



2011 考研英语

巅峰阅读

巅峰讲座—巅峰练习—巅峰预测

长喜考研英语研究中心 编 王长喜 主编

讲得透，透视选文分析设题，点拨思路演示技巧
练得透，标准文章标准设题，即讲即练整合演练

特色内容
先睹为快
见扉页后

学苑出版社



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副主编：赵丙银 李慧彦

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It has long been known that a taxi firm called AAAA cars has a big advantage over Xodiac cars when customers jump through their phone directories. I see well known [A] A kind of overlooked is the advantage that Adam Abbott has in his car. Xodiac has [B] A type of conspicuous has names one thing every aspect of [C] A type of personal between the halves of the alphabet. [D] A kind of bond dis- top people have someone beginning [E] A kind of bond dis- tribution between A and K.

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特色内容 先睹为快

理清行文主线 把握内容关键

Part A

第1讲

6 种常选文章结构

二、信息传播型

这种结构的文章表达方式事实多, 细节详细(包括人物、地点、时间、情景、特点等等), 多为说明性体裁的文章。阅读时要尽量记忆文章所介绍的各条信息, 可以根据内容进行分析, 提纲挈领地记住短文的中心思想, 也可以运用想象力设想所介绍的事物或情景的各个方面。

【例2】

(08-Text 2)

【原文】	【分析】
It used to be so straightforward. A team of researchers working together in the laboratory would submit the results of their research to a journal. ... No longer. The Internet — and pressure from funding agencies, who are questioning why commercial publishers are making money from government-funded research by restricting access to it — is making access to scientific results a reality. ... This is now changing. ...	本文是一篇信息传播型文章, 主要介绍了一种新型出版业——网络出版的出现及其对传统出版业的影响。 第一段介绍过去如何发表论文。 第二段描述当今学术期刊的出版情况。

知道哪易出题 读时适当留意

Part A

第2讲

11 大文中常设题处

四、转折处

一般而言, 转折后的内容常常是语义的重点, 命题者常对转折处的内容进行提问。转折一般通过 however, but, yet, in fact 等词语来引导。

【例4】

(10-37)

Unfortunately, banks' lobbying now seems to be working. The details may be unknowable, but the independence of standard-setters, essential to the proper functioning of capital markets, is being compromised... After a bruising encounter with Congress, America's Financial Accounting Standards Board (FASB) rushed through rule changes... ... But by giving in to critics now they are inviting pressure to make more concessions.	37. According to the author, the rule changes of the FASB may result in [A] the diminishing role of the management. [B] the revival of the banking system. [C] the banks' long-term asset losses. [D] the weakening of its independence.
--	--

【解析】转折处设推理判断题。第二段第二句 but 后以及尾段尾句 But 后的内容可以看出, 规则制定者做出让步会招致更大的妥协压力, 这就意味着其独立性的削弱, 故选 [D]。

熟悉题目咋设 清晰题目咋做

Part A

第6讲

事实细节题 3 种考查方式

三、例证关系

这种类型的题目主要考查考生对于作者在文章中进行举例目的理解, 也就是说, 需要考生找出文章中某一个具体的实例所论证的观点。

【例3】

It has long been known that a taxi firm called AAAA cars has a big advantage over Zodiac cars when customers thumb through their phone directories. Less well known is the advantage that Adam Abbott has in life over Zoe 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.	26. What does the author intend to illustrate with AAAA cars and Zodiac cars? [A] A kind of overlooked inequality. [B] A type of conspicuous bias. [C] A type of personal prejudice. [D] A kind of brand discrimination.
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【解析】文章第二段主要举例论述由按字母表顺序排列所引起的不公平现象, 以此来论证第一段提到的文章主题“许多人还没有意识到这种不平等和歧视现象”, 故 [A] 正确。

适当利用技巧 思路清楚明了

Part A

第12讲

4 招妙解语义理解题

三、利用词汇衔接关系

词汇衔接关系包括同义词、反义词、上下义词的复现衔接, 作者通常使用不同的词汇来进行描述一个主题。在找语义理解题答案时, 一定要注意前后句的词义关系, 利用这些词义关系的解释和说明功能得出答案。

【例3】

(06-37)

People in earlier eras were surrounded by reminders of misery. They worked until exhausted, lived with few protections and died young. In the West, before mass communication and literacy, the most powerful mass medium was the church, which reminded worshippers that their souls were in danger and that they would someday be meat for worms. Given all this, they did not exactly need their art to be a bummer too.	37. The word "bummer" (Line 1, Para. 5) most probably means something [A] religious [B] unpleasant [C] entertaining [D] commercial
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【解析】该段首句点明主题“早期的人们的处境悲苦”, 接着具体说明其表现, 最后一句总结在上述条件下, 人们不再希望艺术是一种 bummer, 可见, bummer 与上文的 misery“悲苦”和 danger“危险”相呼应, 是同义复现衔接, 故选 [B]。

特色内容 先睹为快

分析句间关系 发现做题线索

Part B 第3讲 5种必熟句际关系

一、顺接关系

顺接关系也叫顺承关系或并列关系,表示对前一个事实或观点做进一步的阐述,后句是前句的延续或补充,标识词主要有 also, too, besides, similarly, further, moreover, likewise, in addition, furthermore, what's more, not only... but also..., some... others... still others, then, after that, when(this happens) 等。

【例1】

(选择搭配题)

In a recent survey, it was found that only 24.5 percent of Japanese students were fully satisfied with school life, compared with 67.2 percent of students in the United States.

[A] In addition, far more Japanese workers expressed dissatisfaction with their jobs than did their counterparts in the 10 other countries surveyed.

【分析】前一句话把日本学生和美国学生对学校生活的满意情况做了比较,选项[A]由 in addition 引出了比较的另一个方面,即对工作的满意情况。因此,[A]是第1题答案。

联系上文下文 答案轻松现身

Part B 第4讲 4种通用做题技巧

四、共现结构推测法

共现又叫搭配性衔接,意指一系列相关的词项在篇章中的经常共现。搭配性衔接对语言信息的生成和解释均有一定的指导作用,有助于对篇章的潜在的语义演进做出预测和推测。

【例4】

(观点例证题)

4. Entertainment for young and old.

As well as scores of cinemas and theatres throughout the city and suburbs, there are numerous clubs which appeal to people of all ages, and cater for all tastes.

[C] Pubs are the venue for smaller modern bands, while the big-name popular music artists, both local and international, attract capacity audiences at the huge Entertainment Centre in the heart of the city.

【解析】主题句中谈到老老少少的娱乐,其中,中心词为 entertainment;选项[C]中提到的 pubs, big-name popular music artists, the huge Entertainment Centre 和主题句下面一段中提到的 cinemas, theatres, clubs 都是主题句中心词的共现。

理解题目难点 一一针对训练

Part C 第1讲 7大明显题目特征

三、语法现象复杂

句中含有比较复杂的语法现象,如被动语态、虚拟语气、非谓语动词、强调句、倒装结构、比较结构等,翻译时需要进行分析结构和推理。

【例4】

(10-48)

【试题】
Time was when biologists somewhat overworked the evidence that these creatures preserve the health of game by killing the physically weak, or that they prey only on "worthless species".

【分析】
这个句子中既有表语从句,又有同位语从句。当引导表语从句,其中又包含两个 that 引导的并列的同位语从句说明 evidence,这两个同位语从句为并列选择关系。

【妙译】曾几何时,生物学家总是重述以下的这条证据:这些生物通过捕食弱小的动物去维持生物链的正常运行,或它们只是去捕食“没有价值的物种”。

练透常用方法 上场胸有成竹

Part C 第5讲 6种从句翻译技巧

一、定语从句

1. 前置法

把英语原文的定语从句翻译成带“的”的定语词组,置于被修饰词前,将英语原文的复合句翻译成汉语的简单句,这种方法适用于限制性定语从句比较短的情况下,另外一些较短的具有描述性的非限制性定语从句也可采用前置法。

【例1】

(08-49)

【试题】
He adds humbly that perhaps he was "superior to the common run of men in noticing things which easily escape attention, and in observing them carefully."

【分析】
复合句。which 引导的定语从句修饰 things,直接采用“前置法”翻译成“的”字结构的定语。in noticing 与 in noticing 并列,前面省略了 superior to the common run of men。

【妙译】他谦虚地补充道,或许他“和普通人比起来,更能够注意到那些别人不容易注意到的东西,更能够对它们详细地观察”。

前言

考研阅读有点难

今年,考研英语结束后,我们对北京、西安、上海、武汉十几所高校的考生做了一次交流访谈,很多人反映,阅读题目有点难。

首先,题型不适应。试卷上三种不同的题型,他们感觉有些茫然,不得要领,每种题型怎么应对、怎么解答,都感觉没有章法。

试卷上只出现了三种题型,其实,考研阅读有六种题型:篇章阅读、选择搭配、段落排序、观点例证、概括大意、英译汉,其中篇章阅读与英译汉属必考题型,每次试卷上都有,选择搭配、段落排序、观点例证、概括大意属备选题型,每次考试只考一种。

其次,做题没把握。每个题目,主要在考什么,解答题眼在哪,如何获取答案,感觉不是很清晰,做起题来,心里也就没有底。

然后,阅读不顺畅。一篇文章中,陌生词汇,长句难句,不时牵绊,每每导致理解受阻、思路卡壳,阅读起来可谓步步维艰。

最后,时间不够用。考前也做了不少练习题,感觉速度还可以了,可一上场,一下显得捉襟见肘,速度慢了,时间紧张得不行。

复习得法是关键

我们分析认为,考生考场上感觉考研阅读难、不适应,可能主要由如下的原因所致。

1. 题型不熟悉 不同的阅读题型,有着不同的考查倾向、不同的能力要求、不同的设题特点、不同的做题方法。对每个题型不熟悉、不理解,复习中就不能针对练习、针对提高,形成一套有针对性的做题思路,考场上,也就不能做到不同题型、不同应对、有章有法。

2. 方法没掌握 不同的阅读题型,针对该题型的设题特点,都有一些行之有效的阅读方法、做题方法,理解、掌握、运用这些方法,可以给您的阅读能力锦上添花、平添双翼。相反,不熟悉这些方法,考场上就会影响做题速度、影响做题节奏,时间会变得很紧张。

3. 练习不充分 不同题型做题方法的理解、领悟,不同题型做题技巧的熟练、运用,都需要在充分的练习当中去深化、去体味。同时,没有充分的练习,阅读能力也很难有一个切实的磨练和提高。所以,要想考场上对阅读轻松应对、游刃有余,场下需要充分的练习。

4. 做题不精细 不少考生考前也读了不少的文章,做了不少的题目,但往往每篇文章读完了,做一下题目,对一下答案,就完了,陌生词汇没有好好掌握,长句难句没有好好分析,这次卡壳,下次还是卡壳。这样,读而不精,做而不思,致使能力并未得到扎实提高。

本书内容与特色

全书共四篇,第一至三篇分别对Part A、Part B、Part C共六种题型的选文特点、设题特点、做题思路、技能技巧等讲练结合、深层领会,第四篇给出6套综合预测让您融会贯通、整合提升。

Part A为篇章阅读,Part B包括选择搭配、段落排序、观点例证、概括大意四种题型,Part C为英译汉。

1. 题型特点 清晰透视 第一至三篇每个题型巅峰讲座中,对该题型考查倾向、能力要求、选文特点,一一审视、层层透析,让您深入理解、领会做好该题型的能力要求、努力方向。

2. 设题环节 深度挖掘 第一至三篇每个题型巅峰讲座中,对该题型设题方式、设题环节、设题特点,一一道来、深度解密,让您对每个题设题初衷、对应信息豁然开朗、耳目一新。

3. 做题思路 个性归纳 第一至三篇每个题型巅峰讲座中,对该题型阅读方法、推理方法、判断方法,一一归纳、娓娓讲解,让您对每一种题目类型,都能做到轻松应对、有章有法。

4. 实用技巧 独家点拨 第一至三篇每个题型巅峰讲座中,对该题型阅读技巧、做题技巧、判断技巧,一一总结、实用点拨,让您对每一种题目类型,都能做到心有灵犀、一看就通。

5. 即讲即练 马上体会 第一至三篇每个题型巅峰讲座后——每一类题型特点、设题环节、做题思路、实用技巧结合实例讲完了,马上给出精选典型练习,让您理解领会刚讲过的内容。

6. 巅峰练习 各个击破 第一至三篇每个部分的最后一讲,给出一定数量的该部分的阅读练习,让您在前面即讲即练后,再对该部分来一个单项的综合性训练,以融会贯通该部分题型。

7. 巅峰预测 整合提升 第一至三篇对各个题型讲练结合、各个击破后,第四篇给出6套综合阅读试题,让您在前面各个题型单项训练的基础上,整合模拟、全面升华,培养临考状态。

8. 练习充分 设题标准 第一至三篇中各题型即讲即练、巅峰练习和第四篇综合的巅峰预测,合计文章108篇,练习充分。108篇最时新文章,语料标准、设题标准、难度标准、解析标准。

9. 全文翻译 词句分析 108篇阅读练习,每篇文章均给出准确地道的全文翻译,让您深刻理解、着眼细节,每篇文章均注释重点词汇、分析长句难句,让您扎实能力,做一篇提高一篇。

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第一篇

阅读理解Part A

阅读理解 Part A 包含 4 篇文章，每篇文章大约为 400 词，后设 5 个题，每题 4 个选项，4 篇文章共 20 个题，总分为 40 分。此题型主要考查考生理解主旨要义、具体信息、概念性含义、进行有关的推断、推理和引申、根据上下文猜测生词的词义等能力。



第1讲

6 种常选文章结构

巅峰讲座

文章的结构也就是文章的内容组织形式,掌握了它就能把握作者的写作思路,从而观察文章语段展开的方式,很好地理解文章,之后轻松地答题。结合近十年来的考题,我们将考研阅读文章的结构模式分为以下几种类型:

一、现象解释型

这种结构模式的文章作者一般开头先摆出一种现象或提出一个概念,接着围绕这一概念或现象进一步解释说明,最后总结这一现象产生的意义或再一次阐述概念;或者是摆出现象,阐述现象可能产生的后果,最后提出自己的建议。总体而言,主线有两条,即提出现象——解释原因——总结意义或摆出现象——阐述后果——总结建议。

【例1】

(08-Text 1)

【原文】

While still catching up to men in some spheres of modern life, women appear to be way ahead in at least one undesirable category. "Women are particularly susceptible to developing depression and anxiety disorders in response to stress compared to men," according to Dr. Yehuda, chief psychiatrist at New York's Veteran's Administration Hospital.

Studies of both animals and humans have shown that sex hormones somehow affect the stress response, causing females under stress to produce more of the trigger chemicals than do males under the same conditions. In several of the studies, when stressed-out female rats had their ovaries (the female reproductive organs) removed, their chemical responses became equal to those of the males.

Adding to a woman's increased dose of stress chemicals, are her increased "opportunities" for stress. "It's not necessarily that women don't cope as well. It's just that they have so much more to cope with," says Dr. Yehuda. "Their capacity for tolerating stress may even be greater than men's," she observes, "it's just that they're dealing with so many more things that they become worn out from it more visibly and sooner."

Dr. Yehuda notes another difference between the sexes. "I think that the kinds of things that women are exposed to tend to be in more of a chronic or repeated nature. Men go to war and are exposed to combat stress. Men are exposed to more acts of random physical violence. The kinds of interpersonal violence that women are exposed to tend to be in domestic situations, by, unfortunately, parents or other family members, and they tend not to be one-shot deals. The wear-and-tear that comes from these longer relationships can be quite devastating."

Adeline Alvarez married at 18 and gave birth to a son, but was determined to finish college, "I struggled a lot to get the college degree, I was living in so much frustration that that was my escape, to go to school, and get ahead and do better." Later, her marriage ended and she became a single mother. "It's the hardest thing to take care of a teenager, have a job, pay the rent, pay the car payment, and pay the debt. I lived from paycheck to paycheck."

【分析】

本文是一篇现象解释型文章。文章采用“提出现象——解释原因——总结意义”的模式展开。

首段提出一种社会现象:男女由于应付压力的差异,在相同的情况下女性更容易遭受压力的困扰。

第二段开始解释这一现象产生的原因:指出女性的压力大是由于荷尔蒙的分泌问题造成的。

第三、四、五段仍为解释原因部分;利用叶胡达医生的研究成果说明女性易受压力困扰是因为:女性需要应对的压力过多(第三段),而且女性应对的压力种类与男性不同(第四段);

第五段则以 Alvarez 的事例进一步说明第四段。

Not everyone experiences the kinds of severe chronic stresses Alvarez describes. But most women today are coping with a lot of obligations, with few breaks, and feeling the strain, Alvarez's experience demonstrates the importance of finding ways to diffuse stress before it threatens your health and your ability to function.

最后一段为总结建议部分:女性应该寻找出路释放压力,同时意在引起我们对舒缓女性压力这个问题的重视。

二、信息传播型

这种结构的文章表达方式事实多,细节详细(包括人物、地点、时间、情景、特点等等),多为说明性体裁的文章。阅读时要尽量记忆文章所介绍的各条信息,可以根据内容进行分析,提纲挈领地记住短文的中心思想,也可以运用想象力设想所介绍的事物或情景的各个方面。这类文章的题目若出现观点态度题,答案一般为 impartial, objective 之类表示客观的形容词。

【例2】

(08-Text 2)

【原文】

It used to be so straightforward. A team of researchers working together in the laboratory would submit the results of their research to a journal. A journal editor would then remove the authors' names and affiliations from the paper and send it to their peers for review. Depending on the comments received, the editor would accept the paper for publication or decline it. Copyright rested with the journal publisher, and researchers seeking knowledge of the results would have to subscribe to the journal.

No longer. The Internet — and pressure from funding agencies, who are questioning why commercial publishers are making money from government-funded research by restricting access to it — is making access to scientific results a reality. The Organization for Economic Co-operation and Development (OECD) has just issued a report describing the far-reaching consequences of this. The report, by John Houghton of Victoria University in Australia and Graham Vickery of the OECD, makes heavy reading for publishers who have, so far, made handsome profits. But it goes further than that. It signals a change in what has, until now, been a key element of scientific endeavor.

The value of knowledge and the return on the public investment in research depends, in part, upon wide distribution and ready access. It is big business. In America, the core scientific publishing market is estimated at between \$7 billion and \$11 billion. The International Association of Scientific, Technical and Medical Publishers says that there are more than 2,000 publishers worldwide specializing in these subjects. They publish more than 1.2 million articles each year in some 16,000 journals.

This is now changing. According to the OECD report, some 75% of scholarly journals are now online. Entirely new business models are emerging; three main ones were identified by the report's authors. There is the so-called big deal, where institutional subscribers pay for access to a collection of online journal titles through site-licensing agreements. There is open-access publishing, typically supported by asking the author (or his employer) to pay for the paper to be published. Finally, there are open-access archives, where organizations such as universities or international laboratories support institutional repositories. Other models exist that are hybrids of these three, such as delayed open-access, where journals allow only subscribers to read a paper for the first six months, before making it freely available to everyone who wishes to see it. All this could change the traditional form of the peer-review process, at least for the publication of papers.

【分析】

本文是一篇信息传播型文章,主要介绍了一种新型出版业——网络出版的出现及其对传统出版业的影响。

第一段以过去引出话题,介绍过去如何发表论文。注意全段均为过去时态,是对过去情况的描述。

第二段描述当今学术期刊的出版情况。注意首句的 No longer 开始转向当今的情况,说明 Internet 的重要影响,不仅影响传统出版业的利润,而且标记着科学方面的重大变化。

第三段举例说明传统出版业是一个利润巨大的行业。

第四段具体阐述公众阅读方式与研究人员发表论文方式的变化:学术期刊四种不同的商业模式导致论文发展方式的改变。注意三种主要模式的介绍使用 There be 排比句式。

三、观点论证型

这是论说文常用的一种结构模式,对于这种类型的阅读,考生掌握了作者的观点立场以及相关的论证,也就掌握了这篇文章的得分点。这种类型的文章按照观点提出的先后又可以分为 G—S 型观点论证与 S—G 型观点论证。

G—S 型,即 general—specific,又称为一般——特殊型或者演绎型文章:文章开头先给一个 General Statements,之后的部分是 Specific Sentences,是一种由总到分、由大到小的组织模式。这种模式在考研英语阅读文章中最为常见。这类文章遵循从观点到材料,从抽象到具体的逻辑法则,其基本框架是先总论后分论,中心论点出现在分论之前。

S—G 型则相反,采用的是由分到总的行文格式,这类文章先从数据、科学观察、实验结果和引用权威等事实论据出发引发一个议题;最后得出结论。

【例 3】

(07-Text 1)

【原文】

If you were to examine the birth certificates of every soccer player in 2006's World Cup tournament, you would most likely find a noteworthy quirk: elite soccer players are most likely to have been born in the earlier months of the year than in the later months. If you then examined the European national youth teams that feed the World Cup and professional ranks, you would find this strange phenomenon to be even more pronounced.

What might account for this strange phenomenon? Here are a few guesses: a) certain astrological signs confer superior soccer skills; b) winter-born babies tend to have higher oxygen capacity, which increases soccer stamina; c) soccer-mad parents are more likely to conceive children in springtime, at the annual peak of soccer mania; d) none of the above.

Anders Ericsson, a 58-year-old psychology professor at Florida State University, says he believes strongly in "none of the above." Ericsson grew up in Sweden, and studied nuclear engineering until he realized he would have more opportunity to conduct his own research if he switched to psychology. His first experiment, nearly 30 years ago, involved memory: training a person to hear and then repeat a random series of numbers. "With the first subject, after about 20 hours of training, his digit span had risen from 7 to 20," Ericsson recalls. "He kept improving, and after about 200 hours of training he had risen to over 80 numbers."

This success, coupled with later research showing that memory itself is not genetically determined, led Ericsson to conclude that the act of memorizing is more of a cognitive exercise than an intuitive one. In other words, whatever in-born differences two people may exhibit in their abilities to memorize those differences are swamped by how well each person "encodes" the information. And the best way to learn how to encode information meaningfully, Ericsson determined, was a process known as deliberate practice. Deliberate practice entails more than simply repeating a task. Rather, it involves setting specific goals, obtaining immediate feedback and concentrating as much on technique as on outcome.

Ericsson and his colleagues have thus taken to studying expert performers in a wide range of pursuits, including soccer. They gather all the data they can, not just performance statistics and biographical details but also the results of their own laboratory experiments with high achievers. Their work makes a rather startling assertion: the trait we commonly call talent is highly overrated. Or, put another way, expert performers — whether in memory or surgery, ballet or computer programming — are nearly always made, not born.

【分析】

本文是一篇观点论证型文章。文章采用 S—G 的行文格式就足球运动员的生日多数在上半年来这一奇怪现象的研究出发,论证了训练对人的成就的重要性。

文章以一个奇怪现象引入主题:好的足球运动员一般都出生在上半年来;然后在第二段给出四个猜测性的解释;注意冒号后 a), b), c), d) 的列举。

第三、四段以佛罗里达州立大学心理学教授 Ericsson 的研究为例说明记忆力是后天训练,而不是先天遗传的结果,才华来自刻意练习 (deliberate practice)。

最后一段以心理学教授的研究为例进一步证明杰出的成就——包括足球,是训练出来的,而不是天生的。该段既是全文观点的总结,同时也解释了首段提出的奇怪现象产生的原因。注意冒号后是对全文论述观点的总结。

四、事实证明型

坚持到底，胜利在望

这类文章往往有个结论，或放在开头，或放在结尾，余者为数据、科学观察、实验结果和引用权威等事实。G—S或S—G即由总到分或由分到总的行文格式。它和观点论证型的不同在于：这种文章没有个人观点，因此就不会有观点论证型文章中的那些短语。阅读时要先抓住结论，然后仔细理解每项证据，可以假设自己并不信服结论，看作者如何逐步说服读者。

【例 1】 (08-Text 3)

【原文】

In the early 1960s Wilt Chamberlain was one of only three players in the National Basketball Association (NBA) listed at over seven feet. If he had played last season, however, he would have been one of 42. The bodies playing major professional sports have changed dramatically over the years, and managers have been more than willing to adjust team uniforms to fit the growing numbers of bigger, longer frames.

The trend in sports, though, may be obscuring an unrecognized reality:

①Americans have generally stopped growing. Though typically about two

inches taller now than 140 years ago, today's people — especially those born to families who have lived in the U. S. for many generations —

②apparently reached their limit in the early 1960s. And they aren't likely to get any taller. "In the general population today, at this genetic, environ-

mental level, we've pretty much gone as far as we can go," says anthropologist, William Cameron Chumlea of Wright State University. In the

case of NBA players, their increase in height appears to result from the increasingly common practice of recruiting players from all over the world.

Growth, which rarely continues beyond the age of 20, demands calories and nutrients — notably, protein — to feed expanding tissues. At the start of the 20th century, under-nutrition and childhood infections got in the way. But as diet and health improved, children and adolescents have, on average, increased in height by about an inch and a half every 20 years, a pattern known as the secular trend in height. Yet according to the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, average height — 5'9" for men, 5'4" for women — hasn't really changed since 1960.

Genetically speaking, there are advantages to avoiding substantial height. During childbirth, larger babies have more difficulty passing through the birth canal. Moreover, even though humans have been upright for millions of years, our feet and back continue to struggle with bipedal posture and cannot easily withstand repeated strain imposed by oversize limbs. "There are some real constraints that are set by the genetic architecture of the individual organism," says anthropologist William Leonard of Northwestern University.

Genetic maximums can change, but don't expect this to happen soon. Claire C. Gordon, senior anthropologist at the Army Research Center in Natick, Mass., ensures that 90 percent of the uniforms and workstations fit recruits without alteration. She says that, unlike those for basketball, the length of military uniforms has not changed for some time. And if you need to predict human height in the near future to design a piece of equipment, Gordon says that by and large, "you could use today's data and feel fairly confident."

【分析】

本文是一篇事实证明型文章。文章采用的是 G—S 行文格式，主要讲述了由于受基因的限制，美国人不再长高这一事实。

第一段以 NBA 球员身高为例引出话题：美国人的身高问题。

第二段通过第一段的举例得出事实：美国人的平均身高已经停止增长。

①注意段首句中冒号后的总结。此处为总述内容。

②破折号后内容通过比较重申本文论述的事实：美国人的身高 20 世纪 60 年代初期就达到极限，不可能再增长。

第三段以科学数据说明身高的增长主要在 20 岁以前，而且需要大量的热量和营养物质，尤其是蛋白质。

第四段从遗传学的角度说明身高增长不是过快也有优势。接着又引用权威的话说明基因限制身高增长过快。

最后一段再度说明基因极限可以改变，但不能指望近期内改变，也就是说美国人的身高已经达到基因增长极限。