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# 英语专业八级 阅读163训

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A Guide to Reading  
Comprehension of **TEM-8**

◎ 常骏跃 主编



大连理工大学出版社  
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征服英语专业四、八级



# 英语专业八级阅读 163 训

## *A Guide to Reading Comprehension of TEM-8*

主编 常骏跃

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大连理工大学出版社

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# 前 言 Foreword

英语专业八级统考是目前我国衡量高层次英语专业学生语言水平层次最高、规模最大、科学性最强、可信度最高的英语水平测试。顺利通过专业八级统考是学生语言综合运用能力的重要标志,它现在已经成为我国各用人单位了解应聘人英语语言技能的重要参考因素。在某种意义上讲,通过八级统考便取得了谋职的一张通行证。

八级考试为什么在社会上赢得这么高的信誉而且还在不断升温呢?这与考试本身的内容设置及考核方式有密切关系。八级考试涉及听力、阅读、改错、翻译、写作共五大方面。而且每一项都有它区别于其他英语考试的重要形式。听力不仅涉及常见的A、B、C、D选择,而且还要求学生具备听懂录音、快速记录、处理加工英语声音信息的能力;阅读不仅难度高于我国目前组织的其他英语考试,而且对阅读速度、阅读技巧有很高的要求;改错要求考生具备正确理解篇章内容,准确把握句子结构、时态、语态、语汇等多方面的语言能力;翻译要求考生具备准确理解英语与汉语,恰当并准确地表达英汉双语运用能力;写作要具备理解作文要求,根据文体要求合理组织材料,得体运用英语的能力。对付这么高难度的考

试,没有一定的语言基础不行,具备了一定的语言基础还需要进行足够的训练,提高解题的速度及准确性,在考卷上充分体现出自己的语言运用能力。

本套丛书重在基本功的训练,培养考生语言的综合运用能力,同时注意适当对应试技巧进行点拨。同学们可以针对各自语言技能的薄弱环节有选择地使用本套书。

本套丛书的特点如下:

### 1. 作者队伍有特色

本套丛书作者聚集了大学本科阶段四、八级统考的佼佼者、研究生阶段的精英、而且现在都在从事英语语言的教学与研究。他们既有备考的实际经验和体会,还能站在教学研究人员的角度审视考试的特点、选材特色以及同学的实际需要。

### 2. 材料选择有特色

本套丛书不是历年考题的罗列,而是根据考试的特点认真选材,充分考虑内容的题材和体裁,考虑了材料的信息含量和难度,使材料真正起到帮助同学打基础、练技巧的作用。

### 3. 注释详细有针对性

到了专业学习的第四年,同学都具备了一定的分析问题和解决问题的能力,但考虑到同学们八级考前阶段非常特殊且时间非常紧迫,我们特根据各题的特点为练习提供了注释。有讲解,有新词短语,有解题技巧说明,有听力原文,有参考译文,有写作范文。这样既能节省同学们不少时间还能最大限度地吸收知识,打牢自己的语言基础。

### 4. 技巧点拨到位且适度

八级考试有自身的要求和特点。丛书为同学们提供了详细的解

题技巧说明(但决不夸大应试技巧的作用),对往届考试认真地进行了分析,总结出八级考试的一些特点和规律供同学们备考时参考。

### 5. 训练量、信息量大

为了让同学们得到更多的训练,本套丛书根据题目特点,利用有限的版面提供了大量的练习。分项练习少则 18 套,多则 100 套,就连《英语专业八级三站式直通车》也为各项提供了足足 10 套练习,而且无论是综合训练还是单项训练,同样的练习内容不重复。

希望我们的努力能有助于各位同学打好语言技能基础,提高应试技能,成功通过八级考试,拿到这张谋职的通行证!

因为水平所限,错误在所难免,衷心希望各位对书中的问题批评指正。

编 者

于大连外国语学院英语学院

2003.9



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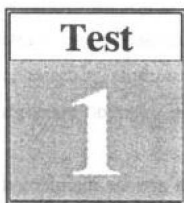
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## 阅读理解 & 答案与思路点拨

### 阅 读 理 解



### SECTION A READING COMPREHENSION [30 MIN.]

*In this section there are four reading passages followed by a total of fifteen multiple-choice questions. Read the passages and then mark the answers on your coloured answer sheet.*

#### **Text A** . . . . ●

Anthrax is an infectious disease caused by spore-forming bacteria. It most commonly occurs in wild and domestic cattle, sheep, goats, camels, antelopes and other

herbivores. Several countries have “weaponized” the disease into a highly lethal inhaled form.

Anthrax is a single bacterium but can infect people in three ways. Pulmonary anthrax is contracted from inhaling thousands of tiny spores. Those can germinate in the lungs, spread to chest tissue and produce toxins that enter the bloodstream. This form is usually lethal without quick treatment. Intestinal anthrax most often comes from eating contaminated meat. This form is 25 percent to 60 percent lethal. Cutaneous anthrax is the least lethal and most common form. Infection occurs when bacteria enters an abrasion on the skin.

Anthrax spores themselves are too small to see. If the spores are mass-produced, then dried, they may resemble a fine powder when concentrated. If anthrax were pumped into a building ventilation system and dispersed, it would be undetectable to the eye.

You might not know. Flu-like symptoms set in one to six days after anthrax is inhaled. Those symptoms may even appear to improve over a few days. Then, suddenly, someone infected would experience difficult breathing, heavy sweating, blue-colored skin and shock. Death follows in 24 ~ 36 hours. Intestinal anthrax causes nausea, loss of appetite, fever, abdominal pain and severe diarrhea. Cutaneous anthrax is easier to spot. At first, it looks like an insect bite, but in one or two days the infection becomes a painless ulcer with a black area in the center.

There is no evidence of person-to-person transmission. Clothes can be disinfected with a mixture of bleach and water. But anthrax spores can survive in soil, water and other materials for years. Disinfectant doesn't kill them. Contaminated surfaces must be steam-cleaned. Another concern is livestock. In a biological attack, animals such as sheep and cattle could be infected and could potentially transmit the disease to humans.

Inhaled anthrax used to be considered 100 percent lethal, but a U.S. Army study showed infected monkeys could be effectively treated with antibiotic therapy when the therapy began one day after exposure. This implies that humans could be treated with drugs such as ciprofloxacin, but only if they're aware they've been exposed and seek treatment immediately. Other types of anthrax require similar antibiotic therapy.

Only custom-fitted gas masks with special filters are effective against inhaled anthrax. Those cost hundreds of dollars and must be worn during exposure to anthrax

spores. Many experts have said it's unlikely people would know they are being exposed until it's too late to don a mask.

Ciprofloxacin, or Cipro, does not make people immune to the disease. Taking it may lower one's ability to fight other illnesses and could even hamper doctors from diagnosing an anthrax infection. Federal health officials say they can fly ample supplies of ciprofloxacin to anywhere in the United States within 12 hours of an outbreak.

The anthrax vaccine was licensed by the FDA in 1970 for at-risk veterinary and laboratory workers and livestock handlers. The Department of Defense also reserves a stockpile of the vaccine for military use. The military began vaccinating all soldiers on active duty in 1998 but has since slowed the program because the company that produces the vaccine, BioPort, has ceased production. The company's facilities didn't meet FDA requirements. The vaccine is effective if started at least four weeks before exposure. It consists of six doses with yearly booster shots. Up to 35 percent of those vaccinated experience rashes, muscle aches, headaches and other flu-like symptoms.

Anthrax is fairly easy to acquire. It can be stored in dry, powder form and remain potent for decades. With enough expertise, the spores can be dispersed in the air and inhaled by unprotected troops and civilians. Infection from inhaled spores is highly lethal, and spores that are not inhaled remain in the soil for many years. The U.S. military developed a strain of anthrax so lethal, just 8 gallons could kill everyone on earth.

A terrorist would need detailed knowledge and sophisticated facilities to mass-produce anthrax spores or even find the most potent strains of the bacteria. Only extremely fine, dry anthrax powders can make it to the lungs. And distributing is difficult. Iraq failed to adapt crop dusters to spread the spores during the Gulf War. The Japanese cult Aum Shinrikyo released anthrax ineffectively on several occasions in the 1990s. Anthrax spores are even vulnerable to the sun's ultraviolet rays and weather conditions.

1. *Which of the following statements about anthrax is NOT true?*

- A. Anthrax is highly contagious.
- B. Animals feeding on grass are most likely to be infected.
- C. Infection occurs when bacteria enter through a cut on the skin in the case of pulmonary anthrax.

- D. People can survive anthrax infection if they get quick treatment.
2. *Anthrax infection is hard to detect in the first few days, because \_\_\_\_\_.*
- A. people infected have no signs of being sick
  - B. anthrax infection is very likely to be mistaken for flu
  - C. people's health condition may even improve in the first few days
  - D. the infection looks just like an insect bite
3. *One might have cutaneous anthrax if he had which of the following symptoms?*
- A. Cough.
  - B. Bleeding.
  - C. An ulcer with a black area in the center.
  - D. Red-colored skin.
4. *All the following statements are wrong EXCEPT that \_\_\_\_\_.*
- A. ciprofloxacin is a type of antibiotic therapy and can make people immune to anthrax
  - B. the biggest problem with custom-fitted gas masks is that they are too expensive to be available to ordinary people
  - C. the anthrax vaccine is effective as long as it is given before exposure to anthrax
  - D. vaccination can bring side effects to about a third of the people vaccinated
5. *From the passage, we can infer that \_\_\_\_\_.*
- A. terrorists use anthrax as a weapon because it's easy to acquire
  - B. up to now, there is no satisfying way of preventing and curing the disease
  - C. right now, people can do nothing to fight against anthrax attack from terrorists
  - D. there is no need to worry, because we can prevent infection by vaccinating every citizen

## Text B

In the 1991 Gulf War it was Patriot missiles, smart bombs and stealth technology that helped win the day. If and when the U. S. fights in the region again, it will be with an even bigger arsenal of cutting-edge weaponry.

"This war is really high tech," says L-3 Communications CEO Frank Lanza—and he should know. Lanza's \$4-billion-dollar firm is one of the military's leading suppli-

ers of advanced technology, selling everything from secure communication equipment to attack aircraft simulators.

“The deployment now is a lot on intelligence resources, reconnaissance resources, communications, the buildup of our smart munitions, and that’s a big change over what the focus was in ’90 and ’91, which was really on people and munitions,” says Lanza.

In the next Gulf War, improved spy satellites from TRW will allow U.S. air and naval forces to see more clearly through bad weather than they could a decade ago.

Unmanned aerial vehicles from Northrop Grumman will be used to monitor enemy troop movements and strike elusive targets. Smart weapons will be even smarter, guided to their targets by an advanced global positioning system made by Boeing.

But the most powerful and most sophisticated weapon of all will be the ability to link a variety of intelligence and surveillance assets together to see and share a real time picture of the battlefield.

“In the future, the United States military does not believe that a bigger tank for example is going to win the war,” says Andrew Koch of Jane’s Defense Weekly. “Information . . . is going to win the war. Knowing where your enemy is and knowing where your friend is very precisely and being able to share that information in real time . . . is going to be the vast difference in winning a war and losing a war.”

Technology is changing the military from what analysts call a platform-centric fighting force of separate weapon systems to a network-centric structure based on information and communication.

It’s also improving the capabilities of fighting forces on the ground. Take advanced ceramics in the ’91 Gulf War—this technology created the radar-evading skin of the stealth fighter; today, it’s being used to make body armor plates for U.S. troops.

“This is the way the plate comes out; this is very light weight; it’s the lightest ceramic; it’s the hardest ceramic and we’re making them by the thousands really,” says Ceradyne CEO Joel Moskowitz.

California-based Ceradyne has just received a big order from the military for its ceramic chest and back plates which can stop multiple rounds from a 30-to 50-caliber machine gun at point blank range.

"We did about \$45 million in shipments sales last year and this year we've already come very close to that in the first 9 months," says Moskowitz.

While hundreds of smaller defense suppliers with advanced technology are seeing a boost in business from the latest military buildup, industry watchers say most of the military's money is flowing to the major contractors like Boeing, Lockheed Martin and Northrop Grumman.

6. *According to the passage, in modern time, \_\_\_\_\_ is the decisive factor in winning a war.*
- A. munitions
  - B. information and communication
  - C. strategy and tactics
  - D. soldier's morale
7. *Improvements in the next Gulf War will be the following EXCEPT that \_\_\_\_\_.*
- A. the focus will be shifted from people and munitions to intelligence resources, communication resources, etc.
  - B. a platform-centric fighting force of separate weapons systems will be turned into a network-centric structure based on information and communication
  - C. ground fighting forces will be reinforced
  - D. soldiers can remote control everything and need not go to the battle field.
8. *From the passage, we can tell that \_\_\_\_\_.*
- A. all the military supplies are benefiting enormously
  - B. in Gulf War, the U.S. failed for lack of advanced weapons
  - C. the increase of the U.S. military power is owing to high-tech
  - D. the author thinks that the U.S. should not spend so much money on military supplies

## Text C

.....

Today's excellent college students may find this startling, but there was actually a time when students failed courses or got less than a B. Then grade increase kicked in. Starting in the late 1960s, many students, professors and college administrators began

viewing grades as artificial measurements and irrelevant obstacles in the anything-goes culture. Also, sympathetic professors didn't want to lock out students who faced the prospect of fighting in Vietnam. In 1970, Stanford University abolished D's and F's and allowed students to withdraw from classes without tainting their transcripts. The mood, recalled English professor Ronald Rebholz, was "Let's encourage people to explore many possibilities without endangering their grades".

Admirable, but there went the grading curve. At Stanford these days, less than 10 percent of the students receive anything below a B grade. Are students smarter? Nah, that's Gen X myth No. 8. It's time, say many faculties suddenly discovering the joys of standing upright, to restore some meaning to the grading system. Last week Stanford's faculty took the bold step of voting to restore the F. Predictably, the gesture was misnamed; the F will henceforth be termed an NP, for "no pass". Call it what they might, it was an admission that policies had grown too vacuous. "Many of the faculty truly felt comfortable bringing things back to a more central position." said Gail Mahood, a geology professor and overseer of the changes.

Under Stanford's current policy, students who fail a class receive an NC, for "no credit", which appears only on internal records, not on the students' official transcripts. Much of Stanford's campus shrugged off the change. Few students truly deserve to flunk, and besides, says engineering professor Jeffery Koseff, those teachers who aren't giving C's and D's aren't going to start handing out NP's. Mahood argued that the policy will restore the honor—and frequency—of the C grade by placing it again in the acceptable middle range.

More controversial was Stanford's decision to get rid of its ask-no-questions withdrawal policy. That had allowed students to drop courses right up to the time of the final exam—without blemishing their records. Now they will have only until the fourth week to drop the course. Some students and professors contended the change will restrain the educational risk-taking that Stanford encourages. "College is basically the last time that you are going to have a chance to try out a lot of these things and explore." said student leader Nawwar Kasrawi.

But Kasrawi evidently thinks that exploration must be risk-free. A student might dare to take a class in biochemistry—not an easy course even at well-known West Coast universities—and evidently expect to be rewarded with at least a guaranteed B. This is



the spirit that made America great?

Skeptics say that professors and colleges have much to gain from grade increase. "A lot of institutions have felt pressed for students," says Whitla, not including Harvard, of course, among them. "They don't want to give out lousy grades." Others claim grade increase goes arm in arm with high tuition. Says Norman Wessells, dean at the University of Oregon: "The students are telling us, 'I pay so much to go to school here—you can't give me D's and F's!'"

Consumer fraud can take many forms.

9. *Which of the following is NOT true?*

- A. Stanford's change of policy is not as thorough as it's supposed to be.
- B. Stanford has encouraged students to drop courses.
- C. Some Stanford students considered dropping courses as a form of exploration.
- D. According to some skeptics, high tuition accounts for grade increase.

10. *The last sentence of this passage indicates that \_\_\_\_\_.*

- A. it is hard not to be victimized as customers since there are so many types of consumer cheating
- B. it is an unusual form of consumer fraud that students, as consumers of colleges, should ask to be cheated with false grade rather than be given the real one
- C. universities cheated students for the students' own good which should be considered as a special form of consumer fraud
- D. giving students false grade is only one form of consumer fraud, and there are many more

11. *The author's tone towards grade increasing in colleges is \_\_\_\_\_.*

- A. ironical and disapproving
- B. indifferent
- C. approving
- D. detached

## Text D

The improved standard of living, smaller family size, maternity benefits, protective legislation, unions, and new jobs comprised the most important changes in the lives

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of urban working-class women between the 1870s and the 1920s. Compared to these changes, the impact of World War I (1914-1918) on these women's lives was relatively minor. While middle- and upper-class women often reported that the war freed them from nineteenth-century attitudes limiting both work and personal life, working-class women's lives changed relatively little. Unlike more privileged women, working-class women were used to earning income outside the home, and their entry into war work was more likely to be exploitative than liberating. Unlike more privileged women, working-class women and girls had rarely been shielded by a "double standard" of sexual behavior for women and men; rather, working-class women made the maintenance of the double standard possible for men of property. For working-class women in the cities, the growth of the new white-collar job was one new trend fostered by the war which was not reversed afterward. Otherwise, World War I brought only a temporary suspension of the normal conditions of work outside the home, and traditional patterns returned in the postwar era.

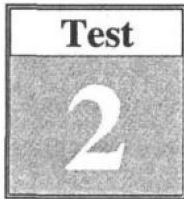
As soon as the war broke out, European governments moved to suspend protective legislation for women for the duration. Just as nations expected working-class men to serve in the military, they exhorted working-class women to serve in the factories, taking the places of the men who had joined the armed forces. Drawn by high wages as well as patriotism, women thronged into these new, previously male jobs. . . .

Governments initially insisted that women receive equal pay for doing a job formerly done by a man, but this policy was largely ineffective: factories tended to divide up jobs into smaller operations and pay women at a lesser rate. Women's industrial wages rose during the war, both relative to men's and absolutely, but they still remained measurable as a percentage of male earnings. In Paris, women in metallurgy earned only 45 percent of what men earned before the war; by 1918, the women earned 84 percent of what men earned. In Germany, women's industrial earnings relative to men's rose by about 5 percent. Both women and men seemed to view the changes brought by the war as temporary. After the war, the men would return to their jobs, the women would leave men's work, and all would return to normal. . . .

As soon as the war was over, all belligerent governments acted quickly to remove women from "men's" jobs. In England, these women were made "redundant" and let go; in France, they were offered a bonus payment if they left factory work; and in Ger-

many, the government issued regulations calling for women to be dismissed before men if necessary. These policies were effective: by 1921, fewer French and English women worked in industry than those before the war. Women's earnings decreased to return to lower percentages of men's, and the promise of "equal remunerations for work of equal value" made in the Versailles Treaty of 1919 remained a dead letter. Mass media concentrated on the relatively superficial changes in women's clothing, hairstyles, and use of cosmetics and ignored the deeper continuities which structured most women's lives.

12. *Working-class women did men's job in factories during the war, because \_\_\_\_\_.*
- A. they had to support their large families
  - B. working-class men went to war
  - C. they wanted to be equal to men
  - D. supplies were in great need in the front
13. *When the war was over, women \_\_\_\_\_.*
- A. kept their jobs in factories
  - B. were protected by governments
  - C. restored their previous role
  - D. left the city
14. *In the author's opinion, \_\_\_\_\_.*
- A. WWI brought a crucial change to working-class women's lives
  - B. changes for working-class women were only superficial and short-term
  - C. women's improved condition today is largely owing to the impact of WWI
  - D. governments' policy of giving women equal pay was very effective during WWI
15. *The author wrote this passage to \_\_\_\_\_.*
- A. show his objection to the view that women benefited a lot from their experiences as workers during WWI
  - B. call on women to continue their fight for liberation
  - C. criticize mass media for their superficial reports on women's lives
  - D. call governments' attention to women's problems



SECTION A READING  
COMPREHENSION [ 30 MIN. ]

*In this section there are four reading passages followed by a total of fifteen multiple-choice questions. Read the passages and then mark the answers on your coloured answer sheet.*

**Text A** . . . . .

But revised data now reveal that America's productivity growth after 1995 was only half as strong as the initial numbers showed, even these gains may turn out to have been more superficial than they now appear. When imported products are available at very low prices, as they were from cash-strapped Asian manufacturers in the late 1990s, U.S. productivity can artificially appear high. Production-related imports, such as semiconductors and engines, accounted for 50 percent of the value of American manufactured goods in 2000, up from 24 percent in 1987. U.S. productivity skyrocketed, as domestic assemblers relied on bargain-based zparts from abroad to generate high-value finished goods for the U.S. market with less and less labor, which means that apparent domestic-output gains may owe more to foreign producers' ingenuity than to our own. A slight statistical adjustment in import values, or a fall in the value of the dollar, would erase almost all of the reported productivity gains.

Yet we were seduced by the fantasy that a handful of Wall Street whiz kids and their computer-savvy counterparts had somehow reinvented the economy—a fantasy that seemed to justify America's growing reluctance to foster traditional industrial development. As early as 1969, for example, New York City adopted a plan that explicitly called for the systematic displacement of the city's "low wage" industrial base by a subsidized "modern" office economy. (The city provided tax breaks and development assistance to businesses in the office economy while it zoned and regulated many busi-

nesses in the industrial economy out of existence.) Over the next three decades this policy stripped 600,000 well-paying manufacturing jobs from what was once America's largest and most diverse production center, replacing them with a small number of professional positions at one extreme and many more low-paying service jobs at the other.

The advent of the New Economy seemed to validate this strategy, at least for a while. If investing in appealing white-collar sectors such as Internet development, software, and finance spurred reasonably robust job growth, then why not tailor domestic and international policies to favor office parks at the expense of factories? But many of the problems thought to have been vanquished by America's purported economic transformation have now returned. The U.S. job growth is anemic. The 1990s expansion generated record disparities in wealth. The U.S. trade deficits are at all-time highs. The economy is increasingly reliant on public-sector and consumer spending—a big reason why public deficits and private debt are ballooning.

Although it became fashionable to imagine that America could flourish as a deindustrialized society, manufacturing remains crucial for prosperity. The average production-sector job creates three times as many additional employment opportunities as the average service job. Given that more than 60 percent of the U.S. workers lack college degrees, and that manufacturing disproportionately employs the non-college-educated and pays wages roughly 20 percent higher than other sectors, it is not surprising to find that as manufacturing declines, economic inequality rises.

If our goal is to create jobs, boost productivity, reduce income inequality, and ensure our international competitiveness, then America needs an industrial policy that cultivates development across a broader spectrum. An effective industrial policy would have several key elements. One would be to re-examine our policy of maintaining a strong dollar—a practice that benefits the financial-services industry and affluent American consumers but undercuts the ability of domestic manufacturers to compete with foreign producers. A second element would be to exercise a more balanced trade policy. Over the past decade the U.S. government has gone to great lengths to force other economies to open up their financial markets and to protect intellectual property for the sake of New Economy companies worried about copyright infringement or MP3 downloads. But it has turned a blind eye to the unfair trade practices in the goods-producing sectors of those economies. For instance, many American steel companies went

bankrupt when the government failed to enforce its own trade laws and allowed collapsing Asian economies to flood the U.S. market with low-cost steel.

But the most important part of an effective industrial policy would be to abolish the discriminatory state and local business incentives, including land-use rules, that have over the past decade increasingly favored information-age jobs over working- and middle-class jobs. The growing political influence of New Economy corporations transformed tax, land-use, and development policies throughout much of the country. As a result it became virtually impossible for an "old economy" business, such as a factory or a shipping company, to secure permits in a timely manner in many communities. Meanwhile, broadband and fiber-optic companies received billions of dollars in tax and other subsidies, leading to the misallocation of some \$3 to \$4 trillion in investment capital. Today those regions that excessively favored New Economy interests are bleeding jobs and revenues, while those few that did not are experiencing sustained growth and development.

A more balanced industrial policy might temporarily lower our production numbers (from the artificially inflated to the genuine), but it would maximize the diversity of our economy, generate the widest range of employment opportunities for all our citizens, and stimulate real advances in our collective skill and creativity.

1. *The artificial growth of U. S. productivity is caused by \_\_\_\_\_.*
  - A. the fall in the value of the dollar
  - B. lower production cost resulting from importing great quantities of cheap semi-finished products
  - C. a statistical mistake
  - D. cheaper domestic labor
2. *Which of the following is NOT the author's opinion?*
  - A. U. S. should not maintain the value of the dollar at the expense of domestic manufacturers.
  - B. U. S. government should not force other economies to open up their financial markets.
  - C. U. S. did not pay adequate attention to import control.
  - D. Undue investment in office economy can hinder economic development.

3. *It can be inferred from the passage that \_\_\_\_\_ do not belong to New Economy corporations.*
- A. broadband and fiber-optic companies  
B. finance companies  
C. software companies  
D. steel works
4. *The author's attitude towards the current industrial policy is \_\_\_\_\_.*
- A. approving      B. supportive      C. skeptical      D. critical
5. *The author intends to \_\_\_\_\_.*
- A. reveal the crisis behind the artificial economic growth caused by the present unbalanced industrial policy and put forward several suggestions  
B. show that "old economy" is more suitable for the development of U.S. economy by analyzing the problems brought about by the New Economy  
C. criticize the current industrial policy for its inability to promote office economy  
D. show how U.S. economy is being disadvantaged by its diversity

## Text B

Hieroglyphs dominated the landscape of the Egyptian civilization. These elaborate symbols were ideal for inscriptions on the walls of majestic temples and monuments, and indeed the Greek word hieroglyphica means "sacred carvings", but they were too fussy for day-to-day scribbling, so other scripts were evolved in Egypt in parallel. These were the "hieratic" and "demotic" scripts, which can crudely be thought of as merely different fonts of the hieroglyphic alphabet.

Then, towards the end of the fourth century AD, within a generation, the Egyptian scripts vanished. The last datable examples of ancient Egyptian writing are found on the island of Philae, where a hieroglyphic temple inscription was carved in AD 394 and where a piece of demotic graffiti has been dated to 450 AD. The rise of Christianity was responsible for the extinction of Egyptian scripts, outlawing their use in order to eradicate any link with Egypt's pagan past.

The ancient scripts were replaced with "Coptic", a script consisting of 24 letters from the Greek alphabet supplemented by six demotic characters used for Egyptian



sounds not expressed in Greek. The ancient Egyptian language continued to be spoken, and evolved into what became known as the Coptic language, but in due course both the Coptic language and script were displaced by the spread of Arabic in the 11th century. The final linguistic link to Egypt's ancient kingdoms was then broken, and the knowledge needed to read the history of the Pharaohs was lost.

In later centuries, scholars who saw the hieroglyphs tried to interpret them, but they were hindered by a false hypothesis. They assumed that hieroglyphs were nothing more than primitive picture writing, and that their decipherment relied on a literal translation of the images they saw. In fact, the hieroglyphic script and its relatives are phonetic, which is to say that the characters largely represent distinct sounds, just like the letters in the English alphabet. It would take a remarkable discovery before this would be appreciated.

6. *Which of the following is correct about Egyptian Hieroglyphs?*

- A. Hieroglyphs were especially for inscriptions on the walls of sacred places and prohibited for daily use.
- B. It was made illegal to use hieroglyphs after Christianity dominated Egypt.
- C. Hieroglyphs, hieratic and demotic scripts once coexisted as three different languages.
- D. The inscription found on the island of Philae is the only extant Hieroglyphs.

7. *It can be inferred from the passage that \_\_\_\_\_.*

- A. a language is doomed to extinction if it is not convenient for use
- B. Egyptians did badly in preserving their language
- C. ancient Egyptians were more intelligent than scholars thought in creating writing language
- D. spoken languages are not likely to vanish

## Text C

It was a day that Michael Eisner would undoubtedly like to forget. Sitting in a Los Angeles witness box for four hours last week, the usually unflappable chairman of the Walt Disney Co. struggled to maintain his composure. Eisner's protégé turned neme-

sis. Jeffrey Katzenberg, his former employer, was seeking \$ 500 million in his breach-of-contract suit against Disney, and Eisner was trying to defend his—and his company's integrity. At one point Eisner became flustered when Katzenberg's attorney, Bertram Fields, asked if he recalled telling his biographer, Tony Schwartz, "I think I hate the little midget." Later Eisner recalled that the same day, he had received a fax from Katzenberg meant for Fields, thanking the lawyer for "managing" a magazine story that praised Katzenberg at Eisner's expense: "I said to Schwartz, 'Screw that. If he is going to play this disingenuous game... I simply was not going to pay him his money'."

Last week's revelations were the latest twist in a dispute that has entertained Hollywood and tarnished Disney's corporate image. The clash began five years ago, when Katzenberg quit Disney after a 10-year reign as studio chief, during which he oversaw production of such animated blockbusters as "The Lion King". Disney's attorneys say that Katzenberg forfeited his bonus—2 percent of profits in perpetuity from all Disney movies, TV shows and stage productions from 1984 to 1994, as well as their sequels and tie-ins—when he left. The company ultimately paid Katzenberg a partial settlement of nearly \$ 117 million, sources say. But talks broke down over how much Disney owed, and the dispute landed in court.

Industry insiders never expected that Disney would push it this far. The last Hollywood accounting dispute that aired in public was Art Buchwald's lawsuit against Paramount for profits he claimed to be owed from the 1988 Eddie Murphy hit "Coming to America". Paramount chose to fight Buchwald in court—only to wind up paying him \$ 1 million after embarrassing revelations about its business practices. After that, studios made a practice of quietly settling such claims. But Disney under Eisner would rather fight than settle. And he and Katzenberg are both proud, combative types whose business disagreement deepened into personal animus.

So far, Disney's image—as well as Eisner's—has taken a beating. In his testimony last week Eisner repeatedly responded to questions by saying "I don't recall" or "I don't know". Katzenberg, by contrast, offered a stack of notes and memos that appeared to bolster his claim. (The Disney executive who negotiated Katzenberg's deal, Frank Wells, died in a helicopter crash five years ago.)

The trial has also offered a devastating glimpse into the Magic Kingdom's business dealings. Internal documents detail sensitive Disney financial information. One Holly-

wood lawyer calls a memo sent to Katzenberg from a former Disney top accountant "a road map to riches" for writers, directors and producers eager to press cases against Disney. The company declined requests to comment on the case. The next phase of the trial could be even more embarrassing. As Katzenberg's profit participation is calculated, Eisner will have to argue that his animated treasures are far less valuable than Katzenberg claims. No matter how the judge rules, Disney will look like a loser.

8. *At the end of the first paragraph, the pronoun "I" in the quoted sentence "I said to Schwatz, . . . ." refers to \_\_\_\_\_.*
- A. Eisner                      B. Fields                      C. Schwatz                      D. Katzenberg
9. *Katzenberg made a lawsuit against Disney because \_\_\_\_\_.*
- A. Disney dismissed him before the contract expired  
B. Eisner insulted him in a magazine by calling him "the little midget"  
C. Disney did not pay him in accordance with the contract  
D. Disney owed him \$ 117 million
10. *Hollywood studios now try to avoid settling disputes with their employees in court because they fear that \_\_\_\_\_.*
- A. involvement in a lawsuit will tarnish their reputation  
B. many of their illegal business practices will be found out by the public  
C. lawyers will overcharge them for such cases  
D. their confidential business information will be divulged
11. *It is implied in the last paragraph that \_\_\_\_\_.*
- A. Disney has profited much less than the general public expected  
B. Disney has underpaid many of their employees  
C. Eisner's animated movies didn't bring as much money as Katzenberg thinks  
D. Disney is undergoing a financial crisis
12. *We can infer from this passage that \_\_\_\_\_.*
- A. Katzenberg will undoubtedly win the lawsuit and get all the money he claimed  
B. Eisner will remain imperturbable all through the trial  
C. Katzenberg will suffer great embarrassment  
D. Disney will face more lawsuits from their employees

## Text D

Religion is an overwhelmingly dominant characteristic of Thai culture. You cannot understand Thai culture without becoming acquainted with the religious heritage of the country, which revolves around Buddhism.

Buddhism came to Thailand around the 12th century when Buddhist missionaries traveled there from Sri Lanka. Thailand today is one of the most thoroughly Buddhist nations in the world (95% of the population). The country has 30 000 temples (450 in Bangkok, 300 in Chiang Mai). Thai Buddhism incorporates many of the animist beliefs that were prevalent before Buddhism came (such as beliefs in spirits of the land and the household). The result is a unique religious mix that sets Thai Buddhism apart from Buddhism in other countries.

For example, everywhere you go in Thailand, you see what look like fancy birdhouses in front of buildings. Some of these "birdhouses" are very ornate, like miniature temples. In reality, these are "spirit houses". One characteristic of these spirits is that they are very capricious and easily offended. A big part of the culture for centuries has been to appease these spirits and avoid offending them. One way of doing this is to keep them away from you, especially out of your house. But how do you get spirits out of your house? Answer: build them a house of their own, of course. But how do you guarantee that they will leave your house and go to the spirit house? Answer: make the spirit house "better" than your house. You also want to make sure the spirits know you have not forgotten them (otherwise they might be offended), so you leave little offerings (food, flowers, incense) at the spirit house from time to time.

The highest-ranking social class in Thailand is the Buddhist monk. (The King ranks No.2 behind the lowliest monk.) For this reason, there are many rules for social propriety when around the monks and temples. For example, when in a temple, never sit in a lotus position. This is the position that the monks sit in, and for a layman to sit in this position is to say that you are equal in status to the monk. (The proper way to sit is to bend down with your knees to the floor, knees together, sitting on the heels of your feet, with your feet pointed behind you.) If a monk approaches you at a temple, a Thai Buddhist will bow down three times with his face to the floor (the symbolic meaning is that the layman's head is lower than the feet of the monk).

One of the biggest ways to acquire heavenly merit is to become a monk. Thai men are not required to become monks during their lives, but they are strongly encouraged. The minimum "tour of duty" is one rainy season (about 1-3 months—my sources differ on the exact duration). To become a monk, you must be a man (most men who become monks do so around age 20). There is an ordination that takes place in July (the beginning of the rainy season). You must vow to obey 227 rules of conduct, including poverty, chastity, etc. You can choose to remain a monk for as long as you want after the minimum stay. In the Buddhist scheme, becoming a monk not only gives merit to the man, but also to the man's whole family. Hence you see mothers urging their sons to become monks so that the whole family can benefit. Thai women can become Buddhist "nuns", but this does not carry the same status (or heavenly merit) that comes from being a monk.

Buddhist temples are fabulously ornate. They usually contain many gold images of the Buddha in any of five postures (two in a lotus position, two standing, and one reclining—each posture has a particular significance). Conduct inside a temple is often different from a Westerner's expectation. Particularly, we tend to equate a Buddhist temple with a Christian church. The significant difference is that the Christian church service is a corporate affair. In the Buddhist temple, though, the worshipers are very individualistic. Each person is carrying out an individual ritual strictly for himself or herself, so you can walk around, watch, engage in conversation, etc. (i. e. without seeking to be arrogant or obnoxious) and you will not be intruding upon the activities around you.

A typical Buddhist ritual consists of the individual bringing (or buying) some incense sticks, candles, and a piece of gold leaf. The worshiper bows down before the Buddha statue, engages in some ritualistic prayers while shaking the incense sticks, then lights the incense and the candles, makes his or her requests to Buddha, then finishes by applying the gold leaf onto the Buddha statue. Requests might be for such things as a good mate, success in business, winning the lottery, or some other kinds of good luck.

13. *Thai Buddhism's unique feature is that \_\_\_\_\_.*

A. it blends the belief in Buddha with the belief in other spirits

- B. Buddhist monks enjoy the highest social status  
C. Buddhist temples are splendidly decorated  
D. rules as regards conduct in a temple are too rigid
14. *The reason for people to build "spirit houses" in front of their buildings is \_\_\_\_\_.*
- A. to scare away evil spirits  
B. to attract good spirits who can bring blessings to them  
C. to defend the spirits  
D. to provide nice dwelling places for the spirits so that they won't enter people's houses
15. *Which of the following statements is CORRECT?*
- A. A monk can resume secular life at any time.  
B. Talking in a Buddhist temple is forbidden during worshipping activities.  
C. Buddhists do not participate as a group during temple service.  
D. Monks in Thailand earn lots of money.

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Test

SECTION A READING  
COMPREHENSION [ 30 MIN. ]

*In this section there are four reading passages followed by a total of fifteen multiple-choice questions. Read the passages and then mark the answers on your coloured answer sheet.*

**Text A**

Although the principle of rocketry—essentially Newton's third law, on action and reaction—is elegant in its simplicity, it sets an upper limit on the efficiency and performance of rocket engines. A rocket can neither derive its motive power from the medium it moves through, like a clipper ship, nor refuel during its journey, like a bomber. The fuel that a rocket-powered-spacecraft requires for the final part of its ascent must be carried throughout the journey. The Space Shuttle is more than 90 percent propellant by weight as it sits on the launch pad; the percentage for vehicles capable of reaching higher orbits or other planets is even greater.

Although propellant is not a major factor in the cost of the space program—the four million pounds burned in a typical shuttle mission account for less than two percent of the launch's cost—its enormous consumption demonstrates that the physics of rocketry relies on brute force. Aircraft employ the earth's atmosphere, using it for lift and taking advantage of its winds; rockets simply punch through it. Greater efficiency comes from more dangerous propellants or higher burn temperatures, which require highly advanced engines with relatively short working lifetimes.

Thousands of engineers and technicians are required to maintain the complex shuttle, an expensive burden that would only increase with an expansion of the shuttle program. And, as the Challenger disaster showed, a rocket, however complex its comput-



erized regulatory systems, is essentially a space capsule sitting atop an enormous bomb, which is merely burned slowly rather than detonated all at once.

The exhaust from solid-fuel rockets leads to the formation of acid rain, while some liquid-fuel rockets, like the Space Shuttle, contribute to global warming. Although the warming effected by the shuttle on its current restricted launch schedule is minuscule compared with, say, rain-forest burning in Brazil, an ambitious space program, like the one NASA envisioned in the mid-1960s, might eventually pose significant problems, especially if other nations began similar programs.

All these factors have persuaded growing number of scientists that if humanity is going to establish vacuum and zero-gravity industries in space, or build large-scale facilities in orbit, a revolution in the means for lifting payloads into space must be achieved.

In 1960 a Soviet engineer named Y. N. Artsutanov published an article detailing how emerging technology could produce a previously unconsidered means of lifting objects into orbit. Artsutanov noted that at a distance of 22,400 miles a satellite takes exactly twenty-four hours to circle Earth. But because its "geostationary" orbit corresponds to Earth's own period of rotation, an object orbiting over the Equator at this height would remain fixed over one spot. Artsutanov boldly imagined such a satellite lowering a cable to Earth, where it would be anchored in place. If a counterweight was extruded in the opposite direction, such a system would be dynamically stable, maintaining itself without expenditure of energy. The cable would serve as a "space elevator" climbing into the sky. Artsutanov imagined such a cable system—or "heavenly funicular," as he called it—hauling 12,000 tons of payload a day into orbit. Once the cable system was completed, the cost of lifting payloads would be measurable in terms of electricity expended, or about a dollar per pound. Such a structure would be so huge at its base that it would be invulnerable to natural or human assault. An airplane or other man-made object would, however, be demolished if it crashed into the structure.

Artsutanov published his speculations in a Communist youth magazine rather than in a scientific journal, and his concept went largely unseen by scientists. In the following fifteen years it was independently reinvented several times, once by a team of oceanographers engaged in lowering long cables to the bottom of the sea. By the late