

TOEFL LESSON 14

INDEPENDENT QUESTIONS

- Q1: What is your favorite book? Use reasons and details to support your answer.
- Q2: What is your most useful study aid? Describe it and explain why it is useful in helping you to study.
- Q3: Where is your favorite place to study? Describe this place and say why it is a good place for you to study.

INTEGRATED TASK

Read a short passage and listen to a talk on the same topic.

Reading time: 45 seconds

Nullification

The issue of nullification was one that was faced by the United States in the history of the country. As the country was becoming established, there was a lack of clarification as to the balance of power between the states and the federal government. Nullification was a doctrine by which states believed they could nullify, or refuse to accept, laws passed by the federal government of the United States. In other words, states that believed in their right to nullification believed that they had the authority to reject laws by the federal government; the federal government, of course, believed that the states did not have the right to reject federal laws.

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Audio tape scripts:

(professor) The issue of nullification caused a serious controversy in one particular situation in the first part of the nineteenth century. In 1828, the U.S. Congress passed a bill that authorized new tariffs on some imported manufactured goods. This meant that taxes would have to be paid to the federal government when certain manufactured goods were imported, and since many goods were not manufactured in the United States at the time, if people wanted to have these goods, then the goods had to be imported. The issue of nullification arose in this situation when one of the southern states in the United States held a convention to discuss the tariffs on some imported products; the convention voted to nullify the law that required that tariffs be paid on those imported goods. In other words, the state voted not to follow a law passed by the federal government. The president of the United States, Andrew Jackson, sent federal troops into the state to impose the federal law on tariffs there. A compromise was reached when the government passed a new law that lowered the tariff, and the southern state agreed to pay this lower tariff.

VOCABULARY HOMEWORK:

1. The actress received an avalanche of letters.
(A) a few
(B) a great many
(C) not too many
(D) several
2. His avaricious disposition led him to downfall.
(A) proud
(B) slothful
(C) greedy
(D) gluttonous
3. The child has a strong aversion to hard work.
(A) liking
(B) predilection
(C) propensity
(D) antipathy
4. Young people tend to be avid of new
(A) green
5. The merchant said that he could avouch for quality.
(A) renounce
(B) denounce
(C) guarantee
(D) impugn
6. It is axiomatic that a whole is greater than any of its parts.
(A) ludicrous
(B) self-evident
(C) oblique
(D) wrong
7. The azure lake is so poetic.
(A) green

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