

1990年1月大学英语四级考试阅读附试题和答案英语六级考试  
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Comprehension (35 minutes) Directions: There are 4 reading passages in this part. Each passage is followed by some questions or unfinished statements. For each of them there are four choices marked A), B), C) and D). You should decide on the best choice and mark the corresponding letter on the Answer Sheet with a single line through the centre. Passage One Questions 21 to 25 are based on the following passage. Oceanography has been defined as “ The application of all sciences to the study of the sea ” . Before the nineteenth century, scientists with an interest in the sea were few and far between. Certainly Newton considered some theoretical aspects of it in his writings, but he was reluctant to go to sea to further his work. For most people the sea was remote, and with the exception of early intercontinental travelers or others who earned a living from the sea, there was little reason to ask many questions about it, let alone to ask what lay beneath the surface. The first time that question “ What is at the bottom of the oceans? ” had to be answered with any commercial consequence was when the laying of a telegraph cable from Europe to America was proposed. The engineers had to know the depth profile (起伏形状) of the route to estimate the length of cable that had to be manufactured. It was to Maury of the US Navy that the Atlantic Telegraph Company turned, in 1853, for information on this matter. In the 1840s, Maury had been

responsible for encouraging voyages during which soundings (测声) were taken to investigate the depths of the North Atlantic and Pacific Oceans. Later, some of his findings aroused much popular interest in his book *The Physical Geography of the Sea*. The cable was laid, but not until 1866 was the connection made permanent and reliable. At the early attempts, the cable failed and when it was taken out for repairs it was found to be covered in living growths, a fact which defied contemporary scientific opinion that there was no life in the deeper parts of the sea. Within a few years oceanography was under way. In 1872 Thomson led a scientific expedition (考察), which lasted for four years and brought home thousands of samples from the sea. Their classification and analysis occupied scientists for years and led to a five-volume report, the last volume being published in 1895. 21. The proposal to lay a telegraph cable from Europe to America made oceanographic studies take on \_\_\_\_\_. A) an academic aspect B) a military aspect C) a business aspect

www.Examda.CoM 考试就到百考试题 D) an international aspect ( C ) 22. It was \_\_\_\_\_ that asked Maury for help in oceanographic studies. A) the American Navy B) some early intercontinental travelers C) those who earned a living from the sea D) the company which proposed to lay an undersea cable ( D ) 23. The aim of the voyages Maury was responsible for in the 1840s was \_\_\_\_\_. A) to make some sounding experiments in the oceans B) to collect samples of sea plants and animals C) to estimate the length of cable that was needed D) to measure the depths of the two oceans ( D ) 24.

“ Defied ” in the 5th paragraph probably means “ \_\_\_\_\_ ” .

A) doubted B) gave proof to C) challenged D) agreed to ( C ) 25.

This passage is mainly about \_\_\_\_\_. A) the beginnings of oceanography B) the laying of the first undersea cable C) the investigation of ocean depths D) the early intercontinental

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