____.
 A. someone’s trouble B. events before they happen
 C. their dreams D. events after they happen
2. From the passage it can be inferred that _____.
 A. all people have ESP B. some women or men have ESP
 C. children have ESP D. no people have ESP
3. The best title for this passage is _____.
 A. A sixth Sense B. The Human Mind
 C. A Coincidence D. A Terrible Dream

Passage 16

The man traveling in the back of the ambulance, which thrust its way through the streets of Baltimore that morning in 1967, had no business to be alive. By everything that was reasonable, and there were plenty of precedents (先例), he certainly should have been dead. But he wasn’t. As the people in the hospital pointed out after they had examined him, he was only slightly bruised. Yet he had just fallen 150 feet down a hotel lift shaft (空间)!

Unknown to the man, two things had occurred which were to affect his life that day. On the thirteenth floor of the hotel, somebody had carelessly left

the lift gate open. Down in the basement, a pipe had burst and before anyone could check the rush of water, it had flooded the bottom of the lift to a depth of two feet.

Modern lifts have all sorts of fail-safe mechanisms to prevent accidents, but this was an ancient contraption (破玩意儿) unreliable, creaking, slow, hazardous (危险的), and suitable material for any scrap dealer who cared to take away.

The man had plenty of things to occupy his mind that morning. He had overslept. The hotel had forgotten to call him and now he was late for an important business appointment. He dressed quickly, shaved hurriedly, grabbed his briefcase and hurried off down the hotel corridor.

Good! The lift gate was open. The lift must be there. He need not press the button and wait while the large, clumsy lift hauled its way upwards. Without looking or thinking, he stepped out into space. The lift cage was, in fact, one floor above him on the fourteenth. The world into which he walked was a narrow space of not very fresh air, ending 150 feet below in two feet of dirty water.

The man descended, making his journey to the ground at a speed he had never dreamed of. Confused patterns, whirling shapes, a rush of air, time enough to be afraid, split second thoughts of death, then crash!

Perhaps this gave him the record for some sort of high-diving act. No doubt in future he always looked before he leapt. Certainly he learnt this was no way to save time. The experts said that those two feet of water had saved his life.

1. By “had no business to be alive” the writer means that the man _____.
 A. had missed his business appointment
 B. was only just alive
 C. had done very little business
 D. was alive and this was very surprising
2. Which of the following did NOT help to cause the accident?

- A. Someone left the lift door open.
 B. A pipe burst.
 C. The man overslept.
 D. He was late for an appointment.
3. "The world into which he had walked" refers to _____.
 A. the lift shaft B. the lift cage C. the dirty water D. death
4. Which of the following can serve the best title?
 A. The Quickest Way Down B. The Man Who Must Die
 C. Old Lift D. An Accident

Passage 17

The trees arrived by post, a half-open parcel. They were thin and straight, rather like arrows but with shiny leaves at one end and muddy roots at the other. Terry and his father took them down the garden and planted them in their prepared places. Terry had great hopes of the middle tree, now set in the holy spot where Henry, his cat, run over, had been laid to rest a year before. The nine trees made an avenue down one side of the garden, where there was already a fifteen-foot stonewall between the garden and the back yards of the Jenkins Street houses.

"Why do we want a row of trees as well as a wall?" Terry asked his father.

His father said, "For privacy. These trees grow very thickly."

His father's love of privacy often puzzled. Terry, who was not one to keep himself to himself, but he could see part of the point here. The houses in Jenkins Street were on higher ground. His friend Leslie lived in number twelve, and Leslie had only to stand on a box to see right over the wall.

"Will the trees grow higher than the wall?" Terry asked then.

"Oh yes, twice as high if not more. It'll take a few years but they'll grow."

So they were going to have nine trees thirty feet tall, to keep them from being overlooked. Terry wondered why this was so desirable. He said, "Our garden is very pretty. Why can't we let the people over the wall see it? That

wouldn't be showing off, would it?"

"No, I don't think it would be," his father said. "Yet some people might feel a bit less happy if they can always see a good thing that isn't theirs. We don't want to be the cause of any jealousy if we can help it."

This consideration for other people's feelings must be a grown-up thing. Terry thought. It was not his idea of how to run things. He said, "It seems a lot of trouble in stopping people being jealous of us." His father looked at him. "It isn't much trouble, Terry," he said. "These trees will grow without help from us. They'll be beautiful. And listen to them. You can already hear them whispering to us in the wind."

- How do we know that Terry's father was expecting the trees?
 A. He thought they would grow tall and thick.
 B. He expected them because they arrived by post.
 C. He and Terry had dug holes for them.
 D. The parcel was half open, so he could see they were trees.
- Part of the garden is called a holy spot because _____.
 A. Henry had been run over just there
 B. a cat was buried there
 C. Terry thought it was holy
 D. it was right in front of Leslie's house
- We know from the passage that Terry's father is a man who _____.
 A. was proud of his garden and liked showing it off
 B. didn't quite like his neighbors
 C. preferred to keep his privacy
 D. felt jealous of the people in Jenkins Street
- Why were the trees planted in front of the wall?
 A. Because that was where they would grow faster.
 B. To improve the appearance of the house.
 C. To hide the ugly sight of Jenkins Street.
 D. To stop people from looking inside.

5. According to Terry's father, the thing that might have made the neighbors feel less happy was ____ .

- A. the wall B. the thriving row of trees
C. the well-kept garden D. the privacy of the place

Passage 18

With the start of the new term students around the country exchange their fun and fashionable clothes for boring school uniforms. But not all campuses are fashion deserts. Colourful sports shoes, school bags, T-shirts and even drink containers are breathing life into campuses.

"The uniform makes us look like a bunch of clones, especially when we are doing morning exercises in the playground," said Qing Pei, a Senior 2 from Shanghai Qibao High School. "But the boys wear different sports shoes and girls have different decorations (装饰品) in their hair. These are the areas where you can express yourself," said Qing.

Although it might be strange for boys to talk about fashion, they do care about what they wear in school, especially shoes, according to Qing. "Nike and Adidas basketball shoes, although they are still the must-have items for many of my friends, are becoming out-of-date," Qing added. He explained that "Since Liu Xiang ran so fast in Athens, running shoes are becoming popular in this autumn." Still in fashion are the various baseball caps and American-style T-shirts with random English words printed on them, said Qing. Besides sports shoes and T-shirts, styles and colours of school bags are another opportunity for students to express their taste in fashion. Some bags are made more eye-catching by decorating them with small hanging dolls. Other fashionable items are the colourful drink containers which are now popular among girls this term. "Some teachers are surprised to see a teenager sucking a bottle like this at school and criticized it as a childish regression (退化). But some girls just love it," said Yang Rui, a Senior 3.

1. What does a bunch of clones (Para 2) mean?

- A. All of the clothes are the same.
B. All of our exercises are the same.
C. We all look like twins.
D. We all have the similar fashions.
2. How do the girls show their personality at campuses?
A. They wear different sport shoes.
B. They wear school uniforms.
C. They have different decorations in their hair.
D. They drink water from colourful drink containers.
3. What are becoming fashionable for schoolboys according to this news story?
A. Nike and Adidas basketball shoes.
B. Baseball caps and American-style T-shirts.
C. Colourful drink containers.
D. Running shoes.
4. The writer of this newspaper article wants to ____ .
A. call for the schools to pay attention to students' wear
B. report students' great love for fashion
C. criticize a childish regression at campuses
D. discuss about school uniforms

Passage 19

For 65 years Binyamin Shilon believed his sister was among the 6 million Jews killed by the Nazis during the Second World War. Now he holds her in his arms and cries with joy.

November was a child when her family broke apart and she spent many of her earliest years in an orphanage. When the Nazis invaded Poland in 1939 her father was shot dead and soon she found herself in the Jewish camp in Krakow in the care of a stepmother. The little girl escaped the death camps for a time, and nearly died in 1943 when she was sent to Auschwitz. She was saved when a stranger pushed her into the line of those allowed to live.