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Skills for NETEM

# 考研英语 技巧

## 阅读理解提速技巧

主编：中国人民大学 江庆心

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ESPH 教育科学出版社

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2003 版

# 考研英语技巧


## 阅读理解提速技巧

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《聚焦英语》总顾问：

薄冰

翟象俊

### 薄冰

北京外国语大学英语系教授，从事英语教学工作 50 余年，尤其专长英语语法的教学与研究，对英汉翻译亦有较深的造诣。现主持《英语世界》、《英语沙龙》和《大学英语》等刊物的咨询专栏，其主要论著如《英语语法手册》、《英语时态详解》、《高级英语语法》、《薄冰英语语法(袖珍本)》等，几十年来，一直是广大英语学习者首选的优质工具书。

### 翟象俊

1960 年复旦大学外文系本科毕业，1966 年研究生毕业。曾任复旦大学英语部主任兼外文系副主任、教授、硕士生导师，享受国务院特殊津贴。上海市翻译家协会副会长，曾参与《英汉大词典》、《英汉双解英语短语动词词典》的编写。主编《大学英语》(精读)及“九五”国家重点教材《21 世纪大学英语》(共 16 册)；译著有《乱世佳人》、《钱商》和《阿马罗神父的罪恶》及英、美作家海明威、霍桑、贝克等的作品。



# 前言 Preface

一年一度的硕士研究生入学考试,给每个立志成材的学者提供了尽显才能的良机,也赋予了他们以强大的挑战。

历年硕士研究生入学英语考试中“阅读理解”部分,不仅对考生的知识面、阅读速度进行测试,而且也包含对考生理解的准确率、词汇量等各方面能力的考察,检验考生英语综合能力。在所有的测试项目中阅读理解又占到最大比例(40%),无疑阅读理解作为考试的重点和难点,几乎成为决定考生成败的关键。

“冰冻三尺,非一日之寒”。尽管考生一直在通过阅读来学习英语,但是学习的效果总是不甚明显。除此而外,考生在选择阅读材料和复习准备方法的偏差,更会造成事倍功半。为了帮助考生在有限的时间内尽快提高阅读理解速度和准确率,几位在大学英语一线从事英语教学工作的教师和富有长期考研辅导经验的教师,认真编选题目,将这本《考研英语技巧——阅读理解提速技巧》奉献给广大考研读者,希望它能为广大考生的成功助一臂之力。

本书包括 50 套阅读模拟试题,每套题目都严格按照考试大纲要求,从题量、难度、题材和体裁等诸多方面接近考试真题要求。为了使考生能够在练习的过程中对题目及其中的知识点透彻理解,在每套题目后附有答案和明晰、条理的解答,以便读者在练习的同时尽快提高。

## 建议考生在使用本书时,要做到以下几点:

1. 预先安排好科学的练习时间,每次至少 1 个小时;
2. 在练习过程中遇到难题,要立即在题目上标记或在练习纸上记录,以备练习完毕后仔细核对和深入理解;
3. 在练习的前一段要留意自己的阅读速度,但不必严格限制速度。因为第一阶段的练习应该在要求准确率的前提下提高速度;
4. 做完一整套题目之后再回头检查答案和参照答案分析;
5. 在解答完一套练习题目之后,要回头将其中一篇中等难度的文章再次精读,基本做到理解其中的每句话,也可以将其中的一段英文翻译成中文,将理解和翻译结合起来,既可以检查自己的理解准确与否,又可以在联系翻译的同时将理解和翻译能力同时提高;
6. 在练习的过程中逐步提高速度,争取在两个月之内将速度提高到 55 分钟完成一个单元的四篇阅读。

李彦红、江富霞和初萌等也为本书做了大量的文字录入和校对工作,在此向她们表示感谢。囿于作者的水平和能力限制,书中的疏漏之处,还望同行和读者批评指正。

编者

# Unit One

## Passage 1

It was a cold, rainy and wholly miserable afternoon in Washington, and a hot muggy night in Miami. It was Sunday, and three games were played in the two cities. The people playing them and the people watching them tell us much about the ever-changing ethnic structure of the United States.

Professional football in the United States is almost wholly played by native-born American citizens, mostly very large and very strong, many of them black. It is a game of physical strength. Linemen routinely weigh more than 300 pounds. Players are valued for their weight and muscles, for how fast they can run, and how hard they can hit each other. Football draws the biggest crowds, but the teams play only once a week, because they get so battered.

The 67,204 fans were in Miami for the final game of the baseball World Series. Baseball was once America's favorite game, but has lost that claim to basketball.

Baseball is a game that requires strength, but not hugeness. Agility, quickness, perfect vision and quick reaction are more important than pure strength. Baseball was once a purely American game, but has spread around much of the New World. In that Sunday's final, the final hit of the extra inning game was delivered by a native of Columbia. The Most Valuable Player in the game was a native of Columbia. The rosters of both teams were awash with Hispanic names, as is Miami, which now claims the World Championship is a game that may be losing popularity in America, but has gained it in much of the rest of the world. Baseball in America has taken on a strong Hispanic flavor, with a dash of Japanese added for seasoning.

Soccer, which many countries just call football, is the most widely enjoyed sport in the world. In soccer, which many countries just call football, the ethnic tide has been the reverse of baseball's. Until recently, professional soccer in the United States have largely been an import, played by South Americans and Europeans. Now, American citizens in large numbers are finally taking up the most popular game in the world.

Basketball, an American invention increasingly played around the world, these days draws large crowds back home. Likewise, hockey, a game largely imported to the United States from neighboring Canada. Lacrosse, a version of which was played by Native Americans before the Europeans arrived, is also gaining a keen national following.

Sports of all kinds are winning support from American armchair enthusiasts from a variety of ethnic backgrounds.

1. Which of the following can reflect the ever-changing ethnic structure of America?

- A. Sportsman.      B. Audience.      C. Both of them.      D. None of them.



2. Who play professional football in the United States?
- A. Native-born American citizens.                      B. Europeans.  
C. South Americans.    D. Both B and C.
3. What is America's favorite game?
- A. Baseball.     B. Basketball.  
C. Professional football.    D. Soccer.
4. Which of the following statements about soccer is true?
- A. In soccer and basketball, the ethnic tide is different.  
B. Until recently, soccer becomes an important game, so many native Americans play it.  
C. It is the most popular game in the world, so many American citizens take up it.  
D. Although soccer is the most popular game in the world, American citizens in large numbers do not like first.
5. The author of the passage wants to tell us that \_\_\_\_\_.
- A. Americans like sports and sports reveal much about the changing ethnic structure of the United States  
B. In Washington, several games are played in one day  
C. Americans like all kinds of games  
D. The American games are watched by native-Americans and played by people from different countries

**Passage 2**

The war was the most peaceful period of my life. The window of my bedroom faced south-east. My mother had curtained it, but that had small effect. I always woke up with the first light and, with all the responsibilities of the previous day melted, felt myself rather like the sun, ready to shine and feel joy. Life never seemed so simple and clear and full of possibilities as then. I stuck my feet out under the sheets—I called them Mrs. Left and Mrs. Right—and invented dramatic situations for them in which they discussed the problems of the day. At least Mrs. Right did; she easily showed her feelings, but I didn't have the same control of Mrs. Left, so she mostly contented herself with nodding agreement.

They discussed what Mother and I should do during the day, what Santa Claus should give a fellow for Christmas, and what steps should be taken to brighten the home. There was that little matter of the baby, for instance. Mother and I could never agree about that. Ours was the only house in the neighborhood without a new baby, and Mother said we couldn't afford one till Father came back from the war because it cost seventeen and six. That showed how foolish she was. The Geneys up the road had a baby, and everyone knew they couldn't afford seventeen and six. It was probably a cheap baby, and Mother wanted something really good, but I felt she was too hard to please. The Geneys' baby would have done us fine.

Having settled my plans for the day, I got up, put a chair under my window, and lifted



the frame high enough to stick out my head. The window overlooked the front gardens of the homes behind ours, and beyond these it looked over a deep valley to the tall, red-brick house up the opposite hillside, which were all still shadow, while those on our side of the valley were all lit up, though with long straoqe shadows that made them seem unfamiliar, stiff and painted.

After that I went into Mother's room and climbed into the big bed. She woke and I began to tell her of my schemes. By this time, though I never seem to have noticed it, I was freezing in my nightshirt, but I warmed up as I talked until the last frost melted. I fell asleep beside her and woke again only when I heard her below in the kitchen, making breakfast.

6. How did the author feel early in the morning?
- A. He felt frightened by the war.  
 B. He felt cheerful.  
 C. He felt puzzled by the dramatic situations around him.  
 D. He felt burdened with responsibilities.
7. When he woke up in the morning, he would \_\_\_\_\_.
- A. visit Mrs. Left and Mrs. Right  
 B. roll up the curtains  
 C. try to work out his plans for the day  
 D. make Mrs. Left argue with Mrs. Right
8. What did the author think of his mother?
- A. She was stubborn.  
 B. She was poor.  
 C. She was not very intelligent.  
 D. She did not love him very much.
9. Where was the author's father during the war?
- A. He was out on business.  
 B. He was working in another town.  
 C. He went traveling.  
 D. He was fighting in the front.
10. In which month did the story probably take place?
- A. In January.  
 B. In September.  
 C. In December.  
 D. In November.

### Passage 3

The importance and focus of the interview in the work of the print and broadcast journalist is reflected in several books that have been written on the topic. Most of these books, as well as several chapters, mainly in, but not limited to, journalism and broadcasting handbooks and reporting texts, stress the "how to" aspects of journalistic interviewing rather than the conceptual aspects of the interview, its context, and impressions. As we know, in journalism as in other fields, much can be learned from the systematic study of professional practice. Such study brings together evidence from which broad generalized principles can be developed.

There is, as has been suggested, a growing body of research literature in journalism and broadcasting, but very little significant attention has been devoted to the study of the interview itself. On the other hand, many general texts as well as numerous research articles on interviewing in fields other than journalism have been written. Many of these books and articles pre-





sent the theoretical and empirical(经验的) aspects of the interview as well as the training of the interviewers. Unhappily, this plentiful general literature about interviewing pays little attention to the journalistic interview. The fact that the general literature on interviewing does not deal with the journalistic interview seems to be surprising for two reasons. First, it seems likely that most people in modern Western societies are more familiar, at least in a positive manner, with journalistic interviewing than with any other form of interviewing. Most of us are probably somewhat familiar with the clinical interview, such as that conducted by physicians and psychologists. In these situations the professional person or interviewer is interested in getting information necessary for the diagnosis(诊断) and treatment of the person seeking help. Another familiar situation is the job interview. However, very few of us have actually been interviewed personally by the mass media, particularly by television. And yet, we have a vivid acquaintance with the journalistic interview by virtue of our roles as readers, listeners, and viewers. Even so, true understanding of the journalistic interview, especially television interviews, requires thoughtful analysis and even study, as this book indicates.

11. The main idea of the first paragraph is that \_\_\_\_\_.
  - A. generalized principles for journalistic interviews are the chief concern for writers on journalism
  - B. concepts and contextual implications are of secondary importance to journalistic interviewing
  - C. importance should be attached to the systematic study of journalistic interviewing
  - D. personal experiences and general impressions should be excluded from journalistic interviews
12. Much research has been done on interviews in general \_\_\_\_\_.
  - A. but journalistic interviewing as specific field has unfortunately been neglected
  - B. though the study of the interviewing techniques hasn't received much attention
  - C. so the training of journalistic interviewers has likewise been strengthened
  - D. and there has also been a dramatic growth in the study of journalistic interviewing
13. Westerners are familiar with the journalistic interview, \_\_\_\_\_.
  - A. but most of them wish to stay away from it
  - B. and many of them hope to be interviewed some day
  - C. but most of them may not have been interviewed in person
  - D. and many of them would like to acquire a true understanding of it
14. Who is the interviewee in a clinical interview?
  - A. The psychologist.
  - B. The physician.
  - C. The journalist.
  - D. The patient.
15. The passage is most likely a part of \_\_\_\_\_.
  - A. a news article
  - B. a preface
  - C. a research report
  - D. a journalistic interview



## Passage 4

Less than a year ago, a new generation of diet pills seemed to offer the long-sought answer to our chronic weight problems. Hundreds of thousands of pound-conscious Americans had discovered that a drug combination known as “fen-phen” could shut off voracious appetites like magic, and the FDA had just approved a new drug, Redux, that did the same with fewer side effects. Redux would attract hundreds of thousands of new pill poppers within a few months.

But now the diet-drug revolution is facing a backlash. Some of the nation’s largest HMOs, including Aetna U.S. Healthcare and Prudential Healthcare have begun cutting back or eliminating reimbursement (退款补偿、报销) for both pills. Diet chains like Jenny Craig and Nutri/System are backing away from them too. Several states, meanwhile, have restricted the use of fen-phen. Last week the Florida legislature banned new prescriptions entirely and called on doctors to wean (使断绝) current patients from the drug within 30 days; it also put a 90-day limit on Redux prescriptions. Even New Jersey doctor Sheldon Levine, who touted Redux last year on TV and in his book *The Redux Revolution*, has stopped giving it to all but his most obese patients.

The reason for all the retrenchment (紧缩、删节): potentially lethal side effects. Over the summer, the FDA revealed that 82 patients had developed defects in their heart valves while on fen-phen, and that seven patients had come down with the same condition on Redux.

As if that weren’t bad enough, physicians reported that a woman who had been taking fen-phen for less than a month died of primary pulmonary hypertension, a sometimes fatal lung condition already associated with Redux. And an article in the *Journal of the American Medical Association* last month confirmed earlier reports that both fen-phen and Redux can cause brain damage in lab animals.

These findings led the *New England Journal* to publish editorial admonishing doctors to prescribe the drugs only for patients with severe obesity. Meanwhile, FDA asked drug makers to put more explicit warnings on fen-phen and Redux labels. Since mid-July, prescriptions for fen-phen have dropped 56%, and those for Redux 36%, according to IMS America, a pharmaceutical-market research firm.

All that really does, however, is to bring the numbers down to where they should have been all along. Manufacturers said from the start that their pills offered a short-term therapy for the obese, not for people looking to fit into a smaller bathing suit. FDA approved Redux with just such a caveat, and when limited to these patients, the drugs may still make sense—despite the risks—because morbid obesity carries its own dangers, including heart disease, diabetes and stroke. Too often, however, Redux and fen-phen were peddled to all comers, almost like candy. The current backlash, says Levine, is a “roller coaster that never should have happened.”



16. The new pills seemed to be a solution to \_\_\_\_\_.
- A. the problem of obesity, that has obsessed the Americans for a long time
  - B. the problem that is of great weight and significance
  - C. the vital problem caused by the pills
  - D. the threatening situation we are facing in the long run
17. The statement "diet-drug revolution is facing a backlash" is supported by the following facts except \_\_\_\_\_.
- A. diet chains and some of the HMOs have removed their support for the pills
  - B. some states have limited or forbidden the prescriptions of the diet pills
  - C. in Florida, patients are told to turn away from the use of fen-phen within a month
  - D. Sheldon Levine, a New Jersey doctor, touted one of the pills on TV and in his book
18. The worst case that revealed the fatal dark side of the diet pills is \_\_\_\_\_.
- A. 82 patients on fen-phen and seven on Redux had developed heart defects
  - B. a woman patient on fen-phen had died of abnormally high blood pressure
  - C. a woman patient on fen-phen had died of a lung disease
  - D. both diet pills cause brain damage
19. New England Journal admonished doctors to \_\_\_\_\_.
- A. give the pills only to the severely overweight persons
  - B. take the obese patients off the drugs completely
  - C. drop the prescriptions for the pills drastically
  - D. put clearer warnings on the drug labels
20. According to the drug manufacturers, the pills \_\_\_\_\_.
- A. only offer temporary treatment for the morbid obesity
  - B. are meant for all the people who yearn for slimness
  - C. are too risky to be used
  - D. are the most important weight-loss discoveries

# Unit Two

## Passage 1

Every living thing has an inner biological clock that controls behavior. The clock works all the time; even when there are no outside signs to mark the passing of time. The biological clock tells plants when to form flowers and when the flowers should open. It tells insects when to leave the protective cocoon and fly away. And it tells animals when to eat, sleep and wake. It controls body temperature, the release of some hormones and even dreams. These natural daily events are circadian rhythms.

Man has known about them for thousands of years. But the first scientific observation of circadian rhythms was not made until 1729. In that year French astronomer, Jean-Jacques d'Ortous de Mairan, noted that one of his plants opened its leaves at the same time every morning, and closed them at the same time every night. The plant did this even when he kept it in a dark place all the time.

Later scientists wondered about circadian rhythms in humans. They learned that man's biological clock actually keeps time with a day of a little less than 25 hours instead of the 24 hours on a man-made clock.

About four years ago an American doctor, Eliot Weitzman, established a laboratory to study how our biological clock works. The people in his experiments are shut off from the outside world. They are free to listen to and live by their circadian rhythms. Dr. Weitzman hopes his research will lead to effective treatments for common sleep problems and sleep disorders caused by ageing and mental illness.

The laboratory is in the Montefiore Hospital in New York City. It has two living areas with three small rooms in each. The windows are covered, so no sunlight or moonlight comes in. There are no radios or television receivers. There is a control room between the living areas. It contains computers, one-way cameras and other electronic devices for observing the person in the living area. The instruments measure heartbeat, body temperature, hormones in the blood, other substances in the urine and brain waves during sleep.

A doctor or medical technician is on duty in the control room 24 hours a day during an experiment. They do not work the same time each day and are not permitted to wear watches, so the person in the experiment has no idea what time it is.

In the first four years of research, Dr Weitzman and his assistant have observed 16 men between the ages of 21 and 80. The men remained in the laboratory for as long as six months. Last month, a science reporter for "The New York Times" newspaper, Dava Sobol, became the first woman to take part in the experiment. She entered the laboratory on June 13th and





stayed for 25 days. Miss Sobol wrote reports about the experiment during that time, which were published in the newspaper.

1. The biological clock is believed to play an essential role in \_\_\_\_\_.
  - A. the regulation of body temperature
  - B. the secretion of hormones
  - C. animal reproduction
  - D. many aspects of plant and animal physiology
2. In his observation, the French scientist noticed that the leaves of a certain plant maintained its opening-and-closing cycles \_\_\_\_\_.
  - A. even when it was kept in a murky place all day
  - B. even if it was placed in the moonlight
  - C. even when he was observing it from a dark place
  - D. even during the night time
3. The sentence "They are free to listen to and live by their circadian rhythms." (In Paragraph 4) probably means \_\_\_\_\_.
  - A. They can lead their daily lives according to their biological clocks, without referring to a man-made clock.
  - B. They can listen to the wonderful rhythms of the biological clock and live close to them.
  - C. They can live by regulating their own circadian rhythms.
  - D. They are free from the annoying rhythms of everyday life.
4. In the experiment conducted by Mr. Weitzman, the doctor who is on duty does not work the same time each day \_\_\_\_\_.
  - A. in order to observe the abnormal behavior of the people at different times
  - B. so as not to be recognized by the people
  - C. so as to avoid indicating to the people what time it is when he starts work
  - D. so as to leave the people's circadian rhythms in disorder
5. Miss Sobol left the laboratory \_\_\_\_\_.
  - A. on June 13th
  - B. on June 25th
  - C. at the end of June
  - D. on July 7th

### Passage 2

Why would Bill Gates choose to challenge the federal government and twenty attorneys general (最高检察官) over Web browsers (网上浏览器)? Picking a fight with powerful government regulators can only be justified for one of two reasons: a legitimate fear that Microsoft will be drastically reduced in value if the regulators get their way—or a reasonable prospect that Microsoft will dramatically increase in value if it gets its way.

The best way to protect and enhance Microsoft's value is to transform its current 90 per cent share in the opening system market (yesterday's computing market) into an equivalent



share in the access to the Internet market (today's computing market).

The key tool enabling Microsoft to move from one market to another is what the regulators call the "first-screen requirement". Microsoft requires that all computers using Windows be shipped so that the first screen consumers see is exactly the screen that Microsoft wants them to see. The consumer has no ability to tell the manufacturer to change the first screen in any way.

Without the first-screen requirement, consumers might well decide to tell the manufacturer not to change the first screen and enjoy the "Windows experience" just as Microsoft hopes. On the other hand, they might just as easily allow or ask the manufacturer to change the first screen so that they can enjoy the "Compaq experience", the "IBM experience" or even the "Netscape experience".

Microsoft's first-screen requirement is like a car manufacturer with a 90 percent market share telling its car buyers that they can replace the car radio, but only if they do the installation all by themselves. A few hardy souls may make the replacement, but the rest of us would probably decide that the original radio was good enough.

With the first-screen requirement, Microsoft's browser does not have to be the best to achieve virtually total market share. It merely has to be "good enough" to prevent every one other than the hardest of users from changing to another browser.

With the "good enough" browser and the resulting market share, Microsoft would not only have control of users' access to the Internet, but would be able to use its dominance in that market to be ready for the next market, whatever it may be. With risks that high, it is not surprising that Bill Gates and Microsoft have decided that a fierce battle with federal regulators is worth the risk.

6. What is Microsoft's strategy to move to another market according to the writer?
  - A. Selling the Web browser.
  - B. First-screen requirement.
  - C. The opening system.
  - D. The Internet.
7. What does the word "experience" in such phrases as "Netscape experience" mean?
  - A. The company.
  - B. The software.
  - C. The computer.
  - D. The difference.
8. Who may buy Microsoft's Windows and can replace its browser with something much better?
  - A. Microsoft's customers.
  - B. Radio users.
  - C. Some of Windows users.
  - D. Microsoft competitors.
9. Why is Microsoft so daring as to fight the federal regulators according to the writer?
  - A. To keep moving to a more profitable market.
  - B. To stop government's interference with business.
  - C. To defeat other companies.
  - D. To change part of law system.
10. What is the writer's attitude toward Microsoft?
  - A. Supportive.
  - B. Concerned.
  - C. Curious.
  - D. Critical.



Passage 3

Recent findings suggest that visual signals are fed into at least three separate processing systems in the brain, each with its own distinct function. One system appears to process information about shape perception; a second, information about color; a third, information about movement, location, and spatial organization. An understanding of the functions and capabilities of these three systems can be shed light on how artists manipulate materials to create surprising visual effects.

It is possible to summarize the functions of the three subsystems of the visual system as follows. The parvo system carries highly detailed information about stationary objects and about borders that are formed by contrasting colors. It does not, however, carry information about specific colors. Because much of the information about the shape of objects can be represented by their borders, we suspect that this system is important in shape perception. The blob system processes information about colors, but not about movement, shape discrimination, or depth. The magno system carries information about movement and depth. It is good at detecting motion but poor at scrutinizing stationary images. In addition it appears to be color-blind; it is unable to perceive borders that are visible only on the basis of color contrast.

Cells in the parvo system can distinguish between two colors at any relative brightness of the two. Cells in the color-blind magno system on the other hand, are analogous to a black-and-white photograph in the way they function: they signal information about the brightness of surfaces but not about their colors. For any pair of colors there is a particular brightness ratio at which two colors, for example red and green, will appear as the same shade of gray in a black-and-white photograph; hence any border between them will vanish. Similarly at some relative red-to-green brightness level, the red and green will appear identical to the magno system. The red and green are then called equiluminant. A border between two equiluminant colors has color contrast but no luminance contrast.

Many artists have seemed to be empirically aware of these underlying principles and have used them to maximize particular effects. Some of the peculiar effects of Op Art, for example, probably arise from color combinations that are strong activators of the parvo system but are weak stimuli for the magno system. An object that is equiluminant with its background looks vibrant and unstable. The reason is that the parvo system can signal the object's shape but the magno system cannot see its borders and therefore cannot signal either the movement or the position of the object. Hence it seems to jump around, drift, or vibrate on the canvas.

11. The passage is primarily concerned with \_\_\_\_\_.
- A. describing subsystem of the visual system and showing their relevance to art
  - B. comparing three theories on how the visual system analyzes images in a work of art
  - C. explaining how artists use color contrasts to create particular visual effects



- D. explaining how the visual system distinguishes among different colors
12. The passage provides information about \_\_\_\_\_.
- A. why the same system can process information about movement and location
- B. why the parvo system is considered to be responsible for shape perception
- C. why the blob system can process information about colors but not movement
- D. the mechanism that enables the blob system to distinguish between stationary objects
13. According to the passage, which of the following is true of the visual system?
- A. It processes visual signals in three consecutive stages.
- B. It processes visual signals through separate processing systems in the brain.
- C. It consists of only three separate systems.
- D. It consists of a single hierarchical system rather than a multipartite system.
14. The author uses all of the following in the discussion in the third paragraph EXCEPT \_\_\_\_\_.
- A. analogy
- B. definition of terms
- C. contrast
- D. a rhetorical question
15. The passage suggests \_\_\_\_\_.
- A. It perceives borders on the basis of luminance contrast.
- B. It perceives shapes on the basis of color contrast.
- C. It is better at perceiving stationary objects than it is at detecting movement.
- D. It can detect motion but it cannot signal the position of an object.

#### Passage 4

Scientists made a great breakthrough this year in England when the first "test-tube" baby was born. The birth was the result of many years of research by doctors. The doctors did the research in order to help women who cannot conceive a baby in the normal way.

What happened when the baby was born "from a test-tube"? Well, the baby did not literally grow in a test-tube. The first stage of the process was when the egg from the woman and the sperm from the man were put together in the test-tube. After that, the embryo (胚胎) was put into the womb of a woman. This process was difficult, but it was successful; so the baby was eventually born, like any other, from a woman; only the woman wasn't the baby's real mother, but a sort of "carrier" of a baby produced by another couple.

Obviously, this method is a help to couples who can't have children because of physical problems in the woman. But very difficult moral problems arise in this kind of situation. Take, for instance, a case that happened this year. A couple who wanted a baby advertised for a woman to have a child by the father of the couple. They offered the woman a lot of money. The woman was made pregnant by artificial insemination. In this case, the woman "employed" to bear the child was its real mother. When the baby was born, the woman refused to give it back to the couple. But, in the eyes of the law, the woman had a right to keep the child because she was its biological mother.





You could argue that we should change the law to deal with this kind of situation. In earlier times, there were always healthy babies needing adoption, because family planning methods were not so effective as they are now. These days, however, most of the children who can be adopted are over years old, often handicapped in some way. So a couple who want a young healthy baby cannot always adopt one; this why the “test-tube” baby is in demand. But is it morally right to use this method? Should we tamper with (乱搞; 干预) nature in this way? Even if we can change the law, would this be the right step to take?

I think that couple who can't have a baby and who can't adopt one either should find other ways of fulfilling themselves. Obviously many married couples want a family; but perhaps they should ask themselves why they must have children, if the children don't arrive naturally. Should idea of the family be more important than anything else? I don't think so, especially when there is more opportunity for women to lead a full life in other ways these days. Also the emotional problem, which may happen when artificial methods are used, can affect a couple and their child badly in the end, so really, is it worth it?

16. Based on the information in the second paragraph, a test-tube baby was born from \_\_\_\_\_.
- A. a test-tube  
B. a woman who was not its real mother  
C. its real mother  
D. a special carrier
17. In the past, since \_\_\_\_\_, there were always healthy babies waiting to be adopted.
- A. parents were too busy at work to care for their young  
B. the divorce rate was surprisingly high  
C. the economic situation was too unfavorable for parents to support their families  
D. the methods of birth control were not so effective as they are now
18. The word “handicapped” (in Paragraph 4) means \_\_\_\_\_.
- A. physically or mentally disabled  
B. work done by hand  
C. with a cap in hand  
D. skill in working with the hands
19. According to the information of the passage, it is inferred that \_\_\_\_\_.
- A. the law should be altered to legitimate artificial inseminations of the kind mentioned in paragraph 3  
B. it isn't morally sound to carry out artificial inseminations  
C. an infertile couple should adopt a child rather than make the wife pregnant by artificial insemination  
D. idea of the family is more important than anything else
20. From the author's point of view, if a wife could not conceive a baby in the normal way, what would the couple most probably do?
- A. They would find other methods of satisfying their own desire.  
B. They would ask themselves why they must have a baby.  
C. They would divorce each other.  
D. They would adopt a child.