

# 全国大学生英语阅读竞赛往届真题（三）

## National English Reading Competition for College Students

(Total: 100 marks Time: 60 minutes)

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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)

In the decades following World War II, American business had undisputed control of the world economy, producing goods of such high quality and low cost that foreign corporations were unable to compete. But in the mid-1960s the United States began to lose its advantage and by the 1980s, American corporations lagged behind the competition in many industries. In the computer chip industry, for example, American corporations had lost most of both domestic and foreign markets by the early 1980s.

The first analysts to examine the decline of American business blamed the U.S. government. They argued that stringent governmental restrictions on the behavior of American corporations, combined with the wholehearted support given to foreign firms by their governments, created an environment in which American products could not compete. Later analysts blamed predatory corporate raiders who bought corporations, not to make them more competitive in the face of foreign competition, but rather to sell off the most lucrative divisions for huge profits.

Still later, analysts blamed the American workforce, citing labor demands and poor productivity as the reasons American corporations have been unable to compete with Japanese and European firms. Finally, a few analysts even censured American consumers for their unpatriotic purchases of foreign goods. The blame actually lies with corporate management, which has made serious errors based on misconceptions about what it takes to be successful in the marketplace. These missteps involve labor costs, production choices, and growth strategies.

Even though labor costs typically account for less than 15% of a product's total cost, management has been quick to blame the costs of workers' wages for driving up prices, making American goods uncompetitive. As a result of attempts to minimize the cost of wages, American corporations have had trouble recruiting and retaining skilled workers.

The emphasis on cost minimization has also led to another blunder: an over-concentration on high technology products. Many foreign firms began by specializing in the mass production and sale of low technology products, gaining valuable experience and earning tremendous profits. Later, these corporations were able to break into high technology markets without much trouble; they simply applied their previous manufacturing experience and ample financial resources to the production of higher quality goods. American business has consistently ignored this very sensible approach.

The recent rash of corporate mergers and acquisitions in the United States has not helped the situation either. While American firms have neglected long-range planning and production, preferring instead to reap fast profits through mergers and acquisitions, foreign firms have been quick to exploit opportunities to ensure their domination over future markets by investing in the streamlining and modernization of their facilities.

1. The passage suggests that compared to Japanese workers, American workers are often considered: \_\_\_\_\_. (C)

- A. more content and more efficient
- B. more content but less efficient
- C. less content and less efficient
- D. less content but more efficient

2. With which of the following general statements would the author most likely NOT agree? (B)

- A. American business has been hurt by the inability to plan for the long term.
- B. Cutting production costs always leads to increased competitiveness.
- C. American consumers are not the prime cause of the decline of American business.
- D. Initial analysis of the decline of American business yielded only partially accurate conclusions.

3. Which of the following would most weaken the author's argument about the over-concentration of high-technology products? (B)

- A. Producing low-tech products is not as profitable as producing high-tech products.
- B. Manufacturing high-tech products is a completely different process than manufacturing low-tech goods.
- C. Most of the low-tech products purchased by Americans are made by foreign firms.
- D. Most of the high-tech products purchased by Americans are made by foreign firms.

4. Adopting the author's views as presented in the passage would most likely mean acknowledging that: \_\_\_\_\_. (A)

- A. it should be the goal of American business to regain control of the market
- B. the major blunder of American businesses was to alienate the skilled workers
- C. the future of American business would appear to be hopeless
- D. the foreign market is more important for business survival than the domestic market

5. The author of this passage would probably give his strongest support to which of the following actions by the corporate management of an American company? (C)

- A. Acquiring a smaller company in order to gain financial resources.
- B. Considering the option of paying the most highly skilled workers a higher wage.
- C. Imitating the general management strategy of foreign firms.
- D. Paying for television advertisements that will win back American consumers.

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

There are two basic methods used to teach acting skills: the "external" and "internal" styles. The "external" style, best exemplified by the London-based Royal Academy of Dramatic Art (RADA), emphasizes the technical detail of reproducing voice, facial expression, and body language. Actors trained in this style are taught to mimic the classic external manifestations of emotions, without striving to feel the emotion themselves. To this end, they study what are commonly regarded as obvious physical indicators of the emotional state being portrayed, and incorporate some or all of them into the role. Thus, an "external" actor portraying a liar would consciously perform some or all of these motions while reciting his lines, to suggest to the audience the external traits they are likely to associate with deception.

Therein lies the primary advantage of this classical, "external" style: since it conveys emotions through stylized, visible movements which the public instinctively associates with identifiable feelings, it usually succeeds in letting audiences know which emotion the actor is trying to portray. Audiences are rarely confused. But there is a risk the performance may seem too overt, too melodramatic.

We should note that classical acting evolved on stage, and bears the imprint of its origins. Since the Elizabethan stage was unamplified and viewed from a distance, classical acting stressed vocal strength, projection, and clear enunciation. It also stressed general posture over small gestures and facial expression, since an Elizabethan audience could see only the former from their seats. But, when it is used in film, the actor may appear too rigid and theatrical, conducting a street conversation

with a booming, stentorian voice and Oxford-precise enunciation. This is not to say that classically trained actors have not made inroads into American film; consider Patrick Stewart, John Gielgud, and Judy Dench. However, you will notice that such actors are usually typecast as commanding, dignified, well-educated characters, basically playing the same roles in every movie.

The other style of acting is the Stanislavski Method. "Method" acting is an "internal" discipline, which aims to get the actor to actually feel the thoughts, motives, and emotions, which the script calls for the character to feel. In Stanislavski's *An Actor Prepares*, he urges actors to prepare for a role not by mimicking others' mannerisms, but by taking time to contemplate the character's circumstances and motivations, and his purpose in interacting with the other characters, props, and environment. Ideally, this preparation lets the actor "get into the mind" of the character, and give a "natural," effortless performance by "living the life" of the character on stage/screen. Since Method actors do not focus on mechanical gestures, they give a less mannered, more natural performance when at their best.

6. Which of the following approaches is the drawbacks of the RADA style? (B)

- A. Projection
- B. Subtlety
- C. Mimicry
- D. Enunciation

7. According to the author, Patrick Stewart's success, (he played a commander of the starship Enterprise in the series Star Trek), was in large part the result of his: \_\_\_\_\_.

(C)

- A. previous roles in Shakespearian productions
- B. ability to make inroads into American film
- C. previous classical training
- D. ability to incorporate some of Stanislavski's Method

8. On the basis of the passage, it is reasonable to conclude that: \_\_\_\_\_ (C)

- A. Stanislavski probably did not think much of the "external" style.
- B. Marlon Brando would not have done well in an Elizabethan stage production.
- C. An audience might be confused by a Method actor in an Elizabethan stage production.
- D. John Gielgud was probably not capable of acting using the Method.

9. According to the passage, the best actress to realistically portray the character of a leader in a television documentary would be one who has been trained primarily in:

I. the Method. II. the RADA style. III. the "internal" style. (B)

- A. I only
- B. II only
- C. III only
- D. II and III only

10. According to passage information, when compared to Elizabethan stage characters, characters in films would appear: \_\_\_\_\_. (A)

- A. more realistic
- B. larger than life
- C. as commanding, or dignified
- D. too subtle

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

Handmade soaps are usually made from natural ingredients. These include oils, flowers and herbs for natural colors and fragrance. One important ingredient found in handmade soap keeps skin moist, soft and young-looking.

Natural soaps are often produced by individuals or small businesses in a community. Unlike factories, these producers make soaps in limited quantities. As a result, there is little effect on the environment. In contrast, waste from large soap

factories can contain dangerous chemicals. They can escape into and poison local water systems that provide drinking water for people living nearby. This doesn't happen when soap is made by hand since no dangerous chemicals are used. Since handmade soap is safe, it can be tested on humans. There is no reason to test it on animals.

Handmade soaps usually cost more than commercial soaps, but they are a better value. It's said that one handmade bar will last twice as long as a commercial bar.

Does natural soap get you as clean as commercial soap does? The answer is yes. It will safely clean your skin without removing natural oils. Rest assured that washing with handmade soap will leave you feeling fresh as a daisy.

There are several different methods for making handmade soap. In one method, several ingredients are first placed in a bowl. These include oils, water and a substance called caustic soda. In the second step, fragrances and colors are added. Next, an electric device is used to mix the ingredients. In the fourth step, the mixture is poured from the bowl into a rectangular form. Next the form containing the mixture is covered with a towel and heated for twenty-four hours. During this time, the mixture becomes solid soap. In the sixth step, the solid soap is removed from the form and cut into bars. In the final step, the soap bars are allowed to stand for four weeks. During this time, the soap cures. Afterwards, the soap is ready to use. (6/8, 9)

11. Why are mass-produced soaps mentioned in some of the paragraphs? (B)

- A. To show they are a superior product.
- B. To provide a strong contrast.
- C. For their commercial potential.
- D. For no particular reason.

12. The last paragraph explains the procedure for making handmade soap. Which steps are highly related to the shape of the soap?

**Ans: Step four; Step five; Step six**

13. Linda is a fan and advocate of handmade soap. Which of the following is she least likely to say? (C)

- A. "It is good for you and good for the Earth."
- B. "It is a bit costly, but totally worth it."
- C. "It leaves your skin clean but a little dry."
- D. "The same size lasts twice as long."

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

Dear Dr. Chen,

Congratulations on opening your new children's dental clinic! I'm sure it will be a big success. I'm happy to share some lessons that I have learned while operating my own children's dental clinic for many years.

In your email, you asked specifically about toys. I have used not only toys, but also children's books in my clinic in two ways.

When children arrive for an appointment with me or another dentist at the clinic, they are often quite nervous and afraid. Normally, they need to wait for at least a few minutes in my clinic's waiting room. To help them relax, I provide larger toys and children's books for them to play with and read while they wait with the adults who are accompanying them. The toys and books entertain the children and take their minds off their appointments.

In addition to toys, I also have a claw machine in my waiting room. Kids use it free of charge. I fill it with small, stuffed animals. The claw is large, and the controls are simple, so children can easily grab an animal. If you want to install a claw machine in your waiting room, I suggest buying one from the Electronic Games Company. No matter how long you own the machine, the company promises that they will repair or replace it if it breaks down. If you want to learn more about this particular benefit, just visit the company's website and follow the appropriate link.

I also have small toys to give children after they finish their appointments. These toys are rewards. They also give the children a reason to look forward to their next appointment. If you decide to do this, it is essential that the toys are entirely safe for

children. If they aren't, they could cause injuries after the children take them home.

Please let me know if you need any other advice. Good luck with your clinic!

Best regards,

Dr. Alice Hwang

14. What does Dr. Hwang's email mainly deal with? **(B)**

- A. Ways to deal with the Electronic Games Company.
- B. Dos and don'ts of putting toys in the clinic.
- C. The best location to put a claw machine.
- D. Steps to calm nervous patients.

15. Write out the ways that Dr. Hwang shares to make kids feel comfortable when they are waiting in her clinic's waiting room.

**Ans:** using toys and children's books

16. Eight-year-old Lucy had an appointment with Dr. Hwang today. She came home smiling and told her brother about her visit. Which of the following is most likely her statement? **(D)**

- A. "Look what I got from the claw-machine! A toy plane with cool, sharp wings!"
- B. "The doctor said if I was really brave, she would give me some candy to take home."
- C. "I was so brave when I was alone in the waiting room."
- D. "I got two small teddy bears today. Here's one for you."

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

Southern Spain has many attractions. Some are less well-known but fascinating, nevertheless.

Sitting on Sabika Hill in the city of Granada, the Alhambra is a complex of palaces and gardens. The Alhambra's most celebrated structures are the three original palaces – Comares Palace, Palace of the Lions and Partal Palace. All were built during

the 14th century. Visitors can walk through the stunning Court of Myrtles and find themselves in beautifully decorated rooms, through which water bubbles and flows in channels. There are no images of living creatures within the Alhambra. Instead, geometric designs and Arabic writing cover the walls.

South of Granada is a cave complex called Cueva de Nerja. Discovered accidentally by locals in 1959, it contains upper and lower galleries. On their walls are paintings drawn by early stone-age hunters. Hanging from their ceilings and rising from their floors are columns created over time by minerals in dripping water. Visitors can explore Cueva de Nerja by themselves or join a guided tour. In one of the largest galleries, an international music and dance festival is held each summer. It features opera, ballet and classical concerts.

North of Granada is the Tabernas Desert, which is known for its beautiful rock formations. Since the 1950s, this rocky landscape has attracted film directors. Inspired by the desert's raw beauty, they have produced such well-known films as *A Fistful of Dollars* and *Indiana Jones and the Last Crusade* here. A popular destination within the desert is Fort Bravo, a filming location that looks like an American "Wild West" town. Here you can dine comfortably with your companions, meet actors and watch Western shows.

West of Granada is Parque Nacional de Doñana. This national park beside the Mediterranean Sea attracts a huge variety of birds. Some species stay year-round, while others only visit during the winter months. Large colonies of geese and eagles can be observed. The birds are attracted by the plants and water. Cars and trucks are not allowed in Parque Nacional de Doñana without permission. Visitors can walk on paths that connect several visitor centers or explore the area on foot with an official guide.

17. What is a visitor to the Alhambra least likely to see? (D)

- A. Symmetrical lines.
- B. Flowing water.
- C. Foreign characters.

D. D. Paintings of birds.

18. Write out the restrictions for visitors in Parque Nacional de Doñana.

**Ans: Cars and trucks are not allowed without permission.**

19. "In 1988, Anita encountered a movie crew when in Granada. She was so excited that she could see Harrison Ford on a film set." Which attraction was she visiting? (C)

A. Alhambra.

B. Cueva de Nerja.

C. Tabernas Desert.

D. Parque Nacional de Doñana.