

大学英语阅读应试指南与测试

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主编：余丽华 李秀梅

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(第三版)

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余丽华 李秀梅 主编

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前 言

《大学英语阅读应试指南与测试》是在《大学英语阅读技巧与测试》一书的基础上改编的。本书是以国家教委 1999 年 9 月修订的新《大学英语教学大纲》为依据,将“培养学生具有较强的阅读能力”置于大学英语教学目的之首位。因此,在大学英语基础阶段的教学,阅读能力的培养占首要地位。怎样才能抓好学生阅读能力的训练呢?我们从教学实践中体会到,要提高学生的阅读理解能力,除了学好基础阅读课、练好语言基本功,还必须有针对性地培养基本阅读技能,进行必要的阅读应试能力训练。根据这一需要,我们编写了这本书,供大学本科、专科学生和英语自学者使用。

本书共含四部分。第一部分为大学英语阅读应试指南。第二部分为九种基本阅读技巧,每一种技巧后均配有内容丰富、形式多样、针对性强的练习。第三部分为阅读短文 120 篇,参照大学英语级别考试的格式,对文章进行问答、多项选择及汉译英等方式进行阅读理解训练,给学生提供大量的阅读实践,同时也可使他们检测自己的应试能力及各种阅读技能的综合运用能力。第四部分为参考答案。

本书的特点是从确立基本概念、理顺思路入手,对各种基本阅读技巧进行逐一分析,系统地指导学生进行阅读,培养和提高学生的综合阅读及应试能力。阅读素材绝大多数选自近年出版的英美书刊,题材多样,语言规范。测试部分的阅读短文按难易程度编排;测试题型分布合理,重点突出了文章的主旨大意、中心思想、上下文猜测词义、事实和细节的推理判断等,具有典型性,有利于提高学生的阅读能力及应试能力。

由于编者水平有限,书中疏误在所难免,恳请广大读者和同行专家批评指正。

编 者

二〇〇二年八月

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Part I Testing Skills

大学英语阅读应试指南 (How to Use the SKills for Reading Tests)

大学英语三、四级阅读理解试题共四篇短文,选材广泛,包括社会、文化、日常生活、风土人情、人物传记、天文地理、交通运输、环境生态、科普知识等。文章难度各不相同,体裁多样,有记叙文、说明文、议论文等。考试题型大致分为主旨题、细节题、推理题、语义题及作者观点、态度、语气题等五种,其目的主要在于测试考生是否读懂短文的主题;是否辨认得出说明主题大意的重要事实和细节;是否能根据文章所提供的信息和事实,运用常识和逻辑进行推理判断和信息转换;是否能在特定语言环境中理解字面意思,猜出词义;是否能判断出作者在叙述或展开某一问题时的语气、态度和观点。

认识题型,熟悉各类题型的提问方式,研究其测试目的,可帮助找到解题规律,对解题可起到极其关键的作用。

一. 各类题型解题技巧

下面将已提到的五种主要题型的解题技巧,分别论述如下。

1. 主旨题

主旨题主要检测考生对文章的主旨和大意(即中心要点或中心思想)是否理解,是阅读测试中最常见的题型之一,在历次三、四级考试中几乎篇篇皆有。这类题主要根据文章的主题进行提问,题中常出现 the main idea, the theme, the topic 等词,常见的提问方式有:

- The main idea of this passage is ...
- The best title for this passage is ...
- What is the main topic of this passage?
- Which of the following best states the theme of the passage?
- This article is mainly about ...

这类题的解题要点是抓住中心思想。中心思想是作者提出的最重要的信息,是贯穿全文的思想。因此,要把握文章的中心,必须首先抓住每一个段落的中心,然后则可归纳出文章的中心思想。

段落的中心一般位于段首的主题句(少数也可位于句中或句末)。例如:(记叙文)

[ˈsterilaɪz] 使绝育 也 使不育的

The government of India encourages married men and women to be sterilized so they cannot have more children. In China, families can be punished for having more than one child. Both of these countries have very large populations, and if the number of people continues to increase, there will not be enough food, houses, or jobs for the people. As a result, India, China, and other populous countries are following a family-planning policy—they want families to limit the number of children they will have. Teachers, doctors, and social workers are explaining to the people why they should have fewer children by using birth control methods such as contraception and sterilization.

Which statement best expresses the main idea of the paragraph?

[A] Some populous countries are following a family-planning policy.

[B] India and China have very large populations.

[C] The government of India encourages sterilization.

[D] In China, families can be punished for having more than one child.

本段在开头提出了印度和中国政府不鼓励家庭多生孩子,然后解释了人口多的后果,接着引出了段落的主题句:“印度、中国和其他一些人口众多的国家在积极地推行一项计划生育政策。”在此之后,继续介绍了“诸如使用避孕和绝育来控制出生人口”的方法。选项 B、C 和 D 只是文章所涉及的部分细节,因此是不全面的。而选项 A“一些人口众多的国家正在推行计划生育政策”,正好是本文的中心思想,因此 A 是正确答案。

2. 细节题

除了掌握文章的中心思想,还要能辨认支持中心思想的重要事实和细节,因此,重要事实和细节也必然成为考测重点之一。通常,文章中会出现较多的事实和细节,考生只须找出与中心思想有关的重要内容。同时,考生还必须记住文章谈到的人物(who)、事件(what)、时间(when)、地点(when)、原因(why)以及数据(how many or how much)等。对于这类问题,多数文章会比较明显地提供出事实(facts)和细节(details),答案必定在文章论述过的范围内。考生应找出文章中作为选题依据的的单词或句子,不能脱离原文去猜想,也不能作出没有根据的假设。细节题常见的提问方式有:

—— What is the purpose of...?

—— Why is (was) it necessary for somebody (not) to do something?

—— Where is (was)...located?

—— How did something happen?

解这类题可采用“对号入座”法,即带着问题找句子或词语,并可采用如下步骤:

1) 先看文章后面的问题,记住关键词语,如人物、时间、事件等,弄清每一题目的发问中心,即某个问题是针对什么提问的,从而带着问题读文章,有的放矢。

2) 把发问中心带到原文中去,当读到有关信息时,可在下面划线,同时把各个题号标出来,便于做题时快速查对。

3) 把原文中划线部分(本文为斜体字)的信息和问题中所要求解答的信息与每一个选项进行对照。原文信息与选项内容相符的即是正确答案。

例如:(说明文)

Cattle have served humanity since prehistoric days as beasts of burden and as suppliers of leather, meat, and milk. Some of the earliest written records concern the sale of cattle. These valuable animals are unusual in that they do not have front teeth in their upper jaw. Instead they chew with their rear teeth and gums. Cows swallow their food quickly and store it in the paunch or *rumen*, *the first of the four compartments in their stomachs* (1A). Later the food passes into *the second stomach* (2) or reticulum where it is *rolled into little balls or cuds* (2D). While resting, cow cough up these cuds and chew them more thoroughly. This time the food passes into the third and then into the fourth stomach, where digestion takes place. *Bacteria* (4) in cows' stomachs *aid* (4) in *digesting the cellulose* (4C) in stems of grass or hay.

Over one hundred million heads of cattle are raised in the United States. Dairy cattle produce more than fifteen and one-half billion gallons of milk every year. Although *dairy cattle are bred primarily to produce milk* (3D), about half the beef used in the United States comes from dairy breeds. This is because when dry (no longer producing milk) they fatten quickly and produce highquality beef.

1) According to the passage, what is the rumen?

- [A] The first stomach compartment.
- [B] The name of the upper jaw.
- [C] The stomach where digestion takes place.
- [D] The name of the bacteria in the cow's stomach.

2) What is the primary use of the cow's second stomach?

- [A] Food storage.
- [B] The production of milk.
- [C] Digestion.
- [D] The creation of the cuds.

3) According to the passage, why do Americans breed dairy cattle?

- [A] They breed dairy cattle to produce beef
- [B] They breed dairy cattle to provide income
- [C] They breed dairy cattle to provide leather
- [D] They breed dairy cattle to produce milk

4) Which of the following is essential in the digestion of cellulose in the cow's stomach?

- [A] Cud
- [B] Reticulum
- [C] Bacteria
- [D] Grass

本例共有四个问题,解题步骤如下:

Step A: 先看文章后的题目,明确发问中心。根据问题及四个选择项的内容可判断出:

问题 1. 发问中心为“什么是rumen?”

问题 2. 发问中心为“牛的第二胃的主要用途是什么?”

问题 3. 发问中心为“为什么饲养奶牛?”

问题 4. 发问中心为“牛胃在消化食物中,什么是不可少的?”

Step B: 带着发问中心及选项阅读原文。当读到“rumen”这个词时,在它下面划线,后面的词组“the first of the four compartments in their stomachs”,正是“rumen”的解释,也在其下划线并标出问题号和选择项。用同样的方法找出第二、第三、第四题的发问中心:“second stomach”, “dairy cattle are bred”, “digesting the cellulose”, 和它们的相关信息:“rolled into balls or cuds”; “primarily to produce milk,” “bacteria in cows’ stomachs aid”。

Step C: 在原文中找到问题发问中心及其相关信息之后,把它们与问题下面的每一个选项逐一对照,最后则可确定 1A; 2D; 3D; 4C 分别为正确答案。

3. 推理题

推理题是阅读理解中常见的题型,也是解题难度较大的一类题。推理题要求考生在阅读中根据文章所提供的信息,运用常识和逻辑进行推理引申,辨别作者观点,判断作者的写作意图及对事物的态度。推理有助于理解文章,并能全面、深刻地领会作者的观点、立场、态度。此类题常见的题型有:

—— It can be inferred from the passage that...

—— The writer implies that...

—— The author apparently suggests that ...

—— Where would this paragraph most probably appear?

—— The purpose of this passage is ...

—— It can be concluded from the passage that ...

在做推断题时,考生必须做到:1)理解文章字面意义;2)弄清词的含蓄意义;3)时刻提醒自己注意作者想让读者推断什么;4)利用文章明确表示的内容进行推理,挖掘文章中隐含的意义。

推理题的答案不能直接在文章中找到,考生必须以文章字面意义为前提,以具体事实为依据,从中推测出未知的部分——推理结果。考生切忌自己胡思乱猜,或妄加评论,把自己的观点当作作者的观点。

推理题根据不同的推理特点,可分为针对文章某些细节的推断;针对主题思想、作者意图的推断;针对作者思路的推断;针对作者态度、语气、观点的推断等。以下举两个例子加以说明:

例 1. 针对文章中某些细节的推断(议论文)

It is all very well to blame traffic jams, the cost of petrol and the quick pace of modern

life, but manners on the roads are becoming horrible. Everybody knows that the nicest men become monsters behind the wheel. It is all very well, again to have a tiger in the tank, but to have one in the driver's seat is another matter altogether. You might tolerate the odd road-hog, the rude and inconsiderate driver, but nowadays the well-mannered motorist is the exception to the rule. Perhaps the situation calls for a "Be Kind to Other Driver" campaign, otherwise it may get completely out of hand.

The sentence "You might tolerate the odd road-hog ... the rule." implies that

- [A] our society is unjust towards well-mannered motorists
- [B] rude drivers can be met only occasionally
- [C] the well-mannered motorist cannot tolerate the road-hog
- [D] nowadays impolite drivers constitute the majority of motorists

本题要求考生在第四句提供的已知信息的基础上,推断未知的事实。句子的本意是:你可能忍受那些鲁莽的司机,但是今天那些行为良好的司机也触犯交通规则。根据句子所涉及的信息,考生可以推断,表现好的司机和鲁莽的司机都触犯交通规则,所以可以说大部分司机在驾车时行为不礼貌。A项内容与文中所述毫无关系,B和C项所述内容正好与原文相反。所以正确答案是D。

例2. 针对文章主题、作者意图的推断(说明文)

In the English educational system, students take three very important examinations, the first is the eleven-plus, which is taken at the age of eleven or a little past. At one time the ability or aptitude shown on the eleven-plus would have determined if a child stayed in school. Now, however, all children continue in "comprehensive" schools, all the eleven-plus determines which courses of study the child will follow. At the age of fifteen or sixteen, the students are tested for Ordinary Level of the General Certificate of Education. This examination covers a wide range of subjects; once students have passed this exam, they are allowed to specialize, so that two-thirds or more of their courses will be in physics, chemistry, classical languages, or whatever they wish to study at great length. The final examination, at eighteen, covers only the content of the special subjects. Even at the universities, students study, only in their concentrated area and very few students ever venture outside that subject again. In a real sense, the English boy or girl is a specialist from the age of fifteen.

1) The purpose of this passage is to _____.

- [A] show why most English students are "specialists"
- [B] show the superiority of the English educational system
- [C] discuss the inequalities of the English educational system
- [D] describe the three tests that the English educational system is based on

2) We may conclude from the passage that _____.

- [A] the exam that is taken at the age of eighteen is easier than the other two exams
- [B] failure on the eleven-plus exam excludes a student from further schooling
- [C] higher education is much narrower in scope in England than in America
- [D] physics and chemistry are too most popular courses of study

3) The passage suggests that _____.

- [A] most people in England are college educated
- [B] schooling is very closely controlled in England
- [C] the failure rate on eleven-plus exam is quite high
- [D] England's structured educational system had reduced the illiteracy rate in that country dramatically

问题 1): 本题问的是文章的目的,也就是作者的意图。考生一旦确定了文章的中心思想,就很容易确定文章的目的。文章第一句为主题句告知读者文章讨论的内容:在英国教育制度下,学生们要参加三个重要考试。至于三个考试的内容及特点属于细节。纵观全文后我们发现作者是在客观介绍英国教育体制下的三种考试,介绍中作者并没有流露出对这种考试制度的个人观点和态度,所以全文的目的是介绍三种考试。D 为正确答案。

问题 2): 本题是结论推断题,要求考生根据文章内容得出一个结论。题目本身没有向读者提供可联系的信息。在处理这类推断题时,必须对所提供的选项加以认真研究,正确理解之后,排除短文中没有提及或不合理的、或是与文章中提供的信息不相符的选项,这样缩小范围,就能确定推理依据。

B 项所述内容与短文第三、四句相关,但不完全符合;C 项内容在短文中未提及;D 项所述内容与短文不完全相符,文中提到“物理、化学两门课程是在参加第二阶段的考试后选择的课程”,我们从这条信息中无法推断出“这两门课程是整个学习过程中最主要的两门”。排除 B、C、D 后,当然只有 A 是正确答案。

问题 3): 本题是针对整段文章进行推理。文中讲到英国学生必须参加三次考试,考试的结果决定他们所学课程,所选专业。每一阶段都用考试这种手段来引导学生,决定学生的一些选择,显然考试是一种控制学生在校教育的一种方法,因此 B 是唯一的答案。

作者的写作意图可以多种多样,他可以讽刺一种社会现象,可以争论一个观点,可以取悦于读者,可以引发读者的同情心等等。因此,作为读者,考生应根据文章的主题,根据作者选词造句的特点,去领会、理解作者的意图。

4. 语义题

语义题用来测定考生在特定的语言环境中确定生词或词组意义的能力。这类题型常见的提问方式有:

—— The word '...' means ...

—— The line ‘...’ means...

—— The expression (word) ‘...’ in the...sentence refers to ...

—— In line ‘...’, what does it refer to?

—— Which of the following is the phrase ‘...’ in line ‘...’ closest in meaning?

解这类题时考生应掌握两种主要方法:利用上下文猜测词义;利用构词法猜测词义。

A. 利用上下文猜词义

利用上下文线索或暗示猜测词义的方法主要有五种:

1) 根据定义和解释猜测词义。例如:

a. A bird sanctuary is a place where birds can take refuge from hunters.

从全句的信息可判断出‘sanctuary’是一个‘地方’,鸟在那里不会受到捕捉者的危害。因此可猜出‘sanctuary’意为‘避难所或避难地’。

b. This man thought he was omniscient, that is, he felt he knew everything.

从后一句‘he felt he knew everything’可以看出:‘omniscient’是‘无所不知者’的意思。

2) 根据重述猜测词义。重述即作者对前面一句话作一重新或补充的陈述。这种重新陈述中往往包含前面句子中某个生词的意义。例如:

We can't put up with the chairman's arbitrariness. He often makes decisions without consulting other members of the committee.

句中‘arbitrariness’为生词,但从后面重述中可清楚地看出它的意思为‘武断’。

3) 根据相关信息猜测词义。有时候,读者可从上下文的有关信息中获得某个单词意思的线索和暗示。例如:

John's father often gets angry at his laziness. But this time he flew into a rage when he was told about John's misbehaviors at school.

根据上下文相关信息得知:约翰的父亲对约翰的懒惰常感到生气,但是这次,当他听到他儿子在学校的‘品行不良’(misbehaviors)时,我们不难猜出他父亲‘发怒了’(flew into a rage)。

4) 根据举例猜测词义。例如:

His hobby is reading periodicals, such as Time Magazine, Newsweek, Reader's Digest, etc.

即使不知道‘periodical’这个词,也可由其后的‘such as...’悟出其含义为‘期刊’,或‘杂志’。

5) 根据对比关系猜测词义。读者可利用原文语句中所使用的对比表达法获得某个单词词义的线索。例如:

Nowadays some young people are not thrifty, since they often waste money.

这里的‘对比’,指的是前后两句在意思上是对立的或相反的。这种意思上的

‘对立’或‘相反’给读者提供了判断前后两句中某个生词意思的线索。如例句中原因状语从句说‘因为现在的年青人常浪费钱’，那么主句中的‘are not thrifty’肯定是不‘节俭’了。

B. 利用构词法猜测词义

英语单词一般由两部分组成，即词干和词缀。词缀又可分为前缀和后缀。有些词干本身可作为独立的词使用，而不少单词则由词干附加词缀构成。由于词干与词缀都各自包含一定的语义，不同词干与词缀组合，就构成新的词义。例如：

1) 词干：patient (形容词：耐心的)

加前缀：impatient (形容词：不耐心的)

再加后缀：impatiently (副词：不耐烦地)

2) 词干：state (动词：陈述，声明)

加前缀：restate (动词：重述；重申)

再加后缀：restatement (名词：重新陈述)

从以上例子可看出前缀和后缀改变了原来的词义或词性。掌握英语单词构词法，能帮助读者在阅读中猜测词义。例如：

a. apathy (= a + path + y)

如果知道前缀‘a-’表示‘不’、‘没有’之意，后缀‘y’为名词后缀，表示该词为名词。词根‘path’的基本含义是‘感情’(feeling)，该词的词义则不难猜测，应为‘冷漠’(without feeling)。

同样：

antipathy (= anti + path + y)

前缀‘anti-’意为‘反’，‘反对’，便可很容易猜出该词意为‘反感’(against feeling)。

b. Certain chemical from the rain softens the hard rock.

如果知道‘-en’为动词后缀，并有表示‘变化、使役’之意，便可猜出‘soften’为动词，意思是‘软化’。

英语中经常使用的前后缀比较多，本书前面章节已有详细例子。考生应尽量多记住一些前后缀及其意义，以便考试时能尽可能多地猜对词义。

5. 作者观点、态度、语气题。

这类题主要测试考生阅读时是否明确或能否推断出作者在叙述或开展某一问题时的语气、态度和观点。常见的题型为：

—— The author's attitude toward... can best be described as ...

—— The tone of the writer is ...

—— The author believes...

—— The mood of this passage is ...

—— According to the author, ...

作者为了在文章中揭示自己的感情、态度和立场观点,通常通过选词造句来实现。因此,要准确地判断作者的感情、态度或立场观点,考生在阅读时要充分注意文章中传达作者情感、态度、观点的词语和句子。

要想正确领会作者的观点,首先必须弄清什么是观点,什么是事实。

事实是可以用证据证明成立的句子。例如:

I work from nine to five, six days a week. (事实)

观点是不能用证据来证明的句子,它体现一个人的判断、价值观和情绪。作者往往通过陈述自己的观点来表明他对周围人和物的态度和感情。例如:

Bill is nicer than George. (观点)

这句话包含有作者的倾向性和看法(即观点)。正确辨认事实和观点有助于我们理解所读的文章,并帮助我们领会作者的意图。下面的题型常用来检测读者是否能正确区分观点与事实:

—— Which of the following statements is the author's point of view?

—— Which of the following opinions might the author agree with according to the passage?

请看下例中的问题和选择项:

Which of the following statements is the author's point of view?

[A] Getting from Ecuador to New York requires enough money that it is really luxury of the middle class.

[B] But over the years, most of our relatives had come to New York.

[C] Our one try at making our status legal, two year's ago, ended with disaster.

[D] She was a lab technician, I work in a government office.

该题是辨别事实和观点题。四个选项中 A 是观点:从厄瓜多尔到纽约需要很多钱,对中产阶级的人来说这确实是一个大数目。其余三项均是事实。

在掌握了辨别事实与观点后,就要进一步学习掌握如何领会作者观点、态度。一般的要求是通读全文,掌握主题思想和主要事实,才能领会和判断出作者的观点。作者在陈述自己的观点时,有时直接了当,但更多的时候则往往借用别人的观点来表明自己的立场和态度。因此,我们在确定作者观点时,必须将上下文联系起来分析。

例如:(议论文)

The traditional belief that a woman's place is in the home and that a woman ought not to go out to work can hardly be reasonably maintained in present conditions. It is said that it is a woman's task to care for the children, but families today tend to be small and with a year or two between children. Thus a woman's whole period of child bearing may occur within five years. Furthermore, with compulsory education from the age of five or six, her role as chief educator of her children soon ceases. Thus even if we agree, that a woman

should stay at home to look after her children before they are of school age, for many women, this period would extend only for about ten years.

According to the author, _____.

[A] the right place for all women, married or not, is the home, not elsewhere

[B] all married women should have some occupation outside the home

[C] a married woman should give first priority (优先权) to her duties as a mother

[D] it is desirable for uneducated married women to stay at home and take care of the family

本题是问作者的观点。在文章中,作者没有直接陈述自己对妇女地位的看法。文章第一句说,“有关妇女地位的传统观点,在目前形势下很难站得住脚”。接着用“It is said that…”引出人们的普遍看法。值得注意的是,这类句型所引导的内容并不是作者的看法,而是人们已经普遍接受的观点。作者的观点往往出现在转折词后面。该句中的转折词 but 后面引出了一系列事实,这些事实为我们确定作者的观点提供了依据。作者例举了一些事实说明妇女有时间、有条件出去工作:因为现代家庭趋向小型化,并且孩子出生的间隔时间仅一至二年,这样妇女生育孩子的整个时期也许不到五年。随着孩子在五至六岁时进入小学,母亲作为孩子的主要教育者的作用将很快停止。因此,即便我们同意妇女在孩子上小学以前应该呆在家中照料他们的话,事实上,对于许多妇女来说,在家照料孩子的时间仅仅十年左右。其言外之意,也就是说妇女在生育照料孩子十年后往往可以出去工作,而不是一辈子呆在家中。根据这些描述,我们可以判断作者认为“妇女,不论结婚与否,都应该出去做些工作”。因此选项 B“已婚妇女都应当在外面参加些工作”为正确答案。

此外,笔调在文章中也能揭示作者的感情和立场观点,因此,辨别文章的笔调(tone),对于推断作者的态度也十分重要。文章的笔调一般通过作者选词造句来表达。譬如支持、谴责、赞成、反对、幽默、嘲讽等,是作者常用的笔调,这种种笔调均是通过作者选用的词语表达出来。选用什么样的词语,又是由作者对事物的感情和态度所决定。所以文章的笔调是文章内容的一个重要导向,能辨识文章的笔调,就能了解作者的态度、立场观点和感情。这就要求读者运用多种技巧进行批评性阅读,注意表达作者思想的词语和句子,通过字面直接陈述去进行推断。

下面用一段短文就辨别文章笔调举例:(议论文)

We Americans are wasteful people, not used to saving. The frontier men began this pattern, for nature's resources were so plentiful that no one ever imagined a shortage. Within a few years of the first Virginia settlement, for example, pioneers burned down their houses when they were ready to move west. They wanted to have the nails for future use. No one even gave a thought to the priceless hard woods that went up in smoke. As a people we destroy many things that other people save. I noticed this when I was living in England. I

received a letter from one of England's largest banks. It was enclosed in a used envelope that had been readdressed to me. Such a practice would be unthinkable in the United States. American banks, even the smallest, always use expensive stationery with the names of all twenty-eight vice-presidents listed on one side of the page.

- 1) The overall tone which emerges from the author's view of America is _____.
[A] scolding and critical
[B] proud and patriotic
[C] sentimental and exaggerated
[D] humorous and straightforward
- 2) The author's account of the English bank sending a letter in a used envelope creates a tone of _____.
[A] comedy [B] disgust [C] approval [D] wonderment
- 3) In the last sentence, the author is being _____.
[A] poetic, but not very original
[B] factual to the point of being scientific
[C] Sarcastic through the use of exaggeration
[D] inviting but unclear in his intended meaning

问题 1): 从文章中所选用的 'wasterful people', 'we destroy', 'no one ever gave a thought', 'no one ever imagined a shortage' 等一系列词、句来看, 作者对美国的态度的谴责、批评。因此选项 A '谴责和批评' 是正确答案。B 项意为 '自豪的, 爱国的'; C 项意为 '动情的, 夸张的'; D 项意为 '幽默的, 直接了当的', 这三项内容文中均找不出足够的证据。

问题 2): 作者收到了一封从英国一家大银行发出的信, 他发现信封是以前用过的, 这一发现使他感触颇深。他联想到美国人很浪费, 这种浪费现象在美国很普遍。像这种英国人的做法美国人难以想象。作者对英国人的这种做法很赞成, 暗示美国人应节俭。A、B 和 D 项都是错误的, 因在文章中找不出任何表示好笑、厌恶或惊讶的词语。所以, 只有 C 是正确答案。

问题 3): 作者在最后一句显然用夸张的手法来流露他的感情, 嘲讽美国的浪费现象。因此, 只有选项 C 'sarcastic through the use of exaggeration' '用夸张进行嘲讽' 为正确答案。

考生在辨识文章笔调时应注意以下几点:

- 1) 注意描写性段落及对人物的描述性语言。
- 2) 注意涉及表达感情、态度、观点的词语。
- 3) 注意题材和作者的写作目的。

二. 试题解析

以上我们已将阅读理解常见的五种主要题型及解题技巧分别进行了简述,下面用一篇文章为例,看看作为考生该如何应用解题技巧解题。

A rapid means of long-distance transportation became a necessity for the United States as settlement (新拓居地) spread ever farther westward(5C). 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(1A). 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(4D).* The Central Pacific Company, starting from California, used Chinese labor, while the Union Pacific employed crews of Irish labourers. 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. (2A) *It also helped build up industry and farming by moving raw materials and by distributing products rapidly to distant markets(3B).* In linking towns and people to one another it helped unify the United States.

1) The major problems with America's railroad system in the mid 19th century lay in _____.

- [A] poor quality rails and unreliable stopping systems
- [B] lack of financial support for development
- [C] limited railroad lines
- [D] lack of a transcontinental railroad

2) The building of the first transcontinental system _____.

- [A] brought about a rapid growth of industry and farming in the west
- [B] attracted many visitors to the construction sites
- [C] attracted labourers from Europe