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# UNIT ONE

# University and Education



## Unit Walk-through

### Mini-lecture

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### Guided Reading

Entering Universities

### Reflective Reading

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Education System in China





## 走出生词的丛林——依靠上下文推测词义 (1)

要想顺利地阅读,首先得有一定的单词量和基本的语法知识,还需要较广博的背景知识,包括中外文化、社会历史、科学技术等多方面的常识。阅读理解不光要用眼,还要用心、用脑,要善于积极思维,运用多种技能才能解决阅读理解过程中遇到的种种问题。提高阅读理解水平不可一蹴而就,而是要经过较长时间的训练,学会解决各种问题的方法和技巧,才能逐步见效。从现在开始,我们将在每个单元的微型讲座中针对一个话题,逐步给同学们进行讲解。

在阅读过程的诸多困难中,生词是第一只“拦路虎”,阻挡着我们前进的步伐。要想扫除这个障碍,走出生词的“丛林”,达到理解的目标,我们首先得找到对付生词的办法。

对付生词的办法大致可分为三种:一、分析词的结构,推测生词大意。就是运用构词法知识,对词的构件(前缀、后缀和词根)进行分析,从而推测出生词的意思。比如: **website** 这个词就是由 **web** (网) 和 **site** (地点) 两部分构成的。这两个部分都是独立的单词,我们很容易判断出 **website** 的词义是“网站”。再比如: **enlarge** 这个词是由动词性前缀 **en-** (使、使成为) 和形容词 **large** 构成的,意为“使……变大,扩大”。再比如: **recognizable** 一词是由动词 **recognize** 和形容词性的后缀 **-able** (能够……的,可……的) 构成的,表示“可认识的,可辨认的”。二、翻词典,查找生词的释义。然而,英语单词在词典中往往有多条释义。比如一个很简单的词 **wing**,就有“翅膀,飞翔,机翼,派别”等词义。如果在阅读过程中每遇到生词就去查词典,既费时费力、影响阅读速度,还会打断我们理解文章的思路。再者,我们不可能总是随身带本词典,在参加考试时也不允许查词典。因此,我们得学会如何运用第三种方法,即利用上下文推测词义。

利用上下文推测词义,就是依靠生词所在的句子或者文章本身的线索来解决生词问题。像解方程那样,利用已知条件求出未知数。我们可以把一个生词假设为未知数 **X**,当它出现在句子中时,就可以利用句子中的已知条件猜出它的意思。请看下例:

### 1. The gas is **noxious**. It can be very harmful to living things.

本句大意:这种气体是 **noxious**,它可能对生物非常有害。如果 **noxious** 孤立出现,我们可能要查词典才能知道它的意思。然而,当它出现在上面的句子中时,我们就可以运用句子中其它的单词和生活常识判断出它的词义——“有毒的,有害的”。

### 2. **Synonym** is a word having the same or nearly the same meaning as another word or other words in a language.

本句大意: **synonym** 是在某种语言中与另外一个或多个词有相同或相似意思的词。根据句子的意思可以推知 **synonym** 的意思是“同义词”。

### 3. A **clue** is something that serves to guide or direct in the solution of a problem or mystery.

本句大意:能引导或指示解决问题、解开奥秘的事物叫做 **clue**。根据句子的意思可以推

知clue的意思是“线索”。

#### 4. The **thrifty** Dutch believed in working hard and in saving every cent possible.

本句大意：荷兰认为应该努力工作、尽可能省下每一分钱。thrifty用来修饰荷兰人，根据句意可以猜出thrifty的意思是“节俭的”。

语言是包罗万象的。我们要想学好一种语言，无论是自然科学知识还是社会科学知识都应有所涉猎。因为当我们阅读时，文章中可能找不到明显的线索提示生词的意思，这时我们只能通过自己的生活经验和常识来理解作者的意图。具有丰富的知识面，尤其是对英语国家的社会文化生活有一定的了解，肯定有助于我们解决在阅读过程中遇到的不少难题。

## 即学即练

### I. 根据上下文猜测各句中的X是什么。

1. X is an object, usually with a flat bottom and a handle, used for drinking.  
X is \_\_\_\_\_. (A. a pan                      B. a can                      C. a cup)
2. X is an open container, usually made of glass, used for holding flowers.  
X is \_\_\_\_\_. (A. a box                      B. a carton                      C. a vase)
3. There's little X in passing the driving test if you don't have a car of your own.  
X is \_\_\_\_\_. (A. exception                      B. merit                      C. dispute)
4. When you have paid for something in a shop, the X is given to you.  
X is \_\_\_\_\_. (A. a receipt                      B. recommendation                      C. payment)
5. A leader's power can be used to do both good and X.  
X is \_\_\_\_\_. (A. strange                      B. evil                      C. glad)

### II. 根据上下文选择黑体词的恰当含义。

1. The tiger's **roar** could be heard in villages far away.  
A. the food that a tiger eats                      C. a tiger's ear  
B. a tiger's dream                      D. a sound a tiger makes
2. The thought of eating a rat is **abhorrent** to most people.  
A. fun, lively                      C. delicious, tasty  
B. horrible, disgusting                      D. sweet, sugary
3. My **absent-minded** teacher loses his keys, his book and his chalk almost every day!  
A. hateful                      C. intelligent  
B. not paying attention                      D. unwilling to change
4. You can trust the salesmen at that store because they always conduct business in an **aboveboard** manner.  
A. honest, open                      C. boring, unpleasant  
B. sneaky, dishonest                      D. strange, unusual









Read carefully the following passage and the explanations.

## Entering Universities

### Passage

Universities and colleges<sup>①</sup> are schools that continue a person's education beyond high school. A university or college education helps men and women enjoy richer, more meaningful lives. It prepares many people for professional careers<sup>②</sup> as doctors, engineers, lawyers, or teachers. It also gives a person a better appreciation<sup>③</sup> of such fields as art, literature, history, human relations, and science. In doing so, a university or college education enables<sup>④</sup> individuals to participate<sup>⑤</sup> with greater understanding in community affairs.

Colleges and universities state their entrance requirements in their catalogs<sup>⑥</sup>. They nearly always require a transcript (copy) of an applicant's high school credits, as well as letters of recommendation<sup>⑦</sup>. Entrance examinations are generally given several months before the school term begins. Freshmen<sup>⑧</sup> usually take the intelligence and

### Explanations

- ① 用and连接的单词意思上总是密切关联，有可能是同义词或近义词，也有可能是反义词。究竟是哪一种，应该根据具体的上下文判断。阅读时只要认识其中一个，另一个的词义就好推测了。此处and连接的是近义词。
- ② professional careers的词义可以根据后面列举的一串词 (doctors, engineers, lawyers, teachers) 来判断，它是指学生毕业后将从事的“具有专业技术的职业”。
- ③ appreciation有“理解”和“感谢”等多种释义。我们应依据上下文确定词义。该词在本文中的词义是“理解”。
- ④ enable可以拆分为en- (使、使成为) 和able (能够……的) 两部分来推测词义。该词的意思是“使能够”。
- ⑤ participate和后面的in构成搭配，根据上下文推测，它应该是个动词。本句大意：高等教育可以使人在参与 (participate in) 公众事务时具有更好的理解力。
- ⑥ 推测catalogs的词义要看整个句子的大意：各学院或大学的入学要求都会在它们的catalogs里陈述。由此可以判断catalog是“招生简章”或“招生目录”之类的文字材料。
- ⑦ letters of recommendation是“推荐信”。在阅读中如果不认识recommendation，只要知道是一种“信”就可以了。
- ⑧ freshmen是“大学新生”。可以拆分为fresh-和men两部分来推测词义。
- ⑨ 理解intelligence and aptitude tests的关键词是tests。首先要知道这是入学后要参加的两种考试，具体是什么考试不必深究，以免影响阅读速度。intelligence test的意思是“智力测验”，aptitude test是指“能力倾向测试”。



aptitude tests<sup>⑩</sup> during an orientation period<sup>⑩</sup>, frequently called freshman week at colleges and universities in the United States.

People without a high school diploma<sup>⑪</sup> should not assume that higher education is closed to them. Many colleges and universities admit men and women who have not completed high school. This procedure allows the schools to serve an increasing number of adults seeking continuing education. It also helps extend educational opportunities to such people as military veterans and members of minority groups. Before enrolling such applicants, the university or college evaluates<sup>⑫</sup> their work experience and reviews their scores on special tests. These tests are designed to measure whether a person's knowledge is equivalent<sup>⑬</sup> to that of an average high school graduate.

⑩ orientation period是指新生入学后适应环境的阶段。orientation的意思是“(为熟悉情况做的)准备”。这句话中的freshman week是对orientation period的解释。

⑪ 本句大意那些没有中学diploma的人，不要认为高等教育的大门就对他们关闭了。diploma的词义可以根据下一句话中的who have not completed high school来判断。没有完成中学教育的人就没有中学的diploma，由此可以推测diploma是“文凭”或“毕业证书”的意思。

⑫ evaluate和本句后面另一个动词review是用and连接的两个并列的动词，意思相关联。review常见的意思是“复习”，但是在这里要根据上下文考虑它的词义。在本句中，evaluate的词义是“评估”，review的词义是“详检，审核”。

⑬ equivalent的词义是“相当的，等同的”，它与equal词形相近，可以以此作为猜测的线索。





Read the following passage and answer the questions.

### Advice for Freshmen

#### Passage

As students you bring many things with you: books, computers, spending money, **hopes and dreams**<sup>①</sup>. Yet, what most of you will not bring is experience.

The campus is a new world, and here, it is not the strong but the **teachable**<sup>②</sup> who survive. **Institutions**<sup>③</sup> for higher education are not just about classrooms and **laboratories**<sup>④</sup>; there is more to learn at college or university than what is covered in class.

There are so many new things to do at a new college or university, **social and academic**<sup>⑤</sup>. Give yourself time to make new friends and become familiar with the campus, but don't forget why you are there.

Learn the rules: every campus has its own set of **rules and regulations**<sup>⑥</sup>, and they are usually pretty good at letting you know what they are. Guidelines, **restrictions**<sup>⑦</sup>, rules and regulations of all kinds can usually be found in your student handbook. READ THEM.

If you know how to **play the game**, you have a better chance of winning (or at least playing well). What dates are important? What pieces of **paper**<sup>⑧</sup> need to be handed in, and when? What can or can't you do in class? What can or can't you do in your student residence? Who has authority for what? What do you need to complete to **graduate**?<sup>⑨</sup>

#### Questions

- ① hopes 和 dreams 是 and 连接的词，它们在词义上有什么关联？
- ② 应该怎样推测 teachable 的词义？
- ③ 句子中的哪些词是理解 institutions 这个词的关键？
- ④ 应该怎样推测 laboratories 的词义？
- ⑤ social 和 academic 是 and 连接的词，它们在词义方面是什么关系，意义相对还是相近？
- ⑥ rules 和 regulations 是 and 连接的词，它们在词义上有什么关联？如果 regulations 是生词，你怎么推测它的词义呢？
- ⑦ 怎样猜测 restrictions 的词义？它与句子中的哪些词关系密切？
- ⑧ paper 在这儿的词义是“纸”吗？
- ⑨ 这段后面六个句子与第一句话是什么关系？



### 1. The Traditional Classroom and the Virtual Classroom

① One of the biggest questions prospective students have about online education is how the virtual classroom actually works. While there are similarities between the virtual classrooms used in online education, and the brick and mortar (砂浆) classrooms of a traditional university, there are striking differences as well.

② For example, if you attend a physical campus you will enter the classroom and attend a certain course at a certain time that will be designated to last between one and three hours on average. The instructor of the course will likely lecture for the majority of this time, but there may also be some student participation. At the end of the class the instructor may assign homework or inform students of upcoming quizzes.

③ But in a virtual classroom the structure is much more open, and there is a far greater degree of flexibility in the lesson plans. For example, normally you may log into your virtual class at any time, where you will listen, read and watch videos covering the course material. As a general rule, you may take as much time as you like to go over the material and complete any assignments given. While your course instructor will normally be available to ask questions via real-time online chat, e-mail or instant messaging, they will not monitor your progress or concern themselves with your work habits.

#### I. Complete each of the following statements with the best choice.

- The word “virtual” (in Para. 1, Line 1) is similar in meaning to \_\_\_\_\_.  
A. physical      B. practical      C. simulated      D. flexible
- “Designated” (in Para. 2, Line 2) probably means \_\_\_\_\_.  
A. arranged      B. restricted      C. registered      D. marked
- By “a far greater degree of flexibility” (in Para. 3, Line 1—2), the author refers to the following except \_\_\_\_\_.  
A. you may log into your virtual class at any time  
B. you may take as much time as you like to go over the material  
C. you may finish your homework at your own speed  
D. you may ask questions at any time
- The word “via” (in Para. 3, Line 5) means \_\_\_\_\_.  
A. by means of      B. in favor of      C. as well as      D. concerning
- The virtual classroom is different from the physical classroom in that \_\_\_\_\_.  
A. teachers in the virtual classroom will monitor your learning progress  
B. teachers in the virtual classroom will inform you of upcoming quizzes  
C. you can enter a certain course at a certain time  
D. you can have more flexible lesson plans



## II. Write out the corresponding verbs or nouns.

Verb	Noun
	education
	difference
	instructor
	participation
inform	
assign	
complete	

## 2. Improving Reading Skills

① The best way to improve your reading ability is, of course, to read. The student must make a real effort to improve his speed, and if necessary his comprehension, with each exercise. Too many students read passages passively and without judgment: they simply start at the first word and read through to the end. You should read a passage actively, selectively and purposely. You must believe that you indeed have the ability to read faster and understand more, and that you will.

② Reading, like everything else in life, is best done when you're relaxed. The key to improving it is concentration. You must be willing to break some old habits and form new ones. Extra body movement, such as turning the head from side to side, pointing at the line with a finger or pencil, or moving the lips, should be stopped immediately. Reading is mostly a mental process and body movement helps neither speed nor comprehension. Then you should see words as part of a whole sentence or paragraph, not just in isolation. This is why a slow, word-by-word student often understands far less, or misses much of the joy and excitement of reading.

③ The students must learn to improve reading skills on their own, and not just when a teacher is looking over their shoulders. Reading improvement takes discipline and effort. Don't give up.

### I. Choose the best answer for each question or statement below.

1. What's the passage mainly about?
  - A. Reading speed.
  - B. Reading comprehension.
  - C. Reading improvement.
  - D. Reading habits.
2. The best way to improve your reading ability is \_\_\_\_\_.
  - A. to read with old habits
  - B. to read with the help of a teacher
  - C. to read actively, selectively and purposely
  - D. to read word by word



3. The phrase “in isolation” (in Para. 2, Line 6) probably means \_\_\_\_\_.
- A. in a word      B. separately      C. in groups      D. slowly
4. Which of the following is true according to the passage?
- A. When reading, you’d better point at the line with a pencil.  
 B. When reading, you should turn your head from side to side.  
 C. When reading, you should see words as part of a whole sentence or paragraph.  
 D. When reading, you simply start at the first word and read through to the end.
5. Which of the following should you avoid to improve your reading ability?
- A. Learning to improve reading skills independently.  
 B. Making an effort to improve speed and comprehension with practice.  
 C. Concentrating on the reading.  
 D. Keeping the old habits of reading.

**II. Get meaning from context: use the contextual clues to complete the chart below.**

1. Too many students read passages passively and without **judgment**: they simply start at the first word and read through to the end.

part of speech of <b>judgment</b>	
the verb form of <b>judgment</b>	
the problem of students in reading passages	
the meaning of <b>judgment</b>	

2. Then you should see words as part of a whole sentence or paragraph, not just in **isolation**.

the verb form of <b>isolation</b>	
the synonym of <b>isolation</b>	
habit to avoid in reading	
the meaning of <b>isolation</b>	

**3. First Confucius Institute in Europe Established**

- ① North Europe Stockholm Confucius (孔子) Institute, the first one in Europe, has been established at Stockholm University, according to Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the PRC.
- ② The institute was jointly established by China’s National Office for Teaching Chinese as a Foreign Language (NOCFL), Fudan University in Shanghai and Stockholm University.
- ③ Lu Fengding, China’s Ambassador to Sweden, said while addressing the establishment ceremony on February 18 that the institute will not only promote the educational and cultural exchanges



between China and Sweden, but also play an active role in deepening the understanding and friendship between the two peoples and promoting the friendly bilateral relations. He extended his wishes to the institute.

④ NOCFL deputy director Zhang Guoqing, Kare Bremer, vice-chancellor of Stockholm University and the first president of the college Luo Duobi gave speeches at the ceremony. They regarded the institute as a big event for the Sinology circle in Sweden and in North Europe, and held that it would play an important part in the spread of Chinese language and Chinese culture there.

### I. Choose the best answer for each question or statement below.

- This text is probably taken from \_\_\_\_\_.  
A. a document            B. a novel            C. a newspaper            D. a contract
- By “jointly established” (in Para. 2, Line 1), the author does NOT refer to \_\_\_\_\_.  
A. China’s Ministry of Foreign Affairs            C. Fudan University  
B. NOCFL            D. Stockholm University
- The word “addressing” (in Para. 3, Line 1) means \_\_\_\_\_.  
A. writing a destination on            C. giving a speech to  
B. dealing with            D. getting busy with
- By “bilateral relations” (in Para. 3, Line 4), the author refers to \_\_\_\_\_.  
A. the relations between students from Fudan and Stockholm Universities  
B. the relations between Sweden and China  
C. the educational exchange between China and Sweden  
D. the cultural communication between China and Sweden
- What does “Sinology” (in Para. 4, Line 3) mean?  
A. Study of the Chinese language and culture.  
B. Study of the Sweden language and culture.  
C. Knowledge about how to make speeches.  
D. Knowledge about how to develop diplomatic relations.

### II. Match each word with its synonym. Write the letter on the line.

- |                     |                |
|---------------------|----------------|
| 1. _____ foreign    | a. department  |
| 2. _____ institute  | b. lively      |
| 3. _____ exchange   | c. consider    |
| 4. _____ ministry   | d. overseas    |
| 5. _____ establish  | e. extend      |
| 6. _____ ambassador | f. start       |
| 7. _____ active     | g. replacement |
| 8. _____ regard     | h. diplomat    |
| 9. _____ deepen     | i. college     |





## 4. Study in Beijing

- ① Beijing, the political, cultural and economic center of China, has a history of more than 3,000 years. Until now, there are almost 40,000 foreigners studying in Beijing, constituting 40% of the total foreign students in China. These 40,000 foreign students come from more than 80 countries in Asia, Europe, North and South America and Africa.
- ② Many foreign students prefer coming to Beijing, which results from the fact that many prestigious universities, such as Peking University, Tsinghua University, etc. are located in Beijing. In addition, Beijing, as a modern city and the cultural center of China, is very attractive to foreign students, for they come here not only for study, but also can experience the Chinese culture and lifestyle.
- ③ Compared with the students learning Chinese in their home country, those who come to Beijing can merge themselves into the country's language, and at the same time, look forward to taking advantage of the greatly improved job prospects which will be available to them when their study is complete.
- ④ Apart from the study in class, foreign students also have their extracurricular activities, such as basketball, soccer, football and other sports. They also can enjoy Chinese cuisine (烹饪, 烹调) and, if they want, the taste of the dish from home to release their homesickness.
- ⑤ Far away from their home, foreign students sometimes will miss their friends and family back at home. But some foreign students like making more friends here and some make more than friends.
- ⑥ No matter why they come to study in Beijing, for fun, for perspective job opportunity or for interest, they have their plans for future after graduation.

### I. Answer each of the following questions with the best choice.

1. How many foreigners are studying in China according to the passage?  
A. 40,000      B. 32,000      C. 100,000      D. 160,000
2. Which word is the closest in meaning to the word "prestigious" (in Para. 2, Line 1)?  
A. advantageous    B. famous      C. large      D. central
3. What are the main reasons why the foreigners prefer coming to Beijing?  
A. For study and tour.  
B. For study and Chinese food.  
C. For study and feeling Chinese culture and lifestyle.  
D. For making friends and finding jobs.
4. Which word is the closest in meaning to the word "extracurricular" (in Para. 4, Line 1)?  
A. important      B. interesting      C. current      D. additional
5. What can help the foreign students to overcome the problem of being homesick?  
A. Enjoying the taste of the dish from home.  
B. Engaging in study day and night.  
C. Enjoying the Chinese cuisine.  
D. Having extracurricular activities.



**II. Some suffixes (后缀) like -al, -ic, -ive, -ous -able, etc. are added to the end of a word to form adjectives. Read carefully to find some adjectives with the above suffixes in the passage and write out the corresponding nouns if there is any.**

Adjectives: \_\_\_\_\_

Nouns: \_\_\_\_\_



**Skim and scan the passage to find the answers for the following questions or statements. Some multiple choice questions may have more than one answer.**

The accuracy rate of your comprehension: \_\_\_\_\_ %

1. China began to provide nine-year compulsory education in \_\_\_\_\_.
2. According to a Ministry of Education program, educational investment should account for \_\_\_\_\_ of GDP in a relatively short period of time.
3. According to the passage, what is the “shared-cost mechanism” (in Para. 3, Line 1)?
  - A. Students in non-compulsory education pay tuition at a certain percentage of the cost.
  - B. The governments at all levels charge tuition at a certain percentage of the cost.
  - C. Students share the tuition with others at a certain percentage of the cost.
  - D. All students in China pay tuition at a certain percentage of the cost.
4. To ensure that students from low-income families have access to higher education, the government has initiated effective ways of assistance, including \_\_\_\_\_.
  - A. special policies and measures
  - B. scholarships
  - C. work-study programs
  - D. subsidies for students with special economic difficulties
  - E. tuition reduction or exemption
  - F. state stipends
5. Which of the following is NOT mentioned as a part of school system?
  - A. Junior and senior middle schools.
  - B. Primary schools.
  - C. Short-term vocational universities.
  - D. Schools for privileged students.



6. According to the 4th paragraph, secondary schools comprise \_\_\_\_\_.
- junior and senior middle schools
  - secondary agricultural and vocational schools
  - institutions of higher learning
  - regular secondary schools
  - secondary teachers' schools
  - secondary technical and professional schools
7. The Party also monitored the government's \_\_\_\_\_ at the local level and within educational institutions through its party committees.
8. What happened in the education field of China in 1985?  
The May 1985 \_\_\_\_\_ was held for educational reform.
9. According to the 7th paragraph, \_\_\_\_\_ was in charge of all education organizations except military ones.
10. Local authorities used \_\_\_\_\_ and a percentage of local \_\_\_\_\_ to finance educational projects.

Time your reading.

Start time: \_\_\_\_\_

Finish time: \_\_\_\_\_

Your reading rate: \_\_\_\_\_ wpm

## Education System in China

### Development

① Since 1950 China has provided nine-year compulsory education for a fifth of the world's population. Nine-year compulsory education operates in 90 percent of China's populated areas, and illiteracy (文盲) in the young and mid-aged population has fallen from over 80 percent down to five percent. The system trained some 60 million mid- or high-level professionals and near 400 million laborers to junior or senior high school level. Today, 250 million Chinese get three levels of school education (elementary, junior and senior high school), doubling the rate of increase in the rest of the world during the same period. Net elementary school enrollment has reached 98.9 percent, and the gross enrollment rate in junior high schools 94.1 percent.

② Investment in education has increased in recent years; the proportion of the overall budget allocated to education has been increased by one percentage point every year since 1998. According to a Ministry of Education program, the government will set up an educational finance system in line with the public finance system, strengthen the responsibility of governments at all levels in educational investment, and ensure that their financial allocation for educational expenditure grows faster than their regular revenue. The program also sets out the government's aim that educational investment should account for four percent of GDP in a relatively short period of time.

③ For non-compulsory education, China adopts a shared-cost mechanism, charging tuition at a



certain percentage of the cost. Meanwhile, to ensure that students from low-income families have access to higher education, the government has initiated effective ways of assistance, with policies and measures as scholarships, work-study programs, subsidies for students with special economic difficulties, tuition reduction or exemption (免除) and state stipends (助学金).

## Stages

### Educational Stages in China

Age	Education	Compulsory
18—22	university or college	No
15—18	senior high (middle) school or vocational school	No
12—15	junior middle school	Yes
6—12	primary school	

4 To provide for its population, China has a vast and varied school system. There are preschools, kindergartens, schools for the deaf and blind, key schools (similar to college preparatory schools), primary schools, secondary schools (comprising junior and senior middle schools, secondary agricultural and vocational schools, regular secondary schools, secondary teachers' schools, secondary technical schools, and secondary professional schools), and various institutions of higher learning (consisting of regular colleges and universities, professional colleges, and short-term vocational universities).

5 Although the government has authority over the education system, the Chinese Communist Party has played a role in managing education since 1949. The Party established broad education policies and tied improvements in the quality of education to its modernization plan under Deng Xiaoping. The Party also monitored the government's implementation (执行) of its policies at the local level and within educational institutions through its party committees. Party members within educational institutions, who often have a leading management role, are responsible for steering their schools in the direction mandated by the Party policy.

### New directions

6 The May 1985 National Conference on Education recognized five fundamental areas for reform to be discussed in connection with implementing the Party Central Committee's "Draft Decision on Reforming the Education System". The reforms were intended to produce "more able people", to make the localities responsible for developing "basic education" and systematically implementing a nine-year compulsory education program, to improve secondary education, to develop vocational and technical education, to reform enrollment and the graduate-assignment system of institutions of higher education and to expand their management and decision-making powers, and to give administrators the necessary encouragement and authority to ensure smooth progress in educational reform.



⑦ The National Conference on Education paved the way for reorganization of the Ministry of Education, which occurred in June 1985. Created to coordinate education policy, it also assumed the role previously played by the State Planning Commission, and as a State Council Commission, the new Ministry had greater status and was in charge of all education organizations except military ones. Although the new ministry assumed a central role in the administration of education, the reform decentralized much of the power it previously wielded and its constituent offices and bureaus, which had established curriculum and admission policies in response to the State Planning Commission's requirements.

⑧ The Ministry of Education, with its expanded administrative scope and power, was responsible for formulating guiding principles for education, establishing regulations, planning the progress of educational projects, coordinating the educational programs of different departments, and standardizing educational reforms. Simplification of administration and delegation of authority were made the bases for improving the education system. This devolution (权力下放) of management to the autonomous regions, provinces, and special municipalities meant local governments had more decision-making power and were able to develop basic education. State-owned enterprises, mass organizations, and individuals were encouraged to pool funds to accomplish education reform. Local authorities used state appropriations (拨款) and a percentage of local reserve financial resources (basically township financial revenues) to finance educational projects.

(815 words)

