

全新四级710分快速突破丛书

阅读

READING
COMPREHENSION



总主编/黄小勇
主 编/陈俊华 叶 静
武汉理工大学出版社

全新四级 710 分快速突破丛书

阅 读

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前 言

2004年,教育部颁布了《大学英语课程教学要求(试行)》,对大学阶段英语课程教学提出了新的标准,教学要求分三个层次,即一般要求、较高要求、更高要求。其中一般要求就是目前国家四级考试的要求,是每个大学毕业生必须达到的目标,一般要求对阅读理解能力的描述是:能基本读懂一般性题材的英文文章,阅读速度达到每分钟70词,在快速阅读篇幅较长、难度略低材料时,阅读速度达到每分钟100词,能基本读懂国内英文报刊,掌握中心意思,理解主要事实和细节,能读懂工作、生活中常见的应用文体的材料,能在阅读中使用有效的阅读方法。2005年2月教育部提出四、六级改革,同时推出改革时间表,即2005年6月份改用新的记分制,2006年1月在180所试点院校启用新题型,2006年6月份在全国全面展开。

改革后的四、六级考试对阅读提出了新的要求:阅读的比重由传统的40%下降到35%;题型由传统的4篇精读型阅读改革为多种题型,即仔细阅读(careful reading)、快速阅读理解(in-depth reading),而仔细阅读理解部分又分为篇章阅读理解和词汇理解,它们分别以多项选择和选词填空的形式进行,快速阅读理解是以非判断和句子填空或者其他的形式进行。

仔细阅读理解部分基本上类似于传统的阅读理解部分,与目前的托福考试中的阅读理解极为相似,分为篇章和词汇两大部分;快速阅读理解部分的考试是对应于《大学英语课程教学要求》中阅读技能的考核,“在快速阅读篇幅较长、难度略低材料时,阅读速度达到每分钟100词,能基本读懂国内英文报刊,掌握中心意思,理解主要事实和细节,能读懂工作、生活中常见的应用文体的材料,能在阅读中使用有效的阅读方法”。它对于广大的考生来说,虽然不是完全陌生、一无所知的,至少在考试中是全新的,特别对于非英语专业的考生而言。

指导考生如何顺利应对新的四级考试是本书编写的目的和宗旨。本书的面世是应广大考生之需,使他们在较短的时间内能适应新的改革模式,熟悉新题型。

本书由两个部分组成,即:

第一部分,作者详细分析传统的阅读理解考试的特点、考查的内容和形式、解题的注意事项,特别是从解题技巧上加以指导。对于新增加的快速阅读理解部分也不吝笔墨,力求让考生能洞悉其中奥妙,做题时得心应手。

第二部分,通过大量的题例讲解,透彻地分析,把理论应用到解题的实践中,相信读者会大受裨益。

本书作者长期从事大学英语教学和四、六级考试辅导培训,充分了解考生普遍存在的问题和需要以及四、六级考试的特点,积累了丰富的经验。因此,本书的内容针对性强,贴近考生。如果考生按照书中的建议认真准备,考试一定会有可观的成绩。本书由陈俊华、叶静主编,王璨和彭江参编。

由于时间有限,书中难免会有疏漏,恳请读者原谅的同时,真诚地希望能将您的宝贵意见反馈给我们,以便我们进一步完善此书,使更多的读者受益。

编 者
2005.6.21

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第一部分 阅读理解各题型特点及应试策略

一、阅读理解综述

阅读是语言学习中最为重要的一种能力,也是最为重要的一种语言输入,是掌握语言知识、获取信息、提高听说写译等能力的基础。那么,如何提高英语阅读理解能力呢?

A. 提高阅读理解能力的方法

1. 扎实的语言基本功是前提

提高阅读理解能力,必须有扎实的基本功,尤其是扎实的语法和词汇功底。一定的词汇量和必不可少的基本语法知识对正确理解结构复杂的难句和长句十分重要。根据大纲的要求,四级至少要掌握 4300 单词和 700 词组。

2. 良好的阅读习惯是保障

在英语学习的过程中养成良好的个人阅读习惯,坚决摒弃不良习惯。常见的不良阅读习惯有:

(1) “指读”,即为了“集中注意力”,用手指或笔尖指着文章逐词阅读。一遇到生词,便停顿下来,无法在通篇理解的基础上继续进行阅读。

(2) “唇读”,即有的学生在阅读中喜欢读出声来,或即使不出声,嘴唇在动,或脑子里也在想着读音,无形当中影响了大脑的思维速度。

(3) “回读”,即在阅读中遇到生词或不熟悉的短语时,返回句首甚至段首重读。还有相当多的学生对阅读已经产生心理定势,即认为自己第一遍肯定读不懂,因此反复多遍,浪费很多时间。

(4) “译读”,即在阅读过程中,不断地进行逐词逐句的翻译,通过译成母语来辅助理解。由于没有掌握正确的阅读方法,习惯于在不加限定的时间内,对一小块文章精雕细琢,导致了逐词阅读接受信息的习惯。

这些不良习惯或者毛病不但影响阅读速度而且影响对文章大意和主旨的正确理解。那么好的阅读习惯又是哪些呢?阅读是一个读者和作者的交流过程,所以,在阅读的过程中我们可以边读边想边问,如:所读文章的主要观点是什么?每一段的主题句在哪里?阅读时注意力高度集中才会有高效率的阅读。

这里主要强调读者要始终以一种积极的心态去阅读。我们阅读的目的是获取知识信息,了解他人对有关问题的态度和看法,所以阅读时我们应培养对新的知识信息的自觉的敏锐感,对作者的观点和态度进行批判性的分析;跟上作者的写作思路,从已读的部分可以预知作者下面要讲的内容;辨别文章中哪些是作者的论点,哪些是事实和论据。只要我们平时能养成这样的阅读习惯,就不会被淹没在作者所呈现的各种事实和材料中;考试时就能应付各种类型的问题;也就能更加有意识地略过那些自己不甚明了但不影响基本阅读任务的完成的部分。

3. 了解英语国家的文化背景是途径

语言是文化的载体,对英语国家的文化、历史、宗教和人们的思维模式的了解有助于读者捕捉作者所要传递的信息,从而提高阅读效率。阅读理解试题在其程度上不仅是对考生英语语言水平的考查,同时也是对考生知识面及知识结构的考查。如有些考生对短文中的词汇和语法结构基本上都知道了,但是对其真正的涵义即隐含的意思却模棱两可,似懂非懂,做题时便举棋不定。这主要是对短文的背景知识不了解,甚至一窍不通的结果。所以考生在平时应广泛阅读,特别是一些自己比较生疏的领域,如某些科技知识等。如果考生对背景内容比较熟悉,读起来就比较顺利,对文章的理解也比较透彻,做题目时也会得心应手。再如有些考题要求推测文章的来源,则需要考生有一定的文体知识,了解演讲、社论、新闻、书评、教科书、科技论文等文体的内容特点和语言特点。总之,广泛涉猎,了解一些背景知识,既有助于增加语感与对短文的理解,又有助于提高阅读的速度。

4. 选择合适的阅读材料,大量阅读是基础

阅读实践是必不可少的一步,大量涉猎各学科领域、各题材的读物,扩大知识面,同时有意识地熟悉题型。所谓“合适的阅读材料”,就是大致说来不查字典能看懂的文章,生词在3%左右。

5. 应试技巧是锦上添花

具备了以上所述的条件以后,就好比一个具备了优秀条件的运动员一样,一个优秀的运动员还要熟悉运动规则和正常的临场发挥。这里的运动规则就是考试大纲,而正常的发挥要靠应试技巧。熟知它可以百战不殆。

B. 大纲的演变及考试要求的变化

在1999年的《大学英语教学大纲(修订本)》(上海外语教育出版社和高等教育出版社出版)里,基础阶段中阅读能力被分为两个层次,即基本要求和较高要求(与全国大学英语四、六级考试相对应)。其基本要求是:“能顺利阅读语言难度中等的一般性题材的文章,掌握中心大意以及说明中心大意的事实和细节,并能进行一定的分析、推理和判断,领会作者的观点和态度,阅读速度达到每分钟70词。在阅读篇幅较长、难度略低、生词不超过总数3%的材料时,能掌握中心大意,抓住主要事实和有关细节,阅读速度达到每分钟100词。”而基础阶段的较高要求是:“能顺利阅读语言难度较高的一般性题材的文章,掌握中心大意以及说明中心大意的事实和细节,并能就文章的内容进行分析、推理、判断和综合概括,领会作者的观点和态度,阅读速度达到每分钟70词。在阅读篇幅较长、难度略低、生词不超过总数3%的材料时,能正确理解中心大意,抓住主要事实和有关细节,阅读速度达到每分钟120词。”

在2004年的《大学英语课程教学要求(试行)》(外语教学与研究出版社出版)里,大学阶段的英语教学要求分为三个层次,即一般要求、较高要求和更高要求。

阅读理解能力的一般要求是:能基本读懂一般性题材的英文文章,阅读速度达到每分钟70词。在快速阅读篇幅较长、难度略低的材料时,阅读速度达到每分钟100词,能基本读懂国内英文报刊,掌握中心意思,理解主要事实和有关细节。能读懂工作生活中常见的应用文体的材料。能在阅读中使用有效的阅读方法。

而阅读理解能力的较高要求是:能基本读懂英语国家大众性报刊杂志的一般性题材的英文文章,阅读速度达到每分钟70词。在快速阅读篇幅较长的材料时,阅读速度达到每分钟120词,能就阅读材料进行略读或寻读。能阅读所学专业的综述性文献,并能正确理解中心大

意,抓住主要事实和细节。

一般要求和较高要求目前分别对应全国大学英语四级和六级考试。

阅读理解能力的更高要求是:能读懂有一定难度的文章,理解其意义,能借助词典阅读原版教材和英语国家报刊杂志上的文章,能比较顺利地阅读所学专业的综述性文献。

从1999年教学大纲到2004年的课程教学要求以及历年的四、六级阅读考试中,以及2005年初国家教育部提出的四、六级考试改革中,我们可以看到以后的阅读理解考试要求和考试类型。

阅读理解考试的要求也在加大篇幅,而且对快速阅读和阅读技巧提出明确的要求,阅读能力更强调应用能力,能有效使用阅读方法。

首先,自从2000年之后,四级的阅读文章在篇幅上有了明显的增加,从250~280字这个浮动区间,大幅提高10%~15%,达到300~320字这个浮动区间。这样的变化将使同学们原来已经捉襟见肘的考试时间显得更加勉强。所有四篇文章,题目和选项加起来,约有2000字,在35分钟内要看完,并且针对性地作出选择,让不少同学脑袋冒汗。不过,要是能够培养一个英文阅读的日常习惯,相信可以日久见功力。其次,长句、难句在增加。根据最新的全真试题(2002年后,含2002年),我们不难发现,这些长度有了明显增加的文章里面,句子的平均长度也有不少的增加,如果细心查找,不难发现长蛇般的句子。30~40字的长句,时而由连词带动,涉及事物方方面面;时而从句连连,一环套一环地深入事物本质。其实长句的重点在于理解英文的表达方式,把握西方文化的思维模式。我们常说中英文表达顺序有很大的不同,简单来说就是修饰成分的位置。同学们不必太担心,正所谓一叶知秋,贵精不贵多,可以考虑用部分典型的句子进行分析,如果方法得当,十句足矣!

二、各题型特点及应试策略

新的阅读理解考试分两大类型:仔细阅读理解和快速阅读理解。其中仔细阅读理解又分为篇章阅读理解和篇章词汇理解两种题型。

A. 篇章阅读理解

它是比较传统的四级考试阅读题。综观历年考试,我们可以把它再仔细分为主观类和客观类两大题型。主观类题型侧重考查考生依据已知信息、细节进行推理判断的能力,客观类题型则侧重考查考生对文章细节、事实的辨别能力;或者又可以分为全局型和局部型两大类。全局型涉及三方面:主题(subject matter)、大意(main idea)、态度语气(attitude or tone),而局部型问题涉及到支撑细节、推理和词汇的理解。但是根据大纲要求或教学要求可以分为这样五大类型:

1. 中心大意主旨类(main idea or theme or topic or subject matter)
2. 事实细节类(fact or detail)
3. 综合分析逻辑推理类(implication or inference or conclusion)
4. 作者观点态度类(point of view or attitude or purpose or intention)
5. 猜测词义类(meaning guessing)

a. 中心大意主旨类

这类题是考试中最常见的题型,也是我们必须掌握的。大家知道,一篇短文的中心思想

是作者提出的最重要信息,它贯穿文章的思想。因此,要把握文章的中心,首先必须抓住每一段落的中心,然后就可以归纳出文章的中心思想。我们阅读任何一篇文章,第一重要的当然就是弄清楚它主要说的是什么,也就是作者想要告诉我们什么,它是贯穿全文的核心,是作者在文章中要表达的主要内容,作者在文章中努力通过各种 supporting details 来阐明中心议题。还有一点有必要明确,历年试卷中的阅读理解短文均无标题,考生必须通过自己阅读理解,了解文章的主旨大意,而对主旨大意的了解,意义远远超越答主旨题,因为答其他题往往也会涉及主旨。从这个意义上讲,不管某篇阅读文章是否有主旨题,都应了解其主旨,养成这一良好习惯十分有益。因此这类问题常被列为五大题型之首。

针对 subject matter 问题,要特别注意文章的开头、结尾及段首句和段尾句,因为他们往往包含文章的中心议题(subject matter)。根据内容的不同,这类问题可分为主题型、标题型和目的型。主题型一目了然,就是找中心(main idea);标题型是为文章选择标题(title or topic);目的型则是推断作者的写作意图(purpose)。

这类题常见的命题方式有:

1. What is the main idea (subject/ topic) of this passage?
2. What is this passage mainly (primarily) concerned?
3. The main theme of this passage is _____.
4. The main point of the passage is _____.
5. On which of the following subject would the passage most likely be found in a textbook?
- 6 The purpose of the writer in writing this passage is _____.
7. Which of the following best describes the passage as a whole?

有时还要求考生确定相应的文章标题来测试其对全文中心思想是否领悟。常见的问题有:

1. What would be an appropriate title for this passage?
2. Which of the following would be the most appropriate title for the passage?
3. The best title for this passage would be/might be/is _____.
4. What might be the best title of this passage?
5. The most suitable title of the passage is _____.
6. Which is the best suggested title?
7. The title that best expresses the ideas of this passage is _____.
8. The title below that best expresses the idea of this passage is _____.

在回答主旨题型时,抓住文章各段落的要点对答题是非常重要的。而各个段落的要点一般是由主题句体现的。主题句一般分为以下几种情况:位于段首的主题句,位于段末的主题句,位于段中的主题句,前后呼应的主题句以及无明确主题句。

位于段首的主题句:一般而言,以演绎法(deduction)阐述观点的文章,主题常常在文章的开头,即先点出主题,然后,围绕这一主题作具体的陈述。它常给读者以清晰明了的感觉,使人马上就可明白文章所讲的是什么,即文章的主旨。

位于句末的主题句:以归纳法(induction)写作的文章,主题句常常出现在段落或文章的结尾,以强调根据阐述句提供的具体事实得出的结论。

位于段中的主题句:出现于段中的主题句有两种情况:或先提出问题,然后给予回答(主

题句),再给予解释;或先提出问题,然后点出主题思想(主题句),最后给予解释。前后呼应的主题句:有些短文有前后两个主题句,这两个主题句叙说的是同一个内容,但用词不尽相同,这样不但强调了主题思想,而且更显得灵活多变。这两个句子并且简单地重复,后一个主题句或者对该主题作最后的评述,或把主要要点做一概括,或使之引申留给读者去思考。

无明确主题句:一篇短文通常包括两部分:①表明中心思想的主题句;②与中心思想有关或为其提供论据的一个或多个支持性句子。因此,能恰如其分地有针对性、概括性全面反映本篇短文的内容的句子,都可被认为是主题句。最令人棘手的恐怕要数所选的短文出现无主题句的情况。如果没有主题句,考生可以采用提纲挈领法,通过分析细节把文章的要点归纳出来。

1. 关于主题型

Example:

Oceanography has been defined as "The application of all sciences to the study of the sea".

Before the nineteenth century, scientists with an interest in the sea were few and far between. Certainly Newton considered some theoretical aspects of it in his writings, but he was reluctant to go to sea to further his work.

For most people the sea was remote, and with the exception of early intercontinental travelers or others, who earned a living from the sea, there was little reason to ask many questions about it, let alone to what lay beneath the surface. The first time that the question "What is at the bottom of oceans?" had to be answered with any commercial consequence was when the laying of a telegraph cable from Europe to America was proposed. The engineers had to know the depth profile (轮廓) of the route to estimate the length of cable that had to be manufactured.

It was to Maury of US Navy that the Atlantic Telegraph Company turned, in 1853, for information on this matter. In the 1840s, Maury had been responsible for encouraging voyages during which soundings (试探) were taken to investigate the depths of the North Atlantic and Pacific Oceans. Later, some of his findings aroused much popular interest in his book *The Physical Geography of the Sea*.

The cable was laid, but not until 1866 was the connection made permanent and reliable. At the early attempts, the cable failed and when it was taken out for repairs, it was found to be covered in living growths, a fact which defied contemporary scientific opinion that there was no life in the deeper parts of the sea.

Within a few years oceanography was under way. In 1872 Thomson led a scientific expedition, which lasted for four years and brought home thousands of samples from the sea. Their classification and analysis occupied scientists for years and led to a five-volume report, the last volume being published in 1895.

This passage is mainly about _____.

- A. the beginnings of oceanography
- B. the laying of the first undersea cable
- C. the investigation of ocean depths
- D. the early intercontinental communications

本题问及全篇的中心思想。通过快读(skimming)我们知道,这是一篇叙述“海洋学”的文

章。第一段谈的是关于“海洋学”的定义；第二段是讲 19 世纪前对海洋感兴趣的科学家不多；第三段谈到由于有人提出铺设海底电缆，人们才开始研究“海底深处究竟是什么”；第四段说 Maury 考察北大西洋和太平洋的发现引起广泛的注意；第五段讲修筑海底电缆过程中发现大量的海洋生物；最后一段是海洋学研究的成果。全篇主要是讲海洋学的研究是如何开展起来的，所以正确答案是 A。文章有好几个地方谈到铺设海底电缆 B 和越洋通讯 D，但都是围绕着海洋学这条主线的。至于 C，测量海洋深度，只是一个细节，不可能是文章的中心意思。

2. 关于标题型

Example:

A rapid means of long-distance transportation became a necessity for the United States as settlement (新拓居地) spread ever farther westward. The early trains were impractical curiosities, and for a long time the railroad companies met with troublesome mechanical problems. The most serious ones were the construction of rails able to bear the load, and the development of a safe, effective stopping system. Once these were solved, the railroad was established as the best means of land transportation. By 1860 there were thousands of miles of railroads crossing the eastern mountain ranges and reaching westward to the Mississippi. There were also regional southern and western lines.

The high point in railroad building came with the construction of the first transcontinental system. In 1862 congress authorized two western railroad companies to build lines from Nebraska westward and from California eastward to a meeting point, so as to complete a transcontinental crossing linking the Atlantic seaboard with the Pacific. The Government helped the railroads generously with money and land. Actual work on this project began four years later. The Central Pacific Company, starting from California, used Chinese labor, while the Union Pacific employed crews of Irish laborers. The two groups worked at remarkable speed, each trying to cover a greater distance than the other. In 1869 they met at a place called Promontory in what is now the state of Utah. Many visitors came there for the great occasion. There were joyous celebrations all over the country, with parades and the ringing of church bells to honor the great achievement.

The railroad was very important in encouraging westward movement. It also helped build up industry and farming by moving raw materials and by distributing products rapidly to distant markets. In linking towns and people to one another it helped unify the United States.

The best title for this passage would be _____.

- A. Settlements Spread Westward
- B. The Coast-to-Coast Railroad: A Vital Link
- C. American Railroad History
- D. The Importance of Trains in the American Economy

本题是给文章选标题，实际上也是问及全篇的主旨。文章第一段的第一句虽然提到 “settlement spread ever farther westward”，但这不是本文论述的中心，故选项 A 是错的；选项 D 也不合适，因为作者在第三段第二句里谈的是在美国起重要作用的是 transcontinental railway，而不是泛指美国的铁路，虽然本文从一个侧面反映了美国铁路的历史，但是从每一段的第一句 (topic sentence) 可以知道全文的主旨并不是有关美国的铁路，故选项 C 也是错的；本文的第三段点了文章的主旨，即这条横贯美国的铁路在开发西部、发展工农业生产和统一美国等方面起

到了 a vital link 的作用。另外,这里也涉及到一个技巧问题,在很多选项中往往使用同义词转换的手段,大部分的同义转换就是正确选项。因此,答案应该是选项 B, coast-to-coast 也就是 transcontinental 的意思。

3. 关于目的型

Example:

We find that bright children are rarely held back by mixed-ability teaching. On the contrary, both their knowledge and experience are enriched. We feel that there are many disadvantages in streaming (把……按能力分班) pupils. It does not take into account the fact that children develop at different rates. It can have a bad effect on both the bright and the not-so-bright child. After all, it can quite discouraging to be at the bottom of the top grade!

Besides, it is rather unreal to grade people just according to their intellectual ability. This is only one aspect of their total personality. We are concerned to develop the abilities of all our pupils to the full, not just their academic ability. We also value personal qualities and social skills, and we find that mixed-ability teaching contributes to all these aspects of learning.

In our classrooms, we work in various ways. The pupils often work in groups; this gives them the opportunity to learn to cooperate, to share, and to develop leadership skills. They also learn how to cope with personal problems as well as learning how to think, to make decisions, to analyze and evaluate, and to communicate effectively. The pupils learn from each other as well as from the teacher. Sometimes the pupils work in pairs, sometimes they work on individual tasks and assignments, and they can do this at their own speed. They also have some formal class teaching when this is appropriate. We encourage our pupils to use the library, and we teach them the skills they need in order to do this efficiently. An advanced pupil can do advanced work; it does not matter what age the child is. We expect our pupils to do their best, not their least, and we give them every encouragement to attain this goal.

The author's purpose in writing this passage is to _____.

- A. argue for teaching bright and not-so-bright pupils in the same class
- B. recommend pair work and group work for classroom activities
- C. offer advice on the proper use of the library
- D. emphasize the importance of appropriate formal classroom

本题要求学生首先了解这篇文章的主题。文章中讨论了两种上课的方式: streaming pupils 即把学生按能力分班进行教学和 mixed-ability teaching, 即把程度不齐的学生混班上课, 并列举了前者的弊端和后者的优点。因此 A 是正确答案。而选项 C、B、D 中提到的几种做法均为 mixed-ability teaching 的具体做法, 都不能看作是作者写这篇文章的目的。这一题要求阅读时不但要看懂个别的句子, 而且要能够根据作者思路的展开, 把握作者在整篇文章中赞成什么反对什么, 因此, 必须看懂全篇文章的意思。

b. 事实细节类

细节性问题是关于 supporting details 类的问题, 通过 skimming 找出主题后, 应进一步掌握阐述和发展主题的主要事实, 或按要求找出特定细节。在回答此类问题时, 应采用查读法 (scanning), 因为这些具体内容 details 是用来说明、论证或分析文章中心的。这类题目常以

“wh-”形式来提问,如 who, what, when, where, why 及 how 等形式。这些问题的表达常不采用文章中的原话提问,而是使用同义词语转换等。因此,在选择答案前应首先看准题干,看清问题所问;然后,在查读时注意寻找与题目相关的关键词语;最后,在充分理解原文、原题的基础上确定正确答案。

当然,这类细节性问题所涉及的面是很广的。有的涉及数字计算,如问时间、距离、次数、数量等,认真计算后方可选定正确答案;有的涉及正误判断,要先看选项,根据选项提供的线索,寻找文中相应部分,最后在题中选出肯定答案;还有的寻问事实、原因、结果、目的等。总之,做细节题切忌通过自己对某类知识的主观了解和认识做出想当然的判断,一定要紧扣文章内容,不可随心所欲。

细节类问题的命题方式有以下几种:

1. Which of the following is NOT true according to the information in the passage?
2. Which of the following is mentioned in the passage?
3. What is the example of... as described in the passage?
4. The author mentions all of the following except...
5. The reason for... is...
6. The author states that...
7. According to the passage, when (where, why, how, who, etc.)...

Example 1:

Just seven years ago, the Jarvik-7 artificial heart was being cheered as the model of human creativeness. The sight of Barney Clark—alive and conscious after trading his diseased heart for metal-and-plastic pump—convinced the press, the public and many doctors had arrived. After monitoring production of the Jarvik-7, and reviewing its effects on the 150 or so patients (most of whom got the device as a temporary measure) the U. S. Food and Drug Administration concluded that the machine was doing more to endanger lives than to save them. Last week the agency cancelled its earlier approval, effectively banning (禁止) the device.

The recall may hurt Symbion Inc., maker of the Jarvik-7, but it won't end the request for an artificial heart. One problem with the banned model is that the tubes connecting it to an external power source created a passage infection. Inventors are now working on new devices that would be fully placed, along with a tiny power pack, in the patient's chest. The first sample products aren't expected for another 10 or 20 years. But some people are already worrying that they'll work and that America's overextended healthcare programs will lose a precious \$2.5 billion to \$5 billion a year providing them for a relatively few dying patients. If such expenditures (开支) cut into funding for more basic care, the net effect could actually be a decline in the nation's health.

1. According to the passage the Jarvik-7 artificial heart proved to be _____.
 - A. a technical failure
 - B. a technical wonder
 - C. a good life-saver
 - D. an effective means to treat heart disease

本题是考查学生根据上下文全面理解和进行正确判断的能力,问的是本文论述的 Jarvik-7 人造心脏性能和效果到底如何。文章的第一段通过对比七年前、七年后 artificial heart 的反应 (cheer—ban), 文章一开头说 Jarvik-7 是一大技术成就,但文章说到:... the. U. S. Food and Drug Administration concluded that the machine was doing more to endanger lives than to save them. 后面又提到: Last week the agency canceled its earlier approval, effectively banning the device. 这两句话提供了这个问题的答案。通常情况下,时间的先后就可以表明变化的结果。第二段指出问题所在: external power source creates infection, future one must be fully placed in the patient's chest, 因此, 答案是 A。

2. The new models of artificial hearts are expected _____.

- A. to have a working life of 10 or 20 years
- B. to be set fully in the patient's chest
- C. to be equipped with an external power source
- D. to create a new passage for infection

本题是考查正确理解事实细节的能力。选项 B 的意思与文章中第二段第三句, 即 "Inventors are now working... in the patient's chest" 的意思符合, 因此选项 B 是正确答案。

Example 2:

If sustainable competitive advantage depends on work force skills, American firms have a problem. Human resource management is not traditionally seen as central to the competitive survival of the firm in the United States. Skill acquisition is considered an individual responsibility. Labor is simply another factor of production to be hired/rented at the lowest possible cost—must as one buys raw materials or equipment.

The lack of importance attached to human resource management can be seen in the corporate pecking order. In an American firm the chief financial officer is almost always second in command. The post of head of human resource management is usually a specialized job, often at the edge of the corporate hierarchy. The executive who holds it is never consulted on major strategic decisions and has no chance to move up to Chief Executive Officer. By way of contrast, in Japan the head of human resource management is central—usually the second most important executive, after the CEO, in the firm's hierarchy.

While American firms often talk about the vast amounts spent on training their work force, in fact, they invest less in the skill of their employees than do either Japanese or German firms. The money they do invest is also more highly concentrated on professional and managerial employees. And the limited investment that made in training workers are much more narrowly focused on the specific skills necessary to do the next job rather than on the basic background skills that make it possible to absorb new technologies.

As a result, problems emerge when new breakthrough technologies arrive. If American workers, for example, take much longer to learn how to operate new flexible manufacturing stations than workers in Germany (as they do), the effective cost of those stations is lower in Germany than in the United States. More time is required before equipment is up and running at capacity, and the need for ex-

tensive retraining generates costs and creates bottlenecks that limit the speed with which new equipment can be employed. The result is a slower pace of technological change. And in the end the skills of the bottom half of the population affect the wages of the top half. If the bottom half can't effectively staff the processes that have to be operated, the management and professional jobs that go with these processes will disappear.

1. Which of the following applies to the human resource management of American companies?
 - A. They hire people with the least possible money regardless of their skills.
 - B. They see skill gaining as their employee's own business.
 - C. They prefer to hire self-trained workers.
 - D. They only hire skilled workers because of keen employment competition.
2. What is the position of the executive of human-resource management in an American firm?
 - A. He is one of the most important executive of the firm.
 - B. His cost is likely to disappear when new technologies have been introduced.
 - C. He has no say in making important decisions of the firm.
 - D. He is directly under the chief financial executive.
3. The money most American firms put in work force training mainly goes on _____.
 - A. technological and managerial staff
 - B. workers who will run new equipment
 - C. workers who lack basic background skills
 - D. top executives
4. Why is there a slow pace of technological change in American firms?
 - A. New equipment in American is more expensive.
 - B. American firms don't pay enough attention to on-the-job training of their workers.
 - C. The decision-making process in American firms makes them less responsive to technological changes.
 - D. The professional staff of American firms are less paid and so less creative.

这四道题全部是事实细节类题。首先,从第一段可以了解本文的主题或中心是美国公司的人力资源管理方面存在的问题。

第1题,关于美国人力资源管理方面的现状。A. 他们在用人时不考虑被雇佣者的技能,只想尽量花费最少的钱。B. 他们把技能培训看作是员工自己的事情。C. 他们倾向于雇佣自我培训的工人。D. 由于激烈的竞争他们只雇佣熟练工人。其中只有B可以在第一自然段找到相近的观点,(skill acquisition is considered an individual responsibility)技能的获得被认为是个人的职责。

第2题问及美国公司中负责人力资源管理的行政人员在公司的地位。其中,A. 公司里最重要的行政人员;B. 当引进新技术时,就不需要这种行政人员;C. 无权参与公司的重大决策;D. 直接对财务总监负责。在文章的第二自然段中(the executive who holds it is never consulted on major strategic decisions and has no chance to move up to Chief Executive Officer):在这个位置上的行政人员从来不参与主要决策制定,而且没有任何机会晋升为CEO,正好与C相吻合。

第3题问及大多数美国公司在劳动力培训方面的资金主要用于哪些方面。A. 技术和管

理人员;B. 使用新设备的工人;C. 缺乏基本技能的工人;D. 高层管理人员。在第三自然段中,第二句(The money they do invest is also more highly concentrated on professional and managerial employees.)恰好说明了他们把仅有的那点资金用于职业技术和管理人员的培训。所以,正确答案为 A。

第4题问及美国公司技术革新缓慢的原因。A. 在美国新设备价格更贵;B. 美国公司不重视工人的在职培训;C. 美国公司的决策过程使他们对技术革新反应迟钝;D. 美国公司的专业技术人员薪水较低,因而创造力较弱。文章最后一段的第三句(More time is required before equipment is up and running at capacity, and the need for extensive retraining generates costs and creates bottlenecks that limit the speed with which new equipment can be employed.)说明进行大规模的再培训是束缚公司快速发展以适应新设备需要的因素之一。所以,正确答案为 B。

对于事实细节类问题,应首先找到它的考查点,然后根据它的命题规律答题。这类题的题干(答案)在意义上通常等于原文中某一部分的内容,也就是说用不同的表达方式使题干(答案)与原文等值。所用的方法大致有释义,使用同义词、反义词或词组,利用词汇的同现、复现,上、下义词以及句式和语态的转换等等。干扰项要么与文章中的事实或观点截然相反,要么与文章所述的事实或观点部分不符,要么在文章中根本没有涉及。总之,题目不在于做得“多”,而在于做得“精”,“精”就精在阅读速度和解题技巧方面。

c. 综合分析逻辑推理类

推理性问题与细节性问题相似,也是对文章具体内容的判断。但推理不但要求掌握文章所表达的字面含义,还要掌握一定的逻辑判断能力及写作技巧知识,从文章表面推出更深层含义,这部分往往出题分量大,难度大,出错也最多,归根结底还是对文章内容没有做到真正的理解和掌握。

综合分析逻辑推理类(implication or inference or conclusion)问题主要包括 Significance 和 Communication Techniques 两大类。

1. Significance

文字表面往往没有明显反映作者的全部意图,有些含义需要读者从字里行间去体会,靠自己的逻辑推理能力去判断,从上下文的连贯及文中有关部分的暗示去明析作者隐含的意思。这类问题常见的命题方式有:

- (1) The writer implies but not directly states that _____.
- (2) It can be inferred from the passage that _____.
- (3) The author strongly suggests that _____.
- (4) It can be concluded from the passage that _____.
- (5) The passage is intended to _____.
- (6) The writer indicates that _____.

Example:

With lunch and dinner, Americans commonly drink water, milk, fruit juice, beer, coffee, tea or a carbonated beverage. Coca-Cola is the most popular and best-known non-alcoholic carbonated drink in America and also in the world. It is not surprising that American intrusion into foreign economies in the 1960s was called “cocacolonization” and it is not without reason that Pepsi executives grow

apoplectic to know that “coke” is not only a brand name but often referred to as the generic term for cola. Coke, which celebrated its hundredth birthday in 1986, is in every sense an international drink.

The story of Coca-Cola’s birth is now well-known to the world. In 1886, an Atlanta druggist named John S. Pemberton stirred up a syrup of coca leaves and cola nuts in his backyard and sold it in his own drugstore as a medicine. He experimented by adding soda water to the syrup and expanded his distribution. In 1891 another pharmacist, Asa B. Candler acquired the right to Pemberton’s formula for the staggering sum of \$20 000. Eight years later he set up the franchising system which is the key to the company’s success even today, and first put the drink into bottles. Ready to drink, coke was on its way to becoming a multibillion dollar business.

Various theories have been developed to account for Coke’s success. One of the popular beliefs is that the cocaine in it is addictive. But now it is generally agreed that Coke’s success has had much more to do with its skillful advertising, which like all effective advertising, pushes the symbolic rather than the pragmatic value of the product. The advertisements show happy peer groups repeatedly drinking Coke and so an illusory image of good fellowship and sociability is firmly formed. So Coke sells because drinking it makes us feel loved, thanks to the advertisement department.

1. In the 1960s, _____.
 - A. America intruded into its neighbour
 - B. Pepsi executives began to be jealous of Coke
 - C. American economy penetrated in those of others
 - D. the term “cocacolonization” was created
2. When people refer to Cola, they are very likely talking about _____.
 - A. Coca-Cola
 - B. Pepsi-Cola
 - C. coca leaves
 - D. a syrup
3. The image created by Coke’s ads is _____.
 - A. prosperity and sociability
 - B. friendship and sociability
 - C. freedom and friendship
 - D. sociability and success
4. Which of the following statements is true?
 - A. The franchising system of the Coke Company was set up by Pemberton.
 - B. The franchising system is no longer employed by the Coke Company.
 - C. In 1899, Candler first sold coke in bottles.
 - D. In 1891, Candler acquired the right to the coke’s formula for only \$200.
5. The direct cause for Coke’s becoming a multibillion-dollar business was _____.
 - A. the franchising system
 - B. the introduction of soda water into the syrup
 - C. Candler’s purchase of Pemberton’s formula
 - D. the bottling of the drink