

<<大学英语四级考试全真预测卷>>

图书基本信息

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作者：文都大学英语四六级考试研究中心 编

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内容概要

本书编写者全部来自重点高校，并均为大学英语教学第一线骨干教师。是一支中、青年实力团队，他们最了解考生的需要、困难和愿望，更了解四六级考试的内容、难度、重点、要点和焦点，使全书不仅有权威性，且更具实战性。

具有的特点有精：提供多种途径，全方位多角度精准高效记忆单词；稳：稳扎稳打、步步为营、循序渐进、指导性强；密：题量大、点拨精、题海战术、强化训练、迅速提高；真：真题与预测题灵活搭配，考生各取所需；全：内容全面、一书在手、全程无忧

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章节摘录

Will We Run Out of Water ?

Picture a "ghost ship" sinking into the sand, left to rot on dry land by a receding sea. Then imagine dust storms sweeping up toxic pesticides and chemical fertilizers from the dry seabed and spewing them across towns and villages. Seem like a scene from a movie about the end of the world ?

For people living near the Aral Sea in Central Asia, it's all too real. Thirty years ago, government planners diverted the rivers that flow into the sea in order to irrigate (provide water for) farmland. As a result, the sea has shrunk to half its original size, stranding ships on dry land. The seawater has tripled in salt content and become polluted, killing all 24 native species of fish. Similar large-scale efforts to redirect water in other parts of the world have also ended in ecological crisis, according to numerous environmental groups. But many countries continue to build massive dams and irrigation systems, even though such projects can create more problems than they fix. Why ?

People in many parts of the world are desperate for water, and more people will need more water in the next century. "Growing populations will worsen problems with water," says Peter H. Gleick, an environmental scientist at the Pacific Institute for studies in Development, Environment, and Security, a research organization in California. He fears that by the year 2025, as many as one-third of the world's projected 8.3 billion people will suffer from water shortages.

Where Water Goes Only 2.5 percent of all water on Earth is freshwater, water suitable for drinking and growing food, says Sandra Postel, director of the Global Water Policy Project in Amherst, Mass. Two-thirds of this freshwater is locked in glaciers and ice caps. In fact, only a tiny percentage of freshwater is part of the water cycle, in which water evaporates and rises into the atmosphere, then condenses and falls back to Earth as precipitation (rain or snow) . Some precipitation runs off land to lakes and oceans, and some becomes groundwater, water that seeps into the earth. Much of this renewable freshwater ends up in remote places like the Amazon river basin in Brazil, where few people live. In fact, the world's population has access to only 12,500 cubic kilometers of freshwater——about the amount of water in Lake Superior. And people use half of this amount already. "If water demand continues to climb rapidly," says Postel, "there will be severe shortages and damage to the aquatic environment."

Close to Home Water woes may seem remote to people living in rich countries like the United States. But Americans could face serious water shortages, too especially in areas that rely on groundwater. Groundwater accumulates in aquifers layers of sand and gravel that lie between soil and bedrock. (For every liter of surface water, more than 90 liters are hidden underground.) Although the United States has large aquifers, farmers, ranchers, and cities are tapping many of them for water faster than nature can replenish it. In northwest Texas, for example, over pumping has shrunk groundwater supplies by 25 percent, according to Postel. Americans may face even more urgent problems from pollution. Drinking water in the United States is generally safe and meets high standards. Nevertheless, one in five Americans every day unknowingly drinks tap water contaminated with bacteria and chemical wastes, according to the Environmental Protection Agency. In Milwaukee, 400,000 people fell ill in 1993 after drinking tap water tainted with cryptosporidium, a microbe that causes fever, diarrhea and vomiting. The Source Where do contaminants come from ?

In developing countries, people dump raw sewage into the same streams and rivers from which they draw water for drinking and cooking; about 250 million people a year get sick from water borne diseases. In developed countries, manufacturers use 100,000 chemical compounds to make a wide range of products. Toxic chemicals pollute water when released untreated into rivers and lakes. (Certain compounds, such as polychlorinated biphenyls, or PCBs, have been banned in the United States.) But almost everyone contributes to water pollution. People often pour household cleaners, car antifreeze, and paint thinners down the drain; all of these contain hazardous chemicals. Scientists studying water in the San Francisco Bay reported in 1996 that 70 percent of the pollutants could be traced to household waste. Farmers have been criticized for overusing herbicides and pesticides, chemicals that kill weeds and insects but that pollute water as well. Farmers also use nitrates,

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nitrogen-rich fertilizer that help plants grow but that can wreak havoc on the environment. Nitrates are swept away by surface runoff to lakes and seas. Too many nitrates "over enrich" these bodies of water, encouraging the buildup of algae, or microscopic plants that live on the surface of the water. Algae deprive the water of oxygen that fish need to survive, at times choking off life in an entire body of water. What's the Solution ?

Water expert Gleick advocates conservation and local solutions to water-related problems; governments, for instance, would be better off building small-scale dams rather than huge and disruptive projects like the one that ruined the Aral Sea. "More than 1 billion people worldwide don't have access to basic clean drinking water," says Gleick. "There has to be a strong push on the part of everyone——governments and ordinary people——to make sure we have a resource so fundamental to life."

1. What caused the Aral Sea to shrink? [A] The rivers flowing into it have been diverted. [B] Farmers used its water to irrigate their farmland. [C] Government planners over-pumped its water. [D] High temperature made its water badly evaporate.

2. The construction of massive dams and irrigation projects ___ [A] does more good than harm [B] solves more problems than what they created [C] does more harm than good [D] brings more water to people than expected

3. The chief causes of water shortage include ___ [A] population growth and water waste [B] water pollution and dry weather [C] water waste and pollution [D] population growth and water pollution

4. Americans ___ could suffer from greatly serious water shortages? [A] living in rich areas [B] living in big cities but poor condition [C] depending on groundwater [D] bearing high standards of safe drinking water in mind

5. What is the main pollutant in developed countries? [A] Untreated toxic chemicals from manufacturers. [B] Raw sewage into rivers and streams. [C] Herbicides and pesticides used by farmers. [D] Household cleaners poured down the drain.

6. How does algae make threats to life of a body of water? [A] By covering the whole surface of the water. [B] By competitively using oxygen life in water needs. [C] By living more rapidly than other life in water. [D] By releasing hazardous chemicals into water.

7. According to Gleick, who should be responsible for solving water-related problems? [A] government and housewives. [B] farmers and manufacturers. [C] ordinary people and manufacturers. [D] government and every person.

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《2010新题型大学英语四级考试全真预测卷》由文都大学英语四六级命题研究中心策划，是全国8000万高校考生备考首选通用教材。

权威预测，考场“似曾相识” 预测试题：紧扣大纲 难度贴切 权威预测最新考点 答案解析：言简意赅 一语中的 准确把握考试命脉 联手名师，悉心研究经典预测；查漏补缺，有效提高应试水平；身临其境，模拟真实考场气氛；渗透技巧，传授独有高分诀窍。

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