

閱讀測驗篇

第 3 章





Reading 6

Adoption touches almost every conceivable aspect of American society and culture. Adoption commands our attention because of the enormous number of people who have a direct, intimate connection to it—some experts put the number as high as six out of every ten Americans. Others estimate that about one million children in the U.S. live with adoptive parents and that 2% to 4% of American families include an adopted child. According to incomplete 1992 estimates, a total of 126,951 domestic adoptions occurred, 53,525 of them (42%) kinship or stepparent adoptions. Because of the **dearth** of healthy U.S. infants for adoption, 18,477 adoptions in 2000 were intercountry adoptions, with slightly more than half of those children coming from Russia and China. In short, adoption is a ubiquitous social institution in American society, creating invisible relationships with biological and adoptive kin that touch far more people than we imagine.

Any social organization that touches so many lives in such a profound way is bound to be complicated. Modern adoption is no exception. That is why it is so important to have a historical perspective on this significant social and legal institution. Newspapers, television news shows, and magazines frequently carry stories about various **facets** of adoption. Numerous online chat rooms focus on issues related to the subject. There is a reason for this prominence of adoption. While raising any family is inherently stressful, adoption is filled with additional tensions that are unique to the adoptive relationship.

W First comes the problem of state regulation. X A host of state laws govern every aspect of legal adoptions: who may adopt, who may be adopted, the persons who must consent to the adoption, the form the adoption petition must take, the notice of investigation and formal hearing of the adoption petition, the effect of the adoption decree, the procedure for appeal, the confidential nature of the hearings and records in adoption proceedings, the issuance of new birth certificates, and adoption subsidy payments. Y Second, since World War II, the entire edifice of modern adoption has been enveloped in secrecy. Records of adoption proceedings are confidential, closed both to the public and to all the parties involved in the adoption: birth parents, adoptees, and adoptive parents. Third, in a nation that sanctifies blood kinship,

adoptive families and adoptees are stigmatized because of their lack of biological relationship. Z

With the onset of World War II, a revolution began in the world of adoption that only a historical perspective can explain. A few examples will illustrate this point. In reaction to the stigmatization, rationalization, and secrecy associated with adoption, **the adoptee search movement** emerged and began to demand the opening of adoption records. Opposing these adoptees, some birth mothers argued that they had been promised secrecy when they relinquished their children for adoption and that abrogating that promise constituted an invasion of privacy. Since World War II, intercountry adoptions have increased tremendously, but critics have denounced such adoptions as shameful in admitting a nation's inability to care of its own people, exploitative of its poorest class, destructive of children's cultural and ethnic heritage, and rife with baby-selling scandals.

Since the mid-nineteenth century, formal adoption—the legal termination of the birth parents' (traditionally defined as a heterosexual couple) parental rights and the taking into the home of a child—has been the way Americans have created substitute families. Through most of the twentieth century, the adoptive parents were assumed to be middle-class couples who wanted children in order to fill out a more-or-less traditional family. But nontraditional families are becoming more common now. Fully 30% of adoptive parents are single mothers, and gay and lesbian couples are increasingly winning the legal right to become adoptive parents. And as an outgrowth of in vitro fertilization technology, researchers have developed “embryo adoption” in which an infertile couple can adopt a donated frozen embryo, bringing into question the very meaning of the institution of adoption. The embryo is implanted into the uterus of the adopting mother, who then gestates and gives birth to the baby. Embryo adoption **obviates** the need for legal adoption because many state laws maintain that a woman who gives birth to a child is the biological parent.

The growth of assisted reproductive technologies, along with almost every aspect of modern adoption—whether the state's intervention into the family or removal of children from their country of origin—raises profound emotional and ethical considerations that only the history of adoption can begin to illuminate.

Exercise

- ① According to paragraph 1, why is adoption too important an issue to be ignored?
- (A) Because so many people are influenced by adoption
 - (B) Because many societies are connected through adoption
 - (C) Because adoption commands our attention
 - (D) Because six out of every 10 Americans were adopted
- ② The word “dearth” in paragraph 1 is closest in meaning to
- (A) dearthness
 - (B) depth
 - (C) scarcity
 - (D) expensiveness
- ③ Which of the following can be inferred from paragraph 1 about U.S. adoptions in 2000?
- (A) Some 126,951 children were adopted.
 - (B) Some 42% were kinship or stepparent adoptions.
 - (C) There were 18,447 adoptions in total
 - (D) More than 9,000 adoptees came from Russia and China.
- ④ According to paragraph 2, which of the following is true about adoption?
- (A) Adoption need not be complicated in the modern society as long as one keeps a historical perspective on it.
 - (B) The issue of adoption has taken up too much newspaper space, TV news time, and Internet chat room.
 - (C) The stress of raising a family finds an outlet in adoption.
 - (D) A family with adopted children faces extra stress which is absent from a “normal,” biological family.
- ⑤ The word “facets” in paragraph 2 is closest in meaning to
- (A) faces
 - (B) aspects
 - (C) facts
 - (D) arguments
- ⑥ The author mentions all of the following in paragraph 3 as being under the control of state legislation EXCEPT
- (A) the kind of person that may adopt a child
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- (B) the kind of child that may be adopted
(C) the country an adoptee may come from
(D) the need for secrecy in the adoption process
- ⑦ In which position would the boldfaced sentence best fit in paragraph 3?
From the moment they decide they wish to adopt a child, couples begin to confront a series of challenges.
- (A) Position W (B) Position X
(C) Position Y (D) Position Z
- ⑧ The author mentions “the adoptee search movement” in paragraph 4 in order to
(A) illustrate the stigmatization, rationalization, and secrecy surrounding adoption
(B) give an example of a significant change in adoption practices
(C) argue that World War II was a revolution
(D) present a historical perspective on revolutions
- ⑨ According to the author, what was the goal of the adoptee search movement?
(A) To search foreign countries for possible adoptees
(B) To lift the veil of secrecy from adoption records
(C) To end the stigmatization of adopted children
(D) To satisfy the requirements of the birth mothers
- ⑩ According to paragraph 5, what kind of couple stood the best chance of adopting a child in the 20th century?
(A) a middle-class couple
(B) a single mother
(C) a gay couple
(D) a nontraditional couple
- ⑪ The word “obviates” in paragraph 5 is closest in meaning to
(A) makes obvious (B) precludes
(C) necessitates (D) establishes
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- ⑫ Which of the sentences below best expresses the essential information in the boldfaced sentence in paragraph 6?

The growth of assisted reproductive technologies, along with almost every aspect of modern adoption—whether the state’s intervention into the family or removal of children from their country of origin—raises profound emotional and ethical considerations that only the history of adoption can begin to illuminate.

- (A) Technologies and government regulations have facilitated adoption so that historical considerations of emotion and ethics are no longer necessary.
- (B) Faced with new technologies and various facets about adoption, one has to ponder moral and emotional issues and look for answers in the history of adoption.
- (C) Because the government may intervene and remove children, the history of adoption must be considered profoundly.
- (D) Every aspect of modern adoption is emotionally and ethically profound when examined from a historical perspective.

題解

文章翻譯

領養影響到美國社會文化幾乎每一個想像得到的層面。領養要求我們注意，因為與其直接、密切相關的人數眾多——有些專家估計高達 10 分之 6 的美國人都是。也有人估計，美國約有 100 萬兒童和養父母生活，而且美國家庭 2% 到 4% 都有一個養子女。根據不完整的 1992 年估計，國內領養案總數有 126,951 件，其中有 53,525 件 (42%) 是親戚或繼父母領養。因為可供領養的健康美國嬰兒稀少，2000 年有 18,477 件領養案是跨國領養，其中比半數稍多一點都來自俄羅斯與中國。簡單講，領養在美國社會是無所不在的制度，和血親與養親之間都創造出無形的關係，影響到的人數超出我們的想像。

一種社會組織如果對這麼多人產生如此深遠的影響，一定是相當複雜的事，現代的領養制度也不例外。所以，對這種重要的社會與法律制度，我們得要有歷史觀才行。報紙、電視新聞節目、以及雜誌，經常報導關於領養的各方面。也有許多線上聊天室專注在與此主題有關的議題上。領養會如此突出是有原因的。生兒育女本身固然是很有壓力的事，可是領養充滿外加的張力，那是領養關係專有的。

W 首先是州政府規定的問題。X 有一堆州政府法律在規範合法領養的每一個層面：誰有資格領養、誰有資格被領養、由誰同意領養、領養申請的形式、領養申請的調查通知與正式聽證會、領養令的效力、上訴的程序、領養程序的聽證與記錄的保密程度、新出生證明的發給、以及領養補助金的支付。Y 其次，自二次世界大戰以來，現代領養的整個架構一直包裹在祕密中。領養程序的記錄屬於機密，民衆無法取得、涉及領養的各方人士也一樣，包括生父母、被領養人、以及養父母。第三，美國這個國家崇尚血親關係，領養家庭與被領養人會因為沒有血緣關係而蒙上污點。Z

隨著二次世界大戰來到，領養界也掀起革命，只有從歷史觀點才能夠解釋。舉幾個例子可以說明這點。領養因為被蒙上污名、辯解、以及包裹在祕密中，所以「被領養人搜尋運動」應運而生、開始要求公開領養記錄。有些生母反對這些被領養人的要求，表示當初放棄小孩供人領養時曾經承諾她們會保密、一旦破壞那項承諾就會構成侵犯隱私。二次大戰以來，跨國領養件數大增，但批評者譴責這種領養，說它很不光采地承認一個國家沒有能力照料自己的人民、剝削最貧窮的階級、破壞兒童的種族文化傳承、並且充斥賣小孩的醜聞。

自 19 世紀中葉以來，正式領養——依法結束生父母（傳統定義為異性夫婦）的親權、將小孩帶到家中撫養——一直都是美國人創造替代家庭的辦法。大半個 20 世紀，養父母一般認為都是中產階級夫婦、想要有小孩來充實一個多多少少算是傳統的家庭。但是，非傳統家庭如今越來越常見。多達 30% 的養父母如今是單親媽媽，而且有越來越多的男同性戀、女同性戀伴侶贏得合法權力可以當養父母。另外，拜試管嬰兒科技之賜，研究人員已經開發出「胚胎領養」，不孕的夫婦可以領養別人捐贈的冷凍胚胎，所以何謂「領養」都成了問題。胚胎移植到領養母親的子宮中，然後懷胎、產下嬰兒。胚胎領養排除了依法領養的必要，因為許多州的法律認定產下嬰兒的女人就是生母。

協助生育科技的發展，加上現代領養的幾乎每一個層面——不論是州政府對家庭的干預還是將小孩帶出原本的國家——都引起深刻的情感與倫理關切，只有通過領養的歷史才能稍加闡明。

練習題翻譯與詳解

- ① 根據第一段，領養為何是非常重要不容忽視的議題？
- (A) 因為有許多人受到領養的影響
 - (B) 因為許多社會因為領養而連結
 - (C) 因為領養令我們不得不注意
 - (D) 因為每 10 個美國人有 6 個被領養

【答案】A

【解析】這是問細節的題型，要找同義表達。第一段說「領養影響到美國社會文化幾乎每一個想像得到的層面。領養要求我們注意，因為與其直接、密切相關的人數眾多」，其中 the enormous number of people who have a direct, intimate connection to it 就是 so many people are influenced by adoption 的同義表達，故選 (A)。

② 第一段中的 dearth 意思最接近

- (A) 親密
- (B) 深度
- (C) 稀少
- (D) 昂貴

【答案】C

【解析】這是單字題。名詞 dearth 的意思是「稀少」，同義字是 scarcity。

③ 由第一段可以推論，美國在 2000 年的領養如何？

- (A) 約 126,951 名兒童被領養。
- (B) 約 42% 是親戚或繼父母的領養。
- (C) 總共有 18,447 件領養。
- (D) 超過 9,000 名被領養人來自俄羅斯與中國。

【答案】D

【解析】這是推論題，要找「根據」。第一段說「2000 年有 18,477 件領養案是跨國領養，其中比半數稍多一點都來自俄羅斯與中國」，而 18,477 的半數已經超過 9,000，所以可以推論出 (D)。

④ 根據第二段，下列關於領養的哪一句話是對的？

- (A) 在現代社會，領養不必很複雜，只要有歷史觀就行。
- (B) 領養議題已經佔據太多的報紙版面、電視新聞時間、以及網路聊天室的空間。
- (C) 養兒育女的壓力在領養中可以找到一個出口。
- (D) 有養子女的家庭面對額外的壓力，那是「正常」血緣家庭沒有的。

【答案】D

【解析】這是問細節的題型，要找同義表達。第二段說「生兒育女本身固然是很有壓力的事，可是領養充滿外加的張力，那是領養關係專有的」，其中 additional tensions that are unique to the adoptive relationship 就是 extra stress which is absent from a “normal,” biological family 的同義表達，故選 (D)。

⑤ 第二段中的 facets 一字意思最接近

- (A) 臉
- (B) 層面
- (C) 事實
- (D) 論證

【答案】B

【解析】這是單字題。名詞 facet (構造：face/small) 的意思是「層面，方面」，同義字是 aspect (構造：toward/look)。

- ⑥ 作者在第三段提到下列每一項都屬於州法管轄，除了
- (A) 哪種人可以領養小孩 (B) 哪種小孩可以被領養
(C) 被領養人可以來自什麼國家 (D) 領養程序中的保密需要

【答案】C

【解析】這是採消去法、問細節的題型，要刪去三項同義表達。第三段只有「被領養人的國家」沒有規範，故選 (C)。

- ⑦ 下面這個黑體字句子最適合放在第五段什麼位置？
- 「從他們決定要領養小孩那一刻起，這對夫婦就開始面對一系列的挑戰。」
- (A) W 位置 (B) X 位置
(C) Y 位置 (D) Z 位置

【答案】A

【解析】這是安插句子的題型，要看上下文。插入句句尾說「開始面對一系列的挑戰」，下文應該要交代是哪些挑戰。W 位置的下文說「首先是州政府規定的問題」，其中 First 一字很明顯表示這是第一項挑戰，應該銜接在後，成為：「從他們決定要領養小孩那一刻起，這對夫婦就開始面對一系列的挑戰。首先是州政府規定的問題」，故選 (A)。

- ⑧ 作者在第四段提到 the adoptee search movement 的目的是
- (A) 說明領養周圍的污名化、辯解、以及祕密
(B) 舉例說明領養的作法有一項重大的改變
(C) 主張二次世界大戰是一場革命
(D) 為革命提出一個歷史觀點

【答案】B

【解析】這是修辭目的的題型，要看上下文。第四段說「隨著二次世界大戰來到，領養界也掀起革命，只有從歷史觀點才能夠解釋。舉幾個例子可以說明這點。領養因為被蒙上污名、辯解、以及包裹在祕密中，所以『被領養人搜尋運動』應運而生、開始要求公開領養記錄」。前面是段落主題句，重點是「領養界掀起革命」，接下來說要「舉例說明」，而舉出來的例子就是下文的「被領養人搜尋運動」，所以作者提到該運動的目的是作為例子，用以說明領養界掀起的革命，最接近的答案是 (B)（革命就是重大改變的同義表達）。

- ⑨ 根據作者，被領養人搜尋運動的目標何在？
- (A) 到外國去找可供領養的對象 (B) 揭開領養記錄的神秘面紗
(C) 結束被領養兒童的污名化 (D) 滿足生母的要求

【答案】B

【解析】這是問細節的題型，要找同義表達。第四段說「被領養人搜尋運動應運而生、開始要求公開領養記錄」，其中 demand the opening of adoption records 就是 lift the veil of secrecy from adoption records 的同義表達，故選 (B)。