

魔法英语征服高考阅读理解

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UNIT

Passage 1

难度等级



Millions of stars are travelling about in space . A few form groups which journey together, but most of them travel alone . And they travel through a universe so large that one star seldom comes near to another . For the most part each star makes its journey in complete loneliness , like a ship on an empty ocean . The ship will be well over a million miles from its nearest neighbor . From this it is easy to understand why a star seldom finds another anywhere near it .

We believe, however, that some two thousand million years ago, another star wandering through space, happened to come near our sun . Just as the sun and the moon raise tides on the earth, so this star must have raised tides on the surface of the sun . But they were very different from the small tides that are raised in our oceans; a large tidal wave must have travelled over the surface of the sun, at last forming a mountain so high that we cannot imagine it . As the cause of the disturbance came nearer, so the mountain rose higher and higher . And before the star torn to pieces and threw off small parts of itself into space .

These small pieces have been going round the sun ever since . They are the planets .

- 1 . illions of stars are _____ .
- A following a regular path in space
 - B moving about without a fixed course
 - C seldom wandering about in the universe

- D always travelling together
2. Some two thousand million years ago, the mountain of the sun was raised probably because _____ .
- A a large tidal wave of a star travelled over the surface of the sun
- B another star happened to come near the sun
- C the sun and the moon raised the tides on the earth
- D the star moved away from the sun
3. The article suggests that _____ .
- A our earth exists before the sun
- B how space formed
- C no one knows where the earth comes from
- D our earth used to be a high mountain on the sun
4. The expression "the cause of the disturbance" refers to _____ .
- A the large tidal wave B the powerful tidal pull
- C the star coming near the sun D one of the sun's planets
5. In this article, the writer mainly wants to tell the readers _____ .
- A that the universe is so large that we cannot imagine it
- B how the high mountains were formed on the sun
- C why the tides over the surface of the sun were so powerful
- D where the planets in the universe came from

Passage 2

难度等级



A very rapid increase in the number of ships sailing between American and European ports began almost immediately after the end of the war of 1812 in order to meet the new needs for the regular rapid transportation of mail, light goods, and passengers. It was the increase in emigration(移民) to America that for the first time made the carrying of passengers across the Atlantic more

Unit 1.....

advantages than the transportation of heavy goods . A new type of sailing ships, the packet, appeared to meet this new demand, and the extent of the demand very soon caused strong competition among several packet lines . The earliest of these was the Black Ball Line opened in New York in 1816, only a year after the war . The service of the famous line started with four of the new fast packets each of 400 to 500 tons: the Pacific, the Amity the James Cooper, and the William Thompson . During the first twenty years of service, the average time from New York to Liverpool was 23 days and the average trip back to New York took 40 days . By the middle of the century, packets had increased in size between 909 and 1,000 tons, and their speed had increased . The Red Jacket once sailed from New York to Liverpool in 13 days 11 (1/ 2) hours . The Mary Whiteridge took 4 (1/ 2) hours off this record on the run from Baltimore to Liverpool . Such speeds were far greater than the average of from 19 to 21 days to Liverpool and from 30 to 35 homeward to New York, but the packets had still set a new record for transoceanic (crossing an ocean) travel . No wonder that steamships, the first of which tried to compete with the packets in 1838, only began to replace them in the 1850s .

- 1 . he fastest Trans-Atlantic sailing by a packet mentioned in the passage was from _____ .
 A Liverpool to New York B New York to Liverpool
 C Liverpool to Baltimore D Baltimore to Liverpool
- 2 . hich of the following was most important in the development of the fast packets ?
 A The increased demand for the transportation of all kinds of goods .
 B The increase of the number of people who wanted to move to America .
 C The new needs for the rapid transportation of mail, light goods and passengers .
 D Many people traveled between European and American ports .
- 3 . he shortest time of the transportation crossing the Atlantic we can find out from the passage is 13 days and _____ .
 A 11 5 hours B 7 5 hours C 7 hours D 4 5 hours
- 4 . rom the passage we can infer the writer 's feeling about the packet is one of

the following . Which one do you think is the best answer ?

- A It is not surprising that the steamship was not used until it replaced the packet in 1850s .
- B The packet was so nice that steamship could not replace it until many years later .
- C The packet was not good and so the advanced steamship was used instead of it finally .
- D Although the packet was very nice, it would be totally replaced by the advanced ships .



Passage 3



Unit 1.....

难度等级

Not only farmers but scientists have studied weather forecasting .

People, for many centuries and in all countries, have studied the weather and tried to make weather forecasts . Sometimes distant objects such as hills and tall trees seem to be very clear and near . This is a sign of much water-vapor in the air, and therefore a rain will probably come .

When distant sounds(such as the noise from a train, birds singing, or people shouting) are very clearly heard, then wet and stormy weather is on the way .

Rings round the sun is a sign of coming rain .

Many people feel the coming of wet weather in their bones . Their joint(关节) aches . Some birds fly high if fine weather is coming , but they fly very near the ground if rainy weather or a storm is on the way . This is probably because the insects, which they are hunting, fly low at that time . If you see a rainbow during rainy weather, this is a sign that the weather will clear up and become fine . Such rainbows come in the evening . If the stars twinkle clearly at night, fine weather will continue . If a mist appears in the early morning, just about sunrise, the day will be warm .

If the sunset is mostly red in color, the following day will be fine . When big cumulous clouds(积云) appear at sunset, the bad weather will follow the next day .

If circus clouds remain quite still, fine weather will come . If a rainbow appears in the morning, then rainy weather will probably come . Most of the above sayings have been made up by people who have used their

eyes and their brains to forecast the weather .

1 . Some birds fly high if fine weather is coming, because _____

- A they like fine weather
- B they can fly high when fine weather is coming
- C they fly high to catch insects
- D they feel very happy

2 . When big cumulous clouds appear at sunset, then the weather will _____ the next day .

- A be fine
- B be bad
- C be windy
- D be cloudy

3. Weather will be fine if _____ .
- A you see rings round the sun
 - B you see the distant objects very clear and near
 - C you feel pain in your bones
 - D the stars twinkle clearly at night
4. If you see a rainbow during rainy weather, it shows that the weather will clear up and become fine. This because _____ .
- A there is much water-vapor in the air
 - B there is not much water-vapor in the air
 - C there is not any water-vapor in the air
 - D there are all kinds of water-vapor in the air
5. In this passage "wet weather" means _____ weather .
- A cloudy
 - B rainy
 - C windy
 - D dry

Passage 4

难度等级



If you ask people to name the one person who had the greatest effect on the English language, you will get answers like "Shakespeare", "Samuel Johnson", and "Webster", but none of these men had any effect at all compared to a man who didn't even speak English — William the conqueror .

Before 1066, in the land we now call Great Britain lived peoples belong-

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ing to two major language groups . In the west — central region lived the Welsh, who spoke a Celtic language, and in the north lived the Scots, whose language, though not the same as Welsh, was also Celtic . In the rest of the century lived the Saxons, actually a mixture of Anglos, Saxons, and other Germanic and Nordic people, who spoke what we now call Anglo-Saxon (or Old English), a Germanic language . If this state of affairs had lasted, English today would be close to German .

But this state of affairs did not last . In 1066 the Normans led by William defeated the Saxons and began their rule over English . For about a century, French became the official language of England while Old English became the language of peasants . As a result, English words of politics and the law come from French rather than German . In some cases, modern English even shows a distinction between upper-class French and lower-class Anglo saxon in its words . We even have different words for some foods, meat in particular, depending on whether it is still out in the fields or at home ready to be cooked, which shows the fact that the Saxon peasants were doing farming, while the upper-class Normans were doing most of eating .

When Americans visit Europe for the first time, they usually find Germany more “ foreign ” than France because the German they see on signs and advertisement seems much more different from English than French does . Few realize that the English language is actually Germanic in its beginning and that the French influences are all the result of the man 's ambition(野心) .

- 1 . he two major languages spoken in what is now called Great Britain before 1066 were _____ .
 A Welsh and Scottish B Nordic and Germanic
 C Celtic and Old English D Anglo-Saxon and Germanic
- 2 . hich of the following groups of words are, by inference, rooted in French ?
 A president, lawyer, beef B president, bread, water
 C bread, field, sheep D folk, field, cow
- 3 . hy does French appear less foreign than Germany to Americans on their first visit to Europe ?
 A Most advertisements in France appear in English .

- B They know little of the history of the English language .
 - C Many French words are similar to English ones .
 - D They know French better than German .
- 4 . What is the subject discussed in the text ?
- A The history of Great Britain .
 - B The similarity between English and French .
 - C The rule of England by William the conqueror .
 - D The French influences on the English language .

Passage 5

难度等级



Wandering through the street of downtown Boston, one can understand why this city — the capital of Massachusetts — has been nicknamed (取绰号) the Cradle of Liberty . Along a marked path called the Freedom Trail, visitors come upon landmarks of the Revolutionary War and the early history of the United States . Members of the Massachusetts Bay Colony founded Boston in 1630 on a peninsula (半岛) where the Charles River flows into a sheltered bay of the Atlantic Oceans .

The wealth of historic places in Boston sparks (激发) a visitor 's imagination . It was at the Old South Meetinghouse that the Boston Tea Party of 1773 was planned . The Boston Massacre (大屠杀) (1770) took place opposite the Old Statehouse . A visit to Faneuil Hall brings to mind the fiery speeches of colonists who wanted their independence .

During the 19th century Boston was a leader in religion, literature, and social reform . Christian Science was established at the Mother Church in Boston, and Kings Chapel was the birthplace of American Unitarianism (一位论派)。

Today a modern city hall looks out on a city that is a busy seaport as well as a center of industry, commerce, and finance . Boston 's major industries include publishing, food processing (加工), and the manufacture of electronics equipment, leather goods, textiles (纺织品), and machin-

eries .

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At the same time, Boston maintains its position of leadership in education and culture . Students still attend the famous Boston Public Latin School, which five signers of the Declaration of Independence attended . It was founded in 1635 and is one of the oldest free public schools in the United States . Harvard University, in nearby Cambridge was founded in 1636 . Other institutions of higher education in the Boston area are the Massachusetts Institute of Technology, Tufts University Boston University, Boston College, Brandeis University, Wellesley College, and Simmons College .

Boston provides many opportunities for enjoyment of museum and library collections, music, and the theater (戏剧艺术) . Plays that are bound (必然的) for Broadway in New York City often try out in Boston . The Boston Symphony Orchestra and the Boston Pops Orchestra are world-famous . Sports are not neglected (忽视) . The city has professional teams in baseball, hockey, and basketball . To many New Englanders, Boston still seems to deserve another of its old nicknames - the Hub of the Universe .

- 1 . According to the first paragraph, which statement is incorrect ?
 - A Boston is one of the oldest cities in America .
 - B Boston lies in a peninsula .
 - C Boston was nicknamed the Cradle of Liberty .
 - D Boston wasn 't founded until the sixteenth century .
- 2 . Which of the following events did not take place in the eighteenth century ?
 - A The Boston Massacre .
 - B The establishment of Christian Sciences
 - C The Boston Tea Party .
 - D The speeches made for independence .
- 3 . Which of the following is not included in the major industries of today 's Boston ?
 - A Finance and commerce .
 - B Publishing and food processing .
 - C Leather goods and textiles .
 - D Machinery and electronics .
- 4 . Which of the following statements is correct ?
 - A Boston Public Latin School was founded by five signers .
 - B Cambridge is another university in Boston .

- C Public Latin School is a free school .
- D The most famous orchestras are in Boston .

答案与解析

Passage 1



1. **B** 细节理解题。这从文章第一段 A few form groups which journey together, but most of them travel alone . . like a ship on an empty ocean 即可看出一部分行星结伴而行,但绝大部分独来独往,犹如大海中的一叶小舟,所以可以推断众多的行星并没有一个固定的轨道。
2. **B** 细节理解题。从文章第二段的第一句和第二句中不难看出结论,正如太阳和月亮引起地球上的潮汐一样,另外一个在太空漫游的行星碰巧靠近地球,也一定引起太阳表面的潮汐,最终形成了地球上的山脉。
3. **D** 通篇理解题。此题可以从整篇文章中不难作出合理推断。
4. **C** 语意理解题。从本文第二段的第一、二句中不难看出只有当行星靠近太阳的时候才能引起潮汐及其山脉的耸起。
5. **D** 文章主旨推断。文章主要讲述了行星来自何方。

Passage 2



1. **D** 细节辨认题。此题是对文章的具体考察。参看文章倒数第三句话。
2. **B** 分析题。文章中第二句话用了一个强调句型,强调的是向美国移民的欧洲人数量的增加,才使海上运输更为重要,因此开发快速船只也变得更重要了。
3. **C** 细节推断题。解答此题要仔细阅读文章的倒数第三,第四句话,从 New York 到 Liverpool 用了 13 天又 11.5 小时,但 the May Whiteridge 刷新了记录,减少了 4.5 小时,所以 $11.5 - 4.5 = 7$ 小时。
4. **B** 推理判断题。文章倒数第一、二句话 such speed were far greater than the average . . 隐含着说出新改进的船只发挥了很大的作用,而且直到 19 世纪 50 年代才被蒸汽船代替。

Passage 3



1. **C** 细节推理题。文章第四段第三句话“ Some birds fly high if fine weather is coming, but they fly very near the ground if rainy weather or a storm is on

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the way.”为答案依据。文中讲到雨天或将有暴雨天气时,昆虫飞得低,鸟类觅食时只能飞低,才能捕食昆虫;由此可推,天气好时,鸟类高飞才能捕食,因为昆虫在没有湿气时,飞得高。

2. **B** 细节推理题。文章第五段第二句话“ When big cumulous clouds appear at sunset, the bad weather will follow the next day”为依据。日落时出现积云,则不好的天气会来临。
3. **D** 细节辨认题。文章第四段倒数第二句话“ If the stars twinkle clearly at night, fine weather will continue.”为依据。A、B、C项都是不好天气的征兆。
4. **B** 细节推断题。文章第一段最后一句话“ This is a sign of much water - vapor in the air, and therefore a rain will probably come”为依据。水气多时会有雨,所以A显然矛盾所以错;C则过于绝对化;不符合客观事实;D项文中没有任何表述。
5. **B** 词义理解题。很明显 wet weather 指的是雨天。

Passage 4



1. **C** 细节题。由文章第二段可知, the Welsh 和 the Scots 说 Celtic, the Saxons and other Germanic and Nordic peoples spoke Anglo-Saxon. (or Old English)
2. **A** 细节推理题。根据文章的第三段第三句和第四句。Norman 统治了英国约 100 年,法语成为英国官方语言。英语有关政治和法律词语及肉类名称来源于法语。
3. **C** 细节理解题。文章最后一段第一句话...because...much more different from English than French does.再结合上一段中内容,美国人讲英语,英语很多词汇和法语相同,许多法语单词和英语单词相似。
4. **D** 主旨题。William 战败了 the Saxons 统治英国一百多年;法语成为英国的官方语言并成为大部分英国上层社会人士所用语言。

Passage 5



1. **D** 细节题。由文中第一段可知选项 A、B、C 都正确。
2. **B** 细节题。此题主要考察有关时间的问题,通过短文第二段的第二句、第三句和最后一句就可以发现 A, C, D 均发生在 18 世纪,由第三段可知惟有选项 B 发生在 19 世纪,所以选 B。
3. **A** 细节题。此题可以用排除法直接找到答案,文中第三段直接可以看出

B、C、D 均是该城工业所辖范围之内,只有 A 谈的是经济和商业问题,所以选 A。

4. **C** 细节判断题。文章第五段第三句话中明确指出“ It was founded in 1635 and is one of the oldest free public schools . . .”,由此推断 C 是正确的。

- B They would reach the New World
 - C They were afraid of falling off the edge of the world
 - D The earth was not round
4. How wide is the Atlantic at the narrowest ?
- A It's half as wide as the Pacific .
 - B Almost half as wide as at its widest .
 - C As wide as where Columbus crossed it .
 - D 3,200 km .
5. One of the facts that make the ocean unusual is that _____ .
- A it's salty and large
 - B it's half as big as the Pacific
 - C it's water is the saltiest in the world
 - D it's so large an ocean with so few islands

Passage 2

难度等级 ★★

The world's population today is about 5,000 million . The important thing is not so much the actual population of the world but its rate of increase . It works out to be about 1.6 percent every year after the number of deaths has been taken away . This means something like seventy-two million more people every year .

I'm not talking about birth rate . This is clear increase . To give you some idea of birth rate, look at the second hand of your watch . Every second three babies are born somewhere in the world . Another baby . Another baby . Another baby . You can't speak quickly enough to keep up with the birth rate .

Another reason why the population is going up rapidly is due to the spread of the knowledge and the practice of what is coming to be called Death Control . You may have heard of Birth Control . Death Control is something rather different . Bad conditions, which we have made better by an improved standard of

Unit 2.....

living, caused a lot of diseases. But now medical care helps to keep people alive longer. We used to think seventy was a good age; now eighty, ninety, it may be, are coming to be regarded as a normal age for human beings.

By A. D. 2,000, there will be as many as seven thousand million people on the surface of this earth. So the control of the population is one of the greatest world problems which face us at the present time.

1. The world's population is increasing because _____.
 - A the number of babies born every year is about 1.6 percent of the total population
 - B the birthrate is much higher than the death rate
 - C the birth rate is going up by about 1.6 percent every year
 - D the death rate is going down by about 1.6 percent every year
2. Twenty-two million _____.
 - A is equal to about 1.6 percent of the world's population
 - B is the number of people in the world today
 - C is the number of babies in the world today
 - D is the number of people dying every year
3. "Death Control" means _____.
 - A a rather different kind of Birth Control
 - B control of the world's population
 - C control death rate
 - D the spread of knowledge in the world
4. Two things have made people live longer. They are _____.
 - A Birth control and Death Control
 - B The spread of diseases and the increase in population
 - C High birth rate and low death rate
 - D Medical care and better living conditions