
英语专业八级

阅读 200 篇 (修订版)

200 Passages to Develop Reading Skills for TEM 8

常春藤英语考试研究组 编 著

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修订版前言

《英语专业八级阅读 200 篇》是根据《高等学校英语专业教学大纲》和《英语专业八级考试大纲》编写的考前强化训练书,旨在帮助英语专业学生在较短的时间内提高英语阅读水平,达到《大纲》的要求,顺利通过英语专业八级考试。

本书自 2004 年 1 月问世后,颇受读者欢迎。根据《英语专业八级考试大纲》(2004 年新版),从 2005 年起,英语专业八级考试的阅读理解部分有所变化。为了与新大纲保持一致,我们对本书进行了修订。此次修订后本书的内容包括 40 个单元的阅读材料,每个单元 5 篇文章,共 20 道阅读理解题。其中一部分文章选自英美报纸杂志上的社论、政论、书评,另外还有一定难度的历史传记、艺术评论、文学作品及学术论文的选段等。这些阅读材料无论是在长度、难度、题材、体裁方面,还是在测试形式方面均与最新修订的英语专业八级考试大纲完全一致。

本书大部份材料来自编者自 1999 年即开始在本校英语专业八级辅导班上使用的材料,现已历时 5 年之久,后经不断修订与补充,已成为英语专业八级阅读训练的行之有效的材料。本书几位编者均为多年从事英语专业教学的教师,近几年一直辅导英语专业八级考试,成绩斐然,故能准确把握英语专业八级阅读的命题思路与选材倾向,保证所选材料与英语专业八级考试大纲吻合,满足考生真正的需要。

本书可供英语专业八级考试(或其他难度相近)的阅读训练之用。考生可以在每天抽出 30 分钟完成一个单元,坚持 40 天左右,英语阅读能力、特别是英语专业八级阅读的应试能力一定会有一个飞跃。

常春藤英语考试研究组

2004 年 9 月

内 容 提 要

本书是根据《大学英语专业高年级教学大纲》和《高校英语专业八级考试大纲》(2004年新版),专门为参加英语专业八级考试的考生编写的复习应试书,内容为符合英语专业八级考试要求的阅读理解200篇,旨在使读者通过练习提高阅读水平和应试能力。

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UNIT 1

TEXT A

A history of long and effortless success can be a dreadful handicap, but, if properly handled, it may become a driving force. When the United States entered just such a glowing period after the end of the Second World War, it had a market eight times larger than any competitor, giving its industries unparalleled economies of scale. Its scientists were the world's best, its workers the most skilled. America and Americans were prosperous beyond the dreams of the Europeans and Asians whose economies the war had destroyed.

It was inevitable that this primacy should have narrowed as other countries grew richer. Just as inevitably, the retreat from predominance proved painful. By the mid-1980s Americans had found themselves at a loss over their fading industrial competitiveness. Some huge American industries, such as Consumer Electronics, had shrunk or vanished in the face of foreign competition. By 1987 there was only one American television maker left, Zenith. (Now there is none; Zenith was bought by South Korea's LG Electronics in July.) Foreign-made cars and textiles were sweeping into the domestic market. America's machine-tool industry was on the ropes. For a while it looked as though the making of semiconductors, which America had sat at the heart of the new computer age, was going to be the next casualty.

All of this caused a crisis of confidence. Americans stopped taking prosperity for granted. They began to believe that their way of doing business was failing, and that their incomes would therefore shortly begin to fall as well. The mid-1980s brought one inquiry after

another into the causes of America's industrial decline. Their sometimes sensational findings were filled with warnings about the growing competition from overseas.

How things have changed! In 1995 the United States can look back on five years of solid growth while Japan has been struggling. Few Americans attribute this solely to such obvious causes as a devalued dollar or the turning of the business cycle. Self-doubt has yielded to blind pride. "American industry has changed its structure, has gone on a diet, has learnt to be more quick-witted," according to Richard Cavanagh, executive dean of Harvard's Kennedy School of Government. "It makes me proud to be an American just to see how our businesses are improving their productivity," says Stephen Moore of the Cato Institute, a think-tank in Washington, D. C. And William Sahlman of the Harvard Business School believes that people will look back on this period as "a golden age of business management in the United States."

1. The U. S. achieved its predominance after World War II because _____.
 - A. it had made painstaking efforts towards this goal
 - B. its domestic market was eight times larger than before
 - C. the war had destroyed the economies of most potential competitors
 - D. the unparalleled size of its workforce had given an impetus to its economy
2. The loss of U. S. predominance in the world economy in the 1980s is manifested in the fact that the American _____.
 - A. TV industry had withdrawn to its domestic market
 - B. semiconductor industry had been taken over by foreign enterprises

- C. machine-tool industry had collapsed after suicidal actions
- D. auto industry had lost part of its domestic market

TEXT B

Every minute of every day, what ecologist James Carlton calls a global “conveyor belt”, redistributes ocean organisms. It’s planetwide biological disruption that scientists have barely begun to understand.

Dr. Carlton—an oceanographer at Williams College in Williamstown, Mass.—explains that, at any given moment, “There are several thousand marine species traveling... in the ballast water of ships.” These creatures move from coastal waters where they fit into the local web of life to places where some of them could tear that web apart. This is the larger dimension of the infamous invasion of fish-destroying, pipe-clogging zebra mussels.

Such voracious invaders at least make their presence known. What concerns Carlton and his fellow marine ecologists is the lack of knowledge about the hundreds of alien invaders that quietly enter coastal waters around the world every day. Many of them probably just die out. Some benignly—or even beneficially—join the local scene. But some will make trouble.

In one sense, this is an old story. Organisms have ridden ships for centuries. They have clung to hulls and come along with cargo. What’s new is the scale and speed of the migrations made possible by the massive volume of ship-ballast water—taken in to provide ship stability—continuously moving around the world...

Ships load up with ballast water and its inhabitants in coastal waters of one port and dump the ballast in another port that may be thousands of kilometers away. A single load can run to hundreds of gallons. Some larger ships take on as much as 40 million gallons. The

creatures that come along tend to be in their larva free-floating stage. When discharged in alien waters they can mature into crabs, jellyfish, slugs, and many other forms.

Since the problem involves coastal species, simply banning ballast dumps in coastal waters would, in theory, solve it. Coastal organisms in ballast water that is flushed into midocean would not survive. Such a ban has worked for North American Inland Waterway. But it would be hard to enforce it worldwide. Heating ballast water or straining it should also halt the species spread. But before any such worldwide regulations were imposed, scientists would need a clearer view of what is going on.

The continuous shuffling of marine organisms has changed the biology of the sea on a global scale. It can have devastating effects as in the case of the American comb jellyfish that recently invaded the Black Sea. It has destroyed that sea's anchovy fishery by eating anchovy eggs. It may soon spread to western and northern European waters.

The maritime nations that created the biological "conveyor belt" should support a coordinated international effort to find out what is going on and what should be done about it.

3. According to Dr. Carlton, ocean organisms are _____.
 - A. being moved to new environments
 - B. destroying the planet
 - C. succumbing to the zebra mussel
 - D. developing alien characteristics
4. Oceanographers are concerned because _____.
 - A. their knowledge of this phenomenon is limited
 - B. they believe the oceans are dying
 - C. they fear an invasion from outer-space

- D. they have identified thousands of alien webs
5. According to marine ecologists, transplanted marine species _____.
- A. may upset the ecosystems of coastal waters
 - B. are all compatible with one another
 - C. can only survive in their home waters
 - D. sometimes disrupt shipping lanes
6. The identified cause of the problem is _____.
- A. the rapidity with which larvae mature
 - B. a common practice of the shipping industry
 - C. a centuries old species
 - D. the world wide movement of ocean currents
7. The article suggests that a solution to the problem _____.
- A. is unlikely to be identified
 - B. must precede further research
 - C. is hypothetically easy
 - D. will limit global shipping

TEXT C

New 'Endangered' List Targets Many US Rivers

It is hard to think of a major natural resource or pollution issue in North America today that does not affect rivers.

Farm chemical runoff, industrial waste, urban storm sewers, sewage treatment, mining, logging, grazing, military bases, residential and business development, hydropower, loss of wetlands. The list goes on.

Legislation like the Clean Water Act and Wild and Scenic Rivers Act have provided some protection, but threats continue.

The Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) reported yesterday that an assessment of 642,000 miles of rivers and streams showed 34

percent in less than good condition. In a major study of the Clean Water Act, The Natural Resources Defense Council last fall reported that poison runoff impairs more than 125,000 miles of rivers.

More recently, the NRDC and Izaak Walton League warned that pollution and loss of wetlands—made worse by last year’s flooding—is degrading the Mississippi River ecosystem.

On Tuesday, the conservation group American Rivers issued its annual list of 10 “endangered” and 20 “threatened” rivers in 32 states, the District of Columbia, and Canada.

At the top of the list is the Clarks Fork of the Yellowstone River, where Canadian mining firms plan to build a 74-acre reservoir as part of a gold mine less than three miles from Yellowstone National Park. The reservoir would hold the runoff from the sulfuric acid used to extract gold from crushed rock.

“In the event this tailings pond failed, the impact to the greater Yellowstone ecosystem would be cataclysmic and the damage irreversible.” Sen. Max Baucus of Montana, chairman of the Environment and Public Works Committee, wrote to Noranda Minerals Inc., an owner of the “New World Mine”.

Last fall, an EPA official expressed concern about the mine and its potential impact, especially the plastic-lined storage reservoir. “I am unaware of any studies evaluating how a tailings pond could be maintained to ensure its structural integrity forever,” said Stephen Hoffman, chief of the EPA’s Mining Waste Section. “It is my opinion that underwater disposal of tailings at New World may present a potentially significant threat to human health and the environment.”

The results of an environmental-impact statement, now being drafted by the Forest Service and Montana Department of State Lands, could determine the mine’s future . . .

In its recent proposal to reauthorize the Clean Water Act, the Clinton administration noted “dramatically improved water quality since 1972,” when the act was passed. But it also reported that 30 percent of rivers continue to be degraded, mainly by silt and nutrients from farm and urban runoff, combined sewer overflows, and municipal sewage. Bottom sediments are contaminated in more than 1,000 waterways, the administration reported in releasing its proposal in January. Between 60 and 80 percent of riparian corridors (riverbank lands) have been degraded.

As with endangered species and their habitats in forests and deserts, the complexity of ecosystems is seen in rivers and the effects of development—beyond the obvious threats of industrial pollution, municipal waste, and in-stream diversions to slake the thirst of new communities in dry regions like the Southwest . . .

While there are many political hurdles ahead, reauthorization of the Clean Water Act this year holds promise for US rivers. Rep. Norm Mineta of California, who chairs the House Committee overseeing the bill, calls it “probably the most important environmental legislation this Congress will enact.”

8. According to the passage, the Clean Water Act _____.
 - A. has been ineffective
 - B. will definitely be renewed
 - C. has never been evaluated
 - D. was enacted some 30 years ago
9. “Endangered” rivers are _____.
 - A. catalogued annually
 - B. less polluted than “threatened rivers”
 - C. caused by flooding
 - D. adjacent to large cities

church seeing heresy in their fortune-telling and the state seeing anti-social behavior in their nomadism. At various times they have been forbidden to wear their distinctive bright clothes, to speak their own language, to travel, to marry one another, or to ply their traditional crafts. In some countries they were reduced to slavery—it wasn't until the mid-1800s that Gypsies slaves were freed in Romania. In more recent times the Gypsies were caught up in Nazi ethnic hysteria, and perhaps half a million perished in the Holocaust. Their horses have been shot and the wheels removed from their wagons, their names have been changed, their women have been sterilized, and their children have been forcibly given for adoption to non-Gypsy families.

But the Gypsies have confounded predictions of their disappearance as a distinct ethnic group, and their numbers have burgeoned. Today there are an estimated 8 to 12 million Gypsies scattered across Europe, making them the continent's largest minority. The exact number is hard to pin down. Gypsies have regularly been undercounted, both by regimes anxious to downplay their profile and by Gypsies themselves, seeking to avoid bureaucracies. Attempting to remedy past inequities, activist groups may overcount. Hundreds of thousands more have emigrated to the Americas and elsewhere. With very few exceptions Gypsies have expressed no great desire for a country to call their own—unlike the Jews, to whom the Gypsy experience is often compared. “Romanestan,” said Ronald Lee, a Canadian Gypsy writer, “is where my two feet stand.”

13. Gypsies are united only when they _____.

- A. are engaged in traditional crafts
- B. call them Roma

- C. live under a clan system
 - D. face external threats
14. In history hostility to Gypsies in Europe resulted in their persecution by all the following EXCEPT _____.
- A. the Egyptians
 - B. the sate
 - C. the church
 - D. the Nazis
15. According to the passage, the main differences between Gypsies and the Jews lies in their concepts of _____.
- A. language
 - B. culture
 - C. identity
 - D. custom

TEXT E

The first mention of slavery in the statutes of the English colonies of North America does not occur until after 1660—some forty years after the importation of the first Black people. Lest we think that slavery existed in fact before it did in law, Oscar and Mary Handlin assure us, that the status of Black people down to the 1660's was that of servants. A critique of the Hanlins' interpretation of why legal slavery did not appear until the 1660's suggests that assumptions about the relation between slavery and racial prejudice should be reexamined, and that explanation for the different treatment of Black slaves in North and South America should be expanded.

The Handlins explain the appearance of legal slavery by arguing that, during the 1660's, the position of White servants was improving relative to that of Black servants. Thus, the Handlins contend, Black and White servants, heretofore treated alike, each attained a different status. There are, however, important objections to this argument. First, the Handlins cannot adequately demonstrate that the White servant's position was improving, during and after the 1660's;

several acts of the Maryland and Virginia legislatures indicate otherwise. Another flaw in the Handlins' interpretation is their assumption that prior to the establishment of legal slavery there was no discrimination against Black people. It is true that before the 1660's Black people were rarely called slaves. But this should not overshadow evidence from the 1630's on that points to racial discrimination without using the term slavery. Such discrimination sometimes stopped short of lifetime servitude or inherited status—the two attributes of true slavery—yet in other cases it included both. The Handlins' argument excludes the real possibility that Black people in the English colonies were never treated as the equals of White people.

The possibility has important ramifications. If from the outset Black people were discriminated against, then legal slavery should be viewed as a reflection and an extension of racial prejudice rather than, as many historians including the Handlins have argued, the cause of prejudice. In addition, the existence of discrimination before the advent of legal slavery offers a further explanation for the harsher treatment of Black slaves in North than in South America. Freyre and Tannenbaum have rightly argued that the lack of certain traditions in North America—such as a Roman conception of slavery and a Roman Catholic emphasis on equality—explains why the treatment of Black slaves was more severe there than in the Spanish and Portuguese colonies of South America. But this cannot be the whole explanation since it is merely negative, based only on a lack of something. A more compelling explanation is that the early and sometimes extreme racial discrimination in the English colonies helped determine the particular nature of the slavery that followed.

16. Which of the following is the most logical inference to be drawn from the passage about the effects of “several acts of the

Maryland and Virginia legislatures” (Para. 2) passed during and after the 1660’s ?

- A. The acts negatively affected the pre-1660’s position of Black as well as of White servants.
- B. The acts had the effect of impairing rather than improving the position of White servants relative to what it had been before the 1660’s.
- C. The acts had a different effect on the position of White servants than did many of the acts passed during this time by the legislatures of other colonies.
- D. The acts, at the very least, caused the position of White servants to remain no better than it had been before the 1660’s.

17. With which of the following statements regarding the status of Black people in the English colonies of North America before the 1660’s would the author be LEAST likely to agree ?

- A. Although Black people were not legally considered to be slaves, they were often called slaves.
- B. Although subject to some discrimination, Black people had a higher legal status than they did after the 1660’s.
- C. Although sometimes subject to lifetime servitude, Black people were not legally considered to be slaves.
- D. Although often not treated the same as White people, Black people, like many White people, possessed the legal status of servants.

18. According to the passage, the Handlins have argued which of the following about the relationship between racial prejudice and the institution of legal slavery in the English colonies of North America ?

- A. Racial prejudice and the institution of slavery arose