

前言

自 2005 年《全国硕士研究生入学统一考试英语考试大纲》进行大幅改革以后,连续三年的考研英语考试没有大幅度的调整,考研英语的考试题型趋于稳定。在最近的一次考试大纲中,阅读理解所占比重仍为 60%,在考研英语测试中,可以毫不夸张地说——得阅读者得天下。

在深入研究历年考研英语阅读真题后,我们发现了考研英语阅读文章的两大奥秘。奥秘之一就是其来源:真题中的阅读理解文章大多数节选自 Economist、Newsweek、Times、US News and World Report、Washington Post 和 Scientist 等英美报刊、杂志。这无疑也将是今后考研英语阅读选材的趋势。奥秘之二就是其题材:近几年来,考研文章的题材呈现出两个显著特点,一是选文内容比较新颖,二是涉及的领域较广阔,除了包括经济、文化、教育、科技、法律、社会等传统话题外,考生还要了解新知识,了解社会热点问题等。

通观市面上的考研英语阅读书,我们发现考研英语阅读书品种多如牛毛,但绝大多数都是以文章加阅读理解题这种应试类图书为主。真正想考生之所想,将真题同源报刊阅读与复习阶段之需、与真题标准结合起来的考研英语阅读书籍少之又少。虽然有的考生买了外刊杂志,或从网站下载,但由于选择不当,很多篇章阅读难度大,耗费时间多,效果和意义都不大。充分利用发现的两大奥秘,出版专门面向备考考研英语的考生、编写一本以考研英语真题阅读文章为标准的报刊选读图书的想法应运而生。

本书以考研英语真题阅读文章为标准,从上述刊物中精选 50 篇文章,将报刊阅读与考试需要标准结合起来,从源头上真正解决很多考研考生所关注的新趋势下如何有效提高阅读理解能力的问题。作为具备备考备考和传递最新世界信息双重功能的英语阅读图书,本书具有如下特色:

阅读真题为本,力求实用有效。本书的所有报刊选文力求在出处、长难度和题材体裁比例上与历年考研英语阅读真题相近,从而确保文章与真题的高仿真度,真正从考生的实际需要出发,让考生在轻松阅读中对真题文章了然于心。

选材新颖广泛,尽显时文本色。本书所选文段均来自英美报刊的最新刊载,使读者在洞悉世界最新动态的同时,体验学习英语的价值所在。

词汇注解详尽,阅读词汇双赢。本书对每一篇选文中的生词、重点词汇进行详尽说明,

让考生在阅读的过程中学习和记忆单词。对于那些以往真题中曾经考过或可能考到的重点词汇,我们还专门设置了词汇练习,让考生对重点词汇加以巩固。可以说一册在手,阅读理解能力和词汇量共同提高。

辅以参考译文,轻松理解全文。每篇选文均配有参考译文,既能让较低水平的考生真正读懂全文,从而提高阅读兴趣,又可为翻译爱好者提供实践的机会。

另外,在编排上本书避免以往报刊类读物在版式设计上沉闷、呆板的古旧风格,采用双色印刷,力求在版式设计上也能让读者感受到清新、舒适和轻松愉悦的阅读快感。

最后,祝愿所有参加 2008 年考研英语考试的考生在使用本书后,“鱼和熊掌兼得”,既可顺利通过研究生入学考试,又能够博闻广识,读趣盎然。

在本书的编辑过程中,世纪友好工作室的蒋志华老师以及王发明、展萍、宋李戈、丁哲、关晓蕙等同事对本书的结构及编排提供了大量的帮助,在此特向他们表示诚挚的谢意。

编 者

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第一章 教育科技类

一、常见相关名词及其缩写

○ abort 异常中止

access 访问,存取
adult education 成人教育
alumnus/alumna 校友(男/女)
application form 申请表
artificial intelligence (AI) 人工智能
assistantship 助学金
associate professor 副教授
attached middle school 附中
audio-visual presentation 视听演示

○ Bachelor 学士

backup copy 备份
batch 批(处理)
boot (up) 启动
bug 错误,故障
Bulletin Board Service (BBS) 公告板服务

○ canned software 软件包

character 字符
coding 编码
coeducation 男女生同校制度
communication channels 联络渠道
computer cleaner 消除财务信息的电脑黑客
computernik 计算机专家,计算机迷
computerese 计算机行话
counselor 辅导老师
course arrangement 课程安排
crash (系统)崩溃

○ data collection 数据收集

data leakage 数据丢失
data processing 数据处理
day-care center 幼儿园(美)

degree 学位

digital image processing techniques

数字图像处理技术

diploma 毕业证

Doctor of Philosophy 博士

dot matrix 点阵(打印)

downtime 故障停机时间

○ edp crimes 电脑犯罪

educationist/educator 教育家

elementary education 初等教育

○ graduate school 研究生院

graduation appraisal 毕业评估

○ higher education 高等教育

homepage 主页

hypertext 超文本

○ image processing digital systems

图像处理数字系统

info highway 信息高速公路

information kit 信息工具包

information network 信息网络

information overload 信息充塞

information revolution 信息革命

infrared 红外线

ink-jet printer 喷墨打印机

internet service provider 因特网服务提供商

○ junior high school 初中

○ key school 重点中学

kindergarten 幼儿园

knowledge engineering 知识工程学

○ lecturer 讲师

○ Master 硕士



multimedia technology 多媒体技术

○ nursery school 托儿所

○ on-line services 在线服务

open admission 免试入学制

open university 夜大、函大

optional/selective course 选修课

orientation program 新生训练

○ paper/thesis/dissertation 论文

PDA (personal digital assistant)

个人数字助理

pixel 像素

polytechnic institute 理工学院/科技大学

pop test 抽考

postgraduate 研究生

presentation 针对某一专题发表的演讲

primary/elementary school 小学(英/美)

private school 私立学校

project 学生独立钻研的课外课题

public school 公立学校

○ register/enrolment (登记、报到)

required course 必修课

resolution 分辨率

○ scholarship 奖学金

School of Arts and Sciences 文理学院

secondary education 中等教育

secondary school 中学

senior high school 高中

software piracy 软件盗版

specialized course 专业课

spectral bands 谱带

superconductor 超导体

○ teaching facilities 教学设施

technical school 技校

telecom operators 电信运营商

telecommuting 居家办公,远程上班

television network 电视网

touch screen 触摸屏

TV home shopping 电视直销

○ ultraviolet 紫外线

undergraduate 本科

universal education 普及教育

user-friendly 方便用户的

○ virus 病毒

二、报刊选读文章



Education Standards' Are not the Answer

A growing **bipartisan chorus** is singing the praises of national education standards. Former officials of **the Reagan, Clinton and George W. Bush administrations** have joined the choir, as have both of the major teachers' unions.

Cementing the **coalition**, Sen. Christopher Dodd (D-Conn.) and Rep. Vernon Ehlers (R-Mich.) have recently proposed a bill to create a national **curriculum** in reading and math. The bill's supporters rightly tell us that by the end of high school, American stu-

dents have fallen behind their international peers. Dodd and Ehlers use that **observation** to **conclude** that we need such a curriculum "to **compete** in the global economy."

But how exactly would **homogenizing** our curriculum and testing make us more competitive? "National standards would help **propel** U. S. economic competitiveness, because they would allow the country to set expectations higher than those of our international competitors," write Rudy Crew and Paul Vallas, the **superintendents** of the Miami and Philadelphia school districts, in a recent Education Week **commentary**.

This idea of higher standards has a certain appeal. In many other areas of life, higher standards are associated with better **performance**. It's much harder to qualify for a U. S. Olympic team than for a typical high school sports team — and Olympic teams are **demonstrably** better. Japanese automakers generally set higher reliability standards in the 1970s than did American automakers, and they produced more reliable vehicles.

But sports and manufacturing are competitive fields, while public schooling currently is not. Standards advocates mistakenly assume that high external standards produce excellence, but in fact it is the competitive **pursuit** of excellence that produces high standards.

We understand this point **implicitly** in every field outside of education. We didn't progress from four-inch black-and-white **cathode ray tubes** to four-foot flat panels because

the federal government raised television standards. Apple did not increase the capacity of its iPod from 5 to 80 gigabytes in five years because of some bureaucratic mandate. And the Soviet Union did not collapse because the targets for its five-year plans were insufficiently ambitious.

Progress and innovation in these and almost all other human endeavors have been driven by market incentives: consumer choice, competition among providers, the profit motive. The absence of these incentives — as in the Soviet Union — has led to economic decline and collapse. Not surprisingly, the link between standards and performance in public schooling is noticeably weaker than it is in other areas, because government schooling is a monopoly, not a market.

It is ironic that standards advocates exhort us to improve our schools in response to competitive pressures from abroad, but then discount the ability of the same competition and consumer choice to drive improvement at home. It is the competitive pursuit of excellence spurred by market forces that drives up standards, not the other way around. The sooner we realize that, the better off our children will be.

参考译文

教育标准不是答案

日益发展的美国两党合唱正在高颂美国的国民教育标准。由于两党都拥有主要教师的联合会，里根、克林顿的前政府官员以及乔治·W·布什当局都加入了这个团队。

为了巩固该联盟，参议员森·克里斯多佛·多德和共和党人弗农·埃勒斯最近提出了一个议案，要求建立全国性的阅读和数学方面的课程。该议案的支持者们公正地告诉我们，美国高中毕业的学生已经落后于世界其他国家他们的同龄人。多德和埃勒斯用这项观测结果断定，我们需要这样一个课程来“参与全球经济竞争”。

但确切地说，使课程以及考试均质化究竟怎样才会让我们变得更有竞争力呢？迈阿密和费城学区的负责人鲁迪·克鲁和保罗·瓦拉斯在最近的《教育周刊》中评论道，“国家标准将有助于增强美国经济的竞争力，因为这些标准将允许国家把期望值设定得比国际上我们的竞争对手高一些。”

这种较高标准的想法有一定的吸引力。在我们生活的许多其他方面，较高

的标准是和较好的表现相关联的。要成为合格的美国奥林匹克队队员比成为合格的典型高中运动队队员要难得多——而奥林匹克队更好，这是不言而喻的。日本的汽车制造商在 20 世纪 70 年代普遍设立了比美国同行更高的可靠性标准，他们生产出了更多可信赖的汽车。

然而，体育和制造业都是竞争性的领域，而目前的公立学校却不是。标准的倡导者错误地设想高的外部标准将带来卓越的结果，而事实是，追求卓越的竞争将导致高的标准。

在除教育之外的各个领域，我们都暗自了解这点。并不是由于联邦政府提高了电视标准，我们才取得了从四英寸的黑白阴极射线管的电视机到四英尺的液晶显示电视的发展。苹果公司并不是因为一些政府授权而在五年内将 iPod 的容量从 5 个 G 发展到 80 个 G。苏联的解体也不是因为其五年计划的目标不够宏伟。

这些方面的发展和创新，以及几乎人类所有其他方面的奋斗都是受诸如消费者选择、供应商之间的竞争以及利益动机之类的市场刺激因素所驱使的。像前苏联一样，由于缺少这些因素刺激，最终导致了经济的下滑和崩溃。不足为奇的是，公立学校的标准和教学成果之间的联系明显弱于其他领域，因为政府教育是垄断事业，而不是市场。

我们的标准提倡者告诫我们，提高学校的标准从而应对来自国外的竞争压力，却漠视同样的竞争力和消费者选择，让我们在家中推动其进步，这着实令人觉得讽刺。由市场力刺激下的竞争导致的追求卓越提升了标准，而不是标准导致市场竞争。我们越早意识到这点，我们的孩子就会变得越优秀。

词汇&课文注解

bipartisan	[ˌbɑɪpɑːtɪˈzæn] adj. 两党的
cathode	[ˈkæθəd] n. 阴极
chorus	[ˈkɔːrəs] n. 合唱, 齐声
curriculum	[kəˈrɪkjələm] n. 课程
Clinton	克林顿, 美国的第 42 位总统
compete	[kəmˈpiːt] vi. 竞争, 比赛
commentary	[ˈkɒməntəri] n. 注释, 解说词
coalition	[ˌkəʊəˈlɪʃn] n. 同盟
conclude	[kənˈkluːd] vt. 推断出, 推论出

bureaucratic	[ˌbjʊərəˈkrætɪk] adj. 官僚的, 官僚主义的
demonstrably	[dɪˈmɒnstrəbli] adv. 可证实地, 确然
endeavor	[ɪnˈdevə(r)] vt. / n. 努力, 尽力, 尝试
exhort	[ɪgˈzɔ:t] vt. 劝告, 规劝, 告诫
George W. Bush administrations	美国现任总统乔治·W·布什的行政当局
gigabyte	[ˈdʒɪɡəbaɪt] n. 十亿字节
homogenized	[həˈmɒdʒənaɪzd] vt. (使)一致
implicitly	[ɪmˈplɪsɪtli] adv. 含蓄地, 暗中地
incentive	[ɪnˈsentɪv] n. 刺激, 动机
insufficiently	[ɪnsəˈfɪʃntli] adv. 不够地, 不能胜任地
mandate	[ˈmændeɪt] n. (书面)命令, 训令, 要求
monopoly	[məˈnɒpəli] n. 独占或完全控制
observation	[ˌɒbzəˈveɪʃən] n. 观察
performance	[pəˈfɔ:məns] n. 表现, 成绩
propel	[prəˈpel] vt. 激励, 驱使
pursuit	[pəˈsju:t] n. 追求, 寻求
Reagan	里根, 1981 年至 1989 年在位的美国第四十任总统
superintendent	[ˌsu:pərɪnˈtendənt] n. 负责人
tube	[tju:b; tu:b] n. 电子管, 显像管

词汇练习

- The pressure _____ causes Americans to be energetic, but it also puts them under a constant emotional strain.
A. to combine B. to compete C. to coincide D. to compromise
- Richardson _____ from his studies that equality between the sexes is still a long way off.
A. closed B. withdrew C. concluded D. registered
- Apart from philosophical and legal reasons for respecting patients' wishes, there are several practical reasons why doctors should _____ to involve patients in their own medical care decisions.
A. enforce B. enhance C. endeavor D. endow
- High grades are supposed to certify academic ability, but John's actual _____ did not confirm this.
A. performance B. reaction C. action D. behavior

5. People who don't emphasize bookish excellence in their _____ of happiness are rare.
A. search B. pursuit C. view D. light

答案速查

1. B 2. C 3. C 4. A 5. B

As spring approaches and high school seniors anticipate decisions from colleges, there isn't a day that I don't **contemplate** inventing a board game based on the college admission process.

I envision a **vivid** surface on which pieces with anxious faces make progress based on their success with the obvious **components** of the admission process: grades, essays, standardized tests and activities. But my

game would also **incorporate** other, less recognized though equally influential **factors**.

You are in the top 10% of your class? So is everyone else applying to this school. Remain where you are. You write an essay about volunteering at **a soup kitchen**? It is one of many. Move back two spaces. You discover the **gene** sequence for spider silk? That's interesting. Move ahead four spaces. You are the top football recruit, but your standardized test scores are weak? Tests shmests! Move ahead 10 spaces. You are an **average** student who wrote a bland essay, but your father is on the board of trustees? You win!

I don't mean to be cynical. I was **on the other side** when I served as an admission officer at Brown University. We did our best to **sort through** thousands of extraordinarily impressive applications. It wasn't easy. Most applicants to selective colleges are strong, even stellar. Decisions are rarely obvious.

What can make the process even more difficult is that forming a class is not simply a matter of selecting the best qualified applicants. There are also university needs to meet. Young, enthusiastic admission officers can become **cynical** and **depleted** when they discover that a **significant** percentage of a class is "reserved" for recruited athletes, the children of alumni and faculty, and students whose families have the potential to unload truckloads of cash in the lobby of the fundraising office. These "hooked" students often enter a college with less impressive **credentials** than those who were denied.

I'm not claiming that this is a **travesty**. Universities, like businesses and families, face inevitable financial necessities that dictate their decisions. I simply ask that colleges be upfront with families.

They have long admitted they have "needs" that must be met. But the examples cited



College Admission: the Board Game

by admission officers are misleading and meant to generate sympathetic nods from families. The infamous “tuba player from North Dakota” or the “destitute but brilliant Sudanese refugee from Minnesota” for whom they claim to make space are myths.

Instead, college admission would be far less mysterious and alienating to families if schools were more transparent about the process. Colleges should admit, for example, that hooked applicants enjoy significantly better odds. They should reveal that in general, 10% of a class is reserved for legacies and another 10% for recruited athletes. Schools should acknowledge that students from wealthy families enjoy better odds. Why not confess that an “unhooked” applicant’s odds are significantly less than those published in college view books?

参考译文

大学招生——棋盘游戏

随着春天的临近，高中毕业生期待着来自大学的录取结果，我没有一天不在考虑发明一种基于大学招生过程的棋盘游戏。

我设想有一个生动的棋面，那上面有一张张急于进取的脸，而他们的进步取决于能否实现入学过程中涉及的各个部分：分数、论文、标准化测试以及活动。但是，我的游戏也将融入那些不太为人所知却又同样会影响结果的因素。

你是 10% 的班级尖子中的一个吗？所有申请这所学校的人都是的。呆在你的位置不要动。你写过一篇关于在流动厨房做过志愿者的文章？它只是许多文章中的一篇。请退后两步。你发现了蛛丝的基因序列？那真有意思。前进四步。你是顶尖的足球新秀，但是标准化考试却不好？考试算什么！前进步！你是班里的普通学生，写着乏味的文章，但是你的父亲在大学的董事会？你赢了！

我并不愤世嫉俗。在布朗大学做招生工作的时候，我就是个反对派。我们尽了最大的努力来在成千上万的都格外优秀的申请人中挑选。这并不容易。大部分选择我校的申请者都十分优秀甚至是第一流的。因此总是很难取舍。

在这个过程中更为困难的是，组建一个班级并不是简单地将最优秀的申请者选拔出来。大学也需要满足一些其他的要求。当发现一个班级中相当一部分的名额是体育新秀、校友及教师的子女、那些家产甚至能成卡车地向学校筹款办公室输送现金的人家的孩子时，年轻而热情的招生官员可能就会愤世嫉俗，

没精打采。这些有“关系”入学的学生比起那些被拒绝的学生来说，是缺乏足够的资历证明的。

我并不认为这很滑稽。大学，正如公司和家庭一样，也无可避免会面临影响他们做决定的经济需要，我仅仅希望学校能比家庭更高明。

他们历来承认他们有一些“需要”必须得到满足。但是招生官员们所引证的例子正在误导并且意在赢得家长们的赞同。要想他们为那个声名狼藉的“来自美国北达科他州的大号手”或是“来自明尼苏达州的穷困却又有才气的苏丹难民”说话，并给予通融简直是天方夜谭。

相反，如果学校的招生过程能够更加透明的话，大学入学将远不会这样神秘且与家庭如此疏远。比如说，大学应该承认，那些有“关系”的申请者享有了绝对的良机。他们应该揭示，通常而言，一个班级 10% 的名额是专供“馈赠”之用，而另外 10% 则是为运动新秀所保留。学校应该承认，来自有钱人家的孩子享有更好的机会。那些没有“关系”的申请者，他们的入学几率远远低于学校出版书目上所公布的数字，为什么不承认这一点呢？

词汇&课文注解

a soup kitchen	流动厨房
average	[ˈævərɪdʒ] adj. 一般的
contemplate	[ˈkɒntəmpleɪt] vt. 盘算, 思量
credentials	[krəˈdenʃlɪz] n. (学历、资历) 资格
component	[kəmˈpəʊnənt] n. 成分
cynical	[ˈsɪnɪkl] adj. 愤世嫉俗的
deplete	[dɪˈplɪt] vt. 耗尽, 使衰竭
factor	[ˈfæktə(r)] n. 因素, 要素
gene	[dʒiːn] n. 基因
incorporate	[ɪnˈkɔːpəreɪt] vt. 包含
mysterious	[mɪˈstɪəriəs] adj. 神秘的, 难以理解的
on the other side	在对面, 反对方面的
significant	[sɪɡˈnɪfɪkənt] adj. 相当数量的
sort through	从……中进行分类
travesty	[ˈtrævəsti] n. 滑稽的转写, 漫画
tuba	[ˈtjuːbə] n. 大号(发音低沉的铜管乐器)
view	[vjuː] n. 观察
vivid	[ˈvɪvɪd] adj. 生动的, 栩栩如生的