

## 高三英语第六期 • 选词填空自测

注意：限时 7 分钟

### Section B

**Directions:** Complete the following passage by using the words in the box. Each word can only be used once. Note that there is one word more than you need.

A. respectively	B. coincidence	C. humiliation	D. striking	E. thumb
F. thrive	G. discrimination	H. insensitive	I. strive	J. escape
K. advantaged				

Over the past century, all kinds of unfairness and \_\_1\_\_ have been condemned or made illegal. But one insidious form continues to \_\_2\_\_: alphabetism. This, for those as yet unaware of such a disadvantage, refers to discrimination against those whose surnames begin with a letter in the lower half of the alphabet.

It has long been known that a taxi firm called AAAA cars has a big advantage over Zodiac cars when customers \_\_3\_\_ through their phone directories. Less well known is the advantage that Adam Abbott has in life over Zoë Zysman. English names are fairly evenly spread between the halves of the alphabet. Yet a suspiciously large number of top people have surnames beginning with letters between A and K.

Thus the American president and vice-president have surnames starting with B and C \_\_4\_\_; and 26 of George Bush's predecessors (including his father) had surnames in the first half of the alphabet against just 16 in the second half. Even more \_\_5\_\_, six of the seven heads of government of the G7 rich countries are alphabetically \_\_6\_\_ (Berlusconi, Blair, Bush, Chirac, Chrétien and Koizumi). The world's three top central bankers (Greenspan, Duisenberg and Hayami) are all close to the top of the alphabet, even if one of them really uses Japanese characters. As are the world's five richest men (Gates, Buffett, Allen, Ellison and Albrecht).

Can this merely be \_\_7\_\_? One theory, dreamt up in all the spare time enjoyed by the alphabetically disadvantaged, is that the rot sets in early. At the start of the first year in infant school, teachers seat pupils alphabetically from the front, to make it easier to remember their names. So short-sighted Zysman junior gets stuck in the back row, and is rarely asked the improving questions posed by those \_\_8\_\_ teachers. At the time the alphabetically disadvantaged may think they have had a lucky \_\_9\_\_. Yet the result may be worse qualifications, because they get less individual attention, as well as less confidence in speaking publicly.

The \_\_10\_\_ continues. At university graduation ceremonies, the ABCs proudly get their awards first; by the time they reach the Zysmans most people are literally having a ZZZ. Shortlists for job interviews, election ballot papers, lists of conference speakers and attendees: all tend to be drawn up alphabetically, and their recipients lose interest as they plough through them.

答案由高三英语第七期提供（每周一期）

高三英语第五期语法填空答案：

1. all 2. whose 3. anything 4. if 5. assured

6. between 7. those 8. can 9. because 10. that