



2011年 考研英语(一)阅读 分阶训练

考研英语阅读研究组 编著

● 题材归类 难度分阶

● 题源广泛 真题再现

● 词汇语境 强化记忆

● 难句结构 深度剖析

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前言

本书编写的目的与要达到的预期效果

本书旨在帮助立志考研者迅速提高阅读能力,直通考研英语的内部,所以从某种意义上讲这本书的价值和意义并不完全在于其内容上,更重要的是它在编排体制上所体现出来的考研英语学习思路给考生所带来的启发。其实真正拥有语言天赋的人并不多,每个人只要有正确的方法,都能把英语学好。虽然本书的目的不在于讨论英语学习这个大问题,而在于帮助考生战胜考研英语,但方法的重要性却是不言而喻的。

那什么才是最好的方法?对这个问题的回答似乎因人而异,但是,须知任何一种考试,无论是四、六级还是考研,或者是托福、雅思等都因为考试性质的不同而有其不同于其他考试的规律,因此首先要明白所要参加考试的目的、结构和难度等等各个方面。直接的切入要比在外围做准备更有效率。但考试毕竟需要一定的基础和积累。以考研英语为例,做真题似乎成了一个众所周知的秘诀,但许多考生却很难坚持下来,原因就在于真题难度太大,直接切入很困难,并且经常打击学习英语的信心和兴趣。因此词汇、句法等各方面的基础也是非常重要的准备工作。而按部就班地从头学起又来不及,本书编写的目的就是要解决这一个困难,让考生先从相对容易的文章入手进行学习,循序渐进地进入到考研英语之中。

考研英语阅读理解部分共分三节,其实是三种题型。A节属于对文章的深度理解,B节类似于完形填空,考查的主要是对文章逻辑结构的理解,C节是精读翻译。针对不同的题型,要有不同的策略和方法。本书试图以简洁明了的方式对考研英语的阅读进行全方位的介绍和训练,达到事半功倍的效果。

本书的内容与章节安排

学习英语最重要也不过有几点内容,首先是词汇量的多少。然而大的词汇量并不一定能保证英语能力可以有相应的水平,有的人词汇量虽然很大,但是遇到一定难度的文章还是读不懂,这就涉及到第二方面的内容——对英语句子的读解能力。第三点就是对西方人的文化背景不了解,这样理解起来就存在一定困难,因此了解西方尤其是英语国家概况是很必要的。第四点是思维方式的问题,对英语文章的篇章构成不了解,读起来不知所云。

本书的目的就是试图解决这些问题。考研英语阅读的文章大都来自英美国家一些知名的书刊杂志,除去个别难度上的改动之外基本上都是原汁原味的英语,因此在真正进入到考研英语真题之前要先解决语言和文化差异等各方面的的问题。而作者编写这本书很难在如此有限的篇幅内完成这个任务,但作者精选了几十篇这方面的文章供大家阅读,既提高阅读能力,扩大词汇量,同时又对英语国家的背景有所了解。

希望可以帮助考生提高阅读水平,顺利通过考研英语大关!

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第一章

基础与巩固

1. 本部分的目标和内容

这部分内容的基本目标有三个,第一是扩大词汇量,第二是了解西方文化背景知识,第三是提高阅读英语文章的能力。因此,这部分也有助于那些英语基础薄弱的考生提高学习英语的积极性,快速入门。从体例上来讲,也是三者兼顾的,首先文章右面的方框内有词汇的注解,目的是节约查词时间,更快地扩大词汇量。其次,每篇文章都有“长难句分析”,主要目的是降低文章难度,便于学习者掌握重要的句型,学会分析长难句。最后是参考译文,目的是方便读者检查自己的理解是否正确。

为了便于读者了解西方社会的知识背景,提高阅读能力,在内容方面特别选取与主要英语国家的政治、经济、法律、文化、教育、科技相关的文章,内容丰富多彩,不限于说明性文章,还有评论性、记叙性文章入选。这样既在文章题材方面又在文章类型方面都能对读者有所裨益。

2. 如何使用本章

第一步: 熟悉文章内容,在不借助任何帮助的情况下完成对文章的理解。不认识的单词也不需要看右边的注释,可以先自己根据上下文对词义进行猜测。了解文章大意是初步工作,也是对阅读能力的基本要求。

第二步: 词汇记忆。一是要注意词汇的积累,把新学习到的单词都记在纸上,随身携带,随时随地都可以进行复习。

第三步: 精读文章,解决文章中的长难句。在学习时尤其重要的是分析长难句的思路是什么,不是仅就句子看句子,而是要逐渐理解英语句子的构成特点,如何能抓住句子的核心部分进行简化等等。

第四步: 对文章内容进行深化理解,要求读懂所有句子,不放过任何一个疑难点,可以“参考译文”作为对照,检查自己的理解是否正确。当然,我们所列出的单词和句子不可能解决不同读者的所有问题,面对疑难一定要勤于动手查阅资料和辞典。

第五步: 复习回顾。这仍然是重复的问题,但如何重复是一个问题。在完成了上述环节之后,并不要求读者一口气把这些文章读上几十遍,而是要不断循环。建议在学习完一个单元的内容后再进行复习和整理。

第一节 地理常识

Passage 1

The United States is a land of great differences—differences in climate (you can find every kind of climate here, though the country lies mostly in the **temperate** zone); in landscape (you'll see high mountains, **plateaus**, plains, water-falls etc.); in **altitude** (that is, differences in the height above sea level). The continental United States, the country's **territory** on the North American continent, **stretches** about 4,500 kilometers from the eastern coast, that is, the Atlantic Coast, to the Pacific Ocean on the West; and it extends 2,557 kilometers from the northern **boundary** to the southern tip of Texas. The country **borders** Canada on the north and goes down south to Mexico and the Gulf of Mexico. Including the States of Alaska and Hawaii, the United States covers an area of nine million square kilometers, or to be more exact, 9,191,843 sq. km., a little less than the area of the People's Republic of China, which is 9,600,000 sq. km..

There are altogether 50 states in the United States, the largest of which is Alaska. It borders on the northwestern Canada and is 82 km away from Russia across the **Bering Strait**. It was known as Russian America until **purchased** by the United States from Russia in 1867. It was linked to the United States by the Alaska Highway in 1942, and became the 49th state of the USA in 1959.

Texas is the second in size, which is larger than France, but is only a little less than half of the area of Chinese Xin Jiang Uighur **Autonomous** Region.

Hawaii lies in the **tropical** zone of the Pacific, 3,200 km away from the North American Continent. It is a group of islands, which became the 50th state of the United States in

temperate *a.* (气候) 温和的

plateau *n.* 高原

altitude *n.* 海拔

territory *n.* 领土; 疆域

stretch *v.* 延伸; 伸展

boundary *n.* 边界

border *v.* 接壤

Bering Strait *n.* 白令海峡

purchase *v.* 购买

autonomous *a.* 自治的, 自动的

tropical *a.* 热带的

1959. Hawaii, was made very famous by the Japanese attack, on December 7, 1941, on one of its islands—Pearl Harbor which is situated near Honolulu, the capital of Hawaii.

A jet plan can fly over the continental United States from the east coast to the Pacific Ocean on the west in about five hours; it will take a little more than two days to travel by train from Los Angeles on the west to New York City on the east coast. However, by driving along the highways and super-highways, which **crisscross** the country, you'll get a better bird's-eye view of the mainland of the United States.

crisscross *v.* 纵横交错

重点词组

lie in 位于
that is 也就是

get a bird's-eye view of 鸟瞰

长难句分析

However, by driving along the highways and super-highways, which crisscross the country, you'll get a better bird's-eye view of the mainland of the United States.

该句中 by 引出的介词短语 by driving along the highways and super-highways 作全句的方式状语。此外,句中还有一个“which”引导的非限制性定语从句,先行词为 the highways and super-highways。

参考译文

美国的差异很大,体现在气候上,这里有各种气候,虽然大部分地区位于温带;地形有高山、高原、平原、瀑布;海拔也各不相同。美国大陆部分从东部大西洋海岸到西部太平洋海岸有 4,500 公里;由北部到南部的田纳西有 2,557 公里长。北部与加拿大接壤,南部毗邻墨西哥与墨西哥湾。美国国土面积,包括阿拉斯加州和夏威夷岛在内为 9,191,843 平方公里,仅次于面积为 9,600,000 平方公里的中国。

美国有 50 个州,最大的州是阿拉斯加。它与加拿大西北部相邻,与俄罗斯隔着白令海峡

相距82公里。它曾被叫做“俄罗斯的美洲”,直到1867年被美国购得。1942年修建的阿拉斯加公路将它与美国大陆连接在一起。1959年阿拉斯加成为美国的第41个州。

田纳西州为美国第二大州,比法国大,但还不到新疆维吾尔自治区面积的一半。

夏威夷位于太平洋的热带地区,距北美大陆3,200公里。它由群岛构成,1959年成为美国的第50个州。夏威夷因1941年7月的日本偷袭珍珠港事件而闻名。珍珠港位于夏威夷州火奴鲁鲁附近的一个岛上。

坐喷气式飞机从东海岸到太平洋西岸穿越美国大陆需要大约5小时;乘火车从西部的洛杉矶到东海岸的纽约需要两天多。但是,驾车行驶在纵横交织的公路与高速公路上,可以更好地欣赏整个美国大陆的全景。

Passage 2

Britain **comprises** Great Britain (England, Wales and Scotland) and Northern Ireland, and is one of the member states of the European Union. Its full name is the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland.

Britain **constitutes** the greater part of the British Isles. The largest of the islands is Great Britain. The next largest comprises Northern Ireland and the Irish Republic.

With an area of some 242,500 sq. km., Britain is just less than 1,000 km. from the south coast to the extreme north of Scotland and just less than 500 km. across in the widest part.

According to **preliminary** result of the April 1991 census, Britain's population is 55.5 million. It ranks 17th in the world in terms of population. The British population is expected, on mid-1989 based projections, to be 59.2 million in 2001 and 60 million in 2011.

In the later 18th and 19th centuries Britain became the first **industrialized** country, basing its wealth on coal-mining, on the manufacture of iron and steel, heavy **machinery** and **textiles**, on shipbuilding and on trade.

In the 20th century a second period of industrialization

comprise *a.* 构成;由…
构成

constitute *v.* 构成;组成

preliminary *a.* 初步的;起
始的

industrialized *a.* 工业化的
machinery *n.* 机械
textile *n.* 纺织品

changed the broad pattern of development in Britain. In the 1920s and 1930s the northern industrial centers saw their traditional manufactures weakened owing to **fluctuations** in the world trade and competition from other industrializing countries.

fluctuation *n.* 波动

Tourism and the **leisure** industries have expanded considerably in recent years. Over half of **expenditure** by overseas visitors in Britain takes place in London, and areas elsewhere, encouraged by government policies to expand tourism in the regions, are becoming increasingly popular with overseas tourists.

leisure *n.* 休闲; 空闲

expenditure *n.* 花费

Of the many tourist attractions in Britain, for instance, are Madame Tussaud's waxworks in London, the Tower of London and Alton Towers, with more than millions of visitors per year **respectively**.

respectively *ad.* 各自地

association *n.* 联系; 联想

Many regions and towns have **associations** with great English writers and artists, such as William Shakespeare (Stratford-upon-Avon), William Wordsworth (Lake District), the Bronte sisters (York-shire).

重点词组

according to

依据

have association with

与...有联系

owing to

由于

长难句分析

In the 1920s and 1930s the northern industrial centers saw their traditional manufactures weakened owing to fluctuations in the world trade and competition from other industrializing countries.

该句的谓语动词为 **saw**, 意为“为(某事)的现场或背景”, 主语为地点名词; **see** 还可指“某事发生之时, 目睹”, 此时其主语为时间名词。另外, **weakened** 是 **weaken** 的过去分词, 表示被动, 意为“被削弱”。

参考译文

英国包括大不列颠(英格兰、威尔士和苏格兰)和北爱尔兰,是欧盟成员国之一。全称为大不列颠及北爱尔兰联合王国。

英国是由不列颠群岛中的大部分岛屿组成的,其中第一大岛是大不列颠,第二大岛上有北爱尔兰和爱尔兰共和国。

英国的面积大约是 242,500 平方公里,从南部海岸到苏格兰的最北部不到 1,000 公里,横向最宽只有 500 公里。根据 1991 年 4 月的人口普查的初步结果,英国人口有 5,500 万,在世界上名列第 17 位。

根据 1989 年中期的人口为依据所做的预测,英国的人口预计在 2001 年将达到 5,920 万,2011 年将达到 6,000 万。

在 18 世纪后期和 19 世纪,英国成为第一个工业化国家,其财富主要来自采煤、钢铁制造、重型机械制造、纺织工业、造船业和商业。

在 20 世纪,第二阶段的工业化使得英国的发展模式发生了变化。在 20 年代和 30 年代,由于世界贸易的波动,以及其他正在进行工业化的国家的竞争,北部工业中心传统的制造业出现了衰退。

旅游业和娱乐业近年来发展得相当快速。外国游客在英国总的开支中有一半以上用在伦敦,其他地区在政府政策的鼓励下也在扩大各自的旅游业,并且吸引着越来越多的外国旅游者。

英国有很多的旅游胜地,比如图索德夫人蜡像馆、伦敦塔、奥尔顿堡,每年都有百万以上的参观者。

许多地区和城镇与一些英国伟大的作家的名字联系在一起,如威廉·莎士比亚(艾冯河畔斯特拉特福),威廉·华兹华斯(湖畔地区)、勃朗特姐妹(约克郡)。

Passage 3

Canada is situated in the northern half of the North American Continent. It **occupies** an area of 9,976,139 sq. km.. It is a bit larger than China. Thus, in area it is the second largest country in the world, being **exceeded** only by Russia. In comparison, Canada is more than forty times the sizes of Britain.

occupy v. 占据; 占用

exceed v. 超过; 超出

The only country that is **adjacent** to Canada on land is the United States. It is to the south of Canada. On the other sides, Canada is surrounded by water. To the east of Canada is the Atlantic Ocean. To the west is the Pacific Ocean. And to the north is the Arctic Ocean. The borderline shared by the U.S. and Canada is as long as 5,524.5 km. It is called the longest undefended borderline in the world. Citizens of both countries can cross the border without a **visa**.

People tend to think that as Canada is a northern country its winters must be **harsh** and long. But contrary to popular belief, on the whole, Canada is a very sunny land with a **distinctive** change of seasons. Since Canada is a vast country, its climate varies greatly from region to region. When it comes to Canada's climate, people usually divide it into six climate regions, the **Arctic** Region, the Northern Region, the **Prairie** Region, the **Cordillera** Region, the Pacific Region, and the Southeastern Region.

It is estimated that one eighth of the land is suitable for agricultural production. However, as Canada is a **sparsely** populated country, only eight percent of the land is presently used for farming. Agriculture plays a very important role in Canada's economy. It accounts for more than a quarter of the country's economy. Farm exports alone amount to 20 percent of the country's foreign exchange. Other major industries of Canada include forest industry, fisheries, mining and **metallurgical** industry, electric power generating industries and manufacturing industries.

adjacent *a.* 毗邻的

visa *n.* 签证

harsh *a.* 严酷的; 严厉的

distinctive *a.* 有特色的

arctic *a.* 北极的

prairie *n.* 大草原

cordillera *n.* 山脉

sparsely *ad.* 稀少地;
零散地

metallurgical *a.* 冶金学的

重点词组

be situated in

位于

be suitable for

适合于

be adjacent to

与...毗邻

account for

(数量等)占...

when it comes to

当涉及...时

amount to

总计

长难句分析

Thus, in area it is the second largest country in the world, being exceeded only by Russia.

句中 thus 是连词,意为“因此,所以”。短语 in area,其中 in 表示在某一方面;being exceeded 是由现在分词引出的独立主格结构,省略了主语“it”。

参考译文

加拿大位于北美大陆的北半部。面积 9,976,139 平方公里,比中国稍大。其为世界第二国土大国,仅次于俄罗斯,是英国面积的 40 多倍。

美国是加拿大惟一的陆上邻国,位于其南部。加拿大其余三面皆环水,东部是大西洋;西部是太平洋。加美两国边界长达 5,524.5 公里,是世界上最长的不设防国界线。两国居民可以不持签证自由穿梭。

人们倾向于认为,加拿大因位于北部,冬季会严寒而漫长。恰恰相反,加拿大阳光充足、四季分明。由于加拿大很大,地区间的气候差别也很大。其气候可分为 6 个气候带:北极带、北部带、大草原带、山脉地带、太平洋地带和东南部地带。

据估计,加拿大八分之一的土地适合于农业生产。然而人口稀少,目前只有 8% 的土地用于农耕。农业在加拿大经济中很重要,占到全国经济总量的四分之一。农业出口额达到国家外贸交易总额的 20%。加拿大其他的主要产业还包括林业、渔业、矿产、冶金业、发电业和制造业。

Passage 4

Australia is the smallest continent and the largest island in the world. It is the sixth largest country in the area after Russia, Canada, China, the United States and Brazil and also the only nation that occupies an entire continent. It is about 25 times larger than Britain and Ireland.

With an area of 7,682,300 sq. km., Australia is situated in the Southern Hemisphere entirely below the

Brazil *n.* 巴西
occupy *v.* 占据;占用
Ireland *n.* 爱尔兰

hemisphere *n.* 半球

equator. Almost 40 percent of the land lies within the **tropics**, and a larger part of the country stands within the driest area of **latitude**.

Roughly a **rectangular** shape, Australia has the shallow Great Australia Bight in the south and the Gulf of Carpentaria in the northeast. Its coastline is as long as 36,735 km. Numerous islands, mostly small, surround the continent.

The Australian climate ranges from tropical in the north to temperate in the south. Summer is from December to February, autumn from March to May, winter from June to August and spring from September to November. A notable feature of the climate is the low rain fall in the most parts. Over much of the north seasonal **droughts** occur, and throughout Australia flooding is fairly common.

Australia is the flattest of the seven continents. The average **elevation** in Australia is less than 300 meters, with the world's mean of about 700 meters. Only about one-twentieth of the continent is more than 600 meters above sea level. The Australian Alps in the southeastern area contain Australia's highest area with the highest point at Mount Kosciusko (2,228 meters).

tropics *n.* 热带

latitude *n.* 纬度;回旋余地

rectangular *a.* 长方形的

drought *n.* 干旱

elevation *n.* 海拔;举起;
抬高

重点词组

be situated in 位于

range from... to 在...之间变化

长难句分析

It is the sixth largest country in the area after Russia, Canada, China, the United States and Brazil and also the only nation that occupies an entire continent.

该句中 **after**, 在此是介词, 表示“(在顺序、排列或重要性上)仅次于...”。而 “... and also the only nation that occupies an entire continent.” 是 **it** 的另一个表语, 后面是一个定语从句, 先行词由 **the only** 加以界定, 故引导词必须是 **that**。

参考译文

澳大利亚是世界上最小的陆地也是最大的岛屿。澳大利亚国土面积居世界第六位,仅次于俄国、加拿大、中国、美国及巴西,也是世界上惟一占据一个大陆的国家。是英国与爱尔兰面积总和的 25 倍。

澳大利亚国土面积为 7,682,300 平方公里,位于赤道下方的南半球,大约 40% 的国土处于热带地区,大部分处于最干旱的纬度。

澳大利亚大致像一个长方形,南部有澳大利亚大海湾,东北部是卡奔塔利亚湾。其海岸线长达 36,735 公里。大大小小的岛屿环绕在其周围。

澳大利亚北部为热带气候,南部为温带气候。夏季从 12 月至 2 月,秋季从 3 月到 5 月,冬季从 7 月到 8 月,春季从 9 月到 11 月。气候的一个显著特点是大部分地区降雨量低。北部大部地区都出现季节性干旱,而澳洲各地时有洪水泛滥。

澳洲在七大洲中最为平坦,平均海拔不到 300 米,而世界平均海拔大约为 700 米。整个大陆只有二十分之一的地区海拔超过 600 米。澳大利亚山脉位于东南部地区,这里有澳洲最高的地区,其中科西阿斯科山(2,228 米)是全国最高点。

Passage 5

Australia is a continent with a **landscape** consisting mainly of low plateaus, which are sectioned off by rugged mountain ranges.

The Great Dividing Range is the biggest mountain range, and starts in central Victoria and ends in Northern Queensland some several thousand kilometers in length. An area on the Victoria and New South Wales border receives more snow than the country of **Switzerland**.

Other prominent mountain ranges include The Hammersley Ranges, the Flinders Ranges, the Macdonell Ranges, the Darling Ranges and the King Leopold Ranges.

Northern Australia is located in the tropics and the landscape consists of rainforest, which leads into large areas of **grasslands**, which eventually merge into the central deserts. These deserts are the largest in the world outside of the Sahara. This part of Australia's is called the Red Centre because of the unusual red color in the sand.

landscape *n.* 景观; 风景

Switzerland *n.* 瑞士

grassland *n.* 草原

The Southwest corner of Australia is populated by Karri Forests, which is rated as some of the tallest trees on earth.

Tasmania to the south is a **mountainous** island about the same size as Ireland or Sri Lanka located in the temperate climatic zone immediately below the Australian continent. One quarter of this island is protected **wilderness** and is similar in appearance to nearby **New Zealand**.

mountainous *a.* 多山的;
巨大的

wilderness *n.* 荒原
New Zealand *n.* 新西兰

重点词组

consist of

由...组成

the same as

与...相同

be located in

位于

长难句分析

Australia is a continent with a landscape consisting mainly of low plateaus, which are sectioned off by rugged mountain ranges.

句中 **consisting** 是现在分词,作 **landscape** 的定语。**which** 引导非限制性定语从句,先行词为 **low plateaus**;词组 **section off** 的意为“将某物切成部分”。

参考译文

澳大利亚主要由低矮的高原构成,这些低矮的高原被高低不平的山脉分隔开。

大分水岭是最大的山脉,起于维多利亚州中部、绵延至北昆士兰州约数千公里。在维多利亚州和新南威尔士州交界的一个地区的降雪量超过了瑞士。

其他著名的山脉还有哈默斯利山脉、弗林德斯山脉、麦克德纳尔山脉、达令山脉和国王利奥波德山脉。

澳大利亚北部位于热带,拥有大片雨林,雨林延伸至大面积的草原,最终融入到中部沙漠。这些沙漠是撒哈拉沙漠以外世界上最大的沙漠。澳大利亚的这一地区被称为“红色中心”,正是得名于该地区不寻常的红色沙子。

澳大利亚的西南角是卡里森林,有地球上最高的树木。

南部的塔斯马尼亚州,是一个多山的岛屿,面积相当于爱尔兰或斯里兰卡,处于温带气候区,海拔略低于澳大利亚大陆。这个岛的四分之一是受保护的荒野,地貌与附近的新西兰相似。

第二节 经济金融

Passage 1

Federal Reserve Chairman Ben Bernanke says the dollar is strong, but investors quite **literally** aren't buying it.

Just hours after Bernanke told an audience in the southern state of Georgia that one can count on a strong dollar because the Fed is committed to making sure we have price stability in this country, the dollar on Tuesday **plunged** to multi-week lows against rival currencies.

That's because saying the Fed is committed to price stability and **enacting** measures to **ensure** such an outcome are two different things. Investors seem to be fairly certain the measures taken thus far by the U.S.. The Fed has lowered interest rates to **virtually** zero and appears content to keep them that way for a good while to encourage economic growth. It has also been printing money like crazy to bail out the banking industry, which is pushing the deficit of U.S..

The fear is that such heavy **deficit** spending will lead to high inflation that **depreciates** the value of a currency. And the Fed won't be able to fight by raising interest rates if it is still trying to promote growth.

That's not to say the dollar is about to fall off a cliff. Preventing a dollar **rout** will likely be the realization that global economic recovery isn't coming as soon as many hope.

"We continue to expect more losses in the U.S. dollar," says Kathy Lien, director of currency research at Global Forex Trading. "But with growth still expected to be below trend and the U.S. economy facing more job losses, a 'V'-shaped recovery or a strong **rebound** is a bit too **optimistic**."

literally *ad.* 此处无实意, 用以加强语气

plunge *v.* 猛跌;使突然陷入

enact *v.* 制定;通过

ensure *v.* 确保;保证

virtually *ad.* 几乎

deficit *n.* 赤字

depreciate *v.* 贬值

rout *n.* 溃败;动荡

rebound *v.* 反弹

optimistic *a.* 乐观的