



大学生公共基础课创新型精品教材

# 新素养 大学英语

主 编 吴云娣

## 综合教程

AN INTEGRATED COURSE

( 第三册 )



北京出版集团  
北京出版社

新素养大学英语综合教程（第三册）

主 编 吴云娣



北京出版集团  
北京出版社

# 目录

## Contents

Unit	Themes	Part I	Part II
<b>1</b> (Page 1)	<b>Architecture</b>	Warm-Up <b>P2</b>	In-Depth Reading: <b>Text A</b> Chinese Architecture <b>P4</b>
<b>2</b> (Page 25)	<b>Calligraphy</b>	Warm-Up <b>P26</b>	In-Depth Reading: <b>Text A</b> Chinese Calligraphy <b>P28</b>
(Page 51)	<b>Listening Practice 1</b>		
<b>3</b> (Page 55)	<b>Cultural Exchange</b>	Warm-Up <b>P56</b>	In-Depth Reading: <b>Text A</b> Confucius Institutes Have Enhanced the Understanding of China Among People Around the World <b>P58</b>
<b>4</b> (Page 81)	<b>Festival</b>	Warm-Up <b>P82</b>	In-Depth Reading: <b>Text A</b> Spring Festival of Beijing <b>P84</b>
(Page 103)	<b>Listening Practice 2</b>		
<b>5</b> (Page 107)	<b>Geography</b>	Warm-Up <b>P108</b>	In-Depth Reading: <b>Text A</b> Understanding the Geography of China <b>P110</b>
<b>6</b> (Page 133)	<b>Wedding</b>	Warm-Up <b>P134</b>	In-Depth Reading: <b>Text A</b> Chinese Wedding Traditions <b>P136</b>
(Page 157)	<b>Listening Practice 3</b>		

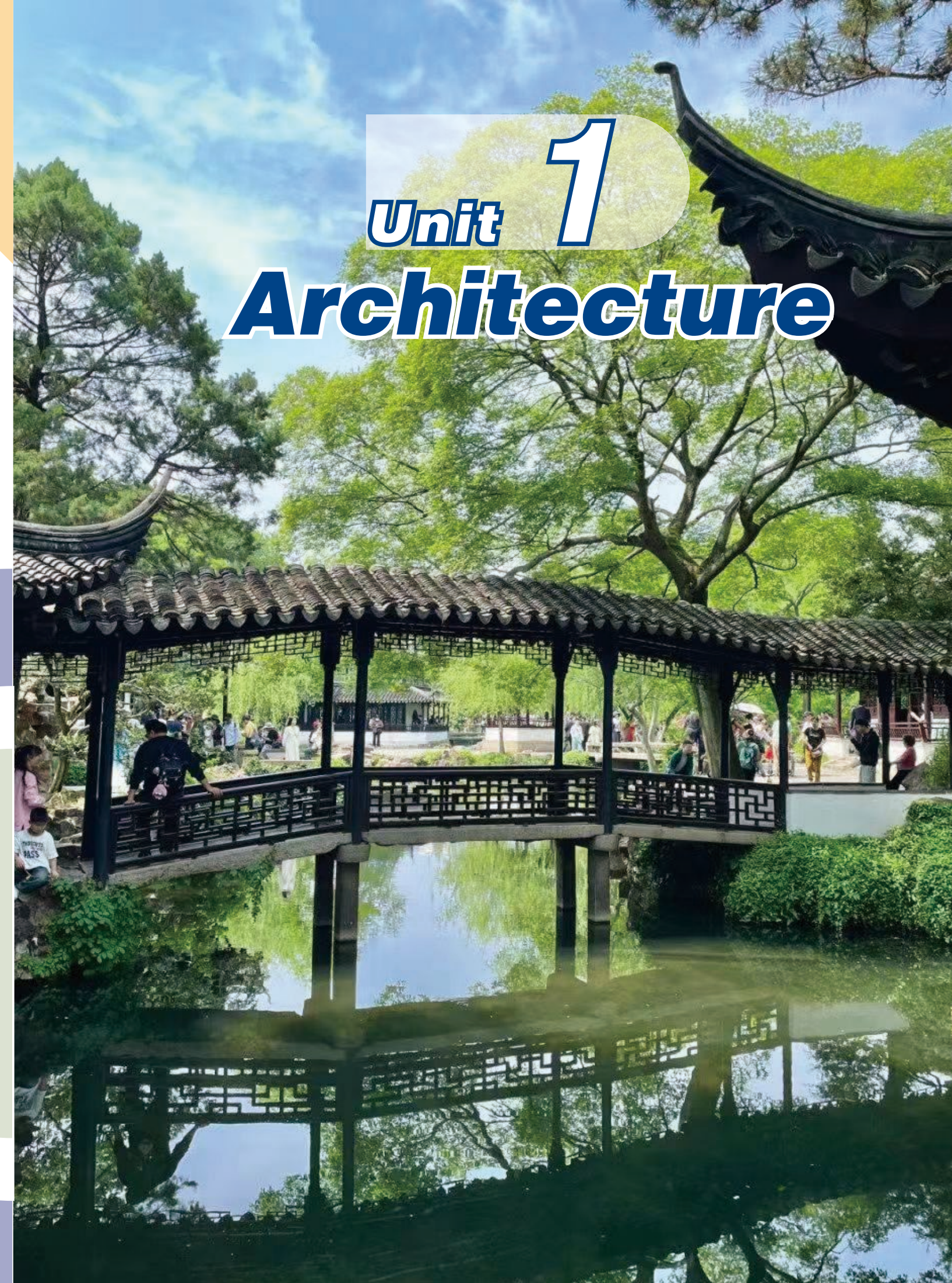
	<i>Part III</i>	<i>Part IV</i>
	<b>Extensive Reading:</b> <b>Text B</b> Suzhou's Gardens <i>P13</i>	<b>Extracurricular Exercises</b> <i>P17</i>
	<b>Extensive Reading:</b> <b>Text B</b> How Great a Mark of Rebellion It Is to Hold an Ink Brush <i>P39</i>	<b>Extracurricular Exercises</b> <i>P43</i>
	<b>Extensive Reading:</b> <b>Text B</b> The Passion for Hanfu Has Brought People Together Tightly <i>P67</i>	<b>Extracurricular Exercises</b> <i>P72</i>
	<b>Extensive Reading:</b> <b>Text B</b> Dragon Boat Festival <i>P92</i>	<b>Extracurricular Exercises</b> <i>P95</i>
	<b>Extensive Reading:</b> <b>Text B</b> Yangtze River Overview <i>P120</i>	<b>Extracurricular Exercises</b> <i>P125</i>
	<b>Extensive Reading:</b> <b>Text B</b> History of Western Weddings <i>P146</i>	<b>Extracurricular Exercises</b> <i>P149</i>





# Unit 1

# Architecture





## Part I Warm-Up

### 1 Quotations Related to the Topic

有人说，建筑是人类文明的灵魂。人类从风餐露宿到居有定所跨越了漫长的岁月，建筑发展的历史其实就是一部生动的人类文明史。几千年人类文明留下了无数材料各异、风格独特、用途不一的建筑，从民居到宫殿，从陵墓到庙堂，从园林到剧院，世界各地的人们创造了一件件建筑瑰宝。古今中外的建筑作品美不胜收，令人目不暇接。埃及的金字塔、中国的故宫、意大利的罗马竞技场、法国的埃菲尔铁塔、英国的国会大楼、美国的白宫、德国的科隆大教堂、希腊的雅典卫城，无一不体现了人类的聪明才智，表达了人类创造美好生活的强烈愿望。

It is said that architecture is the soul of human civilization. Humanity has journeyed through long ages from living in the wilderness to having settled dwellings. The history of architectural development is, in fact, a vivid chronicle of human civilization. Over thousands of years, human beings have left behind countless buildings of diverse materials, unique styles, and various functions—from residences to palaces, from tombs to temples, from gardens to theaters. People around the world have created one architectural masterpiece after another. The architectures in China and elsewhere, in ancient as well as in modern times, are breathtaking and dazzling, including the Egyptian pyramids, the Forbidden City in China, the Roman Colosseum in Italy, the Eiffel Tower in France, the British Parliament building, the White House in the United States, the Cologne Cathedral in Germany, and the Acropolis in Greece, all of which embody human wisdom and express the strong desire to create a better life.

## 2 Watch and Learn



Comparing the differences between Chinese and Western architecture, focusing on the unique methods and materials of traditional Chinese construction: centered around wood, it employs courtyard-style layouts (e.g., siheyuan) and curved roofs, reinforced by dense beam-column systems (e.g., mortise and tenon joints) and stone foundations for moisture resistance. The roofs are covered with interlocking ceramic tiles, combining drainage functionality with decorative elements (e.g., carved end tiles), while supplementary materials like adobe walls and brick-stone composites (e.g., the Great Wall) adapt to diverse environmental needs. The designs blend practicality and aesthetics—such as wide eaves for sun protection and load distribution through beams and columns—showcasing a deep understanding of natural materials and innovative solutions to overcome wood's limitations, contrasting sharply with Western stone-dominated architectural systems.

A graphic of a light purple notebook with a spiral binding on the left side. The notebook has ten horizontal blue lines for writing.

## Part II In-Depth Reading

Read the passage, and complete the tasks that follow.

### Text A



## Chinese Architecture

- 1 China has a unique and **time-honored** architectural tradition, dating back to the Zhou era of 2,500 years ago. The features behind China's architecture reflect Chinese culture. Since ancient times, several types of architecture have been traditionally built by the Chinese, which are introduced in this text.

### General Features of Chinese Architecture

- 2 Since ancient times, people have built wooden buildings, made structures with **compacted** earth, and assembled buildings and

**time-honored** *adj.* 历史悠久的

**compact** *v.* 压实

structures out of stone or brick. Each of these kinds of construction had different features. The buildings were built to survive the frequent natural disasters, such as earthquakes, typhoons and floods, and to be easier to rebuild. Along with **survivability** and ease of renovation, the buildings reflected and helped to **propagate** social order and religion.

### Preference for Lumber Construction

3 China's culture originated thousands of years ago along the Yellow River and Yangtze River. In the environment of the river basins, **seismic** activity and frequent flood disasters prompted the people living there to build **flexibly**, using wood for most buildings.

4 The thick forests then were a ready supply of lumber. This wooden architecture has distinctive features that changed little from the Zhou dynasty era up until early modern times when China adopted Western architecture.

5 The basic features of traditional lumber architecture were a stamped earth base, **load-bearing** wooden pillars that were not planted into the foundation, and slightly flexible brackets. These design features made the buildings **resilient** to earthquakes and storms, and they also allowed for reconfiguration, expansion and reconstruction if the buildings were damaged.

### Heavy Overhanging Roofs

6 A noticeable feature of these traditional wooden buildings is the heavy ceramic tiled roof with wide **eaves** and slightly upturned corners. The builders considered it important to cover wooden buildings with overhanging roofs. This was to protect the building from **weathering** since wood rots much faster when it is wet. The wide eaves also provided shade in the summer, and in the winter, the **slanted** sunlight warmed the buildings.

7 As you can see in the picture of a building in the Forbidden City, in traditional buildings, the eaves were not supported by columns past the walls. The eaves might overhang the walls by several meters. Since ancient times, durable ceramic tiles were the favorite roofing material, but they were heavy.

**survivability** *n.* 生存能力

**propagate** *v.* 传播; 繁殖

**seismic** *adj.* 地震的

**flexibly** *adv.* 灵活地

**load-bearing** *adj.* 承重的

**resilient** *adj.* 有弹性的; 恢复力强的

**eave** *n.* 屋檐

**weather** *v.* 风化, 侵蚀

**slanted** *adj.* 倾斜的

### The Interplay of Architecture and Culture

- 8 The various styles of architecture that have been built since the Zhou era reflect how the various Chinese people over the centuries have adapted to the environment. The architectural designs **conformed** to their needs and culture and also helped to propagate social norms and order.

### Wooden Courtyard Compounds

- 9 In most areas, where the clan families felt safe enough to live permanently—where they were not subject to frequent attacks and where wood was plentiful—the clans built easily modifiable wooden courtyard **compounds** for three generations. This is the typical style for clans that could afford to build and maintain such compounds.
- 10 Because the clans could more easily modify their dwellings as their needs changed over time, clan members found it advantageous to remain in clan properties instead of moving on to another plot of land to build a new compound. They could **renovate** and more easily repair the damage from disasters and avoid relocation, so family members had to learn to live in enclosed compounds with little personal space throughout their entire lives, even as their roles changed as they aged.
- 11 This type of housing arrangement served to propagate to generation after generation the ancient traditions that dictated how families were to interact and the roles and responsibilities of all of the members, such as **piety** towards parents, respect for elders, women's traditional roles, etc. These courtyard compounds were called siheyuan (四合院), which means “four combined courtyard.”

**conform** v. 符合; 适应

**compound** n. 化合物; 庭院

**renovate** v. 翻新, 整修

**piety** n. 虔诚; 孝顺





- 12 From imperial palaces to the more humble courtyard buildings of peasant clans, there were several rules that dictated how to best build compounds, such as having three sections along a north/south **orientation**, **symmetrical** layouts, one-story design, southern entrances, and inner courtyard space.

### South-Facing Orientation

- 13 A building's south-facing orientation was for practical reasons; when courtyards were built with taller buildings in the north and shorter walls facing east, west, and south, it allowed the maximum amount of sunlight to warm the building during the winter months when the sunlight was angled strongly from the south. This is particularly a northern Chinese feature.
- 14 This is why the door and windows of the main building faced southwards and opened over the inner courtyard that let in the sunlight. So, the main building that held the older members of the family who also most needed warmer living quarters during the winter was placed to the north of the courtyard.

**orientation** *n.* 朝向, 方向

**symmetrical** *adj.* 对称的



# Understanding the Text

## Task 1 Answer the following questions for better understanding of the text.

- 1 What is the primary reason for the unique features of Chinese architecture?  
\_\_\_\_\_
- 2 Why did ancient Chinese people prefer lumber construction?  
\_\_\_\_\_
- 3 What are the basic features of traditional lumber architecture in China?  
\_\_\_\_\_
- 4 What is the purpose of the heavy ceramic tiled roof with wide eaves in traditional Chinese wooden buildings?  
\_\_\_\_\_
- 5 How do traditional Chinese buildings utilize the concept of overhanging eaves?  
\_\_\_\_\_
- 6 How does architecture reflect and propagate social order and culture in China?  
\_\_\_\_\_
- 7 What is the typical style of wooden courtyard compounds in China?  
\_\_\_\_\_
- 8 Why did clan families prefer to remain in their traditional compounds instead of building new ones?  
\_\_\_\_\_
- 9 How does the housing arrangement in siheyuan compounds help propagate ancient traditions?  
\_\_\_\_\_
- 10 What are the common features of courtyard compounds in China?  
\_\_\_\_\_

- 11 Why do Chinese buildings often face south?  
\_\_\_\_\_
- 12 How does the south-facing orientation benefit the main building in a courtyard compound?  
\_\_\_\_\_
- 13 What role does the main building play in a traditional Chinese courtyard compound?  
\_\_\_\_\_
- 14 How do traditional Chinese architectural designs support family life and social norms?  
\_\_\_\_\_

## Task 2 Cloze

(A) time-honored	(B) slant	(C) highlights	(D) construction	(E) utilize
(F) resilience	(G) weathering	(H) compounds	(I) norms	(J) orientations
(K) architectural	(L) propagate	(M) renovate	(N) features	(O) maximum

“Chinese Architecture” explores the unique and 1 architectural traditions of China, dating back to the Zhou era 2,500 years ago. It 2 how Chinese architecture reflects the country’s culture and adaptation to its environment. Key features include the preference for lumber 3 due to the availability of wood and its 4 to natural disasters like earthquakes and floods. Traditional buildings often feature heavy ceramic tiled roofs with wide eaves to protect against 5 and provide shade. The article also discusses the importance of wooden courtyard 6 (siheyuan) that support family life and social 7, with designs that emphasize south-facing 8 to maximize sunlight during winter. These 9 elements not only meet practical needs but also 10 ancient traditions and social order.

## Further Exploration

### Task 3 Vocabulary

**A** These sentences are about the reading. Complete them with the correct form of the words in the box.

flexibly	piety	conform	orientation	time-honored
propagate	resilient	weather	renovate	symmetrical

- China has a unique and \_\_\_\_\_ architectural tradition, dating back to the Zhou era of 2,500 years ago.
- Along with survivability and ease of renovation, the buildings reflected and helped to \_\_\_\_\_ social order and religion.
- In the environment of the river basins, seismic activity and frequent flood disasters prompted the people living there to build \_\_\_\_\_, using wood for most buildings.
- These design features made the buildings \_\_\_\_\_ to earthquakes and storms, and they also allowed for reconfiguration, expansion, and reconstruction if the buildings were damaged.
- This was to protect the building from \_\_\_\_\_ since wood rots much faster when it is wet.
- The architectural designs \_\_\_\_\_ to their needs and culture and also helped to propagate social norms and order.
- They could \_\_\_\_\_ and more easily repair the damage from disasters and avoid relocation.
- A building's south-facing \_\_\_\_\_ was for practical reasons.
- From imperial palaces to the more humble courtyard buildings of peasant clans, there were several rules that dictated how to best build compounds, such as having three sections along a north/south orientation, \_\_\_\_\_ layouts, one-story design, southern entrances, and inner courtyard space.
- This type of housing arrangement served to propagate to generation after generation the ancient traditions that dictated how families were to interact and the roles and responsibilities of all of the members, such as \_\_\_\_\_ towards parents, respect for elders, women's traditional roles, etc.

**B Complete the following sentences with the correct form of the words in the box.**

flexibly	piety	conform	orientation	time-honored
propagate	resilient	weather	renovate	symmetrical

- 1 China's architectural tradition is \_\_\_\_\_, dating back thousands of years and reflecting the wisdom of ancient civilizations.
- 2 The ancient traditions and social norms have been \_\_\_\_\_ from generation to generation through these architectural designs.
- 3 The use of wood in traditional Chinese architecture made the buildings \_\_\_\_\_, allowing them to withstand earthquakes and other natural disasters.
- 4 The wide eaves of traditional Chinese buildings help protect the wooden structures from \_\_\_\_\_, which can cause the wood to rot faster.
- 5 The architectural designs of siheyuan compounds \_\_\_\_\_ to the needs and traditions of the Chinese people, supporting family life and social order.
- 6 The clan families could easily \_\_\_\_\_ their dwellings as their needs changed over time, making it advantageous to stay in traditional compounds.
- 7 The south-facing \_\_\_\_\_ of traditional Chinese buildings is designed to maximize sunlight during the winter months.
- 8 The layout of siheyuan compounds is often \_\_\_\_\_, with buildings arranged around a central courtyard.
- 9 The new scheduling system allows employees to manage their work hours more \_\_\_\_\_, accommodating both personal and professional needs.
- 10 The ancient traditions that dictate family interactions and the roles of each member, such as \_\_\_\_\_ towards parents and respect for elders, are preserved in these courtyard compounds.

**Task 4 Sentence Translation**

- 1 中国有着独特且历史悠久的建筑传统，可以追溯到2,500年前的周代。

---

---

- 2 建筑设计符合他们的需求和文化，并且也有助于传播社会规范和秩序。

---

---

- 3 他们可以翻新并且更容易修复灾难造成的损坏，避免搬迁。

---

---

- 4 除了经久耐用和易于翻新外，这些建筑还反映并有助于传播社会秩序和宗教。

---

---

- 5 这些设计特点使建筑能够抵御地震和暴风雨，并且如果建筑受损，也便于重新配置、扩展和重建。

---

---

### Task 5 Paragraph Translation

乌镇是浙江的一座古老水镇，坐落在京杭大运河畔。这是一处迷人的地方，有许多古桥、中式旅店和餐馆。在过去的一千年里，乌镇的水系和生活方式并未经历多少变化，是一座展现古文明的博物馆。乌镇所有房屋都用石木建造。数百年来，当地人沿着河边建起了住宅和集市。无数宽敞美丽的庭院藏身于屋舍之间，游客们每到一处都会有惊喜的发现。

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---



## Part **III** Extensive Reading

**Read the passage, and complete the tasks that follow.**

### Text B

## Suzhou's Gardens

(A) Editor's note: Suzhou, a city in east China's Jiangsu province, is famous for its delicate classical gardens. Built between the Northern Song dynasty and the late Qing dynasty, the classical gardens of Suzhou feature miniature rocks, hills and elegant pavilions set amidst murmuring waters. Their elegant aesthetics have been imitated by other gardens in China, including some of the imperial gardens. Nine of the best in Suzhou were listed as UNESCO World Cultural Heritage sites in 1997 and 2000 successively.

(B) Nineteen of the 69 well-preserved gardens are open to the public. Featured among them are some which rival the Summer Palace in Beijing and Chengde Mountain Resort in Hebei province, such as the Humble Administrator's Garden and the Lingering Garden.

(C) From the arrangement of rocks to the strategically located pavilions, every part of the classical gardens is meticulously designed. Following the concept of borrowing neighbouring scenery to create a harmonious view, the gardens create beautiful scenes in limited spaces for visitors to appreciate from different vantage points. Inspired by the poetic imagery of ancient Chinese landscape



paintings, Suzhou's gardens were built in a similar way—refined, elegant and free.

(D) The following paragraphs describing the designs of Suzhou's gardens are excerpted from Shen Fu's *Six Chapters of a Floating Life*, translated by Lin Yutang.

(E) As to the planning of garden pavilions, towers, winding corridors and outhouses, the designing of rockery and the training of flower-trees, one should try to show the small in the big, and the big in the small, and provide for the real in the unreal and for the unreal in the real. One reveals and conceals alternately, making it sometimes apparent and sometimes hidden.

(F) This is not just rhythmic irregularity, nor does it depend on having a wide space and great expenditure of labour and material. Pile up a mound with earth dug from the ground and decorate it with rocks, mingled with flowers; use live plum branches for your fence, and plant creepers over the walls. Thus one can create the effect of a hill out of a flat piece of ground.

(G) In the big, open spaces, plant bamboo that grows quickly and train plum trees with thick branches to screen them off. This is to show the small in the big. When a courtyard is small, the wall should run in a series of convex and concave lines, decorated with green, covered with ivy and inlaid with big slabs of stone with inscriptions on them. Thus when you open your window, you seem to face a rocky hillside, alive with rugged beauty. This is to show the big in the small.

(H) Contrive so that an apparently blind alley leads suddenly into an open space and a closet-like door forms the entrance into an unexpected courtyard. This is to provide for the real in the unreal. Let a door lead into a blind courtyard and conceal the view by placing a few bamboo trees and a few rocks before it. Thus you suggest something which is not there. Place low balustrades along the top of a wall so as to suggest a roof garden. This is to provide for the unreal in the real.

(I) Poor scholars who live in crowded houses should follow the method of the boatmen in our native district who make clever arrangements with their limited space on the sterns of their boats by devising certain modifications, such as making a series of successive elevations one after another, and using them as beds, of which there may be three in a little room, and separating them with papered



wooden partitions. The effect will be compact and wonderful to look at, like surveying a long stretch of road, and one will not feel the cramping of space.

(J) When my wife and I were staying at Yangchow, we lived in a house of only two beams, but the two bedrooms, the kitchen and the parlour were all arranged in this method, with an exquisite effect and great space saving. Yun once said to me laughingly, "The arrangements are exquisite enough, but after all, they lack the luxurious atmosphere of a rich man's house." It was so indeed.

(K) Once I visited my ancestral tombs on the hill and found some pebbles of great beauty, with faint tracings on them. Upon returning, I talked it over with Yun, and said, "People mix putty with Hsuanchow stones in white stone basins, because the colors of the two elements blend. These yellow pebbles of this hill, however, are different, and although they are rugged and simple, they will not blend in colors with putty. What can we do?" "Take some of the worse quality," she said, "pound them into small pieces and mix them in the putty before it is dry, and perhaps when it is dry, the colour will be uniform."

(L) So we did as she suggested, and took a rectangular Yi-hsing earthen basin, on which we piled up a mountain peak on the left coming down in undulations to the right. On its back, we made rugged square lines in the style of rock paintings of Ni Yunlin, so that the whole looked like a rocky precipice overhanging a river. At one corner we made a hollow place, which we filled with mud and planted with multi-leaf white duckweed, while the rocks were planted with dodder. This took us quite a few days to finish. In late autumn, the dodder grew all over the hill, like wistarias hanging down from a rock. The red dodder flowers made a striking contrast to the white duckweed, which had grown luxuriantly, too, from the pond underneath. Looking at it, one could imagine oneself transported to some fairy region.

## Vocabulary

**miniature** *adj.* 微型的, 小型的

**elegant** *adj.* 优雅的, 精致的

**aesthetics** *n.* 美学, 审美

**imitate** *v.* 模仿, 仿效

**vantage points** 有利位置, 观察点

**rhythmic irregularity** 节奏的不规律性

**outhouse** *n.* 附属建筑, 小屋

**rockery** *n.* 假山, 岩石园

**balustrade** *n.* 栏杆, 栏板

**convex** *adj.* 凸起的, 凸面的

**concave** *adj.* 凹陷的, 凹面的

**inscription** *n.* 铭文, 题词

**putty** *n.* 腻子, 填缝剂

**undulation** *n.* 起伏, 波动

**dodder** *n.* 菟丝子 (一种攀缘植物)

**luxuriantly** *adv.* 茂盛地, 繁茂地

**exquisite** *adj.* 精美的, 精致的

**atmosphere** *n.* 气氛, 氛围

## Skimming and Scanning

The following are several statements attached to the text we have just read. 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.

- (     ) 1    The design of Suzhou's gardens involves careful arrangement of elements to create beautiful scenes in limited spaces.
- (     ) 2    Shen Fu's *Six Chapters of a Floating Life* includes descriptions of garden designs that emphasize showing the small in the big and the big in the small.
- (     ) 3    Suzhou is known for its classical gardens, which have inspired the design of other gardens in China, including some imperial gardens.
- (     ) 4    Nineteen of the well-preserved gardens in Suzhou are open to the public, and some are as famous as the Summer Palace in Beijing.
- (     ) 5    Unexpected open spaces and hidden courtyards are designed to create a sense of surprise and mystery.
- (     ) 6    People living in crowded houses can learn from boatmen's methods of arranging limited space to create a compact yet wonderful effect.
- (     ) 7    Creating the effect of a hill from a flat piece of ground can be achieved by piling up earth and decorating it with rocks and flowers.
- (     ) 8    The author and his wife once lived in a small house in Yangchow, where the rooms were arranged in a space-saving and exquisite manner.
- (     ) 9    The author and his wife created a miniature landscape using pebbles and putty, inspired by the rugged beauty of the hillside.
- (     ) 10   In large open spaces, bamboo and plum trees can be used to create the illusion of a smaller, more intimate area.

## Part **IV** Extracurricular Exercises

### Speaking Task

**Topic: The Beauty of Architecture**

**Instructions:**

Prepare a 2~3 minute speech addressing the following questions:

- Can you describe a building that you really like? What makes it special?
- What architectural style does it belong to? (e.g., Gothic, Modernist, Traditional)
- Do you prefer modern architecture or traditional architecture? Why? ( give an example )

**Guidelines:**

- Tell your favorite style of building.
- Explain why you like it and give an example.

### Reading in Depth

#### Passage One

**Questions 1 to 5 are based on the following passage.**

Urbanization—migration away from the suburbs to the city center—will be the biggest real estate trend in 2015, according to a new report.



The report says America's urbanization will continue to be the most significant issue affecting the industry, as cities across the country imitate the walkability and transit-oriented development making cities like New York and San Francisco so successful.

As smaller cities copy the model of these "24-hour cities," more affordable versions of these places will be created. The report refers to this as the coming of the "18-hour city," and uses the term to refer to cities like Houston, Austin, Charlotte, and Nashville, which are "positioning themselves as highly competitive, in terms of livability, employment offerings, and recreational and cultural facilities."

Another trend that looks significant in 2015 is that America's largest population group, Millennials (千禧一代), will continue to put off buying a house. Apartments will retain their appeal for a while for Millennials, haunted by what happened to home-owning parents.

This trend will continue into the 2020s, the report projects. After that, survey respondents disagree over whether this generation will follow in their parents' footsteps, moving to the suburbs to raise families, or will choose to remain in the city center.

Another issue affecting real estate in the coming year will be America's failing infrastructure. Most roads, bridges, transit, water systems, the electric grid, and communications networks were installed 50 to 100 years ago, and they are largely taken for granted until they fail.

The report's writers state that America's failure to invest in infrastructure impacts not only the health of the real-estate market, but also our ability to remain globally competitive.

Apart from the specific trends highlighted above, which cause some investors to worry, the report portrays an overall optimism borne by the recent healthy real-estate "upcycle" and improving economy. Seventy-four percent of the respondents surveyed report a "good to excellent" expectation of real-estate profitability in 2015. While excessive optimism can promote bad investment patterns, resulting in a real-estate "bubble," the report's writers downplay that potential outcome in that it has not yet occurred.

( ) 1. According to the new report, real estate development in 2015 will witness

- \_\_\_\_\_ .
- A) an accelerating speed
  - B) a shift to city centers
  - C) a new focus on small cities
  - D) an ever-increasing demand

( ) 2. What characterizes "24-hour cities" like New York?

- A) People can live without private cars.
- B) People are generally more competitive.
- C) People can enjoy services around the clock.
- D) People are in harmony with the environment.



- ( ) **3. Why are Millennials reluctant to buy a house?**
- A) They can only afford small apartments.
  - B) The house prices are currently too high.
  - C) Their parents' bad experience still haunts them.
  - D) They feel attached to the suburban environment.
- ( ) **4. What might hinder real estate development in the U.S.?**
- A) The continuing economic recession in the country.
  - B) The lack of confidence on the part of investors.
  - C) The fierce global competition.
  - D) The worsening infrastructure.
- ( ) **5. How do most of the respondents in the survey feel about the U. S. real-estate market in 2015?**
- A) Pessimistic.      B) Hopeful.      C) Cautious.      D) Uncertain.

## Passage Two

**Questions 6 to 10 are based on the following passage.**

As many office workers adapt to remote work, cities may undergo fundamental change if offices remain under-utilized. Who will benefit if working from home becomes the norm?

Employers argue they make considerable savings on real estate when workers shift from office to home work. However, these savings result from passing costs on to workers.

Unless employees are fully compensated, this could become a variant of parasitic ( 寄生的 ) capitalism, whereby corporate profits increasingly rely on extracting value from the public—and now personal-realm, rather than on generating new value.

Though employers are backed by a chorus of remote work advocates, others note the loneliness, reduced productivity and inefficiencies of extended remote work.

If working from home becomes permanent, employees will have to dedicate part of their private space to work. This requires purchasing desks, chairs and office equipment.

It also means having private space dedicated to work: the space must be heated, cleaned, maintained and paid for. That depends on many things, but for purposes of illustration, I have run some estimates for Montreal. The exercise is simple but important, since it brings these costs out of the realm of speculation into the realm of meaningful discussion.

Rough calculations show that the savings made by employers when their staff works from home

are of similar value to the compensation workers should receive for setting up offices at home.

What does this mean for offices in cities? One of two things may happen: Employers pass these costs onto employees. This would be a form of expropriation ( 侵占 ), with employees absorbing production costs that have traditionally been paid by the employer. This represents a considerable transfer of value from employees to employers.

When employees are properly compensated, employers' real estate savings will be modest. If savings are modest, then the many advantages of working in offices—such as lively atmosphere, rapidity of communication, team-building and acclimatization ( 适应环境 ) of new employees—will encourage employers to shelve the idea of remote work and, like Yahoo in 2013, encourage employees to work most of the time from corporate office space.

(     ) **6. What does the author say about working from home?**

- A) It will become the norm sooner or later.
- B) It requires employees to adapt promptly.
- C) It benefits employers at the expense of employees.
- D) It will force cities to transform their infrastructure.

(     ) **7. Why do some people oppose working from home?**

- A) It discourages team spirit.
- B) It invades employees' privacy.
- C) It undermines traditional values.
- D) It negatively impacts productivity.

(     ) **8. Why did the author run the estimates for Montreal?**

- A) To provide convincing data for serious discussion.
- B) To illustrate the ongoing change in working patterns.
- C) To show the impact of remote working on productivity.
- D) To exemplify how remote working affects the economy.

(     ) **9. What can we conclude from the author's calculations?**

- A) There is no point in transferring office work to working from home.
- B) Employees can benefit as much from remote working as their employers.
- C) Employers' gain from remote working should go to employees as compensation.
- D) Effective measures should be taken to motivate employees to set up offices at home.

(     ) **10. What is the author's opinion on working from home?**

- A) It should be avoided if possible.
- B) It is only a temporary measure.
- C) It can reduce companies' real estate costs.
- D) It may affect employees' corporate loyalty.

# Skimming and Scanning

In this section, you are going to read a passage with ten 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.

## A South Korean City Designed for the Future Takes on a Life of Its Own

A) Getting around a city is one thing—and then there’s the matter of getting from one city to another. One vision of the perfect city of the future is a place that offers easy access to air travel. In 2011, a University of North Carolina business professor named John Kasarda published a book called *Aerotropolis: The Way We’ll Live Next*. Kasarda says future cities should be built intentionally around or near airports. The idea, as he has put it, is to offer businesses “rapid, long-distance connectivity on a massive scale.”

B) “The 18th century really was a waterborne ( 水运的 ) century, the 19th century a rail century, the 20th century a highway, car, truck century—and the 21st century will increasingly be an aviation century, as the globe becomes increasingly connected by air,” Kasarda says. Songdo, a city built from scratch in South Korea, is one of Kasarda’s prime examples. It has existed for just a few years. “From the outset, it was designed on the basis of connectivity and competitiveness,” says Kasarda. “The government built the bridge directly from the airport to the Songdo International Business District. And the surface infrastructure was built at the same time as the new airport.

C) Songdo is a stone’s throw from South Korea’s Incheon Airport, its main international hub ( 枢纽 ). But it takes a lot more than a nearby airport to be a city of the future. Just building a place as an “international business district” doesn’t mean it will become one. Park Yeon Soo conceived ( 构想 ) this city of the future back in 1986. He considers Songdo his baby. Park sees himself as a visionary. Thirty years after he imagined the city, Park’s baby is close to 70 percent built, with 36,000 people living in the business district and 90,000 residents in greater Songdo. It’s about an hour outside Seoul, built on former tidal flats along the Yellow Sea. There’s a Coast Guard building and a tall trade tower, as well as a park, golf course and university.

D) Chances are you’ve actually seen this place. Songdo appears in the most famous music video ever to come out of South Korea. “Gangnam Style” refers to the fashionable Gangnam district in

Seoul. But some of the video was filmed in Songdo. “I don’t know if you remember, there was a scene in a subway station. That was not Gangnam. That was actually Songdo,” says Jung Won Son, a professor of urban development at London’s Bartlett School of Planning. “Part of the reason to shoot there is that it’s new and nice.”

E) The city was supposed to be a hub for global companies, with employees from all over the world. But that’s not how it has turned out. Songdo’s reputation is as a futuristic ghost town. But the reality is more complicated. A bridge with big, light-blue loops leads into the business district. In the center of the main road, there’s a long line of flags of the world. On the corner, there’s a Starbucks and a 7-Eleven—all of the international brands that you see all over the world nowadays.

F) The city is not empty. There are mothers pushing baby carriages, old women with walkers—even in the middle of the day, when it’s 90 degrees out. Byun Young-Jin chairs the Songdo real estate association and started selling property here when the first phase of the city opened in 2005. He says demand has boomed in the past couple of years. Most of his clients are Korean. In fact, the developer says, 99 percent of the homes here are sold to Koreans. Young families move here because the schools are great. And that’s the problem: Songdo has become a popular Korean city—more popular as a residential area than a business one. It’s not yet the futuristic international business hub that planners imagined. “It’s a great place to live. And it’s becoming a great place to work,” says Scott Summers, vice president of Gale International, the developer of the city. The floor-to-ceiling windows of his company’s offices overlook Songdo Central Park, with a canal full of small boats and people fishing. Shimmering ( 闪烁的 ) glass towers line the canal’s edge.

G) “What’s happened is that our focus on creating that quality of life first has enabled the residents to live here,” Summers says. But there needs to be strong economic incentives for companies to locate here. The city is still unfinished, and it feels a bit like a theme park. It doesn’t feel all that futuristic. There’s a high-tech underground trash disposal system. Buildings are environmentally friendly. Everybody’s television set is connected to a system that streams personalized language or exercise classes.

H) But this is not Star Trek. And to some of the residents, Songdo feels hollow, “I’m, like, in prison for weekdays. That’s what we call it in the workplace,” says a woman in her 20s. She doesn’t want to use her name for fear of being fired from her job. She goes back to Seoul every weekend. “I say I’m prison-breaking on Friday nights.” But she has to make the prison break in her own car. There’s no high-speed train connecting Songdo to Seoul, just over 20 miles away.

I) Park Yeon Soo, the man who first imagined Songdo, feels frustrated, too. He says he built South Korea a luxury vehicle, “like Mercedes or BMW. It’s a good car now. But we’re waiting for a good driver to accelerate. But there are lots of other good cars out there, too. The world is dotted with futuristic,

high-tech cities trying to attract the biggest international companies.”

J) Songdo’s backers contend that it’s still early, and business space is filling up about 70 percent of finished offices are now occupied. Brent Ryan, who teaches urban design at MIT, says Songdo proves a universal principle. “There have been a lot of utopian ( 乌托邦的 ) cities in history. And the reason we don’t know about a lot of them is that they have vanished entirely.” In other words, when it comes to cities or anything else it is hard to predict the future.

- (     ) 1    Songdo’s popularity lies more in its quality of life than its business attraction.
- (     ) 2    The man who conceived Songdo feels disappointed because it has fallen short of his expectations.
- (     ) 3    A scene in a popular South Korean music video was shot in Songdo.
- (     ) 4    Songdo still lacks the financial stimulus for businesses to set up shops there.
- (     ) 5    Airplanes will increasingly become the chief means of transportation, according to a professor.
- (     ) 6    Songdo has ended up different from the city it was supposed to be.
- (     ) 7    Some of the people who work in Songdo complain about boredom in the workplace.
- (     ) 8    A business professor says that a future city should have easy access to international transportation.
- (     ) 9    According to an urban design professor, it is difficult for city designers to foresee what will happen in the future.
- (     ) 10    Park Yeon Soo, who envisioned Songdo, feels a parental connection with the city.



## Writing

**Directions:** For this part, you are allowed 30 minutes to write an essay on the topic below. You should write at least 120 words but no more than 180 words.

Topic: The Role of Architecture in Modern Society

Requirements:

- Introduce the importance of architecture in modern society.
- Discuss the role of architecture in cultural heritage, economic development, and social cohesion. Use specific examples to illustrate your points.
- Summarize the significance of architecture in modern society and look forward to the future direction of architectural development.

