



Starting out

PASSAGE 1

Directions:

Read the following passage with 10 statements attached to it. Each statement contains information given in one of the paragraphs. Identify the paragraph from which the information is derived. You may choose a paragraph more than once. Each paragraph is marked with a letter.

阅读和练习实际用时 _____

正确答题数 _____

Asian-American students' culture shock

- A** The United States of America is a country in which many people from all over the world come to live harmoniously (和谐地) with each other. It is a melting pot since each person brings his peculiarity to enrich the culture of this country. But this “melting” process is not always without pain or hurt. Culture shock is a state of confusion, anxiety and depression as an individual is suddenly exposed to a social or cultural environment completely different from his own. Young people from Asian countries are more likely to get lost in front of such culture shock. Generally, their hardships can be described through the following aspects:
- B** When Asian people come to the United States to live, they bring their children along with them. Either prepared or unprepared to live here, these young students always suffer from stress because of culture shock. The first people they have contact with at school are their teachers, but student-teacher relationships here are not the same as they are in their homeland.
- C** Asian students often have high regard for their teachers. They hesitate to ask questions in class, for they don't want to lose their face in showing their ignorance (无知) in front of the class, and sometimes because their English is not good enough to form a clear question. It is the same thing for answering the teachers' questions. In Asian countries,

teachers often call students by name when they want to have an answer from their students. Children there are taught to be modest and not to “show their knowledge” freely until specially called for. All these things can lead to misunderstanding since their American teachers can think that they are too shy, or stupid, or somehow abnormal.

- D** American schools often work to help students to be independent as soon as possible in their studies. On the other hand, in Asian schools, students come to acquire knowledge from teachers, and books are there only to help them. When students hesitate to ask their teachers, they can ask their friends, because in Asian countries, students stay in the same classroom while their teachers come to their class to teach them. When Asian students come here, they feel lost, because they change their classroom and their friends every period and it’s difficult for them to seek help from their friends. It’s a normal thing that American teachers expect Asian students to ask them to explain something difficult. However, Asian students don’t do this, as we have seen earlier.
- E** Another thing that American teachers often do is giving compliments (赞美) to students to encourage them to work harder. But Asians, with their strong sense of modesty, feel uncomfortable about accepting compliments, especially if these compliments are stated in front of the class. On the other hand, some students can misunderstand these compliments and become so proud that they may break the orders of their classes. Some teachers complain that some of their Asian students are hard to manage. Because these students don’t know how to use wisely the freedom of expression that their teachers give them. They make fun of themselves and become “fools” in their classes.
- F** Because of extreme modesty, many Asians have difficulty finding employment in the USA. When they are interviewed for jobs, they are often too modest to show all their abilities. And also because of that modesty, many Asian parents don’t value their own language and just try to let their children use only English at school and at home. That makes their children’s ability of learning language become lower.
- G** Body contact can be another subject of misunderstanding. In Asian countries, people don’t kiss or hug somebody of the opposite sex in public places. Asian students are very surprised to see their friends kissing each other in front of them. On the other hand, in Asian countries, two girls or two boys can walk together hand in hand and no one is shocked. But if they do so here, their American friends may be alarmed.
- H** Although most Asian students have to face all these cultural conflicts, they manage to work their way through schools and colleges, and become respectable United States citizens. Within this country, there still are many ethnic communities where people from ethnic groups come to share their lives, trade foods, and celebrate festivals. That adds to the variety of American life and helps American people to understand more easily other people in the world.

(760 words)

- **1** If Asian students are praised in the class, they would feel uncomfortable.
- **2** People kissing in public are as rare in Asia as people of the same sex walking hand in hand in America.
- **3** Teachers in Asian countries are used to getting answers from their students by calling students' names.
- **4** People tend to be confused, anxious and depressed when they face a totally different society or culture which is called "culture shock".
- **5** Some Asian students fail to behave themselves in classes due to their misunderstanding of their teachers' compliments.
- **6** Asian students are often confused when they come to American classes because their classrooms and friends both change from period to period.
- **7** Asian children usually suffer from culture shock when they come to the United States, no matter how well they are prepared to live here.
- **8** Many Asian students have made it to become American citizens despite the cultural conflicts they encounter.
- **9** In Asian schools, students can turn to their classmates for help because they stay together in the same classroom all the time.
- **10** Quite a few Asians find it hard to get employed in America because they are extremely modest.

PASSAGE 2

Directions:

Read the following passage with 10 statements attached to it. Each statement contains information given in one of the paragraphs. Identify the paragraph from which the information is derived. You may choose a paragraph more than once. Each paragraph is marked with a letter.

阅读和练习实际用时 _____

正确答题数 _____

College housing

- A** Finding college housing is the most important task a student has after being admitted to a school. The student should begin their search for housing immediately. You should consult your welcome package for housing information. Many colleges require that first-year students live on campus. It has been shown to be very beneficial for new students to live on campus. It allows students to adjust to their new environment and get used to being on their own. Check with the administration for plenty of useful college resources.
- B** It is a big adjustment (调整) being out on your own, but living on campus does have some rewards:
- C** Living on campus allows you to interact with other students and develop your interpersonal (人际的) skills. It takes time to get used to interacting with the opposite sex on the college level. Living on campus can help you with it.
- D** Living on campus gives you access to cheap, prepared food. You will learn to love the school restaurant. Food is a large part of expenses in college. Having access to prepared food on campus is a big plus.
- E** It is very easy to get around when you live on campus. You do not even need a car in most cases. Students walk or ride bikes to and from class. There are sometimes also campus buses that run, depending on the college you attend.
- F** If you live on campus you will get closer to the social activities of your college. A party can happen in a matter of hours or minutes. When you live on campus you have access to all the activities that are frequently happening.
- G** Do not discount dorm room housing. It is especially important in your first year. The dorm room exposes you to a wide variety of people and personalities. This experience will enrich your life and make your college experience much better. You will be constantly bombarded (向……提供大量信息) with different views and opinions. There will be study groups and

people that you can discuss your ideas with. There will be others to help study for tests and exams. You have to consider all the positive effects of living in a dorm. After your first year, when you are comfortable in college, you can find housing off campus. It is generally suggested that everyone should spend their first year in the dorms.

- H** Living off campus also has its advantages as well. You have your own bathroom. You eat what you want and when you want. Most of the time, you have your own room when living off campus. You are free to live the way you want. You are your own boss. If going to a college near home, you could save money and keep your privacy. This depends on the rules of the college though, so check with the administration for more information.
- I** If you want to live off campus, finding housing should be your number one priority. Use the local newspaper, the phone book, and student newspaper to try to find what housing is available. There are often huge houses for college students to rent, on or close to campus. Often, several students will pool their resources and rent a house. This works very well. You have social interaction and people to spend time with. You also have privacy and the ability to live the way you want to.
- J** You first need to find out what the housing requirements are for the college you are going to attend. Then, start your housing search. The early bird truly does get the best housing. Do not wait or you will be left with housing that is less than desirable.
- K** Finding college housing does not have to be hard. You can find a great place that is very inexpensive if you search. Start your college housing search early and you will be more likely to be successful.

(675 words)

- 1 Freshmen are generally advised to live on campus so as to have the chance to get to know various people and personalities.
- 2 Living on campus is helpful in interacting with the opposite sex.
- 3 College students can turn to the newspaper and the phone book for information about housing.
- 4 Living on campus enables freshmen to adapt to their new environment and stand on their own feet.
- 5 If you do try, you will find it not difficult to get a satisfactory house.
- 6 You can save money and keep your privacy by attending a college not far away from your home.
- 7 It is quite common for several students to rent a house off campus together.
- 8 Before you look for your ideal house, you are expected to make certain about your college housing requirements.
- 9 Cheap and prepared food will be easily available if you live on campus.
- 10 Living on campus can offer you transportation convenience to and from class.

PASSAGE 3

Directions:

Read the following passage with 10 statements attached to it. Each statement contains information given in one of the paragraphs. Identify the paragraph from which the information is derived. You may choose a paragraph more than once. Each paragraph is marked with a letter.

阅读和练习实际用时 _____

正确答题数 _____

Living with a roommate

- A** You may have grown up living with lots of brothers or sisters, or this may be your first time sharing your living space with someone else. While having a roommate certainly has its challenges, it can also be a great part of your college experience. Follow these 10 tips to make sure you and your roommate keep things pleasant and supportive throughout the year (or even years!).
- B 1 Be clear from the beginning.** Do you know in advance that you hate it when someone hits the snooze button (催醒闹钟的按钮) 15 times every morning? That you need 10 minutes to yourself before talking to anyone after you wake up? Let your roommate know as soon as you can about your special hates and preferences. It's not fair to expect him or her to pick up on them right away, and communicating what you need is one of the best ways to get rid of problems before they become problems.
- C 2 Address things when they're little.** Is your roommate always forgetting her stuff for the shower, and taking yours? Are your clothes being borrowed faster than you can wash them? Addressing things that annoy you while they're still little can help your roommate be aware of something she may not otherwise know. And addressing little things is much easier than addressing them after they've become big.
- D 3 Respect your roommate's stuff.** This may seem simple, but it's probably one of the biggest reasons why roommates experience conflict. Don't think he'll mind if you borrow his sports shoes for a quick soccer game? For all you know, you just stepped over an uncrossable line. Don't borrow, use, or take anything without getting permission first.
- E 4 Be careful of who you bring into your room – and how often.** You may love having your study group into your room. But your roommate may not. Be careful of how often you bring people over. If your roommate studies best in the quiet, and you study best in a group, can you alternate (轮流) who hits the library and who gets the room?

- F 5 Lock the door and windows.** This may seem like it has nothing to do with roommate relationships, but how would you feel if your roommate's notebook computer got stolen during the 10 seconds it took you to run down the hall? Or vice versa (反过来也是一样)? Locking your door and windows is a critical part of keeping safe on campus.
- G 6 Be friendly, without expecting to be best friends.** Don't go into your roommate relationship thinking that you are going to be best friends for the time you're at school. It may happen, but expecting it may set both of you up for trouble. You should be friendly with your roommate but also make sure you have your own social circles.
- H 7 Be open to new things.** Your roommate may be from some place you've never heard of. They may have a religion or lifestyle that is completely different from your own. Be open to new ideas and experiences, especially as it relates to what your roommate brings into your life. That's why you went to college in the first place, right?
- I 8 Be open to change.** You should expect to learn and grow and change during your time at school. And the same should happen to your roommate, if all goes well. As the term progresses, realize things will change for both of you. Be comfortable addressing things that unexpectedly come up, setting new rules, and being flexible to your changing environment.
- J 9 Address things when they're big.** You may not have been totally honest with Tip 2. Or you may suddenly find yourself with a roommate who goes wild after being shy and quiet the first two months. Either way, if something gets to be a big problem quickly, deal with it as soon as you can.
- K 10 If nothing else, follow the golden rule.** Treat your roommate like you'd like to be treated. No matter what your relationship is at the end of the year, you can take comfort knowing you acted like an adult and treated your roommate with respect.

(724 words)

- 1 You are not expected to force yourself regard your roommate as your best friend.
- 2 You need to talk with your roommate about your special likes or dislikes as soon as possible.
- 3 As unexpected things may happen, you are advised to be flexible to the new situation.
- 4 The sooner you deal with the problems which are getting big between you and your roommate, the better.
- 5 You would feel annoyed or upset if your roommate's laptop computer was stolen in your dorm because of your carelessness.
- 6 To learn, grow and change should be among your expectations during your school life.

- 7 If your roommate prefers a quiet learning environment and you tend to study with others, you two can choose to study in your room in turn.
- 8 You should not borrow, use or take any of your roommate's belongings unless you are allowed to do so.
- 9 An early handling of the small annoying things done by your roommate will strengthen the relationship between you two.
- 10 It is normal for your roommate to have their own lifestyle and religious belief that are different from yours.

PASSAGE 4

Directions:

Read the following passage, and then answer the questions. For questions 1-7, choose the best answer from the four choices marked A, B, C and D. For questions 8-10, complete the sentences with the information given in the passage.

阅读和练习实际用时 _____

正确答题数 _____

Secrets of straight-A students

Everyone knows about straight-A students. In fact, hard work isn't the whole story behind their academic success. "It's not how long you sit there with the books open," said one of the many straight-A students we interviewed. "It's what you do while you're sitting." Indeed, some of these students actually put in fewer hours of homework time than their lower-scoring classmates. Here are some secrets of these young study champions.

Set priorities. Top students bear no breaks on study time. Once the books are open or the computer is booted up, phone calls go unanswered, TV shows unwatched, and snacks ignored. Study is business; business comes before recreation.

Study anytime – or anywhere. Among the students we interviewed, study times were strictly a matter of personal preference. Some worked late at night when the house was quiet. Others awoke early. Still others studied as soon as they came home from school, when the work was fresh in their minds. All agreed, however, on the need for consistency.

Get organized. Paul Melendres, a straight-A freshman from New Mexico, keeps two folders (文件夹) – one for the day's assignments, another for papers completed and graded. Melendres' methods have actually proven effective. Even students who don't have a private study area remain organized. A bag or drawer keeps essential supplies together and cuts down on time-wasting searches.

Learn how to read. According to Christopher Campbell, an 18-year-old Harvard freshman, the best class he ever took was speed-reading. In his book *Getting Straight A's*, Gordon W. Green, Jr., says the secret of good reading is to be "an active reader – one who always asks questions that lead to a full understanding of the author's message".

Schedule your time. When a teacher assigns a long paper, Domenica Roman, a top Stanford freshman from Dallas, draws up a timetable, dividing the project into small pieces so it will not become such a heavy burden.

“It’s like eating a steak,” she says. “You chew it one bite at a time.”

Of course, even the best students delay sometimes. But when that happens, they face up to it. “Sometimes it comes down to late nights. If you want A’s, you make sure to hit the deadline.”

Take good notes – and use them. The top students also take notes while reading the text assignment. Just before the bell rings, most students close their books, put away papers, whisper to friends and get ready to rush out. Christi Anderson, a top student at Lyman High School in Presho, SD, uses those few minutes to write a two- or three-sentence summary of the lesson’s key points, which she scans before the next day’s class.

Clean up your act. Neat papers are likely to get higher grades than sloppy ones. “The student who turns in a neat paper,” says Claude Olney, an Arizona State University business professor, “is already on the way to an A. It’s like being served a cheeseburger (奶酪汉堡包). No matter how good it really is, you can’t believe it tastes good if it’s presented on a dirty plate.”

Speak up. “If I don’t understand the principle my teacher is explaining in economics, I ask him to repeat it,” says Christopher Campbell. Class participation goes beyond merely asking questions, though. It’s a matter of showing intellectual curiosity. “I don’t want to memorize information for tests only,” says Campbell. “Better grades come from better understanding.”

Test yourself. As part of her note-taking, Domenica Roman emphasizes points she thinks may be covered during exams. Later she designs tentative (试验性的) test questions based on those points and gives herself a written examination before test day. “If I can’t answer the question satisfactorily, I go back and review,” she says.

Do more than you’re asked. If her math teacher assigns five problems, Christi Anderson does 10. If the world-history teacher assigns eight pages of reading, she reads 12. “Part of learning is practicing,” says Anderson. “And the more you practice, the more you learn.”

The most important “secret” of the super-achievers is not so secret. For almost all straight-A students, the contribution of their parents was crucial. From early childhood, their parents filled them with a love for learning. They set high standards for their kids, and held them to those standards. They encouraged their sons and daughters in their studies but did not do the work for them. In short, the parents impressed the lessons of responsibility on their kids, and the kids delivered.

(754 words)

- 1 When straight-A students begin studying, they will probably _____.
 - A spend more time taking notes
 - B talk about study with their classmates on the phone occasionally
 - C focus all their attention on their study tasks
 - D take breaks regularly
- 2 The interviewed straight-A students have various ways to use their time except _____.
 - A studying late at night when others all fall asleep
 - B studying during the 10-minute break between the classes
 - C getting up early to start a new day's study
 - D beginning study right away when they go back home
- 3 It is advised in this passage that in order to save time spent looking for learning materials, students are expected to _____.
 - A own a private study area
 - B put completed and graded papers together in a drawer
 - C prepare a bag to put assignments in
 - D organize learning supplies by putting them in order
- 4 This passage indicates that an effective reader should _____.
 - A choose the best-selling books of famous writers
 - B raise questions to get a complete understanding of what he or she is reading
 - C communicate with the writers of the books he or she is reading
 - D read a book slowly and carefully in order to understand it fully
- 5 What does Domenica Roman mean by comparing doing assignments to eating a steak?
 - A Students should learn how to taste the happiness brought by doing assignments.
 - B For students, assignments are as important as the three meals a day.
 - C Students should arrange their time reasonably to finish the long assignments.
 - D No matter how hard assignments seem, they are not so difficult for students to deal with.
- 6 According to the passage, what are straight-A students likely to do when a class is about to be over?
 - A They will be quickly prepared to leave the classroom.
 - B They will spend a few minutes writing down the key points of the class.
 - C They will meet their friends to leave school together.
 - D They will collect some questions to ask the teacher after class.
- 7 We can learn from Professor Claude Olney that _____.
 - A all straight-A students turn in neat papers
 - B straight-A students are allowed to turn in sloppy papers
 - C neat papers are likely to give teachers a better impression
 - D neat papers mean harder work
- 8 According to Christopher Campbell, better grades result from effective understanding instead of _____.
- 9 Christi Anderson's secret of becoming a straight-A student is to do more than _____.
- 10 The crucial secret of straight-A students' success is their parents' _____.