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Unit

# 4

# Mission and exploration of our time

Exalted merit depends on the high aim, and a patrimony is enlarged only by diligence.

— *The Book of History*

功崇惟志，业广惟勤。

——《尚书》



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## Preview

Patriotism can be manifested in the years of war or in the years of peace. In today's reform and opening up, our country still **needs patriotism to realize the Chinese Dream**. One of the exemplifiers of patriotism is the late scientist and geophysicist Huang Danian, whose expertise in deep earth exploration technology has helped China take the lead in a number of technical fields. His patriotic deeds and deep affection for the motherland have made him a role model for everyone, especially for the young, who may be experiencing "odyssey years" – a life stage of confusion and self-discovery. The young generation can draw inspiration from Huang's patriotism, professional dedication, and noble spirit **to shoulder the mission of realizing national rejuvenation**. As a college student, have you ever thought about what you would do to enrich your life and better serve the country?

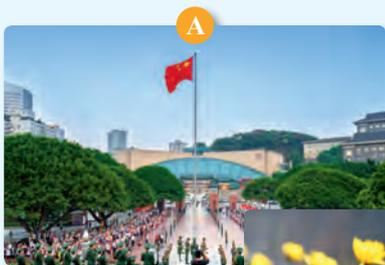


# Section A

## Pre-reading activities

1 Match the activities with the pictures below. Then think about what personal quality of the participants is reflected in these activities.

- \_\_\_\_\_ 1 Volunteer to teach kids in rural areas
- \_\_\_\_\_ 2 Watch a national flag-raising ceremony
- \_\_\_\_\_ 3 Participate in a patriotic health campaign
- \_\_\_\_\_ 4 Pay tribute to the revolutionary martyrs



2 Work in groups and brainstorm what other activities you can engage in to show your patriotism.

## Text A

- 1 A film event commemorating the 40th anniversary of China's reform and opening up was held in Beijing. The event aimed to introduce a series of newly produced quality Chinese films and tell the inspirational stories of the Chinese people – how their lives have been transformed over the past four decades. One movie that depicts the life of a great geophysicist, Dr. Huang Danian, immediately caught the public's eye.
- 2 Born in 1958 in Nanning, Guangxi, Huang started to become interested in geophysics early in his childhood. Both his parents taught at a local geological institution and passed the passion down to their son. In 1978, Huang was admitted to Changchun Institute



**Huang Danian, a strategic scientist**

of **Geology** (now Jilin University) to study in the Department of Applied Geophysics. After completing his **undergraduate** and graduate studies, he stayed on to teach at the school. In his graduation album, Huang wrote, “It is the responsibility of our generation to **rejuvenate** the Chinese nation.”

- 3 In 1992, Huang went to Britain for further studies. Before going abroad, Huang said, “I will definitely bring back advanced foreign technology!” He earned his doctor’s degree in geophysics four years later, finishing top of his class. He then joined a British geophysical service company in Cambridge as a senior geophysicist.
- 4 During his stay in Britain, Huang remained committed to the motherland, and his contacts with his **alma mater** had never been broken. He often flew back to China to attend academic meetings or **seminars** related to his field. In 2008, Huang decided to give up his position in Britain and returned home with his wife in 2009. The decision was neither a **random** choice nor an impulse. For him, no matter how successful he was abroad, the biggest satisfaction would be improving his home country.
- 5 Upon his return to China, he was **entrusted** to work at Jilin University as a full-time professor and chief scientist in a branch of China’s biggest deep earth exploration program. Over 400 nationwide scientists took part in the **multidiscipline** program, which aimed to install high-tech cameras on aircraft, ships, and satellites that would enable scientists to see through the earth’s **crust** without digging into it.
- 6 Wasting no time, he holed up in his newly set-up laboratory. For seven years, days and nights, Huang worked racing against time, often with only two to three hours of sleep a day. To **maximize** his research time, he **typically** caught late-night flights at the last minute for meetings with his team members. Even his driver became accustomed to driving the scientist to the airport at midnight. The office building where Huang worked was supposed to be completely locked up by night, but since he left very late so often, the security guard would beg him to “leave on time”.
- 7 Many of his co-workers called him a **workaholic**, while he thought he was more like a “**lunatic**”. His students remembered how Huang’s **explicit** words **resounded** in the office: “China is in **urgent** need of ‘lunatics’ if it is to become a stronger country.” “It would be an honor if I could be one of them,” he added.



Geological Museum of Jilin University

- 8 The lunatic's madness paid off. During his seven years working in China, Huang coached 18 **doctoral** candidates and 26 graduate students. Moreover, he and his team helped China greatly narrow its **gap** with developed countries in obtaining accurate data on deep earth exploration. They created a number of China's No. 1s, filling a number of technical gaps for China's sky **survey**, ground detection, and sea exploration.
- 9 Huang began **fainting** frequently while working tirelessly for his dream. He posted on social media, "Living a day, I am gaining a day. The day I fall, bury me where I fall." On November 29, 2016, Huang fainted again and was sent to the hospital. He was later found to have cancer, with **tumors** spreading to his stomach and **liver**. Obviously, as he was constantly working, he missed the key window for treatment. During his last days, Huang still answered students' questions, assigned tasks, and wrote recommendation letters. "Ideally, I want to be a pioneer who makes sacrifices," Huang said during the last interview of his life. "I hope I can do something to make scientific work easier for future Chinese people."
- 10 On January 8, 2017, at the age of 58, Huang closed his eyes forever. His two assistants sat on chairs quietly in his office as if they were waiting for Huang to return from a trip. The ringing of the telephone interrupted the quiet. They picked up the phone and began sobbing, "He is gone." A bright star of science fell, leaving the science community in grief.
- 11 Some people left the motherland and never came back, but Huang chose to return to his motherland **resolutely** with an ardent heart. Some people **chased** fame and a comfortable life, but Huang always had the motherland in mind and never cared about his personal wealth and interests.
- 12 **Patriotism** had been **embedded** deeply in Huang's bones. As a strategic scientist, he **fulfilled** his dream of rejuvenating the Chinese nation with his **exceptional** achievements.

(847 words)

## New words

▲ **strategic** /strə'ti:dʒɪk/ *a.*

- 1 relating to fighting wars 战略性的；战略上的
- 2 done as part of a plan, esp. in a military, business, or political situation 战略（性）的；策略（上）的

▲ **anniversary** /ˌænə'vɜ:səri/ *n.* [C] a date on which sth. special or important happened in a previous year 周年纪念（日）

▲ **series** /'sɪəri:z/ *n.* [C, usu. sing] (*pl.* **series**)

- 1 a group of events or actions that are planned to happen one after the other (有计划的) 系列（事件）
- 2 (~ **of sth.**) several events or actions of a similar type that happen one after the other 连续发生的同类事件；一系列（或连串）事件

**geophysicist** /ˌdʒi:əʊ'fɪzɪsɪst/ *n.* [C] a scientist who studies geophysics 地球物理学家

**geophysics** /ˌdʒi:əʊ'fɪzɪks/ *n.* [U] the study of the movements of parts of the earth, and the forces involved with this, including the weather, the oceans, etc. 地球物理（学）

▲ **geological** /ˌdʒi:ə'lɒdʒɪkəl/ *a.* relating to geology or the features of the earth's surface 地质学的；地形的

▲ **geology** /dʒi'ɒlədʒi/ *n.* [U] the study of the rocks, soil, etc. that make up the earth, and of the way they have changed since the earth was formed 地质（学）

▲ **undergraduate** /ˌʌndə'grædʒuət/ *n.* [C] a student at college or university, who is working for their first degree (在读的) 大学（本科）生

**rejuvenate** /rɪ'dʒu:vəneɪt/ *vt.*

- 1 make sth. work much better or become much better again 使（某事物）变得更有活力；使（某事物）恢复活力

- 2 make sb. look or feel young and strong again 使（某人）变得年轻；使（某人）恢复活力

**alma mater** /ˌælmə 'mɑ:tə/ *n.* [sing.] the school, college, or university that sb. went to 母校

▲ **seminar** /'semɪnɑ:/ *n.* [C]

- 1 a class on a particular subject, usu. given as a form of training 研讨会；培训会
- 2 a class at a university or college for a small group of students and a teacher to study or discuss a particular subject (大学里师生分组进行专题讨论的) 研讨班

**random** /'rændəm/ *a.* happening or chosen without any definite plan, aim, or pattern 随意的；任意的；随机的

**entrust** /ɪn'trʌst/ *vt.* make sb. responsible for doing sth. important, or for taking care of sb. 委托；交付

▲ **discipline** /'dɪsɪplɪn/ *n.*

- 1 [C] an area of knowledge or teaching, esp. one such as history, chemistry, mathematics, etc. that is studied at a university (尤指大学的) 专业，科目
- 2 [U] a way of training sb. so that they learn to control their behavior and obey rules 训练；管教

**multidiscipline** /ˌmʌltɪ'dɪsɪplɪn/ *n.* [U] an approach or method which involves several disciplines 多学科

**crust** /krʌst/ *n.* [C, U] the hard outer layer of the earth (地球的) 地壳

▲ **maximize** /'mæksəmaɪz/ *vt.*

- 1 increase sth. as much as possible 使增加到最大限度
- 2 make the best use of sth. 充分利用；最大限度地利用

▲ **typical** /'tɪpɪkəl/ *a.*

- 1 happening in the usual way 一贯的；平常的
- 2 having the usual features or qualities of a

particular group or thing 典型的；有代表性的

**typically** /'tɪpɪkli/ *ad.* in the way that a particular type of thing usu. happens 一般；通常

**workaholic** /,wɜ:kə'hɒlɪk/ *n.* [C] (*informal*) sb. who chooses to work a lot, so that they do not have time to do anything else 醉心于工作的人；工作狂

**lunatic** /'lu:nətɪk/ *n.* [C] sb. who behaves in a crazy or very stupid way – often used humorously 疯狂的人，愚笨的人（常为幽默用法）

▲ **explicit** /ɪk'splɪsɪt/ *a.* expressed in a way that is very clear and direct 清楚明确的；直截了当的

**resound** /rɪ'zaʊnd/ *vi.* (of a sound, voice, etc.) fill a place with sound (声音、嗓音等) 回响，回荡

▲ **urgent** /'ɜ:dʒənt/ *a.* very important and needing to be dealt with immediately 紧急的；急迫的；需迅速处理的

▲ **doctoral** /'dɒktərəl/ *a.* (*only before noun*) done as part of work for the university degree of doctor 博士（学位）的

▲ **gap** /gæp/ *n.* [C] a big difference between two situations, amounts, groups of people, etc. (大的) 差距，差额，差别

▲ **survey** /'sɜ:veɪ/ *n.* [C]  
1 an examination of an area of land in order to make a map of it (绘制地图前对某地的) 勘测，测量，测绘  
2 a set of questions that you ask a large number of people in order to find out about their opinions or behavior 调查

▲ **faint** /feɪnt/  
*vi.* suddenly become unconscious for a short time 晕倒；昏厥  
*a.* feeling weak and as if you are about to become unconscious because you are very ill, tired, or hungry (因生病、疲倦或饥饿而) 虚弱的

▲ **tumor** /'tju:mə/ *n.* [C] a mass of diseased cells which might become a lump or cause illness 肿瘤

▲ **liver** /'lɪvə/ *n.* [C] (人体的) 肝脏

▲ **resolute** /'rezələ:t/ *a.* doing sth. in a very determined way because you have very strong beliefs, aims, etc. (因有坚定的信念、明确的目标等而) 坚决的，不屈不挠的

**resolutely** /'rezələ:tli/ *ad.* 坚决地；不屈不挠地

▲ **chase** /tʃeɪs/ *v.*

- 1 use a lot of time and effort trying to get sth. such as work or money 努力赢得；设法获得
- 2 quickly follow sb. or sth. in order to catch them 追逐；追赶；追捕

**patriotism** /'pætriətɪzəm/ *n.* [U] love for your country and loyalty toward it 爱国主义

**embed** /ɪm'bed/

*vt.* make sth. a fixed and important part of sth. else 使…扎根

*v.* put sth. firmly and deeply into sth. else, or be put into sth. in this way (使) 嵌入；(把…) 插入

▲ **fulfill** /fʊl'fɪl/ *vt.*

- 1 do or achieve what was hoped for or expected 实现
- 2 do or provide what is necessary or needed 履行；执行；符合

▲ **exceptional** /ɪk'sepʃənəl/ *a.*

- 1 unusually good 非常好的；杰出的
- 2 unusual and likely not to happen often 罕见的；不寻常的

## Phrases and expressions

**catch one's eye** attract one's attention and make them look at sth. 吸引…的注意

**pass sth. down** give or teach sth. to people who are younger than you or live after you 把…传给后人；把…往下传

**be admitted to** be allowed to join an organization or a group such as a school 被允许加入；被接收入学

**stay on** continue to do a job or to study after the usual or expected time for leaving (在通常或预期的时间后)继续留下来工作(或学习)

**remain committed to** be completely loyal to one person, organization, etc., or give all your time and effort to your work, an activity, etc. 忠于(某个人、机构等)；全心全意投入(工作、活动等)

**be entrusted to do sth.** be assigned to be responsible for doing sth. important 被委托做

**hole up** (*also be holed up*) (*infml.*) hide somewhere for a period of time 躲藏

**race against time** try to do sth. very quickly due to limited time 争分夺秒；抢时间

**in urgent need of** needing or requiring sth. immediately 急需

**pay off** (*infml.*) (of a plan or an action, esp. one that involves risk) be successful and bring good results 成功；奏效；达到目的

**miss the key window for sth.** lose the best chance or time for a particular activity 失去…的最好时机

**be embedded in** (of ideas, attitudes, or feelings, etc.) be felt strongly and difficult to change (思想、态度、感情等)扎根于

## Proper names

**Changchun Institute of Geology** 长春地质学院  
(现吉林大学)

## Reading comprehension

### Understanding the text

#### 1 Answer the following questions.

- 1 What's the purpose of showing the series of newly produced Chinese movies?
- 2 What did Huang write in his graduation album?
- 3 Why did Huang go to Britain to further his studies after he worked for a while in China?
- 4 According to the text, what was China's biggest deep earth exploration program?
- 5 Why did Huang prefer to be called "lunatic" but not "workaholic" by his co-workers?
- 6 How did Huang and his team help China greatly narrow its gap with developed countries?
- 7 During his last days of life, what did Huang wish he could do for future Chinese people?
- 8 How did Huang show his love and patriotism for the country throughout his life?

### Critical thinking

#### 2 Work in pairs and discuss the following questions.

- 1 What are the most important qualities we should learn from Huang Danian?
- 2 Why do you think Huang Danian worked tirelessly for the motherland?
- 3 If you were a student of Huang Danian, what would you want to say to him?
- 4 What's your opinion about the importance of patriotism in the years of peace?

## Language focus

### Words in use

#### 3 Fill in the blanks with the words given below. Change the form where necessary. Each word can be used only once.

chase    exceptional    explicit  
fulfill    maximize    random    resolutely  
strategic    survey    typically

- 1 According to medical doctors, if a patient's tumor is small, surgery is \_\_\_\_\_ performed to remove it.
- 2 These graduates brought deep-water ocean \_\_\_\_\_ technology to the region to help explore the areas.
- 3 Here is my suggestion in terms of writing process: Before you start writing an essay, just jot down \_\_\_\_\_ ideas to do brainstorming.
- 4 It is important for athletes to have rigorous physical and technical training to \_\_\_\_\_ their performance in sports competitions.
- 5 After successful completion of these courses, students \_\_\_\_\_ the academic requirements for their undergraduate studies.
- 6 Only three short straightforward words, but they were said so \_\_\_\_\_ that all the audience were impressed.
- 7 This position would ideally suit candidates who have exposure to working on key \_\_\_\_\_ projects, preferably in the area of geophysics.
- 8 Internship, which gives you valuable work experience, can offer you a(n) \_\_\_\_\_ opportunity to be competitive in the job market.
- 9 He understood that his \_\_\_\_\_ the dream was not for himself but for the people who had the same hopes and passions as him.
- 10 He gave us very \_\_\_\_\_ instructions on how to handle the new machine, so we all understood what he meant.

## Word building

-er

与动词结合构成名词。以这种方式构成的名词表示做这个动作的人或者用于做这个动作的器械工具。

cater  
clean  
drive  
employ  
browse  
transmit



caterer  
cleaner  
driver  
employer  
**browser**  
**transmitter**

-ity

与形容词结合构成名词。以这种方式构成的名词表示形容词所描述的状态或状况。

intense  
secure  
punctual  
pure  
regular



intensity  
security  
**punctuality**  
**purity**  
**regularity**

-ize

与表示状态或状况的名词或形容词结合构成动词。以这种方式构成的动词描述了产生上述状态或状况的过程。

maximum  
real  
civil  
material



maximize  
realize  
**civilize**  
**materialize**

### 4 Fill in the blanks with the words given below. Change the form where necessary. Each word can be used only once.

browser    civilize    materialize  
punctuality    purity    regularity  
transmitter

- 1 Though we have different viewpoints, I quite agree with what he says, "Great movies enlarge our world, \_\_\_\_\_ us, and make us more decent people."
- 2 In addition to being used for payment, the digital yuan also has a value in boosting low-carbon development so that carbon neutrality can \_\_\_\_\_ in everyday life.
- 3 According to the instructions, whether you use a \_\_\_\_\_ or an app, you can always schedule and reply to messages across multiple platforms.
- 4 Thanks to the airline's customer-focused approach, there has been a huge improvement in \_\_\_\_\_ and reliability.
- 5 A type of acid, featuring high \_\_\_\_\_ and high activity, from agricultural and forestry waste, has been industrialized and used for soil restoration in China.
- 6 The experiment shows us how a mosquito that is a relatively poor \_\_\_\_\_ of the virus can actually have a huge impact on human health.
- 7 Droughts have occurred in some parts of the world with increasing \_\_\_\_\_ in recent years due to disruptions to the water cycle.

## Banked cloze

5 Fill in the blanks by selecting suitable words from the word bank. You may not use any of the words more than once.

- A absolutely    F dictate    K process  
B adequately    G geophysics    L prosperous  
C aspirations    H imaginary    M rejuvenate  
D compelling    I inspirations    N significant  
E detect    J platforms    O tedious

Dear students,

My field falls within basic science research – the mobile platform detection technology. As an important research field of 1) \_\_\_\_\_, this technology is absolutely challenging. My work aims to develop mobile 2) \_\_\_\_\_ for ships and vehicles, use geophysical detection equipment and technology to 3) \_\_\_\_\_ multi-information, based on which to build models, and provide technical support for energy and mineral resources exploration. This technology can clearly 4) \_\_\_\_\_ what's down there two kilometers or more below the ground.

As China becomes a stronger and more 5) \_\_\_\_\_ nation, it needs many people who have studied abroad to return to the motherland and help with its modernization. I hope that we can together make 6) \_\_\_\_\_ contributions to the development of China's science and technology.

As the representative of your teachers, I would like to say that no matter whether your 7) \_\_\_\_\_ lead you to success or failure, no matter whether you are doing fine or not, and no matter whether your life is 8) \_\_\_\_\_ or boring, you will always be in our mind because we care about you. As you are about to graduate from college and join in efforts to 9) \_\_\_\_\_ our nation, we'll share the responsibilities and happiness with you.

How time flies! I still remember the time when I was standing where you are now. It's 10) \_\_\_\_\_ my pleasure to come back to my alma mater after I graduated 18 years ago. No matter how many ups and downs you'll go through, I hope you can remember our college and return as often as you can. We'll cheer you on! Go! Go!

## Expressions in use

6 Fill in the blanks with the expressions given below. Change the form where necessary. Each expression can be used only once.

be entrusted to    catch one's eye    hole up  
in urgent need of    pass ... down    pay off  
remain committed to    stay on

- 1 When I was traveling in China, I would ride my bike slowly, take pictures of the things that \_\_\_\_\_, and talk to people.
- 2 As a senior assistant in the lab for quite a few years, I was thrilled to \_\_\_\_\_ teach lab techniques to the new students.
- 3 It was raining heavily, so she spent the whole afternoon \_\_\_\_\_ in her dorm room and reading.
- 4 We will build a closer partnership and \_\_\_\_\_ high-quality cooperation under the Belt and Road Initiative.
- 5 I went back to school to get my coaching certification, and my efforts and persistence \_\_\_\_\_ in the end.
- 6 She joined the lab as a summer student and then \_\_\_\_\_ to complete her fourth-year honors thesis before graduation.
- 7 The traditions that \_\_\_\_\_ from generation to generation will surely enrich our culture and be carried forward.
- 8 To fight against the common health crisis, China has made great efforts to help other countries \_\_\_\_\_ medicines.

# Structure analysis and writing

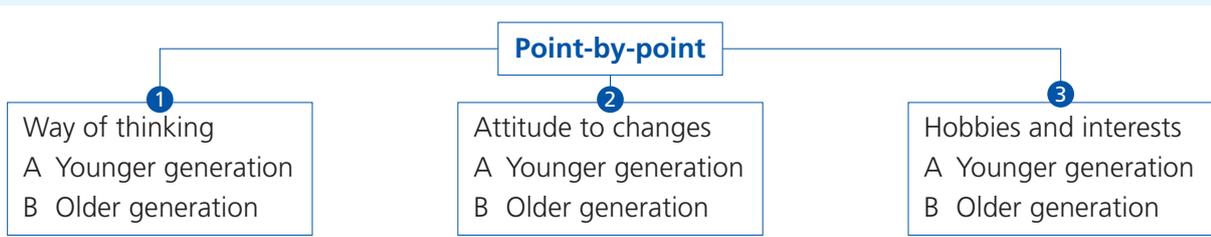
## Structure analysis

### Focusing on a comparison / contrast essay

In this unit, you will learn another useful writing mode: comparison / contrast. You often compare and contrast two items or people in everyday life, such as two teachers, two jobs, or two ways to spend a weekend. To compare means to show the similarities, and to contrast means to show the differences.

There are some important points to remember when you write a comparison / contrast essay.

- 1 The items being compared or contrasted must be from the same category. In other words, they should be comparable. For example, you can compare a desktop with a laptop, but you may not compare a computer with a camera.
- 2 It is better to mention the points you would like to compare or contrast in the thesis statement so that your reader can know about the main idea of your essay right away. For instance, to compare two jobs, you may want to write a thesis statement like this: "It's not difficult to choose a job you prefer if you compare the job features of work environment, schedule flexibility, and opportunity for promotion." Here, the three points you're going to compare or contrast are clearly stated. It's beneficial not only for your reader but also for yourself because you can always follow the sequence to develop your ideas, making your writing well organized.
- 3 There are two patterns to organize the details of your essay: point-by-point and subject-by-subject. Here, *point* refers to one of the aspects you would use to develop your essay, and *subject* refers to the two items or people you want to compare or contrast. This unit will focus on the point-by-point pattern. For instance, to compare two generations, you may organize the details as follows.



- 4 The key to writing a coherent comparison / contrast essay is the appropriate use of comparison and contrast signal words. Signal words for comparison include *similarly*, *likewise*, *also*, *as*, *just as*, *like*, *similar to*, *alike*, *the same as*, *not only ... but also ...*, *both ... and ...*, etc. Signal words for contrast are *on the other hand*, *in contrast*, *however*, *in comparison*, *although*, *though*, *whereas*, *while*, *but*, *different from*, *unlike*, etc.

The writing pattern can be used for an entire text, or just part of a text, as is demonstrated by Para. 11 in Text A which describes two different attitudes to life.

*Some people left the motherland and never came back, but Huang chose to return to his motherland resolutely with an ardent heart. (Point 1) Some people chased fame and a comfortable life, but Huang always had the motherland in mind and never cared about his personal wealth and interests. (Point 2)*

## Structured writing

Read the sample essay and see how it develops ideas with the point-by-point pattern.

### Topic

Huang Danian vs. Yuan Longping

### Introduction

**Thesis statement:** Even though Huang and Yuan were different in certain ways, they are both regarded as national heroes.

### Body

**Point 1:** Made great contributions to the country

- Huang Danian
- Yuan Longping

**Point 2:** Worked hard and always persevered

- Huang Danian
- Yuan Longping

### Conclusion

Both Huang Danian and Yuan Longping are the heroes of our time.

Huang Danian and Yuan Longping are both internationally well-known scientists. Huang was a geophysicist, while Yuan was a plant scientist. Huang was born in southern China's Guangxi Zhuang Autonomous Region, and Yuan was born in northern China's Beijing. Huang died young, at the age of 58; Yuan passed away at the age of 91. Even though Huang and Yuan were different in certain ways, they are both regarded as national heroes.

First of all, they both made immeasurable contributions to the motherland. Huang, together with his team, not only developed the high-end equipment for China's oil production, but also installed the equipment on aircraft, satellites, and ships. Thanks to Huang and his devoted team, China is now very advanced in developing deep earth exploration equipment. Similarly, Yuan succeeded in cultivating the world's first high-yield hybrid rice strain in 1973, which was later grown on a large scale in China and other countries to substantially raise output. His discoveries in hybrid rice cultivation helped relieve famine and poverty across much of Asia and Africa.

In addition, they both worked tirelessly, demonstrating a strong character of perseverance. Huang worked like a robot, often forgetting to sleep and eat. He holed up in his office to do his research day and night, earning the deserved title "workaholic". Even though he was heading down a difficult research road, he never gave up his pursuit. In a similar manner, Yuan, despite his age, forged ahead with his research on rice. He often looked through tens of thousands of ears of rice, while walking barefoot through the fields. In addition to teaching farmers how to grow hybrid rice in different countries, he worked in partnership with the United Nations and the International Rice Research Institute for global food security.

To conclude, both Huang and Yuan are heroes of our time. Behind their tremendous contributions are their hard work and patriotic feelings toward the motherland. As college students, we should resolutely follow the path they paved for us and continue to chase the Chinese Dream.

**7 Write an essay of no less than 120 words on one of the following topics. One topic has an outline that you can follow.**

**Topic**

The differences between the young generation and their parents' generation

**Introduction**

**Thesis statement:** Even though both generations have their good points, today's young people are more active in life and more adaptable to the changes of life than their parents.

**Body**

**Point 1:** Activeness in life

- Young people
- Their parents

**Point 2:** Adaptability to the changes of life

- Young people
- Their parents

**Conclusion**

Young people usually live in a more active and flexible way than their parents.

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**More topics**

- The two people I admire
- The two cities I like best

# Section B

## Reading skills

### Understanding figurative language

To make our language more interesting and entertaining, we often use figurative language. It compares and paints a picture for the reader. Figurative language can be confusing if it is understood literally. The ability to recognize and interpret or explain figurative language can help us fully understand a writer's point and sense the underlying humor.

There are different ways of using figurative language. Listed below are just the three most common ones.

- 1 Simile (明喻): a figurative expression which directly compares one thing to another by using the words *as* or *like*, such as "his beard is as white as snow" or "my heart is like a singing bird".
- 2 Metaphor (暗喻): a figurative expression in which the comparison is implied, without using *as*, *like* and the like. For example, the expression "the curtain of night fell upon us" tells us it's nighttime, though not directly.
- 3 Personification (拟人化): a figurative expression which compares non-human things to humans or gives non-human things qualities or abilities that only a human can have. Look at these two expressions: "lightning danced across the sky"; "my flowers were begging for water".

Now, let's take a look at the following examples from Text A.

- *For seven years, days and nights, Huang worked racing against time, often with only two to three hours of sleep a day.* (Para. 6)
- *Many of his co-workers called him a workaholic, while he thought he was more like a "lunatic".* (Para. 7)
- *A bright star of science fell, leaving the science community in grief.* (Para. 10)

We can see the first example is a personification because it uses a non-human thing "time" (clock) to compete with humans. The second example is a simile due to the word *like*. The third example is a metaphor for the reason that it compares a human to a bright star, implying that Huang Danian was a great scientist, just like a twinkling star in the night sky. The figurative meaning is thus obvious, though not directly said.

### **1 Read the following sentences from Text B. Then explain the underlined figurative language with your own words and identify in which way it is used.**

- 1 Today we have an equivalent need to recognize a new phase of life that comes after high school graduation, continues through college, and then leads to having a career and starting a family, the so-called odyssey years. (Para. 4)

2 Their confusion comes from the difficulties to make parents understand them and the fluid journey of discovery they need in this phase of their lives. (Para. 6)

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3 Nations around the world have witnessed similar trends toward delaying marriage and spending more years than ever shifting between higher education and settling down with a career and family. (Para. 10)

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## Text B

<sup>1</sup> Most of us know about the **phases** of life which we **label** to parallel different age groups: childhood, **adolescence**, adulthood, and old age. We think of **infancy** before childhood and middle age before old age, with each unique phase bringing its own **peculiar** set of challenges. These challenges can be overcome by **acquainting** ourselves with them, such as the child's need to learn, the adult's need to find the right career and build a family, and the senior's need for support and good health care.

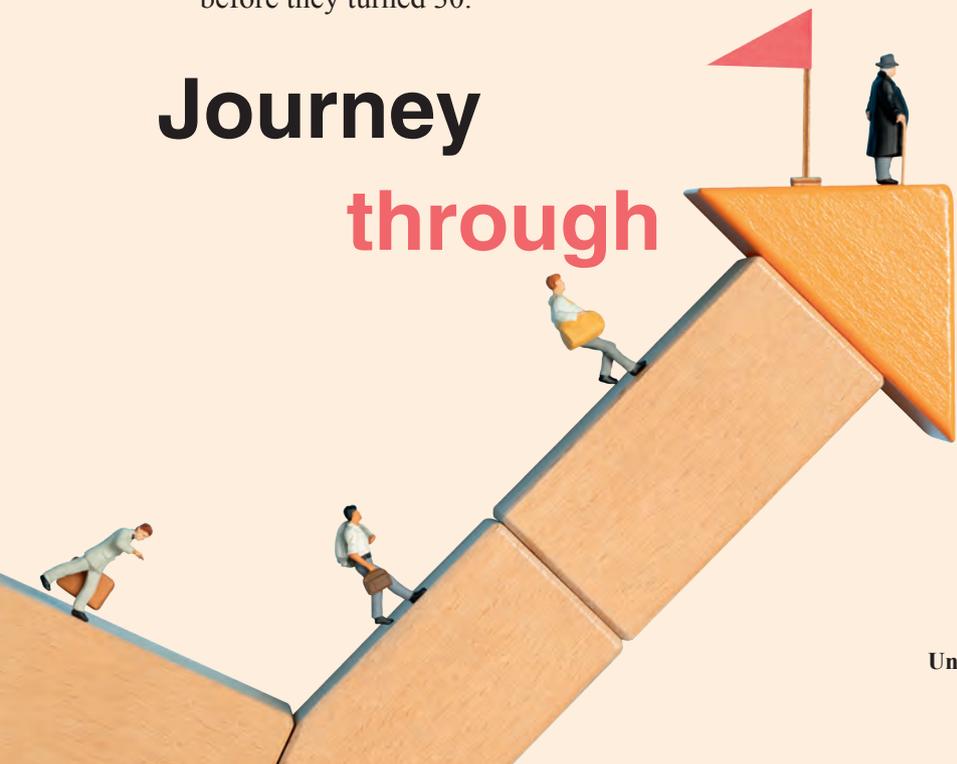
2 Interestingly, ideas about the stages of life are changing.

3 In **previous** times, people didn't have a solid idea of childhood as being separate from adulthood. More than a hundred years ago, no one thought of adolescence. Until recently it was understood as a **norm** that children's **induction** to adulthood was completed as soon as they graduated from college. They would now find a **sensible** job which would lead to a career. Then during this career they would start a family, ideally before they turned 30.

## Journey

through

the odyssey  
years



- 4 Today we have an **equivalent** need to recognize a new phase of life that comes after high school graduation, continues through college, and then leads to having a career and starting a family, the so-called odyssey years. Recent trends show **radical** changes as young people are following a different agenda. They take breaks from school, live with friends, and often return to living with their parents. Similarly, they fall in and out of love, **quit** one job and try another, or even shift to a new career. So we need to recognize this new stage, the odyssey years, which many now consider to be an unavoidable stage in reaching adulthood.
- 5 People who were born prior to the 60s or 70s in the last century tended to frame their concept of adulthood based upon achieving certain accomplishments: moving away from home, becoming financially independent, finding the right **spouse**, and starting a family. But that emphasis on **stability** did not remain **static**. Today, young people are unlikely to do the same. During the odyssey years, a high **proportion** of young people are delaying marriage, child bearing, and even employment.
- 6 The odyssey years can **saddle** young people with enormous pressure to move forward quickly. As the **heir** and focus of their parents' expectations, hopes, and dreams, some react with rebellious and prideful attitudes and behavior toward their parents. They often **resent** the pressure they're feeling and keep a distance from their parents or even run away from home. Their confusion comes from the difficulties to make parents understand them and the **fluid** journey of discovery they need in this phase of their lives.
- 7 Likewise, their parents are feeling more anxious. They may make **allowances** for a **transition** phase from student life to adult life, but they become more worried when they see the transition of their grown children's lives moving away from their expectations and stretching from five years to seven years, and beyond. The parents don't even detect a clear sense of direction in their children's lives. They look at them and see the things that are being delayed.
- 8 It's hard to **predict** what's next. New **guidelines** haven't been established yet, and everything seems to give way to a less **permanent** version of itself. There's been a shift in the **status** and balance of power between the genders, too. In **conjunction** with women's growing **incentives** to attain higher education, college **completion** has now shifted in favor of women. Women have also gained **representation**, and many of them have become leaders at work and in society.
- 9 Apart from anything else, this has had an **implicit** effect on courtship. College graduates are not so anxious to get married. Their educational background has made them more **autonomous**. They would like to discover what kind of life they really want before settling down and having a family. Considering all of this, it's beneficial to know that even though graduates are delaying many things after college, surveys show they still hold highly traditional aspirations. For example, the **contemporary** generation rates parenthood even more highly than previous generations did!

- 10 This new phase will likely grow more pronounced in the coming years. Nations around the world have **witnessed** similar trends toward delaying marriage and spending more years than ever shifting between higher education and settling down with a career and family. Nevertheless, graduates shouldn't be **deceived** into thinking they can back off simply because things have become more difficult. So, from the outset, keep your **résumé** professional and up-to-date.
- 11 To **reinforce** this essential message, success in moving through the odyssey years will come to those who don't expect to achieve their goals right away but know that they must have the strength, capacity, and confidence to endure over the long term. If you're a little late with your goals, don't feel like a failure! Stay strong, be positive, and keep focused! Someday you will look back and wonder at the vast changes as you passed through the odyssey years.

(835 words)

## Culture notes

**the odyssey years:** a life phase which appears between adolescence and adulthood. The *Odyssey* is one of the two major ancient Greek poems attributed to the Greek author Homer. The poem mainly centers on the Greek hero Odysseus and his long journey home. For English speakers, *an odyssey* has become a special term for an epic journey and great struggle. And the term *the odyssey years* refers to the period when young people are wandering and exploring life to discover themselves.

## New words

▲ **phase** /feɪz/ *n.* [C] one of the stages of a process of development or change 阶段; 时期

▲ **label** /'leɪbəl/

*vt.* attach a label onto sth. or write information on sth. 贴标签于; 用标签标明

*n.* [C] a piece of paper or another material that is attached to sth. and gives information about it 标签

**adolescence** /ædə'lesəns/ *n.* [U] the time, usu. between the ages of 12 and 18, when a young person is developing into an adult 青春期

▲ **infant** /'ɪnfənt/ *n.* [C] (*fml.*) a baby or very young child 婴儿; 幼儿

**infancy** /'ɪnfənsi/ *n.* [U]

1 the period of a child's life before they can walk or talk 婴儿期

2 the time when sth. is just starting to be developed 初期; 初创期

▲ **peculiar** /prɪ'kju:liə/ *a.*

1 esp. true or typical of a particular person, thing, or situation 特别的; 独特的

2 strange, unfamiliar, or a little surprising 奇怪的; 异常的

▲ **acquaint** /ə'kwent/ *vt.* (*fml.*) (~ ... **with**) make sb. or yourself familiar with or aware of sth. 使熟悉; 使了解

▲ **previous** /'pri:vɪəs/ *a.*

1 (*only before noun*) having happened or existed before the event, time, or thing that you are talking about now 以前的; 先前的

2 (**the ~ day / chapter / owner, etc.**) the one that came immediately before the one you are talking about now 前一天 / 前一章 / 前一个主人等

▲ **norm** /nɔ:m/ *n.*

1 [C] the usual or normal situation, way of

doing sth., etc. 常态; 标准; 准则; 规范

2 (~s) [pl.] generally accepted standards of social behavior 社会准则

**induction** /ɪn'dʌkʃən/ *n.* [C, U] the introduction of sb. into a new job, company, official position, etc., or the ceremony at which this is done 就职; 入门; 就职仪式

▲ **sensible** /'sensəbəl/ *a.*

1 reasonable, practical, and showing good judgment 明智的; 合理的; 实际的; 有判断力的

2 suitable for a particular purpose, and practical rather than fashionable 适当的; 合理的; 朴素实用的

▲ **equivalent** /ɪ'kwɪvələnt/

*a.* having the same value, purpose, job, etc. as a person or thing of a different kind 等值的; 等同的; 相当的

*n.* [C] sth. that has the same value, purpose, job, etc. as sth. else 等价物; 等同物; 对应物

▲ **radical** /'rædɪkəl/ *a.* (*usu. before noun*)

1 relating to the most basic and important parts of sth.; complete and detailed 根本的; 彻底的; 完全的

2 in favor of extreme and complete political or social change 激进的; 极端的

▲ **quit** /kwɪt/ *v.* (**quit, quit**)

1 (*infml.*) leave a job, school, etc., esp. without finishing it completely 离开 (工作岗位、学校等); 离任; 辍学

2 (*esp. AmE*) stop doing sth., esp. sth. that is bad or annoying 停止做 (尤指坏事或令人厌烦的事); 戒除

▲ **spouse** /spaʊs/ *n.* [C] (*fml.*) a husband or wife 配偶

▲ **stability** /stə'bɪləti/ *n.* [U] a situation in which things happen as they should and there are no harmful changes 稳固; 稳定

**static** /'stætɪk/ *a.* not moving, changing, or

developing 不动的；不变化的；不发展的；静（止）的

▲ **proportion** /prə'pɔ:ʃən/ *n.*

- 1 [C, usu. sing.] a part of a number or an amount, considered in relation to the whole 部分；份额
- 2 [C, U] the relationship between two things in size, amount, importance, etc. 比例

**saddle** /'sædl/

*vt.* put a saddle on a horse 给（马）装鞍

- n.* [C] 1 a leather seat that you sit on when you ride a horse（马）鞍  
2 a seat on a bicycle or motorcycle（自行车或摩托车的）车座

▲ **heir** /eə/ *n.* [C]

- 1 the person who has the legal right to receive the property or title of another person when they die 继承人
- 2 the person who will take over a position or job after you, or who does things or thinks in a similar way to you 继任人；接班人

▲ **resent** /rɪ'zent/ *vt.* feel angry or upset about a situation or about sth. that sb. has done, esp. because you think that it is not fair（因受委屈而对…感到愤恨（或不满、憎恶）

▲ **fluid** /'flu:ɪd/

- a.* a situation that is fluid is likely to change（形势）不稳定的，易变的  
*n.* [C, U] a liquid 流体；液（体）

▲ **allowance** /ə'laʊəns/ *n.*

- 1 [C, U] sth. that you consider when deciding what is likely to happen, what you should expect, etc. 考虑到的事情
- 2 [C] an amount of money that sb. receives regularly, in order to pay for the things they need 定期补贴；津贴

**transition** /træn'zɪʃən/ *n.* [C, U] the process of changing from one situation, form, or state to another 过渡；转变；变迁

▲ **predict** /prɪ'dɪkt/ *vt.* say that sth. will happen, before it happens 预言；预料；预测

▲ **guideline** /'gaɪdlɪn/ *n.* [C, usu. pl.]

- 1 rules or instructions about the best way to do sth. 指导方针；指导原则
- 2 sth. that helps you form an opinion or make a decision（帮助某人形成观点或做出决定的）指导原则，参考

▲ **permanent** /'pɜ:mənənt/ *a.* continuing to exist for a long time or for all the time in the future 长久的；永久的；永恒的

▲ **status** /'steɪtəs/ *n.*

- 1 [U] sb.'s position in a profession or society, esp. compared with other people 社会地位（尤指与其他人相比）
- 2 [C, U] the legal position of a person, country, etc. 身份

▲ **conjunction** /kən'dʒʌŋkʃən/ *n.* (**in ~ with**) working, happening, or being used with sb. or sth. else 与…共同；连同

▲ **incentive** /ɪn'sentɪv/ *n.* [C, U] sth. that encourages you to work harder, start a new activity, etc. 刺激；动力；鼓励

▲ **completion** /kəm'pli:ʃən/ *n.* [U] the act or process of finishing sth.; the state of being finished and complete 完成；结束

▲ **representation** /ˌreprɪzen'teɪʃən/ *n.*

- 1 [U] when you have sb. to speak, vote, or make decisions for you 代理；代表
- 2 [C] a painting, sign, description, etc. that shows sth. 描绘；表现

▲ **implicit** /ɪm'plɪsɪt/ *a.* suggested or understood without being stated directly 含蓄的；未言明的

**autonomous** /ɔ:'tɒnəməs/ *a.*

- 1 (*fm.*) having the ability to work and make decisions by yourself without any help from anyone else 有自主能力的；自主的

- 2 (of a country, region, or organization) able to govern itself or control its own affairs  
(国家、地区或组织)自治的, 有自治权的

▲ **contemporary** /kən'tempərəri/ *a.*

- 1 belonging to the present time 当代的  
2 alive or existing at the same time as a particular event or person 同时代的; 当时的

▲ **witness** /'wɪtnəs/ *vt.*

- 1 be the place, period, organization, etc. in which particular events take place 是发生…的地点(或时间、组织等); 见证  
2 see sth. happen, esp. a crime or an accident 目击, 亲眼看见(尤指罪案或事故)

▲ **deceive** /dr'si:v/ *vt.* make sb. believe sth. that is not true 欺骗

▲ **résumé** /'rezjumeɪ/ *n.* [C] (*BrE CV*) a short written account of your education and your previous jobs that you send to an employer when you are looking for a new job 个人简历

▲ **reinforce** /,ri:ən'fɔ:s/ *vt.*

- 1 give support to an opinion, idea, or feeling, and make it stronger 加强, 强化(观点、思想或感觉)  
2 make part of a building, structure, piece of clothing, etc. stronger 加强, 加固(建筑的一部分、结构等); 使(衣物的某个部位)更结实

**keep a distance from** stay far enough away from sb. or sth. to be safe 与…保持距离

**run away from** leave a place, esp. secretly, in order to escape from sb. or sth. (尤指秘密地)(从…)逃跑, (从…)出逃

**make allowance(s) for sth.** consider sth., e.g. when you are making a decision or planning sth. 考虑到; 估计到

**give way to** be replaced by sth. else 被…取代

**have an effect on** make a change in one person or thing 对…产生作用

**deceive sb. into doing sth.** trick sb. so as to make them do sth. 欺骗某人做某事

**back off** stop supporting sth., or decide not to do sth. you were planning to do 退出; 放弃

**wonder at** feel surprised and unable to believe sth. 对…感到惊讶

## Phrases and expressions

**take a break from** stop doing sth. for a short period of time, esp. in order to rest or to focus one's energy elsewhere 中断; 暂停

**return to sth.** change back to a previous state or situation 恢复(原状)

**saddle sb. with sth.** make sb. have a job or problem that is difficult or boring and that they do not want 使…承担(苦差事)

# Reading comprehension

## Understanding the text

### 2 Choose the best answer to each of the following questions.

- 1 What is the significance of knowing the different life stages?
  - A We can find out the causes of some personal problems.
  - B We can get familiar with the peculiar set of challenges.
  - C We can understand the sequence of different age groups.
  - D We can overcome the challenges of the different life stages.
- 2 What was understood as a norm for students traditionally?
  - A Delaying their marriage after college.
  - B Continuing with study after graduation.
  - C Starting a family before finding an ideal job.
  - D Having a job and starting a family right after college.
- 3 Why is the new life stage unavoidable for young people?
  - A They don't know how to face challenges.
  - B They lack motivation to move forward.
  - C They are learning how to deal with stress.
  - D They are following a new trend of lifestyle.
- 4 What do young people like to do in contrast to their parents?
  - A They delay life exploration and initial employment.
  - B They delay employment, marriage, and child bearing.
  - C They lead a static lifestyle to avoid stress and challenges.
  - D They lead a relaxing life with their family and friends.
- 5 How do some young people in their odyssey years react to their parents?
  - A They display rebellious and prideful attitudes and behavior.

- B They display distant and resentful attitudes and behavior.
  - C They show their confusion why parents don't understand them.
  - D They show their anger why they have to bear so much stress.
- 6 How do the parents respond to their children's delay in doing things?
    - A Encourage them to move on.
    - B Look at them without any ideas.
    - C Worry about their prolonged transition.
    - D Try to detect a clear direction in their life.
  - 7 What do surveys show about young people in their odyssey years?
    - A Young people still hold highly traditional aspirations.
    - B There would be a shift in the status between genders.
    - C Success comes to those who achieve their goals right away.
    - D The world has witnessed similar trends about young people.
  - 8 What do the odyssey years mean to young people according to the text?
    - A A time to establish their career.
    - B A time to discover themselves.
    - C A time to gain life experience.
    - D A time to get the meaning of life.

## Critical thinking

### 3 Work in pairs and discuss the following questions.

- 1 Do you think the odyssey years could lead to self-discovery? Why or why not?
- 2 How can young people cope with this difficult time period – the odyssey years?
- 3 If your parents were anxious about your odyssey years, what would you do to relieve their anxiety?
- 4 How would you compare your life exploration with Huang Danian's?

# Collocation



This unit addresses a new topic: mission and exploration of our time. Though Huang Danian left us, his noble spirit has greatly inspired the whole nation, especially college students who are engaged in life exploration. From Text A, you have learned quite a few collocations concerning Huang Danian, such as *strategic scientist*, *explicit words*, *urgent need*, *science community*, *accurate data*, and *rejuvenate the nation*. From Text B, you have learned some collocations about young people's journey of self-discovery, including *peculiar challenge*, *radical change*, *unavoidable stage*, *transition phase*, and *traditional aspirations*.

**Warm-up: According to the collocations from the texts, match the words in Column A with the ones in Column B.**

| Column A      | Column B    |
|---------------|-------------|
| unique        | strong      |
| inspirational | independent |
| stay          | a dream     |
| enormous      | phase       |
| financially   | achievement |
| fulfill       | choice      |
| exceptional   | story       |
| random        | pressure    |

**4 Read the passage regarding Huang Danian. Complete it with appropriate collocations from the texts. You are provided with the first letter(s) for each of the collocations.**

There is a geophysical service company in Cambridge, England. Before returning to the motherland, Huang Danian, the Chinese

1) *st* \_\_\_\_\_ *scientist*, worked there. He led his team to achieve various technological breakthroughs and obtained 2) *ac* \_\_\_\_\_ *data* on deep earth exploration.

However, Huang had never forgotten his commitment to the motherland and his mission to 3) *re* \_\_\_\_\_ *the nation*. At the end of 2009, he returned home with his family. It was not a 4) *ran* \_\_\_\_\_ *choice*. As a distinguished expert, he served as a full-time professor at his alma mater, Jilin University, and the chief scientist of the earth exploration project.

This project gathered more than 400 outstanding scientific and technical personnel from the 5) *s* \_\_\_\_\_ *community* across the country to carry out the research on two major issues: precise measurement technology and key equipment for deep earth exploration, both of which our country was in 6) *ur* \_\_\_\_\_ *need* of. Ever since then, the 7) *en* \_\_\_\_\_ *pressure* to narrow the technical gaps between China and developed countries became Huang and other personnel's motivation to work tirelessly.

By 2016, the research team led by him had made 8) *ex* \_\_\_\_\_ *achievements*, which were selected for a national exhibition, alongside achievements of many other famous scientists. Looking back on the 9) *pe* \_\_\_\_\_ *challenges* and hardships, he said calmly, "I am a product of the country. As long as the motherland needs me, I will go all out." What 10) *ex* \_\_\_\_\_ *words*!

Huang Danian is definitely one pillar of the motherland. He raced against time to 11) *f* \_\_\_\_\_ *the dream* to rejuvenate China and make the motherland shine. His 12) *in* \_\_\_\_\_ *story* will forever inspire us to forge ahead along the path he took – the best way to commemorate him.



## The May Fourth spirit alive in China

The May Fourth Movement was a patriotic campaign launched in 1919 by young Chinese students and intellectuals to fight imperialism (帝国主义) and feudalism (封建主义). It is regarded as a mark of the beginning of a new historical stage, called “the new-democratic revolution”. Young students and intellectuals played an important role in pursuing social transformation and national modernization over the past century.

Born and raised in the period of Chinese reform and opening up, today’s young people are tech-smart, respectful of Chinese traditions, and objective when looking at Western culture. They are referred to as the Bird’s Nest Generation (鸟巢一代), the Ice and Snow

Generation, etc., signaling self-confidence, love of peace, patriotism, openness, and friendliness.

No matter how we label them, the Chinese youth have sent out the message that they are willing to take responsibility and make contributions to society. Since COVID-19 suddenly hit the country, they have done an amazing job, with a strong sense of responsibility and remarkable resilience (适应力). Many young people, including doctors, nurses, and rescue workers, rushed to the front line risking their own lives. Their conviction and dedication prove once again the promising future of the Chinese nation.



The young people at the ceremony marking the 100th anniversary of the founding of the CPC

The May Fourth spirit refers to patriotism, progress, democracy, and science, with patriotism at the core. Carrying on the May Fourth spirit in this new era, young Chinese people are also showing their patriotism by participating in volunteer work. They believe the experience of being a volunteer can teach them many things that they would otherwise never learn. For example, quite many young people offered to help earthquake victims in hospitals, despite the fact that some were frightened to see people who got severe injuries. They fought hard to overcome their fear in order to help patients.

Moreover, hundreds of thousands of college graduates have offered their services in the countryside. They have volunteered to be teachers in remote areas. Some of them went to

villages to conduct social surveys but decided to stay and teach at village schools moved by the children's enthusiasm for learning.

All generations are marked by the time they live in. The task the Chinese youth are facing today is as exciting and challenging as that of their predecessors. Carrying the May Fourth spirit forward means that today's young people are advancing to build socialism with their unique characteristics. Thriving young people will lead to a thriving nation. The May Fourth spirit will continue to serve as the inexhaustible source of inspiration and motivation to the Chinese youth.



## Translation



### Translate the following sentences into English.

1 丝绸之路(the Silk Road)是中国古代的交通线路网络,也是中国最早用于国际贸易和文化交流的渠道。

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2 在古代,丝绸之路有效地促进了各国之间经济文化的交流,从而大大推动了世界文明的进程。

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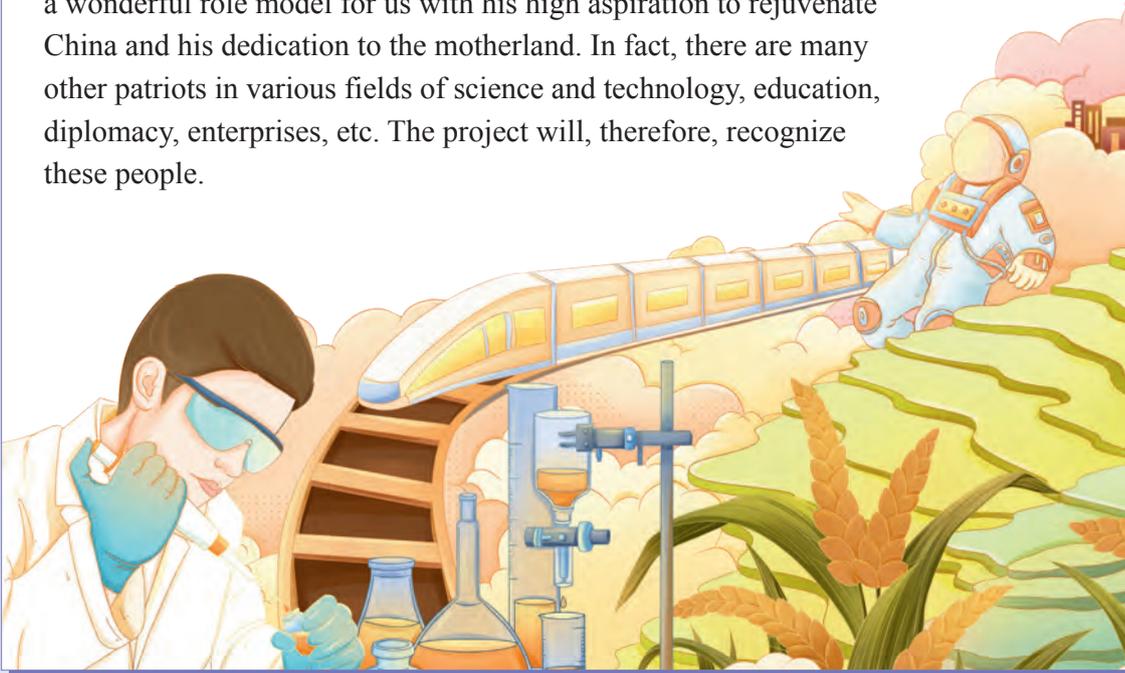
3 在新的历史条件下,中国提出了以合作共赢为核心的“一带一路”倡议(the Belt and Road Initiative),得到了沿线各国的积极响应。

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## Writing a report on patriots in our society

This unit project is based on the topic of patriotism. Huang Danian set a wonderful role model for us with his high aspiration to rejuvenate China and his dedication to the motherland. In fact, there are many other patriots in various fields of science and technology, education, diplomacy, enterprises, etc. The project will, therefore, recognize these people.



**Step 1** Work in groups and share names of people you think could be deemed as patriots in various fields.

**Step 2** Decide on one patriot about whom you will write a report. Search online for their patriotic deeds and achievements. Take notes if necessary.

**Step 3** Write up a report about the patriot with specific details. Your report will include two main parts: what the patriot has done or achieved and what inspirations you get from their stories. For example, their stories have inspired you to acquire cutting-edge knowledge to stay internationally competitive. Or, someone like Zhang Guimei, a teacher who has made unusual efforts to help the children in remote mountains, has encouraged you to search for a career that will benefit society.

**Step 4** Go to your group and share what you've included in the report with others.

**Step 5** Revise and finalize the report based on the feedback and suggestions from your group.