

大学英语阅读精选

120篇

大学英语六级考试命题研究组 组编

CET6

新 华 出 版 社

大学英语阅读精选

120篇

主 编 马德高 马茂祥
副主编 许勤超 高四霞

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马德高 马茂祥 主编

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前 言

时代在变,四、六级考试也在变,但无论怎么变,阅读理解在考试中仍是重中之重。

而对于如何提高阅读成绩,考生通常追求的是大量快速地阅读,但往往在阅读了大量文章后发现阅读水平并没有得以真正提高。看起文章来似懂非懂,做起题来似会非会。问题出现在追求“量”的同时没有追求“质”;大量泛读的同时没有重视精读。因为知识面的扩大并不等于阅读“微技能”的真正提高;技能提高只能通过精读、吃透文章来得以实现。

基于此,我们精选了文章 120 篇。所选文章无论从体裁还是题材都接近真题,难度略高于或接近六级真题,旨在帮助考生切实提高阅读能力,感受实战气氛。相信本书会成为广大考生迎接六级考试的必备复习材料。

本书特色——

|| **词汇点津** || —— 文章中的重点、难点词汇以及常用短语,本书在单元后均给出词性和释义,便于读者掌握。我们提倡通过阅读背单词、记单词,然后通过单词量的扩充从根本上提高阅读能力。

|| **难句突破** || —— 由于六级阅读理解近年来有增加长难句数量的趋势,这对考生的阅读能力提出了更高的要求。为此本书挑选出文章中的长难句,对其句子结构、理解难点逐一分析,并将翻译技巧点拨贯穿其中,相信通过本部分的讲解,可以增强考生对难句的驾驭能力,从根本上提高阅读水平。

|| **答案精解** || —— 本书中的所有参考答案皆是由有着多年考试辅导经验的高校教师反复推敲论证后确定的。解析精辟,抓住要点,触类旁通,注重总结命题规律,使考生轻松掌握应试之技巧,了解备考之方略。

文章精点——阅读文章的关键是把握文章大意,理清文章脉络。为此我们在每篇文章的答案精解中给出了文章精点,“精点”乃点睛之笔,旨在帮助读者在自我测试之后对文章的篇章结构、逻辑层次有准确、透彻的把握,切身体会“庖丁解牛”之快感。这是扎实完善阅读能力、提高阅读效率的必经之路。

希望我们精心打造的这本《大学英语阅读精选 120 篇》(六级)能对您有所裨益,我们也相信只要方法得当,用完此书,您的阅读水平一定会有显著的提高。

由于时间有限,书中难免有疏漏之处,敬请广大读者来信批评指正!

选材广泛,贴近真题,荟萃精华

生词难句,各个击破,稳步提高

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Reading Comprehension Unit 1

Unit 1

Passage 1

⌚ From: _____ To: _____

Over a century ago, Alfred Russell Wallace wrote that “we live in a zoologically impoverished world, from which all the hugest, and fiercest, and strangest forms have recently disappeared. . .”. Researchers seeking to explain this “marvelous fact”, as Wallace called it, fall into two camps, one invoking global climatic change and the other human hunting as the cause. 『Over the past few decades, the debate has become deadlocked, in part because most researchers have focused their attention on the America and northern Eurasia, where the extinction of the huge, fierce, and strange creatures, such as mammoths, and giant sloths, occurred between 12 500 and about 11 000 years ago.』 This was a time of rapid climatic change, but it was also when humans first arrived in these regions, making it difficult to discern causality.

Australia provides the only separate, continent-sized natural laboratory in which dramatic Quaternary extinctions occurred. It is thus of exceptional importance as a testing ground for extinction theories, but until now problems with dating have limited its potential. 『As reported on page 205 of this issue, Miller et al. have now documented the extinction of the gigantic Australian bird Genyornis and so have broken new ground in dating megafaunal extinction in Australia.』 At the same time, these authors have broken the current deadlock in the great megafaunal extinction debate.

It has long been appreciated that the intensity of Quaternary extinctions varied greatly around the world. In the oceans, Africa, and southeast Asia, they were nonexistent or mild. Europe experienced moderate extinction rates, whereas the Americas, Australia, Madagascar, and many Oceanic islands suffered dramatic extinctions. North America lost 73% of all genera weighing more than 44 kg, but Australia suffered the most severely of all the continents, losing every terrestrial vertebrate species larger than a human,

as well as many smaller mammals, reptiles, and flightless birds, the latter down to about a kilogram in weight. In all, about 60 vertebrate species were lost, including bizarre marsupials that resembled giant sloths, carnivorous kangaroos, and a terrestrial horned tortoise that approached the size of a Volkswagen Beetle car.

Establishing just when this bizarre array of creatures last trod Australia's outback has been a tortuous business, with many false leads and sites that are difficult to interpret. 『For decades, it was believed that the megafauna survived until close to the time of the glacial maximum, some 20 000 years ago, when temperatures were up to 9℃ cooler than at present and the continent was extremely arid.』 Conditions were so extreme that trees virtually disappeared from the inland, an 40% of Australia was transformed into a vast active dune field.

(138 words)

1. The primary purpose of the passage is to _____.
 - A) analyze the possible cause of Quaternary extinctions
 - B) compare the intensity of megafaunal extinctions between different continents
 - C) demonstrate the most destructive agent in the extinction of species
 - D) describe the strange phenomenon of Quaternary extinctions
2. The direct reason for the megafaunal extinction in America and northern Eurasia is _____.
 - A) human hunting
 - B) climate change
 - C) impoverished land
 - D) in dispute
3. The basic problem of extinction research about Australia as pointed out by the author lies in _____.
 - A) little convincing archeological evidence
 - B) limited variety of gigantic creatures
 - C) determining the date when dramatic extinction occurred
 - D) difficulty to discern casualties
4. Which of the following is TRUE according to the author?
 - A) Australia lost every terrestrial vertebrate species in Quaternary extinctions.
 - B) The globe was close to glacial maximum some 20 000 years ago.
 - C) Australia is an ideal natural laboratory to test extinction theory.
 - D) Human beings survived Quaternary to test extinction in Australia.

Reading Comprehension Unit 1

5. The word "bizarre" (Line 1, Para. 4) probably means _____.

A) "unusual or strange"

B) "marvelous or supernatural"

C) "dramatic or powerful"

D) "vast or gigantic"

Passage 2

⌚ From: _____ To: _____

Two Newcastle scientists are set to turn the medical world on its heads with claims that natural sunlight may help prevent skin cancer.

Dr. Ron Laura, professor of health education at Newcastle University, and senior chemist Mr. John Aston say their research points to a complete reversal of accepted scientific theory. The pair say that sunscreen creams may help cause skin cancer, that artificial indoor light could be harmful and that a range of drugs in common use could also promote melanomas.

The research is likely to be unwelcome in some traditional medical research circles. It is based on a new theory that our bodies are protected from skin cancer by the regulation of a group of complex vitamins (Vitamin D) and immune processes.

The sunscreens, artificial light and drugs could all unfavorably affect the production of these vitamins and increase the skin's sensitivity to the sun. But Dr. Laura said natural sunlight passing through the eyes helped stimulate the production of cancer protection Vitamin D.

He said recent statistics from the United States indicated that people who worked indoors all day in artificial light were more subject to melanomas than those who worked outdoors.

『Indoor workers should try to have at least one hour of exposure to direct sunlight every day, preferably in the early morning and late afternoon when ultraviolet intensity was lower, Dr. Laura said.』

Sunscreens, long accepted as essential for beach lovers, could also prevent the production of Vitamin D. Laura and Aston say sunscreens give people a false sense of security in thinking they are protected from the sun's rays.

Dr. Laura said that more statistics backing their claims had come to light since the first article was published. He believes the research findings are too important to be confined to the scientific world. (300 words)

6. According to the passage, Professor Laura and Mr. Aston's research on skin cancer _____.
 A) is a big challenge to the traditional skin cancer theory
 B) has been accepted by the medical world
 C) is a new development to the old theory
 D) is criticized by medical scientists

7. It can be inferred from the passage that traditional skin cancer theory says _____.
 A) natural sunlight may help prevent skin cancer
 B) artificial light is too weak to cause skin cancer
 C) exposure to the sunlight may cause skin cancer
 D) Vitamin D is very important in preventing skin cancer

8. According to Professor Laura, it would be safer from skin cancer if you _____.
 A) wore sunglasses when you were out
 B) stayed indoors most of the year
 C) used sunscreen creams when you were in the sun
 D) let yourself be exposed to the sun when the sunlight is not too strong

9. Professor Laura believes that his research _____.
 A) has been supported by many scientists
 B) has a profound significance
 C) has established a new theory on Vitamin D
 D) has changed people's concept of skin cancer

10. What is the best title for this article?
 A) The Production of Vitamin D
 B) Prof. Laura and His Research
 C) Natural Light and Artificial Light
 D) New Theory on Skin Cancer

Passage 3

⌚ From: _____ To: _____

In his thoughtful book on the emergence of cognitive science, Howard Gardner quotes George Miller's recollection of a meeting in 1956: "I went

Reading Comprehension Unit 1

away from the Symposium with a strong conviction, more intuitive than rational, that human experimental psychology, theoretical linguistics and computer simulation of cognitive processes were all pieces of a larger whole, and that the future world see progressive elaboration and coordination of their shared concerns.”

The promise that Miller envisioned in those early days has come to pass. Numerous interrelated disciplines are now engaged in the attempt to understand the mechanisms underlying normal and abnormal mental processing. “The boundaries between these disciplines (which now include anatomic and computer studies of neural circuits, animal and human blood studies, and experimental cognitive psychology) have become increasingly less distinct.” The remarkable progress that has been made in recent years is beginning to generate excitement outside of the scientific community because of its relevance to our daily lives in shedding light on normal cognitive functions (such as language, memory, and planning) and on brain-related diseases.

“There are several things worth noting about cognitive neuroscience that are also reflected in the articles in this special issue of Science.” First is the idea that distributed brain networks underlie complex behaviors. In the early days of the field, most neuroscientists focused on individual brain regions and their responses. The sensory domain was particularly captivating; one could, for example, appropriately talk about hyper-complex cells in the visual system that responded to comers or the existence of heart columns as the organizing basis for neuro-sensory input. “It is becoming clear, however, that the processing of information that leads to complex behaviors such as learning and memory involves multiple brain regions that must operate in an interactive parallel.”

Second is the increasing ability to look at these networks within a time dimension. Models that do not take time into account appear to be less accurate. “For either computational modeling or examination of responses to single cell activity, the time dimension is critical.” Current neuro-imaging techniques permit an examination of brain function that is close to real time activity.

(353 words)

11. The author of the passage is primarily concerned with discussing _____.

A) the boundaries of knowledge

- B) the advances in cognitive science
C) the association between interrelated cognitive disciplines
D) the domain of experimental cognitive psychology
12. From the first paragraph we learn that George Miller's promise was based on _____.
A) feelings rather than on knowledge or fact
B) clear, practical or scientific reason
C) his power of deduction
D) a previous hypothesis
13. According to the passage, the mechanisms underlying complex behaviors involve _____.
A) functions of individual brain regions and their responses
B) involuntary and consistent responses of hyper-complex cells
C) simultaneous and interactive functioning of several brain regions
D) instant responses to single cell activity
14. We can infer from the passage that _____.
A) neuro-imaging technique is the most reliable means to examine brain function
B) current cognitive science focuses research on normal cognitive functions
C) the objects of numerous disciplines of cognitive science fall into the same category
D) cognitive neuroscience mainly deals with the nervous system
15. The phrase "shed light on" most probably means _____.
A) to light the area around something
B) to make something easier to understand
C) to get rid of something not wanted or needed
D) to become or cause to become animated or cheerful

Passage 4

⊕ From: _____ To: _____

The trend toward smaller families may not be as modern as we think, either. Although women gatherers had four or five children, only two typi-

Reading Comprehension Unit 1

cally survived childhood—the number found in the average American family today. 『Even our style of rearing children is starting to parallel hunting-gathering communities, in which girls and boys are permitted to play together from a young age, and consequently experiment at sex earlier and engage in trial marriages. 』 『Clearly we've moved away from the agricultural custom of arranged marriages and cloistering girls to preserve their virginity. 』

Moreover, the home is no longer the “place of production”, as it was in farm days. We don't make our soap, grow our vegetables and slaughter our chicken for the dinner table. Instead, we hunt and gather in the grocery store and return to our “home base” to consume the food we have collected. No wonder we are so in love with fast foods. It probably harks back to an eating strategy our primitive relatives adopted over 50 million years ago.

There's no mistaking the trend: humans are once again on the move. Husband and wife are no longer bound to a single plot of land for their livelihood. Women are back in production as well as reproduction. 『As we head back to the future, there's every reason to believe the sexes will enjoy the kind of equality that is a function of our birthright. 』 By equality, I mean a more equitable division of power—not that our roles will converge. Alike men and women have never been and never will be. Very simply, we think differently, which is again tied to our long hunting-gathering heritage.

For 2 million years, women carried around children and have been the nurturers. That's probably why tests show they are both more verbal and more attuned to nonverbal cues. 『Women, on the other hand, tend to have superior mathematical and visual-spatial skills because they roamed long distances from the campsite, had to scheme ways to trap prey and then had to find their way back. 』

That specialization is reflected in genuine gender differences in the brain today. Nature not only intended men and women to put their bodies together; we've meant to put our heads together as well.

That's what's so thrilling about what's happening now. All those male and female skills are beginning to work together again. At long last, society is moving in a direction that should be highly compatible with our ancient human spirit.

(114 words)

16. It can be inferred from the first two paragraphs that _____.

- A) the way we bring up children is more closely related custom in a hunting society than our eating habit is
- B) people in primitive society also had a passion for fast food
- C) our eating habit is more closely linked with custom in a hunting society than with custom in an agricultural society
- D) of the four or five children born into today's American society, only two will survive

17. By saying that the sexes will enjoy equality, the author means that _____.

- A) man and woman will have the same speculative power
- B) man and woman will be entitled to equal rights the time they are born
- C) man and woman will play equal role in society
- D) the distribution of power will be fairer in between man and woman

18. Judging from the skills women specialize in, all of the following jobs might be suitable for women EXCEPT _____.

- A) language teacher
- B) mathematician
- C) nurse
- D) long-distance runner

19. The phrase "compatible with" in the last sentence can best be replaced by "_____".

- A) competitive with
- B) comprehensible to
- C) adaptable to
- D) in accordance with

20. Which of the following statements is TRUE according to the passage?

- A) Girls in a hunting society will have more sexual freedom than those in an agricultural society.
- B) People in modern society are more consumers than producers.
- C) Women are playing a more and more important part in modern society.
- D) Gender differences are reflected especially in brain volume.

	参考答案	正确率		参考答案	正确率
Passage 1	ADCCA		Passage 3	BACCB	
Passage 2	ACDBD		Passage 4	CDDDA	

Reading Comprehension Unit 1

☆☆☆ ★ 词汇点津

Passage 1

impoverished *adj.* 穷困的, 用尽的

impoverish *v.* 使成赤贫

fall into 分成, 属于

Eurasia *n.* 欧亚大陆

discern *v.* (费劲)识别, 看出, 洞悉

Quaternary *adj.* (地理)第四纪的

gigantic *adj.* 巨大的, 庞大的

megafauna *n.* 大型动物, 大型动物群

megafaunal *adj.* 大型动物的, 大型动物群的

extinction *n.* 灭绝, 消失

extinct *adj.* 已灭绝的, 已绝种的

terrestrial *adj.* 陆栖的, 地球的, 陆地的

vertebrate *n.* 脊椎动物 *adj.* 有椎骨的, 有脊椎的

Passage 2

melanomas *n.* 黑色素瘤

reversal *n.* 倒转, 颠倒

subject *adj.* 易受...的, 易患...的

back *v.* 支持

confine *v.* 局限, 限制

Passage 3

thoughtful *adj.* 有思想的; 体贴的

conviction *n.* 深信, 确信

simulation *n.* 模拟

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captivating *adj.* 迷人的, 有魅力的

hyper-complex *adj.* 超复杂的

envision *vt.* 想像, 预想

neuro-sensory *adj.* 神经感官的

neuro-imaging *adj.* 神经成像的(技术)

Passage 4

virginity *n.* 童贞

roam *v.* 漫步, 漫游, 闲逛

equitable *adj.* 公正的, 合理的

thrilling *adj.* 兴奋的, 激动的

be so in love with 很喜爱某事物

be attuned to 适应, 熟悉

head back to 重新提到或想起原先的问题、旧事等

find one's way back 发现回来的路

at long last 经过(种种)延误、努力等; 终于

☆☆☆ ★ 难句突破

Passage 1

1. Over the past few decades, the debate has become deadlocked, in part be-

cause most researchers have focused their attention on the America and northern Eurasia, where the extinction of the huge, fierce, and strange creatures, such as mammoths, and giant sloths, occurred between 12 500 and about 11 000 years ago.

▮ 框架分析 ▮ 主句主干为 the debate has become deadlocked。because 引导原因状语从句。关系副词 where 引导定语从句,修饰先行词 the America and northern Eurasia。Such as mammoths, and giant sloths 是插入语。

▮ 难点直击 ▮ 关键是分清结构,把握好 where 引导的定语从句及其意思。

▮ 参考译文 ▮ 在过去的几十年中,这场争论逐渐陷入僵局。部分原因是大多数研究人员已经把注意力集中在美洲和北欧亚大陆上,因为距今约 12 500 年至 11 000 年期间,在那里出现了诸如猛犸、巨型树獭等巨大、凶猛、奇异的动物的灭绝现象。

2. As reported on page 205 of this issue, Miller et al. have now documented the extinction of the gigantic Australian bird Genyornis and so have broken new ground in dating megafaunal extinction in Australia.

▮ 框架分析 ▮ 本句是由 so 引导的一个结果状语从句。

▮ 难点直击 ▮ break new ground 意为:有新发现。

▮ 参考译文 ▮ 如本期 205 页所述,Miller 等人现在已经证明了澳洲巨鸟 Genyornis 的灭绝,因此使鉴定澳洲大型动物群灭绝时间的研究有了新的发现。

3. For decades, it was believed that the megafauna survived until close to the time of the glacial maximum, some 20 000 years ago, when temperatures were up to 9°C cooler than at present and the continent was extremely arid.

▮ 框架分析 ▮ 此句为复合句,when 引导时间状语从句。

▮ 难点直击 ▮ glacial maximum: 冰河时代的最大极限期(即最寒冷期), up to: (数目)到...之多,可达。

▮ 参考译文 ▮ 人们数十年都以为大型动物存活至两万年以前的冰河时代是最寒冷期,那时的温度比现在低达 9°C 且大陆极其干旱贫瘠。

Passage 2

Indoor workers should try to have at least one hour of exposure to direct sunlight every day, preferably in the early morning and late afternoon when ultraviolet intensity was lower, Dr. Laura said.

Reading Comprehension Unit 1

|| 框架分析 || 本句主干为 Indoor workers should try to have...。Dr. Laura said 为插入语。

|| 难点直击 || preferably 意为“更可取地,更好地”。

|| 参考译文 || Laura 说,室内工作的人应尽量每天至少安排一小时接受阳光的直接照射,最好是清晨和下午晚些时候紫外线不那么强烈时。

Passage 3

1. I went away from the Symposium with a strong conviction, more intuitive than rational, that human experimental psychology, theoretical linguistics and computer simulation of cognitive processes were all pieces of a larger whole, and that the future world see progressive elaboration and coordination of their shared concerns.

|| 框架分析 || 本句主干为 I went away..., 后面跟两个 that 引导的同位语从句。

|| 难点直击 || more intuitive than rational 应理解为“直觉多于理性的;与其说是理性的,倒不如说是因为直觉的”。Their shared concerns 应理解为“它们共同的关注点,它们共同关心的问题”。这句话的难点是,句尾的两个同位语从句 conviction that..., and that...。

|| 参考译文 || 专题讨论会会后,我确立了一种与其说是理性的,倒不如说是更为直觉的信念:人类的实验心理学、理论语言学和认知过程的计算机模拟都是较大些的一个整体的组成部分;未来世界将会看到,它们共同关注的问题会进一步得到阐释和协调。

2. The boundaries between these disciplines (which now include anatomic and computer studies of neural circuits, animal and human blood studies, and experimental cognitive psychology) have become increasingly less distinct.

|| 框架分析 || 本句主干为 The boundaries... have become increasingly less distinct。

|| 难点直击 || 这句话的难点是:如何处理好括号中定语从句 which now include... 的位置。据上下文的语义关系, boundaries 作主语,是强调“现在”分界线的状况。

|| 参考译文 || 现在,这些学科之间的分界线越来越不清晰了,其中包括神经环路的解剖学和利用计算机所做的研究,动物与人类的血液研究,以及实验认知心理学。

3. There are several things worth noting about cognitive neuroscience that