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謝忠明

第一屆「台灣文學國際學術研討會」
主辦單位：國立台灣大學

第二屆「台灣文學國際學術研討會」
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如果你用 20 分钟精读
就会发现本书的价值!!!

大学英语四级考试

四级考试命题研究组 组编

谢忠明

点拨阅读理解

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前言

怎样才能提高阅读理解的能力呢?许多在校的大学生们都会遇到这样令人困惑的问题。或曰:多读。诚然多读一些专门的阅读理解题,培养语感,是一条正途的路子。但是纵观市场上,同类书籍林总总,多如牛毛,总不能一一做来。所以在多读的同时要注意读什么方法,使之更有针对性。

最近一次的四六级考试再次证明:要过四六级,必须练真题。近两年的四级试题不仅沿袭了近年来真题的出题思路,也验证了编者对真题命题趋势的预测。而阅读理解在真题当中占到40%,这一比重在某种程度上也就决定了同学们的四级考试能否通过,能否拿高分。因此这也就要求同学们提高阅读理解的能力。要顺利通过四六级,一个“对症下药”的方法就是对历年真题进行分析研究,并在其基础上进行归纳、总结和预测。为此,我们邀请了在国内四级英语辅导界第一线的著名专家编写了这套《四级阅读题解密》。

这套书共分三册。该书分析归类了自开考以来历年的真题,并按难易程度排列,并总结出历年考题的十二大题型和解题技巧,独辟蹊径,针对性极强。并对每一套试题进行了详尽的分析和解答,独具特色地训练您的阅读理解能力,训练您应对真题的技巧和方法。并认真研究分析了历年真题,以权威的态度和出题命题标准精心编制了20套全套模拟试题,以应您急公如渴,学而致用。

为了能让同学们更好地掌握阅读理解的方法、技巧和规律,本书在生词的解

释上不仅列出文中本义,还列出了其他义项,还有复杂句型的理解、分析,每篇阅读理解的解法有原文大意,帮助考生从整体上把握原文。题目讲解部分详细,透析考点和解题规律,帮助考生举一反三。以使同学们除了理解文章字面意义,还能够理解和归纳文章的要旨和中心思想,理解和辨析支撑文章中心思想的细节内容,从字里行间推断文章的深层含义,揣测作者意图、观点和态度,根据上下文猜测词义,理解上下文的逻辑关系等等。这样的训练和学习能让您的阅读理解在短期内达到良好的效果。

通透词汇、翻译 全面提高 本书采取独型的编排形式,做到阅读与翻译同步,点拨与双色互为搭配,让你一目了然,使你能够更简单更透彻地抓住本书要义所在。并让您在攻克阅读理解的同时,攻克四级核心词汇、疑难长句、篇章理解,以期达到通过阅读学词汇、通过阅读学翻译、通过阅读提高应试技巧。

最后真诚地希望本书能切实帮助广大考生的英语学习,不仅是为应试做准备,更是让考生领悟到四级考试的真谛,寻找到一种正确的学习方法和学习态度,真正提高自己的英语水平。

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Part One

考纲透视

在35分钟内,按每分钟70个词的速度完成总词量为1000~1200词的四篇短文及短文后的问题和选项。

考试大纲要求考生:

掌握所读材料的主旨和大意;

了解说明文章中心思想的事实和细节;

既理解字面的意思,也能根据所读材料进行一定的推理和判断;

既理解个别句子的意思,也理解上下文的逻辑关系。

考点解读

阅读理解的题材广泛,包括人物传记、社会、文化、日常生活、科普知识、风土人情等,但所涉及的背景知识应为学生所理解;文章的语言难度适中,无法猜测而又影响理解的关键词,若超过教学大纲四级词汇表的范围,用汉语注明词义。

在近几年的试题中,科普文章所占比例最大,约为50%,其次是社会生活方面的文章,约为25%。

四级考试阅读体裁多样化,包括记叙文、说明文、议论文等等,其中以说明文(约45%)和议论文(约40%)居多。

常考十二大题型及解题技巧

倒着考/反着考题型

所谓倒着考,就是将文章中的某句话,倒着考一遍。命题模式为:文章中说B导致C;问题中问为什么会有C这一结果?答案应为:因为B。所谓反着考,即将文章中的某句话,反过来考一遍。

例:1990年1月

During the hours when you labour through your work you may say that you're "hot". That's true. The time of day when you feel most energetic is when your cycle of body temperature is at its peak. For some people the peak comes during the forenoon. For others it comes in the afternoon or evening. No one has discovered why this is so, but it leads to such familiar monologues (自言自语) as: "Get up, John! You'll be late for work again!" The possible explanation to the trouble is that John is at his temperature-and-energy peak in the evening. Much family quarreling ends when husbands and wives realize what these energy cycles mean, and which cycle each member of the family has.

Which of the following may lead to family quarrels according to the passage?

A) Unawareness of energy cycles.

- B) Familiar monologues.
C) A change in a family member's energy cycle.
D) Attempts to control the energy cycle of other family members.

这是一道极为典型的倒着考题目。最后一句话说:当丈夫和妻子意识到这些 energy cycles 意味着什么,以及每一个家庭成员有怎样的 energy cycle 时,许多家庭争吵停止了。简而言之:明白了,不吵了。问:为什么吵架? 答案也就非常简单了,即不明白。答案为 A。

转折处出题

学生应该对阅读文章中出现转折的地方特别加以注意。表示转折的标志词有: but, in fact, however, nevertheless 等。在用 skimming 手法了解文章大意时, 见到这类词可先划圈, 因为出题概率较高, 而且具体做题时也更容易找到。

例：1998年6月

Couples with infant children are lucky to get a whole night's sleep or a three-day vacation. I don't know any parent who would choose the word fun to describe raising children. **But** couples who decide not to have children never know the joys of watching a child grow up or of playing with a grandchild.

Raising children, in the author's opinion, is _____.

- A) a moral duty B) a thankless job
C) a rewarding task D) a source of inevitable pain

学生在读了前两句后似乎感到,抚养小孩很辛苦,但是在见到表示转折的 But 一词后就应敏感地理解作者的真实看法。作者说:决定不生孩子的夫妇永远不明白看着孩子茁壮成长的快乐。抚养孩子是很有收获的,很有回报的。答案应该是 C。许多学生误选 A 项(一种道德上的职责),这是想当然所致。这一点在做阅读理解题时应切记。

seem/look/sound 处出题

作者经常借助这类词用以引用他人或一般人的看法,其实并不代表作者的真实要表达的含义,你得继续往下看。

例:1998 年 6 月

Learning how to use a computer is not that difficult, and it gets easier all the time as programs become more "user-friendly". Let us assume that in the future everyone is going to have to know how to use a computer to be a competent citizen. What does the phrase "learning to use a computer" mean? *It sounds like "learning to drive a car"; that is, it sounds as if there is some set of definite skills that, once acquired, enable one to use a computer.*

In fact, "learning to use a computer" is much more like "learning to play a game", but learning the rules of one game may not help you play a second game,

whose rules may not be the same. There is no such a thing as teaching someone how to use a computer. One can only teach people to use this or that program, and generally that is easily accomplished.

According to the author, the phrase "learning to use a computer" means learning _____.

- A) a set of rules
- B) the fundamentals of computer science
- C) specific programs
- D) general principles of programming

作者在原文出现的题干后用了"sounds like"和"sounds as if"说明许多人是这样认为的,也就是他人的看法,许多考生据此误选 A 项。作者本人真正的意思应该体现在下面小节的解释,最主要的段尾句"one can only teach people to use this or that program..."。C 项正确。

例证考题

在最近几年的考试中例证题都有出现。命题模式:作者先陈述一种观点、看法,然后举例作为证明。问题问你这个例子说明了什么?很简单,就是说明或证明前面提出的观点。

例:2001 年 6 月

The importance of the product life cycle to marketers is this: Different stages in the product life cycle call for different strategies. The goal is to extend product life so that sales and profits do not decline. One strategy is called market modification. *It means that marketing managers look for new users and market sections.* Did you know, for example, that the **backpacks** that so many students carry today were originally designed for the military?

The author mentions the example of "backpacks" to show the importance of _____.

- A) pleasing the young as well as the old
- B) increasing usage among students
- C) exploring new market sections
- D) serving both military and civil needs

斜体部分就是作者的观点(营销经理们需寻找新的用户和新的消费群体),随后的举例就是证明这一观点。C 项为正确答案。误选 A、D 两项的同学都是犯了就事论事的毛病,应该避免。

指代题

问题通常这样出:原文中某一段某一行中的 it/them/they/theirs 等指代什么?做这类题,记住两个字“回指”,也就是往回看。因为只有上文提到了某一事物,下文才可用这类词。

例:1997年1月

The statuses we assume often vary with the people we encounter, and change throughout life. Most of us can, at very high speed, assume the statuses that various situations require. Much of social interaction consists of identifying and selecting among appropriate statuses and allowing other people to assume their statuses in relation to us. *This means that we fit our actions to those of other people based on a constant mental process of appraisal and interpretation.* Although some of us find *the task* more difficult than others, most of us perform it rather effortlessly.

In the last sentence of this paragraph, the pronoun "it" refers to "_____".

- A) fitting our actions to those of other people appropriately
- B) identification of other people's statuses
- C) selecting one's own statuses
- D) constant mental process

首先明确, it就是指代让步从句中的“task”一词,再往回看,即指上句中宾语从句中的最主体部分“fit our actions to those of other people”,所以答案是A。

推论题

四级考试中推论题的标志词有: infer/inference/suggest/imply/implication/conclude/conclusion等。这类题目,考生们普遍感到棘手,做起来没有把握。应该承认,推论题属比较难的题,其间的分寸不易把握。选项中某一选项和原文的某句话相同,不能选,也就是说,不能原地不动,但也不能走得太远,即大大超越了原文。只需在原来证据的基础上往前稍稍走一步。

例:1996年6月

It is important for family members, and doctors and nurses to understand these patients communications in order to truly understand their needs, fears, and *fantasies*(幻想). Most of our patients welcomed another human being with whom they could talk openly, honestly, and frankly about their trouble. Many of them shared with us their tremendous need to be informed, to be kept up-to-date on their medical condition, and to be told when the end was near. *We found out that patients who had been dealt with openly and frankly were better able to cope with the approach of death and finally to reach a true stage of acceptance prior to death.*

It may be concluded from the passage that _____.

- A) dying patients are afraid of being told of the approach of death
- B) most doctors and nurses understand what dying patients need
- C) dying patients should be truthfully informed of their condition

D) most patients are unable to accept death until it is obviously inevitable

从斜体句可以看出:被坦诚处理的病人能够更好地对待死亡的来临,并最终达到真正地接受死亡。既然告知病人真实病情并没有如常人想像的那样让病人感到恐惧,使他们的病情恶化,相反这些病人能够更好地对待死亡的来临,那么我们据此可以推论出:临死的病人应该被真实地告知病情。也就是我们常说的病人应该具有知情权。C项正确。

语义题

实际上就是猜测词义。手法有许多:利用文中的举例;利用文中说明词义的同位语或定语;利用文章中所出现的,与某生词或词组意思相反的内容;利用文章中用不同的话对同一概念的解释;利用基本的构词方法等等。当然,最主要,也是最可靠的方法应该是依据该词或词组或句子所出现的 context,即上下文或语境。早年考得比较多是一单词或一词组,而近年多半考查学生对一简短句子在文中的含义理解。记住:比较肤浅的字面或句面解释通常不选。

例:1997年6月

I think it certain that in decades, not centuries, machines of *silicon* (硅) will arise first to rival and then exceed their human ancestors. Once they exceed us they will be capable of their own design. In a real sense they will be able to reproduce themselves. *Silicon will have ended carbon's long control. And we will no longer be able to claim ourselves to be the finest intelligence in the known universe.*

The word "carbon" stands for _____.

- A) intelligent robots B) a chemical element
C) an organic substance D) human beings

根据上文可以得知 silicon 应该指代由硅元素组成的机器人,而 carbon 指由碳元素组成的人类。所以正确答案是 D 项。B 项属字面解释。

段落归纳题

解答段落大意归纳的考题,特别要注意段首句和段尾句。因为它通常是段落大意。标志词有 in general, generally, in a word 等。

例:1991年1月

The aim of the teacher is to get his pupils as quickly as possible over the period in which each printed symbol is looked at for its shape, and arrive at the stage when the pupil looks at words and phrases, for their meaning, almost without noticing the shapes of the separate letters.

Which of the following is closest in meaning to the paragraph?

- A) Pupils should be trained to reach quickly the stage of reading without having to concentrate on the separate symbols.
B) Pupils should look at each printed symbol for its meaning as well as for its

shape.

C) Teachers should help their pupils avoid looking at the shape of the printed symbols.

D) Teachers should tell their pupils the different stages of their study.

该段三行实际上是一个句子,考生只需恰当找出句子的主干“The aim of the teacher is to get his pupils... and arrive at the stage...”即可做出正确的大意归纳。

A 项正确。

态度性考题

态度性问题考查学生是否了解文章作者或文中某人对某事物所持观点或态度。命题形式为:What is the author's attitude toward sth.?

经常出现的词汇有: neutral, objective, indifferent, positive, approving, supportive, enthusiastic, optimistic, pessimistic, cautious, disapproving, negative, critical, compromising 等。

例:2002 年 1 月

Some pessimistic experts feel that the automobile is bound to fall into disuse. They see a day in the not-too-distant future when all autos will be abandoned and allowed to rust. Other authorities, *however*, think the auto is here to stay. They hold that the car will remain a leading means of urban travel in the foreseeable future.

What is the author's attitude toward the future of autos?

A) Enthusiastic. B) Pessimistic. C) Optimistic. D) Cautious.

这一段提出了两种对汽车的未来截然不同的观点:悲观主义者认为汽车将变得毫无用处,他们看到不太遥远的某一天,汽车将被遗弃,甚至生锈。乐观主义者则认为汽车在看得见的将来依然是城市交通的主要工具。猛一看,找不到作者的观点,但是通过 *however* 一词可以判断出作者其实是附和第二种观点的,也即是乐观。C 项正确。

因果关系考题

表示因果考题的标志词有 because, because of, in that, for, cause, result, consequence, result in, originate from 等。主要考查学生对两个事件之间因果关系的正确理解。

例:1999 年 1 月

Thatching is a *solitary* (独自的) craft, which often runs in families. The craft of thatching as it is practised today has changed very little since the Middle Ages. Over 800 full-time thatchers are employed in England and Wales today, maintaining and renewing the old roofs as well as thatching newer houses. *Many property owners choose thatch not only for its beauty but because they know it will keep them*

cool in summer and warm in winter.

Thatched houses are still preferred because of _____.

- A) their durability
- B) their easy maintenance
- C) their cheap and ready-made materials
- D) their style and comfort

许多人偏爱茅草做房顶的农舍不仅因为它的美观(style)而且还具有冬暖夏凉的特点(comfort),答案也就很明显是D项。

主旨性考题

主旨性考题,顾名思义,要求考生判断文章的中心思想。标志词有:main idea, main topic, best title, subject, theme, purpose of the writer等。

注意:有超过一半的文章主旨出现在文章的开头和结尾。正确选项特征为概括、宏观、抽象。

例:1999年1月

The appeal of advertising to buying motives can have both negative and positive effects. Consumers may be convinced to buy a product of poor quality or high price because of an advertisement. For example, some advertisers have appealed to people's desire for better fuel economy for their cars by advertising automotive products that improve gasoline mileage. Some of the products work. Others are worthless and a waste of consumers' money.

The passage is mainly about _____.

- A) ways to protect the interests of the consumer
- B) how to make a wise buying decision
- C) the function of advertisements in promoting sales
- D) the positive and negative aspects of advertising

通过文章首句:广告诱发购买动机具有消极和积极的两方面影响。不难了解文章主要围绕这两方面展开,D项正确。

细节性考题

细节性考题为阅读理解考题的基本考题。笔者统计了2003年1月和2003年6月两次考试的40道阅读题目,细节题共有27题,占阅读题量的近70%。此类考题相对简单,因此是我们的拿分部分,有必要争取全部细节性考题答题正确。所谓细节题就是文章中某一句话甚至半句话拿出来单考,理解对了,答案就选对了。关键是找准题干,也就是location(定位)要对。



Passage 1

Do you find getting up in the morning so difficult that it's painful? This might be called laziness, but Dr. Kleitman has a new explanation. He has proved that everyone has a daily energy cycle.

During the hours when you labour through your work you may say that you're "hot". That's true. The time of day when you feel most energetic is when your cycle of body temperature is at its peak. For some people the peak comes during the forenoon. For others it comes in the afternoon or evening. No one has discovered why this is so, but it leads to such familiar monologues(自言自语) as: "Get up, John! You'll be late for work again!" The possible explanation to the trouble is that John is at his temperature-and-energy peak in the evening. Much family quarrelling ends when husbands and wives realize what these energy cycles mean, and which cycle each member of the family has.

You can't change your energy cycle, but you can learn to make your life fit it better. Habit can help, Dr. Kleitman believes. Maybe you're sleepy in the evening but feel you must stay up late anyway. Counteract(对抗) your cycle to some extent by habitually staying up later than you want to. If your energy is low in the morning but you have an important job to do early in the day, rise before your usual hour. This won't change your cycle, but you'll get up steam(鼓起干劲) and work better at your low point.

Get off to a slow start which saves your energy. Get up with a leisurely yawn and stretch. Sit on the edge of the bed a minute before putting your feet on the floor. Avoid the troublesome search for clean clothes by laying them out the night before. Whenever possible, do routine work in the afternoon and save tasks requiring more energy or concentration for your sharper hours.

Passage 3



核心词汇

leisurely *adj.* or *adv.* 从容的(地), 慢慢的(地)

yawn *vi.* 打呵欠

stretch *vi.* 伸展, 延伸; 伸肢体

routine *adj.* 日常的, 例行的, 常规的

concentration *n.* 集中, 专心; 浓度

难句点拨

The time of day when you feel most energetic is when your cycle of body temperature is at its peak.

这是一个主从复合句, 含有两个 when 开头的从句。第一个从句 when you feel most energetic 是一个定语从句, 修饰 the time of day; 第二个从句 when your cycle of body temperature is at its peak 是表语从句。

全文大意

你有没有觉得早上起不来, 甚至感到难受。有人可能会把这说成是懒散, 但克雷曼博士却另有解释。他已经证明了每个人的精力在一天里有个周期。

在你努力工作的時候, 你可能会说你感到“热”。确实如此。一天中你感到精力最充沛的时候也就是你的体温处于整个周期的高峰时。有些人的高峰期出现在上午, 而另一些人高峰期出现在下午或晚上。没有人能够发现为什么会这样, 但这种现象会导致屡见不鲜的自言自语: “约翰, 快起来! 上班又要迟到了!” 对这种烦人的事可以这样解释: 约翰的体温和能量的高峰期是在晚上。如果夫妻俩能明白不同的能量周期意味着什么, 家里的每个人有什么样的能量周期, 很多家庭争吵就不会发生。

虽然你无法改变你的能量周期, 但你可以使你的生活适应这一周期。克雷曼博士认为习惯能有帮助。有可能晚上你感到很困, 但又必须熬夜。采取习惯性推迟睡觉的办法, 能在一定程度上对抗你的周期。如果你在上午处于能量的低潮, 但你有重要的工作要在上午做, 那么你就要比平时早起。这不会改变你的周期, 但你可以鼓起干劲, 在你低潮期工作得更好。

起床时慢慢来可以节省能量。起来时不慌不忙, 打个呵欠, 伸个懒腰, 下床之前在床边坐一坐。头一天晚上先把干净的衣服放好, 早上就省去了寻找衣服的麻烦。在任何可能的情况下, 下午做些例行的工作, 把耗费精力或者需要去专注的工作留在你思维最敏锐的时候去做。