

大学英语四级考试

新台阶

阅读与翻译

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【上册】

武汉大学出版社

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前 言

《大学英语四级考试新台阶》分上、下册。上册是《阅读与翻译》，下册是《综合测试题》。

《阅读与翻译》共 15 单元（含 Sample Test），每一个单元含 4 篇短文。每篇短文后有 4—6 个四项选择题和 1—2 个翻译题。《综合测试题》共 8 套试题。每单元和每套试题都配有问题解答（Explanatory Answers），供教师讲解时参考或学生自测后查对。

本书体现了大学英语四级考试的新动态、新题型、新考点。为了使大学英语四、六级考试更加准确地反映考生运用英语语言的能力，研制大学英语四、六级考试（CET4 & 6）试题的国家教委主考委员会正在改变试题的题型和考点。由于试题题型和考点正处于变化过程中，考生需要了解大学英语四、六级考试新变化，教师需要指导考生对新题型和新考点进行有效的训练。为此，我们推出本书应目前之急需。但这只是我们一方面的愿望，另一方面我们还希望广大读者密切注视每次考试题的新变化。

我们就已知的最新变化作如下分析，以供读者参考。

一、考点分析

我们现在的考生即将成为 21 世纪的栋梁之材。大学英语教育是培养他们成材的一个重要方面。新形势对大学英语教学提出了上新台阶的任务。为了促进大学英语教学上新台阶，大学英语四级考试必然出现新考点。这些考点都将通过新题型来体现。

就大学英语四级考试而言，考点（Testing Points）就是指试题的知识能力点。目前考点的变化主要体现在听力、阅读和写作上。听力理解部分将会增加听写题型，填空听写（Spot Dictation）是已经公布的新题型，主要考核学生听的能力和一定的写的能力及对语言理解的准确度。阅读理解中的英译汉，主要考核考生的英语阅读能力，侧重于理解材料的准确程度。写作方面设作文

最低分，更加有助于了解考生的语言表达能力。以往有些考生虽然通过了四级，但是他的作文可能为0分。因而，对这部分考生来说，过去试题册上的写作题项等于虚设。新的四级考试对作文的得分作了新规定，假如规定作文最低分为5分，那么，考生的作文必须得5分才能通过四级考试，其他题项必须得80分才能得优秀。因此，考生必须重视考前的写作训练。

二、题型分析

题型就是指大学英语四级考试问题的类型（Types of Questions）。目前，题型变化主要是听力和阅读。由于听力和阅读题型的变化，其他各项的题型也会相应改变。比如，阅读部分增加英译汉，原来的完形填空题就取消了。如果增加填空听写，听力理解部分也会相应减少其他题型。那么，在采用填空听写题型的情况下，英译汉还会不会保留，完形填空会不会再恢复？这主要决定于主考委员会在研制试题时对考点、分值和阅卷等问题的考虑。为训练应试能力，凡是可能采用的题型，我们都要有所准备。

阅读部分题型可能变动较大，但从目前情况看来，四项选择题估计不会取消。实践证明，四项选择题比较适合我国大学英语四级标准化考试。

阅读理解部分的题型，按问题形式和阅读理解考点分为：

1. **要旨题**（Main Idea Questions）。要旨题测试考生理解文章要旨和大意的能力，通常就文章的主题（Topic）或者标题（Title）、中心思想（Main Idea）、作者的写作意图与目的提问。在大学英语四级考试中，这是一种极为常见的题型。
2. **细节题**（Detail Questions）。细节题测试考生理解文章中所述的某些事实与细节的能力，分为特殊疑问句与是非题。特殊疑问句要求考生回答用where, when, what, why, who, which, how 这些特殊疑问词所提的问题；而非是题则要求考生根据所读内容辨明是非。细节题在阅读测试中所占比例最大，大约占一半以上。值得指出的是，近年来的细节题不能再用简单的“对号入座”的方法找出答案，而必须在完全理解文章内容之后才能作答。
3. **推理题**（Inference Questions）。推理题是这些题型中最难的一种。它要

求考生根据文中所给信息进行推理判断，得出合乎逻辑的结论。

4. **词汇题** (Vocabulary Questions)。词汇题旨在检测考生通过上下文辨别单词或词组意义的能力。所测试的词汇有两类：一类是常用词；另一类是难词。
5. **结构题** (Structure Arrangement Questions)。结构题就作者组织文章的逻辑方式提问，这类问题主要针对所测试段落的前段或者后段之主题、全文的结构安排以及文中的指代关系。
6. **复述题** (Restatement Questions)。复述题跟以上几个题型都有相同之处但又有区别。复述题测试考生对文章中所提重要事件过程中某个重要环节的理解，对其产生原因和发展结果的掌握，也有人称其为释义题 (Paraphrasing Questions) 或者同义题 (Synonym Questions)。要指出的是这种复述题有时从事实的反面提出问题，考核的是它的反义而不是同义，要求考生从事情的反面复述，考生稍有疏忽就会弄错。

上述题型都属客观题。另外，最近的一次四级考试中还出现了翻译题，将来还可能采用简答题或者其他新题型。可能采用的主观题有英译汉和简答题。

7. **英译汉** (Translation from English into Chinese)。英译汉是从阅读理解题的四篇文章中，各摘 1—2 句，共 5 题，要求考生译成汉语，原有的多项选择题不变。此题型主要考核考生的英语阅读理解能力，侧重于准确理解的程度。
8. **简答题** (Simple Questions and Answers)。简答题要求考生用简短的英语词语回答问题，主要考核考生的阅读理解能力，同时考核一定的书面表达能力。简答题将在阅读理解题中代替目前的多项选择题，是全部代替还是部分代替，主考委员会目前尚未公布题型和样题。

三、题材分析

题材就是指大学英语四级考试中阅读篇章的题材。阅读篇章可能为任意内容的阅读专题，但就已经考试过的阅读文章来看，绝大多数为考生所熟悉的科普、政治、法律、经济、文化、历史、地理、人物传记、医疗卫生、体育运动、交通运输、旅游观光、业余爱好等方面的题材。文章一般在 300 词左右。

四、本书宗旨

本书旨在帮助考生在大学英语四级考试中拿高分。阅读部分在本书中占很大比例，因为考好了阅读理解，四级考试便成功了一半。1996年6月的试题册上阅读部分分数所占比例（50%）可以说明这一点。因此，阅读理解的训练对四级考试的成败至关重要。

我们认为本书是大学英语四级考试考生的必备之书，其理由如次：

1. 本书设计的试题跟大学英语四级考试的试题很相似。这些模拟试题是在对近年全真试题统计分析的基础上，并对统计的结果作了系统认真的研究之后而精心设计的。我们研究了每一个考点和体现这个考点的题型在最近几次考试中所出现的频率。本书试题所要考核的知识能力点几乎跟全真试题的考点一致。
2. 本书的试题部分所要测试的、讲解部分所讲解的解题技巧直接关系到大学英语四级考试成绩的提高。本书讲解部分指出了各个试题的考点，这样，有助于考生检查自己还有哪些知识能力点没有掌握或者还不甚熟练，以便他们在备考过程中找到自己的薄弱环节。考生在备考时研究这些考点，毫无疑问，将有助于提高他们在应试中回答同类问题的技能。

五、使用方法

本书如果用于课堂测试，最好要求学生在各个题项所规定的时间内完成，这样才能真正检查他们对各个知识能力点掌握的情况，以便在讲解时来弥补他们的不足之处，同时训练他们的应考速度。如果用于自学，最好在做完一个单元或者一套测试题之后再看讲解部分。切忌一边做题一边对答案、看讲解。

本书下册配磁带4盒。

总之，本书是供四级考生备考用的必要参考书，它将为考生们打开成功之门。一书在手，成功在望，祝你们好运！

编 者

1996年7月

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Sample Test

Passage 1

Researchers have established that when people are mentally engaged, biochemical changes occur in the brain that allow it to act more effectively in cognitive (认知的) areas such as attention and memory. This is true regardless of age.

People will be alert and receptive (愿意接受的) if they are faced with information that gets them to think about things they are interested in. And someone with a history of doing more rather than less will go into old age more cognitively sound than someone who has not had an active mind.

Many experts are so convinced of the benefits of challenging the brain that they are putting the theory to work in their own lives. "The idea is not necessarily to learn to memorize enormous amounts of information," says James Fozard, associate director of the national institute on aging, "Most of us don't need that kind of skill. Such specific training is of less interest than being able to maintain mental alertness." Fozard and others say they challenge their brains with different mental skills, both because they enjoy them and because they are sure that their range of activities will help the way their brains work.

Gene Cohen, acting director of the same institute, suggests that people in their old age should engage in mental and physical activities individually as well as in groups. Cohen says that we are frequently advised to keep physically active as we age, but older people need to keep mentally active as well. Those who do are more likely to maintain their intellectual abilities and to be generally happier and better adjusted. "The point is, you need to do both," Cohen says, "intellectual activity actually influences brain-cell health and size."

I. Multiple Choice

1. People who are cognitively healthy are those _____.
 - A) whose minds are alert and receptive
 - B) who are highly intelligent
 - C) who can remember large amounts of information
 - D) who are good at recognizing different sounds
2. According to Fozard's argument, people can make their brains work more efficiently by _____.
 - A) constantly doing memory work
 - B) making frequent adjustments
 - C) going through specific training
 - D) taking part in various mental activities
3. The findings of James and other scientists in their work _____.
 - A) remain a theory to be further proved

- B) have been challenged by many other experts
 - C) are practised by the researchers themselves
 - D) have been generally accepted
4. Older people are generally advised to ____.
- A) keep mentally active by challenging their brains
 - B) keep fit by going in for physical activities
 - C) maintain mental alertness through specific training
 - D) maintain a balance between individual and group activities
5. What is the passage mainly about?
- A) How biochemical changes occur in the human brain.
 - B) Why people should receive special mental training as they age.
 - C) How intellectual activities influence brain-cell health.
 - D) Why people should keep active not only physically but also mentally.

II. Translation from English into Chinese

1. (Passage 1, Para. 1, Lines 1 — 3)

2. (Passage 1, Para. 2, Lines 2 — 3)

Passage 2

Attention to detail is something everyone can and should do — especially in a tight job market. Bob Crossley, a human-resources expert notices this in the job applications that come across his desk every day. “It’s amazing how many candidates eliminate themselves,” he says.

“Résumés (简历) arrive with stains. Some candidates don’t bother to spell the company’s name correctly. Once I see a mistake, I eliminate the candidate,” Crossley concludes. “If they cannot take care of these details, why should we trust them with a job?”

Can we pay too much attention to details? Absolutely. Perfectionists struggle over little things at the cost of something larger they work toward. “To keep from losing the forest for the trees,” says Charles Garfield, associate professor at the University of California, San Francisco, “we must constantly ask ourselves how the details we’re working on fit into the larger picture. If they don’t, we should drop them and move to something else.”

Garfield compares this process to his work as a computer scientist at NASA. “The Apollo 11 moon launch was slightly off-course 90 percent of the time,” says Garfield. “But a successful landing was still likely because we knew the exact coordinates of our goal. This allowed us to make adjustments as nec-

essary.” Knowing where we want to go helps us judge the importance of every task we undertake.

Too often we believe what accounts for other’s success is some special secret or a lucky break (机遇). But rarely is success so mysterious. Again and again, we see that by doing little things within our grasp well, large rewards follow.

I. Multiple Choice

1. According to the passage, some job applicants were rejected _____.
 - A) because they eliminated their names from the applicants’ themselves
 - B) because of their inadequate education as shown in their poor spelling in writing a résumé
 - C) because they failed to give a detailed description of their background in their applications
 - D) because of their carelessness as shown in their failure to present a clean copy of a résumé
2. The word “perfectionists” (Para. 3, Line 1) refers to those who _____.
 - A) pay too much attention to details only to lose their major objectives
 - B) know how to adjust their goals according to the circumstances
 - C) demand others to get everything absolutely right
 - D) are capable of achieving perfect results in whatever they do
3. Which of the following is the author’s advice to the reader?
 - A) Careless applicants are not to be trusted.
 - B) Don’t forget details when drawing pictures.
 - C) Be aware of the importance of a task before undertaking it.
 - D) Although too much attention to details may be costly, they should not be overlooked.
4. The example of Apollo II moon launch is given to illustrate that _____.
 - A) major mistakes can be ignored in achieving major objectives
 - B) keeping one’s goal in mind helps in deciding which details can be overlooked
 - C) adjustments are the key to the successful completion of any work
 - D) failure is the mother of success
5. The best title for this passage would be _____.
 - A) Don’t Be a Perfectionist
 - B) Details and Major Objectives
 - C) Importance of Adjustments
 - D) Hard Work Plus Good Luck

II. Translation from English into Chinese

3. (Passage 2, Para. 5, Lines 1 — 2)
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Passage ③

Britain almost more than any other country in the world must seriously face the problem of building upwards, that is to say, of accommodating a considerable proportion of its population in high blocks of flats. It is said that the Englishman objects to this types of existence, but if the case is such, he does in fact differ from the inhabitants of most countries of the world today. In the past our own blocks of flats have been associated with the lower-income groups and they have lacked the obvious provisions, such as central heating, constant hot water supply, electrically operated lifts from top to bottom, and so on, as well as such details, important notwithstanding (然而), as easy facilities for disposal of dust and rubbish and storage places for baby carriages on the ground floor, playgrounds for children on the top of the buildings, and drying grounds for washing. It is likely that the dispute regarding flats versus (对) individual houses will continue to rage on for a long time as far as Britain is concerned. And it is unfortunate that there should be hot feelings on both sides whenever this subject is raised. Those who oppose the building of flats base their case primarily on the assumption (设想) that everyone prefers an individual home and garden and on the high cost per unit of accommodation. The latter ignores the higher cost of providing full services to a scattered community and the cost in both money and time of the journeys to work for the suburban resident.

路远

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I. Multiple Choice

1. We can infer from the passage that _____.

- A) people in most countries of the world today are not opposed to living in flats
- B) English people, like most people in other countries, dislike living in flats
- C) people in Britain are forced to move into high blocks of flats
- D) modern flats still fail to provide the necessary facilities for living

2. What is said about the blocks of flats built in the past in Britain?

- A) They were sold to people before necessary facilities were installed.
- B) They were usually not large enough to accommodate big facilities.
- C) They were mostly inhabited by people who did not earn much.
- D) They provided playgrounds for children on the top of the buildings.

3. The word "rage" (Line 10) means "_____".

- A) be ignored
- B) be in fashion
- C) encourage people greatly
- D) develop with great force

4. Some people oppose the building of flats because _____.

- A) the living expenses for each individual family are higher
- B) they believe people like to live in houses with gardens
- C) it involves higher cost compared with the building of houses

- D) the disposal of rubbish remains a problem for those living in flats
5. The author mentions that people who live in suburban houses ____.
- A) do not have access to easy facilities because they live away from the city
- B) have to pay a lot of money to employ people to do service work
- C) have to spend more money and time traveling to work every day
- D) take longer time to know each other because they are a scattered community

II. Translation from English into Chinese

4. (Passage 3, Last sentence)

Passage 4

Where do pesticides (杀虫剂) fit into the picture of environmental disease? We have seen that they now pollute soil, water, and food, that they have the power to make our streams fishless and our gardens and woodlands silent and birdless. Man, however much he may like to pretend the contrary, is part of nature. Can he escape a pollution that is now so thoroughly distributed throughout our world?

We know that even single exposures to these chemicals, if the amount is large enough, can cause extremely severe poisoning. But this is not the major problem. The sudden illness or death of farmers, farm workers, and others exposed to sufficient quantities of pesticides is very sad and should not occur. For the population as a whole, we must be more concerned with the delayed effects of absorbing small amounts of the pesticides that invisibly pollute our world.

Responsible public health officials have pointed out that the biological effects of chemicals are cumulative (积累的) over long periods of time, and that the danger to the individual may depend on the sum of the exposures received throughout his lifetime. For these very reasons the danger is easily ignored. (It is human nature to shake off what may seem to us a threat of future disaster.) "Men are naturally most impressed by diseases which have obvious signs," says a wise physician, Dr. Rene Dubos, "yet some of their worst enemies slowly approach them unnoticed."

I. Multiple Choice

1. Which of the following is closest in meaning to the sentence "Man, ...is part of nature." (Para. 1, Lines 3 — 4)?
- A) ☒ Man acts as if he does not belong to nature.
- B) Man appears indifferent to what happens in nature.
- C) Man can avoid the effects of environmental pollution.
- D) Man can escape his responsibilities for environmental protection.
2. What is the author's attitude towards the environmental effects of pesticides?

A) Pessimistic.

☒ C) Concerned.

B) Indifferent.

D) Defensive.

3. In the author's view, the sudden death caused by exposure to large amounts of pesticides ____.

☒ A) now occurs most frequently among all accidental deaths

☐ B) is not the worst of the negative consequences resulting from the use of pesticides

C) has sharply increased so as to become the center of public attention

D) is unavoidable because people can't do without pesticides in farming

4. People tend to ignore the delayed effects of exposure to chemicals because ____.

☒ A) the danger does not become apparent immediately

☐ B) the present is more important for them than the future

C) limited exposure to them does little harm to people's health

D) humans are capable of withstanding small amounts of poisoning

5. It can be concluded from Dr. Dubos' remarks that ____.

A) people find invisible diseases difficult to deal with

B) attacks by hidden enemies tend to be fatal

☒ C) people tend to overlook hidden dangers caused by pesticides

D) diseases with obvious signs are easy to cure

II. Translation from English into Chinese

5. (Passage 4, Para. 2, Lines 4 — 5)

Unit One

Passage 1

An assumption is commonly made that the ancient Far East is impossible to understand to anyone but area experts. The result is that many students have the idea that this non-Western area did not know about power politics before the first European settlers and traders arrived. If we look at the interstate system of the Chinese Empire, we will see that this is not a realistic point of view. Centuries before the age of the nation-state (sixteenth century A.D.), China in its own way had become a great power which controlled a significant area of the world.

As early as the Shang Dynasty (1766-1123 B.C.), the Chinese began to develop a plan for conducting relations with neighboring tribes and states. During centuries of contact with their neighbors, the Chinese became certain that they were greatly superior in culture, behavior, and governmental organization. Later, in the fifth century B.C. the Chinese were influenced by the teachings of their great teacher and philosopher, Confucius. His ideas on government included ruling by good example, politeness, and trying not to use force to solve political problems.

The belief that they were culturally superior and the teachings of Confucius were the foundation of China's famous tributary system. This was an interstate system that continued for hundreds of years. During these centuries, Peking expected its uncivilized neighbors periodically to send representatives and presents to the emperor. This system provided a desire and a way for the once uncivilized countries to become part of the very civilized Chinese world.

I. Multiple Choice

1. In Line 2, "this non-Western area" refers to _____.
 - A) Europe
 - B) Far East
 - C) China
 - D) Peking
2. According to the passage, many students think that the power politics in this ancient area was _____.
 - A) uninteresting
 - B) impossible to understand
 - C) introduced by Europeans
 - D) super
3. Chinese interstate politics started _____.
 - A) in the 16th century A.D.
 - B) in Shang Dynasty
 - C) in the fifth century B.C.

D) as early as China's tributary system was founded

4. In Para. 3, "This system" means _____ system.

- A) interstate
- B) tributary
- C) Confucius'
- D) civilized

5. What is the main idea of the passage?

- A) Student's misunderstanding of the ancient Far East.
- B) Confucius' influence on Chinese interstate system.
- C) China's famous tributary system.
- D) The Ancient Far East has a long history of power politics.

II. Translation from English into Chinese

1. (Passage 1, Para. 3, Lines 4 — 5)

Passage 2

Through a series of experiments an American scientist has obtained an understanding of the social structure of the most complex of ant societies. The ants examined are the only creatures other than man to have given up hunting and collecting for a completely agricultural way of life. In their underground nests they cultivate gardens on soil made from finely chopped leaves. This is a complex operation requiring considerable division of labor. The workers of this type of ant can be divided into four groups according to size. Each of the groups performs a particular set of jobs.

The making and care of the gardens and the nursing of the young ants are done by the **smallest** workers. Slightly larger workers are responsible for chopping up leaves to make them suitable for use in the gardens and for cleaning the nest. A third group of still larger ants do the construction work and collect fresh leaves from outside the nest. The largest are the soldier ants, responsible for defending the nest.

To find out how good the various size-groups are at different tasks, the scientist measured the amount of work done by the ants against the amount of energy they used. He examined first the gathering and carrying of leaves. He selected one of the size-groups, and then measured how efficiently these ants could find leaves and run back to the nest. Then he repeated the experiment for each of the other size-groups. In this way he could see whether any group could do the job more efficiently than the group normally undertaking it.

The intermediate-sized ants that normally perform this task proved to be the most efficient for their energy costs, but when the scientist examined the whole set of jobs performed by each group of ants it appeared that some sizes of worker ant were not ideally suited to the particular jobs they performed.

I. Multiple Choice

1. In which way are the ants different from other nonhuman societies?

- A) They do not need to search for food.
- B) They do not need to look for shelter.
- C) Individuals vary in social status.
- D) Individuals perform different functions.

2. It seems that smaller ants perform more of the _____.

- A) construction tasks
- B) domestic tasks
- C) defensive work
- D) heavy work

3. The word "good" (Para. 3, Line 1) refers to the ants' _____.

- A) cooperation in working
- B) sense of responsibility
- C) efficiency in working
- D) willingness to work hard

4. The scientist's work was based on _____.

- A) occasional observation
- B) systematic observations
- C) observations of several nests
- D) observations of an undisturbed nest

5. The organization of the ants has the effect of _____.

- A) getting the most work done
- B) dividing the work up systematically
- C) protecting the young more effectively
- D) each ant doing what it can do best

II. Translation from English into Chinese

2. (Passage 2, Para. 1, Lines 2 — 3)

3. (Passage 2, Para. 3, Lines 1 — 2)

Passage 3

The ancient Egyptians believed strongly in life after death. They all believed that a person would need his body to exist in this afterlife. Therefore, they carefully preserved the body by treating it with