

# 全国大学生英语阅读竞赛往届真题（一）

## National English Reading Competition for College Students

(Total: 100 marks Time: 60 minutes)

说明：本题库版权归全国大学生英语阅读竞赛组委会所有，请勿商用。

赛题分值说明：

1、初赛：题型为客观题与主观题，共5篇阅读文章，其中2篇长篇3篇短篇。每篇长篇下设置5道客观单选小题；每篇短篇下设置3道小题（2道客观单选题，1道主观题）。共19道题，答题时间为60分钟，满分100分。长篇每题5.5分；短篇每题5分。

2、决赛：题型为客观题与主观题，共8篇阅读文章，其中2篇长篇6篇短篇。每篇长篇下设置5道客观单选小题；每篇短篇下设置3道小题（2道客观单选题，1道主观题）。共28道题，答题时长为60分钟，满分100分。长篇每题4分；短篇客观单选题每题3分，主观题每题4分。

(注：本样题与初赛题型、题量一致，仅供考生了解大赛题型，文中附有参考答案。)

### Read the paragraph. Then answer the questions. (Questions 1-5)

Quebec City is in Canada, but it feels very different from other North American cities. That's because it has retained a lot of history from when France had vast holdings in it. Even the main language spoken today is still French.

The French lost the city to the British in 1763, but you can still see the defensive stone walls around the old part of town, with canons rising along the ramparts. There are many preserved pieces of architecture that are still in use today. For example, 16th century explorer Louis Joliet's old stone house is now the ticket booth for the funicular tram (a kind of vertical train) that connects the upper and lower parts of the old city.

Because of its French sensibility, Quebec City has been named consistently as one of the most romantic cities in the world.

The city has so much vitality, even in the coldest parts of winter. There are tiny alleys filled with surprises, such as artists selling their wares. St. Louis Street is colorful, a juxtaposition against the forbidding historical gray structures.

If you're looking for warmth, then step inside the Fairmont Chateau Frontenac for some afternoon tea. Tea is served in silver pots, with tiny little treats to nibble on. The room is warm and quiet, making you feel as though you're wrapped in fuzzy fleece.

But you have to brave it like the locals to participate in some of the best festivals in town. The Christmas Market runs from November to late December in 2017. New Year's Eve has outdoor shows, lights and a Ferris

Wheel. And the most famous event of all for Quebec City is the Winter Carnival, which runs at the end of January until the beginning of February. And yes, even when temperatures dipped to record lows in 2014 with an average daytime high of 17.8 degrees Fahrenheit in February, people ignored the pragmatism of staying indoors. They still attended and had a great time. It's what makes Quebec City so unique, and a lot of fun.

1. Why is there such a strong French influence in Quebec? (C)

- A. No one else wanted to live in that part of town.
- B. French people fled here to escape a war.
- C. The French once owned most of the land.
- D. The French immigrated there recently.

2. What is the overall vibe of the city? (A)

- A. It's a place that's buzzing with energy.
- B. It's a place that's always crowded.
- C. It's a place where people go to relax.
- D. It's a place where people can be alone.

3. What can be said about some of the buildings in town? (A)

- A. They appear unfriendly and stark.
- B. They are modern with clean lines.
- C. They contain hidden treasures.
- D. They are now crumbling down.

4. What does the author compare having tea at Chateau Frontenac to? (C)

- A. It's like being a soldier from the past.
- B. It's like being trapped in a fierce storm.
- C. It's like being wrapped in a cozy fabric.
- D. It's like being treated like royalty.

5. What do locals do in the wintertime? (D)

- A. They enjoy hot chocolate by outdoor fires.
- B. They play a lot of sports on the icy river.
- C. They create events that are held indoors.
- D. They disregard the cold and go outside.

**Read the paragraph. Then answer the questions. (Questions 6-10)**

You don't have to be the smartest or the strongest to stand out. In fact, you don't even have to be the most talented to be recognized. Angela Duckworth, a professor of psychology at the University of Pennsylvania, says that what you need to do to stand out is to have “grit.”

Duckworth's definition of grit is the combination of unbridled passion and unrelenting perseverance. If you have both, you can rise above others who have talent, hard work or high IQ.

The professor developed the Grit Scale, which she tested at West Point. Despite West Point's stringent admissions policies, many new cadets still drop out at the beginning of the program.

Duckworth's Grit Scale, which is a test consisting of only 10 questions, consistently predicted who would survive the brutal seven-week training course at West Point. The test measured a person's passion and perseverance.

The good news for those of us who would not pass this test is that we can cultivate grit. Duckworth has written a book on the topic, outlining how to discover and deepen your interests, improve habits and carve out purpose, subsequently “growing grit from the inside out.”

6. What is one quality you must have to possess “grit”? (C)

- A. Be empathetic and aware of what others think.
- B. Be very enthusiastic about life in general.
- C. Be extremely zealous about something.
- D. Be ready to sacrifice your dreams if needed.

7. What do attendees of West Point do? (D)

- A. They develop their pilot skills.
- B. They try to be leaders in science.
- C. They learn to be academics.
- D. They train to be in the military.

8. What issue did West Point encounter with their new cadets? (A)

- A. Many new students quit the program early.
- B. Their screening process was too difficult to film.
- C. New students didn't know the course would be hard.
- D. Their instructors were tough on their classmates.

9. What does Duckworth say about grit for those people who don't have it? (C)

- A. She says that not everyone can be at the top.
- B. She says that some people can discover it.
- C. She says that it can be developed.
- D. She says that it's an innate trait.

10. What does the Grit Scale assess? (A)

- A. Whether someone is determined.
- B. Whether someone is courageous.
- C. Whether someone will succeed financially.
- D. Whether someone will get good grades.

**Read the paragraph. Then answer the questions. (Questions 11-13)**

From: anthony.lin@asia.net

To: karen.chou@world.com; paul.chou@world.com

Subject: Napoleon Bonaparte tour

Dear Karen and Paul,

Susan and I are really looking forward to our trip to Paris with you next month. I'd like to suggest that we reserve one of our days in Paris for a tour of sites connected with the life of Napoleon Bonaparte. Many tour agencies in Paris offer such tours. They all visit the following sites:

- Les Invalides: This is a complex of magnificent buildings dating from the 17th century. In one of the structures, there is a tomb containing the remains of Napoleon himself. The complex also includes a church and a museum. The church is decorated with flags that Napoleon's army captured from their enemies. The museum traces the history of the French army.
- Place Vendôme: This is a large, open square in the heart of Paris. In the center of the square, there is a tall column. The column was built on the orders of Napoleon to honor soldiers who died during one of his greatest battles. The sides of the column are decorated with battle scenes, and there is a statue of Napoleon at the top.
- Arc de Triomphe: This world-famous monument was also constructed on Napoleon's orders to honor his army's victories.
- Le Château de Malmaison: Located in a western suburb of Paris, this castle was built by Napoleon for his first wife, who became the Empress Joséphine.

In my opinion, this should be a full-day tour led by someone who is an expert in Napoleon and his times. The tour price should include pick-up and drop-off at our hotel, private transportation in a comfortable vehicle, and entrance fees to the buildings that we'll visit. It should also include a midday meal in a café. If it doesn't, we'll be starving by the time we get back to our hotel.

I'm attaching information about four possible tours. Let me know if you like my idea and, if so, which tour appeals to you. Thanks!

Regards,  
Anthony

11. What can be inferred about Anthony, Karen, and Paul? (C)

- A. They agreed not to spend too much on this tour.
- B. They all studied France's military history together.
- C. They have not yet decided which tour to go on.
- D. None of them speaks French.

12. The letter tells about four sites in Paris. Write out the name of the site that was NOT constructed on Napoleon's orders. (Les Invalides)

13. Which of the following is most likely Anthony's entry in his journal after the tour?

(B)

- A. "Little had I imagined the glory of Napoleon and his army before I witnessed Le Château de Malmaison."
- B. "I couldn't but feel a bit ill at ease while visiting Les Invalides because part of it was, after all, a grave."
- C. "The Empress Joséphine must have been pleasantly surprised when she saw Arc de Triomphe that was made for her."
- D. "Place Vendôme was the best! The museum tour was so informative, and I spent a fortune in the souvenir store!"

**Read the paragraph. Then answer the questions. (Questions 14-16)**

Since World War II ended, homelessness has gradually become more visible. Seventy years ago, the majority of the world's population lived in rural areas, where housing problems were often more difficult to see. Since then, there has been a steady stream of people moving from rural areas into cities. Many have been drawn by jobs in manufacturing and other industries. As a consequence, more than half of the

world's population now lives in urban areas, where homeless people are far more visible to everyone, including politicians.

The extent of the homelessness problem differs significantly from one nation to the next. One measure of homelessness is the “homeless rate,” which is the percentage of a nation's people who are homeless. This homeless rate varies greatly, even among the world's most advanced nations. The homeless rate in New Zealand, for example, is more than double the homeless rate in Germany and more than five times the homeless rate in the U.S. Australia's homeless rate is slightly higher than Germany's, while the homeless rates in England and France are only slightly higher than the homeless rate in the U.S.

Some causes of homelessness are personal, such as issues with physical or mental health, addiction and domestic abuse. Other causes are “systemic” – an over-priced housing market, job loss in a weak economy and poor government policies. To solve the problem of homelessness, all of the above causes must be addressed. Thankfully, innovative organizations are rising to meet the challenge.

One such organization is New Story. It helps devastated communities recover by building houses faster, better and, hopefully, cheaper. New Story is currently working on building the world's first 3D printed neighborhood in Tabasco, Mexico. It takes about 24 hours to “print” the walls of a house, after which local workers install the roof, doors and plumbing. The houses are designed to survive earthquakes and hurricanes and will hopefully last for generations. After developing and demonstrating their methods in Tabasco, New Story intends to offer the use of their technology to governments and other housing nonprofits.

14. Which aspect of homelessness is NOT mentioned in this passage? (D)

- A. An attempt to solve the problem
- B. Different degrees of homelessness
- C. Why homelessness worsened
- D. Effectiveness of the solution

15. In paragraph 3, it tells about causes of homelessness. Write out the nonpersonal factors of homelessness. (Over-priced housing market and job loss)

16. Which of the following is true in terms of homeless rate? (C)

A. England > France > the U.S

B. Australia > the U.S. > Germany.

C. New Zealand > Germany > the U.S.

D. Germany > New Zealand > Australia.

**Read the paragraph. Then answer the questions. (Questions 17-19)**

An animal or plant species becomes invasive when it spreads or is introduced into a new environment and causes harm to the animals or plants living there. Two of the most destructive invasive species are cane toads and small Indian mongooses.

Cane toads are giant frogs that feed on beetles and other tiny animals. In the 1930s, cane toads existed in some countries but not in Australia. In 1935, farmers in northern Australia imported cane toads and released them into their fields, where the farmers were growing sugar cane. The farmers expected the cane toads to eat the beetles that were damaging their sugar cane.

The cane toads met the farmers' expectations. However, they also began to breed and spread beyond the farms. Poison inside their bodies discouraged other animals from consuming them. Over the years, the cane toads multiplied and moved westward. They adapted to new environments and changed them by eating insects and other small species that were living there. By 2009, cane toads had reached Western Australia. The Australian government has tried to control the spread of cane toads but without success. There may be as many as 1.5 billion cane toads in the country today.

A similar story can be told about small Indian mongooses. These mammals have slim bodies, small ears, a long nose, short legs and a tail. They measure 66 to 96 centimeters in total length. They are native to nine Middle Eastern and South Asian countries. In the 19th century, small Indian mongooses were transported to islands in the Pacific and Atlantic oceans. They were introduced to these islands in the hope that



they would eat rats and snakes that were damaging the sugar cane that farmers were growing in their fields. The mongooses did that but, like the cane toads, also began to multiply and spread beyond the farms.

Wherever the mongooses were introduced, they killed birds and other small animal species that were important to the environment. Today, they are still considered one of the world's worst invasive species.

17. What does the article mainly deal with? (B)

- A. Two species that no longer exist on Earth.
- B. Two species that have become a problem.
- C. Two species that feed on sugar cane.
- D. Two species that are endangered.

18. In paragraph 4, it introduces small Indian mongooses. Write out where they are native to.

(Nine Middle Eastern and South Asian countries)

19. Which of the following statements correspond to what is mentioned in this article?

(A)

- A. A coyote ate a cane toad and then got very ill.
- B. A small Indian mongoose was swallowed by a snake.
- C. A colony of cane toads ate up an entire field of sugar cane.
- D. Some small Indian mongooses were found wandering on an African plantation.

参考答案:

1-5 C A A C D

6-10 C D A C A

11-13 C、Les Invalides、B

14-16 D、Over-priced housing market and job loss、C

17-19 B、Nine Middle Eastern and South Asian countries、A