全国 2020 年 10 月高等教育自学考试

英语阅读(一)试题

课程代码:00595

- 1. 请考生按规定用笔将所有试题的答案涂、写在答题纸上。
- 2. 答题前,考生务必将自己的考试课程名称、姓名、准考证号用黑色字迹的签字笔或钢笔填写在答题纸规定的位置上。

选择题部分

注意事项:

每小题选出答案后,用 2B 铅笔把答题纸上对应题目的答案标号涂黑。如需改动,用橡皮擦干净后,再选涂其他答案标号。不能答在试题卷上。

I. CAREFUL READING

Read the following passages carefully. Decide on the best answer and blacken the corresponding letter on the ANSWER SHEET. (40 points, 2 points each)

Passage 1

Questions 1 to 5 are based on the following passage.

Many studies suggest that our personalities remain fairly stable, even over the course of decades. Yet a small but long-running study finds that traits related to dependability differ greatly between adolescence and late life. The findings raise new questions and highlight the challenges in trying to track a person's defining characteristics over many years.

In the new research, published in December 2016 in *Psychology and Aging*, researchers in the U.K. reached out to a group of 635 77-year-olds from Scotland who had taken part in a study when they were 14. Back then, their teachers had rated them on six personality characteristics related to dependability: self-confidence, perseverance (坚定), mood stability, conscientiousness (认真), originality and desire to be better than others. Some 60 years later a total of 174 participants from the original study rated themselves on the same six traits and had a close friend or relative rate them as well.

Lead author Ian Deary, a psychologist at the University of Edinburgh, expected, based on earlier findings, that dependability scores might remain stable over time. In fact, he and his colleagues found no relation between ratings for dependability-related traits over the 63-year span studied. (Deary emphasizes that his findings apply only to these six traits—not overall

personality.)

One of the study's strengths is that it covers such a long period, but this characteristic also makes the research challenging. Nate Hudson, a social psychologist at Michigan State University who was not involved in the study, points out that the lack of personality stability could be the result of having different people rate the participants. Ideally, the same person would rate a subject's personality at both time points when assessments were made.

In decades-spanning studies, many subjects go missing, die or choose not to participate in follow-up assessments. Deary and his colleagues had only 174 of the original participants, a number that makes it tough to find subtle, but real, correlations in sets of data. "It is difficult to know from their study alone whether there is truly zero stability in personality from age 14 to 77," Hudson says. "Deary's work moves the field forward—but more research is needed to get a full picture of how personality evolves throughout a lifetime."

- 1. What do many studies suggest about a person's personality?
 - A. It is offensive during adolescence.
 - B. It becomes split in middle age.
 - C. It is lovable in late life.
 - D. It remains stable.
- 2. Who rated the participants when they were 14 years old?
 - A. Their peers.
 - B. Their teachers.
 - C. Their families.
 - D. Their neighbours.
- 3. How many years does Deary's research cover?
 - A. 14.
 - B. 50.
 - C. 63.
 - D. 77.
- 4. Hudson thinks that Deary's research could have been bettered if, at different time points, it had .
 - A. involved different participants
 - B. been conducted in the same place
 - C. focused on different personality traits
 - D. had the same people rate the participants

- 5. What is Hudson's overall view on the findings of Deary's research?
 - A. They need further study.
 - B. They show great promise.
 - C. They lack theoretical bases.
 - D. They apply to six traits only.

Questions 6 to 10 are based on the following passage.

During World War II, many American women joined the armed forces and served side by side with the men. More than 200,000 women volunteered to serve in the armed forces.

The women did not go into battle with guns. But they did perform countless useful—and often dangerous—tasks, which freed the men for the fighting. And thousands of nurses risked—and sometimes lost—their lives treating the wounded while the enemy was attacking.

One group of women performed a very special job. That was because they had a special skill. They were pilots.

The United States had not yet entered the war in 1940. But Americans were selling airplanes to the British. Canada was supplying even more. The planes were vital to Britain's survival. They had to be gotten overseas as quickly as possible. What was the fastest way? By air, of course.

Trained American and Canadian pilots were already flying for Britain's Royal Air Force. Every man who could fly a plane was already fighting in Europe. Someone had to fly the new planes across the ocean. Who could do it? The women!

Jacqueline Cochran was one of America's best-known pilots when the war began. She described how the women pilots got involved in the war and what they did:

"Late in 1940 General Arnold said they needed pilots desperately for ferrying airplanes from Canada to England, and he asked me if I could be of any help. I said I would be happy to volunteer, and my services were immediately accepted. It was a difficult task with a high death rate. I got shot at over the North Atlantic and others did too. We usually got to England with only about two and a half hours of fuel to spare, and that is hazardous (危险的)."

Often, after a long trip—and just a few hours' sleep—the women were flown back to Canada to pick up more planes.

When the United States entered the war, the women pilots were formed into a group called WASP (Women Airforce Service Pilots). Miss Cochran became their commanding officer. The women continued to serve until 1944.

More than 1,000 women kept American and British pilots supplied with new planes during the war. They flew every type of plane that was built. And they won the admiration of thousands of combat pilots.

- 6. What special job did the group of American women do in World War II?
 - A. Nursing the wounded.
 - B. Dealing in weapons.
 - C. Ferrying airplanes.
 - D. Battling with guns.
- 7. What did the United States do in 1940 according to the passage?
 - A. It sold planes to Britain.
 - B. It trained pilots in Britain.
 - C. It recruited 20,000 soldiers.
 - D. It sent volunteers to Canada.
- 8. What did General Arnold say America needed desperately late in 1940?
 - A. More commanders.
 - B. More weapons.
 - C. More pilots.
 - D. More nurses.
- 9. What does the passage say about the special group of women?
 - A. They admired those combat pilots.
 - B. They undertook dangerous missions.
 - C. They shipped soldiers back to America.
 - D. They had no time to sleep in their tasks.
- 10. What do we know about Jacqueline Cochran?
 - A. She was the first female pilot in the US.
 - B. She was famous before World War II.
 - C. She was still in service after 1944.
 - D. She was shot at during a task.

Questions 11 to 15 are based on the following passage.

Last week I returned to Amherst. It's been years since I was there, the time I met Tom. I was hoping that Tom would show up again; I even looked for him, but he didn't appear. I remember he proudly represented New York City during the few minutes we spoke, so I suspect he'd moved back or maybe he was busy or he didn't know I was in town. I have a distinct memory of Tom in the signing line, saying nothing to anyone, intense. I assumed he was going to ask me to read a manuscript or help him find an agent, but instead he asked me about an incident in my book. He asked, quietly, if it had happened to me.

Tom caught me completely by surprise.

I wish I had told Tom the truth then, but I was too scared in those days to say anything. Too scared, too committed to my mask. I responded with some vague reply. And that was it. I signed his books. Tom thought I was going to say something, and when I didn't he looked disappointed. But more than that, he looked abandoned. I could have said anything but instead I turned to the next person in line and smiled. Out of the corner of my eye I watched Tom pick up his backpack, slowly put away his books, and leave. When the signing was over I couldn't get away from Amherst, from Tom and his question, fast enough. I ran the way I've always run. Like death itself was chasing me. For a couple of days afterward I fretted (焦虑不安); I worried that I'd given myself away. I tried to forget it and bury it all. Like always.

But I never really did forget. Not our exchange or Tom's disappointment. How he walked out of the hall with his shoulders hunched (弓起的).

I know this is years too late, but I'm sorry I didn't answer Tom. I'm sorry I didn't tell him the truth. I'm sorry for Tom, and for me. We both could have used that truth, I'm thinking. It could have saved me (and maybe Tom) from so much. But I was afraid. I'm still afraid—my fear like continents and the ocean between—but I'm going to speak anyway, because, as Audre Lorde has taught us, my silence will not protect me.

Yes, it happened to me.

- 11. What was the author doing when she met Tom?
 - A. She was signing books.
 - B. She was busy moving house.
 - C. She was looking for an agent.
 - D. She was reading a manuscript.

- 12. What did Tom want to know about the incident mentioned in the author's book?
 - A. When it happened to the author.
 - B. What drove the author to write it.
 - C. Whether the author experienced it.
 - D. How it affected the author's family.
- 13. How did the author respond to Tom's question?
 - A. She gave a vague reply.
 - B. She answered in detail.
 - C. She remained silent.
 - D. She smiled politely.
- 14. How did Tom feel about the author's response?
 - A. Scared.
 - B. Worried.
 - C. Surprised.
 - D. Disappointed.
- 15. What does the author want to tell Tom now?
 - A. She has forgotten what happened to her.
 - B. The occurrence in her book was real.
 - C. Her life has been full of bitterness.
 - D. Audre Lorde taught her to keep silence.

Questions 16 to 20 are based on the following passage.

Languages are considered endangered when their last fluent speakers reach old age and when children are no longer learning it as their primary tongue. UNESCO reveals that 18 of the world's 2,464 officially "endangered" languages have just one living speaker. With the exception of just three, these are all based in the so-called "global south". Economic, political, cultural and social power is held by those who speak the "majority languages" while those that don't are often <u>marginalized</u> and under pressure to shift towards learning a more "global" language.

Not all people experiencing language shift feel marginalized though. Many Nigerians, for example, happily embrace the use of English as a world language, viewing it as progressive. Others, however, see their native language as a significant marker of ethnic and national identity. Nigerian artist Adé Bantu expressed this in his song, criticizing the Nigerian school system which prohibits children from speaking their native languages.

浙 00595# 英语阅读(一)试题 第 6 页(共 15 页)

Tribalingual founder, Inky Gibbens, began her social mission to "save, preserve and support" rare cultures and traditions after discovering that the native language of her grandparents—Buryat, a dialect of Mongolia—was classified as "severely endangered" by UNESCO and finding that there was no means of learning it online.

Some people suggest that there are three categories of response to language endangerment: Do nothing, document languages before they disappear, or promote language revitalization (复兴). Scholars have since considered a fourth response, which aims to examine the causes of language endangerment and promote sustainable (可持续性的) environments for them.

However, the majority of funding goes into recording rather than revitalizing endangered languages. A core belief at Tribalingual is that the only means of saving languages and cultures is by teaching them. Documenting alone risks reducing rare languages to "static objects," as they are denied the chance to thrive in practice.

"When I founded Tribalingual, I wanted to have a minimum viable product to take to market and test my assumption that there were people out there actually interested in learning about unique languages and cultures," Gibbens says. "Through my network I found people who were passionately committed to preserving and teaching their culture and language. Luckily for us, there were also many learners who share our excitement about culture and language."

According to Gibbens, Tribalingual "is fast becoming a global network of culture and language enthusiasts who are passionate about preserving our world's diversity." As the "first online learning platform for teaching rare and endangered languages," it treats all languages and cultures equally, regardless of socio-political situation.

- 16. What does the word "marginalized" most probably mean in paragraph 1?
 - A. Taken as less passionate.
 - B. Treated as less important.
 - C. Viewed as more civilized.
 - D. Seen as more experienced.
- 17. What caused Gibbens to start her social mission?
 - A. An endangered dialect of Mongolia.
 - B. Her grandparents' experiences.
 - C. Endangered wildlife.
 - D. A Nigerian song.

- 18. What do scholars suggest as the fourth response to endangered languages?
 - A. Leaving them alone.
 - B. Having them recorded.
 - C. Making them revitalized.
 - D. Providing them with better environments.
- 19. What is Tribalingual's core belief about saving languages?
 - A. Teaching them.
 - B. Documenting them.
 - C. Making them primary languages.
 - D. Analyzing the causes of endangerment.
- 20. What is Tribalingual?
 - A. A branch office of UNESCO.
 - B. A language learning website.
 - C. A language research centre.
 - D. An ethnic tribe in Africa.

II. SPEED READING

Skim or scan the following passages, and then decide on the best answer and blacken the corresponding letter on the ANSWER SHEET. (10 points, 1 point each)

Passage 5

Questions 21 to 25 are based on the following passage.

MGM's most promising young star in the early 1930s couldn't meet the height requirement for most of today's amusement park rides: Shirley Temple, coming into her own in starring roles at the tender age of 5, was almost immediately headhunted (物色) by bigger, more profitable studios. And Fox was definitely that. For the studio, that proved to be a power move against MGM, buying their young star out from under them.

The move solidified Shirley Temple's place as the most beloved young star of her era, and is also credited with saving the Fox studio; Temple's cheerful and inspiring performance was able to draw moviegoers to the theater better than any other Depression-era star's.

The saga started in 1933 with Fox Film songwriter, Jay Gorney. He was walking out of a viewing of an episode of Temple's multi-part series, *Frolics of Youth*, and saw her charming fans in the movie theater lobby with song and dance numbers. He immediately arranged a screen test with Temple for the film *Stand Up and Cheer!* in early December of that year. The film was a hit upon its release in 1934. And audiences adored the innocence of both Temple and her character.

On the Good Ship Lollipop, a song from the film Bright Eyes, sold more than 500,000 copies. On February 27, 1935, 6-year-old Shirley Temple became the first child star to be honored with a Juvenile Oscar for her film achievements. Then, Fox and 20th Century Pictures merged, thanks in large part to Temple's success, creating 20th Century Fox, and as one of the crown jewels in the new studio's collection, Temple's star began to grow ever higher.

During the Great Depression, an era when making large investments was considered by conservative commentators to be nothing if not reckless (轻率的), Fox almost immediately began to see the benefits of banking on the bright young talent of Shirley Temple. As her star rose higher and higher, Fox was able to show more of their stars in Temple movies, using them to springboard actors such as Cesar Romero into star-making roles of their own. Shirley Temple showed Fox that the kind of movie capable of selling in the economic misery of the Depression was the exceedingly optimistic fare she was creating. In turn, Fox's returns on their investment in this optimism allowed them to make similar investments elsewhere, in actors that would become mainstays (支柱) of Hollywood and television for decades to come.

- 21. When it decided to have Shirley Temple, Fox was _____.
 - A. in bad need of actresses of Shirley's age
 - B. in a lower rank than many other studios
 - C. preparing to buy 20th Century Pictures
 - D. doing a better business than MGM
- 22. When did Jay Gorney get to know Shirley Temple's acting potentials?
 - A. While giving her a screen test.
 - B. After seeing a series she acted in.
 - C. After meeting her in a theatre lobby.
 - D. While talking with some of her fans.
- 23. Which of the following sold over 500,000 copies according to the passage?
 - A. On the Good Ship Lollipop
 - B. Stand Up and Cheer!
 - C. Frolics of Youth
 - D. Bright Eyes

- 24. When did Shirley Temple win a Juvenile Oscar?
 - A. In 1935.
 - B. In 1934.
 - C. In 1933.
 - D. In 1930.
- 25. How could conservative commentators have felt about Fox's recruiting Shirley Temple during the Great Depression?
 - A. It was a landmark decision.
 - B. It was a good opportunity.
 - C. It was an interim measure.
 - D. It was a tremendous risk.

Questions 26 to 30 are based on the following passage.

Many Londoners would be envious of the places Matthew Anderson has lived in: the likes of Broadway Market, Angel, Camden, and Little Venice are amongst the city's most trendy and expensive. Many more would long for his electricity bill: £600 for the next 15 years. How, then, is he only 24 and a resident of London for just two years?

Anderson, an actor, is part of a booming trend for houseboat living among young Londoners. And specifically for what's known as a "continuous cruising", meaning for around £800, which covers your annual insurance and boat license, you can moor up (停泊) wherever you want... but only if you move every two weeks.

Houseboats, and narrowboats in particular, are peculiarly British. They were originally working boats during the Industrial Revolution. While the industrial need for narrowboats has long diminished, the nation's love for them hasn't. But until recently, only a small and hardy community actually lived on them, and fewer still constantly cruised. That's changing. Many people are fleeing London's ever escalating property prices, where house prices have risen 86% since 2009, for a life on the water. But life on a houseboat is not for everyone. It is a bit too small and the lack of space is inescapable. "But it's been a lifesaver for me," says Anderson. "You have to work so much in London just to pay your rent." Before buying the boat a year ago, he lived in the north London suburb, paying £550 a month in rent for a room in a house, not including bills. Now, he says, his monthly expenses "work out at around £200," which includes paying off the loan to buy the boat. Meanwhile, solar panels on his roof run his lighting, charge his phone and laptop and power the water pump.

Because of the savings, Anderson says, he was able to take an unpaid acting job, which

got him a part in a Channel 4 series called *Humans*, which then helped him get a role in the film *Borstal*. "You can't do that if you're paying rent," he says. But it's also a lifestyle choice. "That feeling when you move house and a fresh start—you get that every two weeks!"

Boaters are a different kind of community. Atypically (非典型地) for London, houseboating can be cheap. But typically for London, it's crowded and, while it can be rewarding, it's not necessarily for everyone.

| 26. | During the Industrial Revolution, narrowboats were | | | | | | | |
|-----|--|--------------------|--|--|--|--|--|--|
| | A. unknown to people | | | | | | | |
| | B. used as working boats | | | | | | | |
| | C. diminishing in number | | | | | | | |
| | D. moved every two weeks | | | | | | | |
| 27. | What forces many young Londoners to live on houseboats? | | | | | | | |
| | A. Shortage of residential areas. | | | | | | | |
| | B. Urban air pollution. | | | | | | | |
| | C. Heavy street traffic. | | | | | | | |
| | D. High house prices. | | | | | | | |
| 28. | How much does Anderson pay now for his monthly expenses? | | | | | | | |
| | A. Around £200. | | | | | | | |
| | B. Around £550. | | | | | | | |
| | C. Around £600. | | | | | | | |
| | D. Around £800. | | | | | | | |
| 29. | What does "that" underlined in paragraph 4 refer to? | | | | | | | |
| | A. The film. | B. The rent. | | | | | | |
| | C. The feeling. | D. The acting job. | | | | | | |
| 30. | What does the author say about houseboating? | | | | | | | |
| | A. It is not convenient. | | | | | | | |
| | B. It is not economical. | | | | | | | |
| | C. It is not worth trying. | | | | | | | |
| | D. It is not fit for everyone. | | | | | | | |

非选择题部分

注意事项:

用黑色字迹的签字笔或钢笔将答案写在答题纸上,不能答在试题卷上。

III. DISCOURSE CLOZE

The following is taken from the textbook. Read the passage and fill in the numbered spaces (there are more suggested answers than necessary). Write the letter of the answer on the ANSWER SHEET. (10 points, 1 point each)

| She was one of those pretty and charming girls who are sometimes, as if by a mistake of |
|--|
| destiny, born into a family of clerks. (31), no means of being known, understood, |
| loved, or wedded by any rich and distinguished man; and she let herself be married to a little |
| clerk at the Ministry of Public Instruction. |
| (32) because she could not dress well, but her unhappiness seemed to be |
| deeper than one might expect. She seemed to feel that she had fallen from her proper station |
| in life as a woman of wealth, beauty, grace, and charm. She valued these above all else in life, |
| yet (33) She cared nothing for caste or rank but only for a natural fineness, an |
| instinct for what is elegant, and a suppleness of wit. These would have made her (34) |
| If only she could attain them |
| She suffered, feeling born for all the delicacies and all the luxuries. She suffered from the |
| poverty of her dwelling, from the wretched look of the walls, from the worn-out chairs, (35) |
| All those things, of which another woman of her rank would never even have been |
| conscious, tortured her and made her angry. The sight of the little Breton peasant who did her |
| humble housework aroused in her despairing regrets and distracted dreams. She thought of |
| silent antechambers hung (36), lit by tall bronze candelabra, and of two great |
| footmen in knee breaches sleeping in big armchairs, made drowsy by the heavy warmth of the |
| hot-air stove. She thought of long salons (37), of delicate furniture carrying |
| priceless curiosities, and of coquettish perfumed boudoirs made for talks at five o'clock with |
| intimate friends, with men famous and sought after, (38) and whose attention they |
| all desire. |
| When she sat down to dinner before the round table (39), opposite her |
| husband, who declared with an enchanted air. "Ah, the good pot-au-feu! I don't know |
| anything better than that," she thought of best dinners, of shining silverware, of tapestry |
| which peopled the walls with ancient personages and with strange birds flying in the midst of |
| a fairy forest; and (40) served on marvelous plates, and of the whispered gallantries |
| which you listened to with a sphinx-like smile while you are eating the pink flesh of a trout or |
| the wings of a quail. |
| (m) (m) 37 11 \ |

(From The Necklace)

| Α. | A. the equal of the greatest ladies of the land | | | | | | |
|---|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|
| B. | . from the ugliness of the curtains | | | | | | |
| C. | C. who thought of herself as an outstanding woman in the field | | | | | | |
| D. | covered with a ta | ablecloth three days old | | | | | |
| E. | whom all womer | n envy | | | | | |
| F. : | a woman who wa | as leading a child | | | | | |
| G. | G. fitted up with ancient silk | | | | | | |
| Н. | H. She had no dowry, no expectations | | | | | | |
| I. She dressed plainly | | | | | | | |
| J. v | with Oriental tape | estry | | | | | |
| K. | she thought of de | elicious dishes | | | | | |
| L. | she could not atta | ain them | | | | | |
| IV. | WORD FORM | IATION | | | | | |
| | | h of the following sentences with the proper form of the word in | | | | | |
| brackets. Write your answers on the ANSWER SHEET. (10 points, 1 point each) | | | | | | | |
| 41. | (maintain) | The magazine offers tips on cutting your house costs. | | | | | |
| 42. | (cooperate) | The workmen are very, so the work goes on smoothly. | | | | | |
| 43. | (finance) | The company's problems followed the revelation of a major | | | | | |
| | | scandal. | | | | | |
| 44. | (active) | The current level of economic will influence business | | | | | |
| | ` , | confidence. | | | | | |
| 45. | (substance) | There is collaboration with neighbouring departments. | | | | | |
| 46. | (certainty) | Times of great change are also times of | | | | | |
| 47. | (grow) | A loving home is essential for a child's personal | | | | | |
| 48. | (forget) | He looks all right. But he is getting rather these days. | | | | | |
| 49. | (friend) | Their goes back to when they were at school together. | | | | | |
| 50. | (comfort) | In warm weather, you should wear clothing that is cool and | | | | | |

V. GAP FILLING

The following is taken from the textbook. Fill in the numbered gaps with the correct forms of the words in the box (there are more words than necessary). Write your answers on the ANSWER SHEET. (10 points, 1 point each)

| expect | mistake | rest | mixture | between | inferior |
|--------|----------|--------|----------|---------|----------|
| demand | politics | custom | vigorous | with | polite |

| American society is much more informal than that of many other countries and, in some | | | | | |
|---|--|--|--|--|--|
| ways, is characterized by less social distinction. The American (51) of pride in | | | | | |
| achievement and sense of "I'm just as good as anybody else." along with lack of importance | | | | | |
| placed on personal dignity, is difficult for a foreigner to understand. Americans in general do | | | | | |
| not like to be considered (52), and they grumble loudly about inconveniences or | | | | | |
| not getting a "fair deal." Yet they do not make a point of their personal honor. As an | | | | | |
| illustration of the difference (53) European and American reflection in this respect, | | | | | |
| John Whyte in American Words and Ways gives the following account. | | | | | |
| A [European] professor [visiting in America] was once sent a bill for hospital services | | | | | |
| which he had never enjoyed. The bill was accompanied by a strong letter (54) | | | | | |
| payment. It was obvious that a mistake in names had been made, but the professor, thoroughly | | | | | |
| aroused by this reflection on his character and financial integrity, wrote a (55) letter | | | | | |
| of reply (which an American might also have done). But in this letter of reply he demanded | | | | | |
| that the creditor write him a formal letter of apology for this reflection on his honor. Since | | | | | |
| no publicity could possibly have been given to the mistake, for (56) it was, most | | | | | |
| Americans in that situation, after getting the matter off their chest (or without doing that) | | | | | |
| would have let the matter (57) | | | | | |
| An example of the same thing may be that although Americans like to talk about their | | | | | |
| accomplishments, it is their (58) to show certain modesty in reply to compliments. | | | | | |
| When someone praises an American upon his achievement or upon his personal appearance, | | | | | |
| which, incidentally, is a very (59) thing to do in America, the American turns it | | | | | |
| aside. If someone should say, "Congratulations upon being elected president of the club," an | | | | | |
| American is (60) to reply, "Well, I hope I can do a good job," or something of the | | | | | |
| sort. | | | | | |
| (From American Social Relations) | | | | | |

VI. SHORT ANSWER QUESTIONS

The following questions are based on Passage 4 in this test paper. Read the passage carefully again and answer the questions briefly by referring back to Passage 4. Write your answers on the ANSWER SHEET. (10 points, 5 points each)

- 61. When is a language regarded as an endangered one?
- 62. What attitudes do Nigerians take towards language shift?

VII. TRANSLATION

The following excerpt is taken from the textbook. Read it carefully and translate into Chinese each of the numbered and underlined parts. Write your answers on the ANSWER SHEET. (10 points, 2 points each)

In the late nineteenth century Britain kept out of foreign politics as much as possible. Europe was divided into two camps: France and Russia in one, Germany, Austria and Italy in the other. (63) Britain favored the second group so long as France threatened her interests in Africa and the Russians threatened her Indian border. But Germany was growing too strong. The various German states had been united under the King of Prussia after his conquest of France in 1870. He was now Emperor of all Germany. (64) He was Queen Victoria's son-in-law, but his ambitions took no account of such a tie. Britain watched him with growing mistrust.

The Germans already had the best army in Europe. (65) By 1901, when Victoria died, they had begun to build a very large navy, which was not needed to protect their trade. It could only have one purpose, to fight its British rival. Edward VII had never shared his mother's faith in the Emperor's goodwill, and Britain now openly made friends with France. (66) She would not make a defence treaty, but she showed that her sympathy would be with the French if the Germans attacked them. Plans were made for an army of 150, 000 men which would be ready to cross the Channel at a moment's notice. (67) When war came in 1914, this force managed to arrive just in time to save Paris.

(From The World at War)