



考试虫学习体系

考研英语(一) 阅读专项训练

主编 王若平

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考研英语(一)

阅读专项训练

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前言

——代序 (选自新浪网)

近年来为了更加客观地检测考生的英语水平,教育部对考研英语大纲进行了一系列调整。但无论大纲怎样变化,考研英语测试方向永远是输入和输出能力。考研英语之争主要是阅读和写作之争。下面笔者重点讲解阅读和写作的题型特点和备考方法。

一、阅读

阅读分为三节:

A 节:共四篇文章,主要考察考生理解主旨要义、具体信息、概念性含义,进行有关的判断、推理和引申,根据上下文推测生词的词义等能力。

在本书中,A 题型文章选材新颖,超纲词控制在大纲允许的 3% 以内,特别突出选项的干扰性,尽可能杜绝弱智试题。其中第四篇难度最大,对考生的理解能力是一种挑战,对于该篇文章可适当延长做题时间。本书纠正了目前考研阅读书普遍存在的缺点:文章选材陈旧;超纲词多,有的甚至多达 20~30 个;选项的设置简单、幼稚,无须看懂文章也能做对题目。笔者考虑到学生的实际需要,为每篇文章提供了详细和完整的译文。

B 节:包括四种备选题型。备选题型一,选择填空题(原选择搭配题);备选题型二,排序题;备选题型三,例证题;备选题型四,标题题。其中选择搭配题和排序题主要考察考生把握篇章整体结构和推测作者写作意图的能力。例证题和标题题考察学生分辨论点和论据的能力。

应该注意的是,虽然很多考生对 B 题型感到比较陌生,但这种题型的测试思想和实践在国内外其他考试中存在已经有一段比较长的历史了。根据笔者这些年对于这类试题的教学研究,在应对这种题型时考生切忌盲目轻信所谓的技巧,而应该重视科学的试题和科学的训练。以往这方面出现的问题比较多,应该吸收的教训也不少。很多同学由于平时训练难度不够,或者训练材料科学性不强,不能适应考场上高难度实考题。本书试题严格按照最新大纲编写,具有很高的信度和效度,具有很强的科学性。

C 节:主要考察考生准确理解概念或结构较复杂的英语文字材料的能力。

英译汉一直是难度比较大、得分比较低的一项。本书的可贵之处是在提供译文的基础上,诠释了翻译的思维过程。

阅读理解的提高是一个非常令人头疼的问题。在词、句、篇中,句子理解是关键。考研英语的文章 30 或者 40 个单词长度的句子俯拾即是,考研阅读要想提高就必须能够读懂 40 个单词长度的句子。在阅读方面,多年来我们在国内进行了很多的教学活动,并且专门安排了有关难句的训练,同学们反映阅读能力在较短的时间内确有明显的提高。在这些教学成果的基础上,我们编写了《硕士研究生英语入学考试阅读基本功 难句过关》(“考试虫”体系)一书。该书出版后深受广大考生的喜爱,目前已经成了考研英语应试的手边书。

基本功夯实后,另一个问题就显得比较突出。尽管市场上阅读材料并不少见,但要找

到真正适合考研英语阅读训练的材料(除实考试题外)并不容易。认为在这方面可用的书很多,往往是缺乏鉴别力的表现。出版一本真正与真题命题思路接近的阅读专项训练题集是广大考生的心愿,更是我们的心愿。作为《难句过关》的姊妹篇,本书正是基于这样的考虑,历时三载,编写完成的。很多同学使用后,尤其是考试后的反馈,使我们感到自己的辛苦是值得的。“会当凌绝顶,一览众山小”是考生“消化”了本书参加考试的真实感受,也是对本书的最高评价。

本书采用了速读技术,试题讲解中关键文字采用橙色标记,基础好的同学可只看橙色讲解,节约备考时间。

二、写作

目前作文考两篇,一篇是100词左右的应用文,包括私人商务信函、备忘录、摘要、报告和便笺,满分10分。一篇是160-200词的短文(标点符号在内),包括描述性、叙述性、说明/议论性的文章,满分20分。两篇总分共30分。

作文从15分,增加到20分,进一步增加到目前的30分,再也不是考试中可以忽视或弱化的部分了。目前作文的这些变化非常强调对考生基本写作素质、基础写作能力的测试。而我们的同学写出的作文常见的问题有两个:一是句式极其简单,有的同学用一个系词be能够写出一篇文章;第二是语法错误太多。对此众多的阅卷老师都有抱怨。

至于提高写作能力的方法,很多同学有明显的错误认识。其一,认为只要把考研英语提高上去,写作自然会提高,这是一种致命的误解。根据我这些年的教学经验,非常多的考生即使他们考研英语阅读能力练到很强的程度,写出的作文也非常差。这在语言学上就是著名的理解力和产出力的差异。同学们一定要注意不能用考研难度的阅读代替写作练习。其二,认为每天写一篇英语作文或英文日记会彻底提高自己的写作水平。对于汉语的确如此,因为你的汉语能力实在是很强。但英语则不然,在没有高明老师修改的情况下,基础不好的同学每天练习写作文也不见得是好的提高方法,因为同学们反复写的是过于简单的英语,如主系表,水平难以提高,或者反复写错误的英语,就更不好,不断重复犯同一错误,久而久之,就成了习惯性错误。

“解决问题比指出问题更重要!”这才是同学们的心声。那么什么才是考生作文的解决方案?记住:写作考的是简单英语的运用能力,读难的英语不能解决简单英语的写作问题。现在都不认识的或生僻的单词,即使记住了,它很可能是,或者直截了当地讲,一定是消极词汇(阅读中认识的单词),而不可能是积极词汇(写作、口语中自由使用的词汇)。不要忘了我们是怎样彻底学会“自由”使用系词be的,见到的次数太多了!一个单词不在阅读中见过一千遍,你是没有把握正确使用的。正确的道路是要重视简单英语运用能力的培养。

根据我这些年的教学经验,非英语专业的同学运用简单英语的能力是相当糟糕的。最有效的解决方法是“狂读”简单英语读物,“考试虫”学习体系中有一套读物《床头灯英语学习读本》,是美国作家用3300个基础单词写成的英语小说系列,包括《飘》《红与黑》《吸血鬼》《简·爱》等世界名著,3300词读遍天下书。3天就能看一本,每天看0.5~1小时。读30~40本=100万词的英语输入=获得英语写作能力。小说里有人物描写,有景物描写,有书信、便条,有事件发展过程的描述,有人物丰富的内心世界描写,有……,

这些都是考试所迫切需要的。阅卷人非常讨厌 beautiful, big, great 等单调、乏味的用语,能够对情景或图画进行有一定深度的叙述和描写往往是作文高分必须具备的。应用文更是需要语言的表达能力,是仅背几篇范文所绝难获得的。切记:没有 100 万词的英语输入,无法练出写作能力。这更是英语课本和普通的作文书所无法提供的!请同学们思考一下:就这 3000 个词,你还没有信心用熟!只要语法不出错,用熟 3000 个基础词汇,作文考 20~25 分,易如反掌,那考研英语就轻松多了。人最难能可贵的是洞察力:不要为商业炒作所误导,不要急功近利,这是你们的“前辈们”用时间和金钱换来的宝贵经验教训。作文之路就在脚下,看你怎么走了。

在考前冲刺阶段,背一些写作套路,乃明智之举。

同学们,考研的路还很长,让我们跟上新的考试形势,以冷静而务实的态度面对它,成功就一定会到来。

王若平 于北京

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Unit 1

Part A

Directions:

Read the following four texts. Answer the questions below each text by choosing A, B, C or D. Mark your answers on ANSWER SHEET 1. (40 points)

Text 1

Of course, it is good to be polite. And, as a result, in most places these days it is impossible to know what someone is actually thinking when he meets or works with someone of another race. Politeness makes it unacceptable to express prejudice, even if those attitudes are actually there. How hard do people work to overcome a prejudice that they feel but are not allowed to express? Jennifer Richeson, of Dartmouth College in New Hampshire, attempts to give an answer.

In a study carried out earlier this year, she and her colleagues found that racially biased people take longer to perform tasks that require a conscious effort to control their racial responses and actions. This effort is known as cognitive control. The researchers suspected, as a result of this earlier study, that there was a physical mechanism, which they called resource consumption, underlying this lag in performance. In their latest paper, they think they have proved this theory.

The researchers recruited 30 white students as volunteers, and attempted to identify their racial attitudes using the Implicit Association Test (IAT). During an IAT, volunteers match positive and negative words such as “health”, “beauty”, and “ugly”, with names traditionally associated, at least in the United States, with black or white Americans. The IAT measures response times to these uncomfortable questions, and assigns higher levels of racial bias to white participants who are slower and less accurate in matching black names to positive attributes, and vice versa. The results of the IAT were used as a baseline from which to assess each volunteer’s underlying prejudice.

That done, the participants carried out a Stroop colour-naming task. In a Stroop test, participants must identify the ink colour in which words such as “red” or “blue” are printed. Subjects have to think harder to identify the colour red, for example, if it is used as the typeface for the printed word “yellow”. As predicted, the volunteers who had scored higher levels of racial bias in the IAT test took longer to complete the Stroop test than their peers.

The bottom line, it seems, is that it is tiring to suppress racial prejudice. Furthermore, this has impact on a person’s subsequent attention and performance. What this experiment does not answer, of course, is whether the prejudiced participants were striving



to overcome their prejudices, or merely to cover them up. Dr Richeson remarks of her results that, “there’s a subtle, but powerful, difference between trying not to do the wrong thing, and building positive habits through friendships and cultural exchange, so that doing the right thing becomes our automatic response.”

1. The word “resource” (Sentence 3, Para. 2) refers to
 - [A] tolerance of others’ impoliteness.
 - [B] mental ability to perform tasks.
 - [C] enthusiasm for performing tasks.
 - [D] the courage to express real thoughts.
2. During an IAT, volunteers are required to
 - [A] make a list of American traditional names.
 - [B] make out what names are their favorites.
 - [C] illustrate the relation of blacks and whites.
 - [D] connect human qualities with some names.
3. These days, those who have higher levels of racial bias might
 - [A] get higher scores in the Stroop test.
 - [B] can’t identify the ink color on the Stroop test.
 - [C] be inefficient when working with different races.
 - [D] treat blacks worse than others do.
4. Which of the following is true about the Stroop test?
 - [A] It is specially used to reveal racial prejudices.
 - [B] The word “yellow” has a typeface of red colour.
 - [C] The various colors in it are hard to differentiate.
 - [D] It entails much concentration of the subjects.
5. Which of the following may Richeson suggest to those racially biased people?
 - [A] Cover the racial prejudices up.
 - [B] Try not to do the wrong thing.
 - [C] Take measures to remove biases.
 - [D] Make a healthy habit of living.

Text 2

Just when you thought you knew the web, along come new competitors to keep things interesting. On September 15th, a new search engine called A9.com was unveiled by Amazon, the giant internet retailer. It repackages Google’s search results, but with useful tweaks. Searches not only call up websites and images on the same page, but other references, such as Amazon’s book search, the Internet Movie Database, and encyclopaedia and dictionary references. Moreover, it keeps track of users’ search histories — an important



innovation as search becomes more personalised.

Many had assumed the market was stitched up by Google and Yahoo! (who account for over 90% of searches), barring the expected entrance of Microsoft. Likewise, the market for online music seemed settled: Apple's iTunes is the leader, its main rivals being Real Networks and Microsoft's MSN Music. Yet this, too, understates the potential for battle. Last week, Yahoo! bought Musmatch, an online music retailer and software firm, for \$160m. Music downloads are now worth roughly \$310m annually but are forecast to grow to \$4.6 billion by 2008, according to Forrester Research, so there is room for new firms to sprout.

Meanwhile, the most surprising new competition is in web browsers. Microsoft was the undisputed champ, after bundling Internet Explorer with its Windows operating system in the 1990s and destroying Netscape. However, Microsoft's browser is so vulnerable to attacks by online crooks and various troublemakers that the American and German governments have recommended that users consider alternatives. This has been a boon to two small browser-makers, Opera, a Norwegian software company, and Mozilla, which developed the Firefox browser based on an open-source version of Netscape. Firefox boasted 1m downloads within 100 hours of its release on September 14th.

Security has become the main competitive difference. The software of both Opera and Mozilla is considered safer (partly because they have fewer users and so are a less attractive target for hackers). Microsoft's share of the browser market has actually shrunk over the past three months from around 96% to 94%. It is a highly symbolic phenomenon, albeit a modest decrease. Even Google is thought to be toying with the idea of launching its own browser.

Underlying this ripple of competition is the ability of large companies that already benefit from economies of scale to extend into new areas, says Hal Varian, an economist at the University of California at Berkeley. That explains Amazon's A9 search service and Yahoo!'s move into music. As for browsers, "Microsoft had a lock on the market and just dropped the ball. Microsoft hasn't provided any innovation in the browser area and they had poor security," he says. The message: watch your back.

6. Compared with A9.com, Google

- [A] offers fewer references.
- [B] presents less effective search.
- [C] has a darker future.
- [D] provides more personalized services.

7. The development of Opera and Mozilla is owing to

- [A] their promise of high-speed download.
- [B] the defect of Microsoft's browser.
- [C] the funds granted by the governments.



- [D] the shrinking market share of Microsoft.
8. Which of the following word can replace "stitched up"(Sentence 1, Para. 2)?
- [A] Dominated. [B] Threaded.
[C] Repaired. [D] Excluded.
9. Which of the following is true according to the author?
- [A] A9. com will be much more popular than Google.
[B] Music downloads will be worth \$4.6 billion in 2008.
[C] A company's size acts on its expansion ability.
[D] Google is now hatching its own web browser.
10. The best title of this passage may be
- [A] Microsoft, a Faded Star. [B] Competition, Still on the Web.
[C] A9, into the Sunrise. [D] Security, a Decisive Factor.

Text 3

To Ladan and Laleh Bijani, 29-year-old twin sisters joined at the head, a chance to live separate lives was more important than life itself. Despite 50-50 odds of dying from surgery and doctors' best efforts to talk them out of it, the twins never wavered in their determination to be separated. They lost the gamble. Last week, both women bled to death on the operating table at Raffles Hospital in Singapore after 50 hours of surgery. The operation was the first known attempt to separate adult twins joined at the head. The women's bodies, separate at last, were sent to their home country, Iran, for burial.

Now, opinion is divided as to whether doctors should have even tried to operate, and whether a patient's wishes, however desperate, are enough to justify a risky and experimental procedure.

Supporters of the surgery say the sisters, intelligent and well-educated law school graduates, understood the risks and had every right to take them. Critics argue that the risks were too high and that doctors had an ethical obligation to say no.

The decision to operate was defended by Dr. Benjamin S. Carson, who was part of the team of doctors to work on the Bijanis. Dr. Carson was called in by doctors in Singapore because he had separated several sets of infants joined at the head. At a press conference in Singapore shortly after the women died, Dr. Carson said they were so determined to be separated that he felt compelled to try to help them, adding, "I was convinced they would seek separation no matter who performed the surgery."

Dr. Mark Siegler, director of the MacLean Ethics Center at the University of Chicago, said that even though the twins consented to the operation, it violated ethical standards for experimental surgery and should not have been done. What made him oppose the surgery was the 50 percent risk of death. "You need responsible judgment on the part of the surgeon," he said. "For an operation that was not medically necessary, a 50 percent



risk of death was too high. Such high risks are acceptable when a patient is likely to die without surgery. But that wasn't the case here, where the surgery was done not to save lives but primarily to meet the psychological needs of the twins." Dr. Siegler said it was also troubling that the team in Singapore had decided to go ahead with the operation even though other surgeons had declined on at least two occasions, saying it was too dangerous and likely to kill one or both twins. And he questioned the surgeons' decision to proceed at the representative's request when their medical judgment seemed to suggest a different course.

11. According to the passage, which of the following is TRUE?
 - [A] The doctors tried hard to persuade the twins not to take the operation.
 - [B] Risky operations like this should not have been performed.
 - [C] The twins had great confidence in the doctors performing the operation.
 - [D] The twins died 50 hours after the operation.
12. The twin sisters insisted on taking the operation because
 - [A] the doctor had separated several sets of infants joined at the head.
 - [B] they would rather die than live unseparated.
 - [C] there was 50-50 odds of success for the separation operation.
 - [D] they were likely to die without the operation.
13. The doctors who performed the operation defended the decision on the ground that
 - [A] they had experiences in doing operations like this.
 - [B] the twins were likely to die without the operation.
 - [C] the twins had made up their mind to seek separation at any cost.
 - [D] the hope of success was as great as the risk of failure.
14. Doctors who are opposed to the operation argue that
 - [A] the twin sisters did not understand the risk of surgery.
 - [B] the risky operation was not medically necessary.
 - [C] the twins were not physically healthy enough for the operation.
 - [D] operations should not be done to meet psychological needs.
15. The author's attitude towards the operation can be described as
 - [A] supportive.
 - [B] critical.
 - [C] sympathetic.
 - [D] neutral.

Text 4

Faded star finds new happiness with samurai; James Bond will soon be in bed with Charlie's Angels; Rocky Balboa will team up with Spider-Man; MGM will cease to be Hollywood's last big independent movie studio; and, at the age of 87, Kirk Kerkorian, who holds 74% of MGM's shares, will add another \$2.1 billion to his existing billions.



Such are the immediate consequences of the tentative agreement reached on September 14th by Sony Corporation of America, owner of the lissom Angels and the amazing wall-climber, to buy MGM. Assuming approval by the MGM board on September 27th, and no anti-trust objections, a Sony-led consortium will pay about \$2.94 billion in cash and assume about \$1.9 billion of MGM debt.

The deal ends months of wrangling, with Mr. Kerkorian — who has now bought and sold MGM three times — dangling the prize of its library of 4,100 film titles and 10,000 TV episodes before not just Sony but Time Warner. Until just hours before the deal with Sony, it had seemed that Time Warner, ready to bid \$4.6 billion (counting in the debt), was the front-runner. But then its chairman announced that it could not reach agreement with MGM “at a price that would have represented a prudent use of our growing financial capacity.” Even after three years, the bruises of Time Warner’s merger with AOL are yet to fade.

So is the Sony consortium paying too much? Sony itself is putting up some \$300m. The rest will come from banks and private equity. The key may be the last-minute involvement of Comcast, a cable company, as a programming and distribution partner with cash maybe to come later. Comcast is linked to 22m American households; that will ensure some reassuring cashflow to the consortium. Indeed, Sony, which already owns the Columbia and TriStar studios, expects to buy out its partners, except for Comcast, within five years. For Comcast, which last year cast an eye over Universal and this year made an abortive bid for Disney, the attraction is a mass of new content, from both the MGM and the Sony film libraries, to sell as video-on-demand.

Some MGMpathists — the kind who swooned over “Gone with the Wind”, blubbed over “Brief Encounter”, sang with Elvis in “Jailhouse Rock” and giggled at the Pink Panther — will grieve for the loss of MGM’s independence. But the roar of the MGM lion is not what it was; exploiting the library has for some years counted for more than adding to it. And 007 will surely not complain.

16. It can be learnt from Paragraph 1 that

- [A] faded stars will be better treated in the new corporation.
- [B] Kirk Kerkorian will add more to his MGM shares.
- [C] no big Hollywood movie studio will be independent.
- [D] Sony-led consortium will owe MGM about \$1.9 billion.

17. What can be inferred from Paragraph 2?

- [A] MGM’s films and TV episodes won more prizes than those of Time Warner.
- [B] Time Warner abandoned the deal because MGM wasn’t a valuable asset.
- [C] Kerkorian has often been selling and buying MGM for maximum margin.
- [D] Negative effect of the merger with AOL is still haunting Time Warner.

18. According to the passage, Comcast

- [A] somewhat looks down upon Universal.



- [B] abandons itself to merging movie studios.
 - [C] feels the necessity for a vast film bank.
 - [D] intends to make the cash flow faster.
19. It is implied in the last paragraph that
- [A] MGM will not be as glorious as several years ago.
 - [B] 007 will return to silver screen in the near future.
 - [C] making new films was less profitable for MGM.
 - [D] there will not be the brand of MGM any longer.
20. The author's attitude toward MGM's deal with Sony seems to be
- [A] opposed.
 - [B] approving.
 - [C] suspicious.
 - [D] enthusiastic.

Part B

Directions:

For Questions 21-25, choose the most suitable paragraphs from the list A—G and fill them into the numbered boxes to form a coherent text. Paragraph A has been correctly placed. There is one paragraph which does not fit in with the text. Mark your answers on ANSWER SHEET 1. (10 points)

- [A] Among farmers and researchers, there is disagreement about which types of growers climate change will impact most — large agribusiness growing operations, or smaller, family-run farms. Some agriculture industry observers say that the bigger farmers will have an advantage in coping with weather changes, as they will have more resources to switch to new crops. Others say that since family farms usually grow a wider range of crops, their biological diversity will make it easier to cope with whatever changes occur.
- [B] The culprit is climate change, caused by society's burning of fossil fuels. When it comes to global warming, farmers — who are more attuned to weather patterns than most people — may be the proverbial canaries in the coalmine. The weather, of course, has never been exactly dependable — farmers have always been at the mercy of the vagaries of sun and rain. But general weather patterns have at least been broadly predictable, allowing farmers to know when to sow their seed, when to transplant, when to harvest. As weather patterns become less reliable, growers will be tested to develop new rhythms and systems for growing crops.
- [C] Most keyboard jockeys would die for the view from Orin Martin's office window: apple trees in blossom, lines of citrus, dozens of varieties of flowers and neat rows of peppers and potatoes. Martin is a farmer in Santa Cruz, Calif., where for last 30



years he has been an instructor at the University of California's agro-ecology program, one of the nation's oldest organic agriculture curriculums.

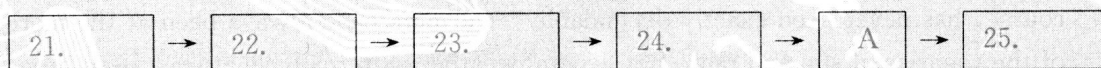
[D] What all agriculture experts agree on is that farmers need to start preparing today for climate change. Growers ought to be thinking about what warmer temperatures, fluctuations in precipitation, and an increase in extreme weather events will mean for their farms, and how they can respond. "This is change; it's not necessarily disaster," says Grubinger. "The disaster will come if people aren't prepared."

[E] In recent years, however, something has been wrong in his idyllic setting. The weather is changing in strange ways. From New England to the Midwest to California, farmers and scientists are noticing that once-dependable weather patterns are shifting.

[F] There is a misconception that the scientific community is in a state of disagreement about global warming. In fact, there is virtually no serious disagreement on the central points. The misconception of disagreement is actually an illusion that has been deliberately fostered by oil & coal companies. These companies want to prevent any new policies that would interfere with their current business plans that rely on the massive unrestrained dumping of CO₂ into the Earth atmosphere every day.

[G] Too much rain at the wrong time can make it difficult to plant or harvest crops. Above-average rainfall also contributes to fungi and insects that can dramatically reduce crop yields. Too much warmth is equally problematic. Some plants require a certain number of frost days each year in order to thrive the following spring. As temperatures warm, farmers may find themselves having to either shift to different crops or actually move their operations to new locales. Unreliable weather will make it harder for farmers to be as productive as we have come to expect.

Order:



Part C

Directions:

Read the following text carefully and then translate the underlined segments into Chinese. Your translation should be written clearly on ANSWER SHEET 2. (10 points)

Good manners and etiquette are not complicated. Anyone can demonstrate courtesy