

读报刊学SAT

Reading Newspapers for SAT



考天下学习网 编



美国高考



英美名刊选读，汇集各大报刊经典文章

中英文对照阅读，全面丰富SAT阅读文化背景知识



中国石化出版社

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P 前言

Preface

对于中国的考生而言，SAT 考试的阅读部分应该是一块最难啃的骨头。SAT 阅读要求考生达到 1 万左右的词汇量，题量大、时间紧，因而要求考生在备考时将积累单词作为一门重要的功课。多看英美报纸及原著，对时事和当地人的沟通思维习惯有一定的认识，可以提高我们阅读理解的准确度。同时，大量的阅读也有助于提高考生的语法单项考试，大力提升 SAT 写作的考试成绩。

事实证明，“英美报刊”不但能使学生获得最新信息和增加国际知识，而且也是提高英语水平、尽快掌握英语最新词汇最见效的途径之一。《读报刊学 SAT》与国内同类英语报刊类图书相比有以下特点：

1. 突破了同类教材在题材和体裁方面的狭隘性

课文的编写旨在拓宽学生知识的覆盖面，提高学生分析问题和判断是非的能力，扩大信息的交流。

2. 词汇注解详尽，阅读词汇双赢

本书对每一篇选文中的真题词汇进行说明，让考生在阅读的过程中学习和记忆考试单词。最后汇总 SAT 真题词汇，更加高效记忆 SAT 考试词汇，帮助考生顺利通过考试。

3. 导读部分的背景材料简明扼要

作者在每篇文章前都用尽量简短的文字介绍了与文章相关的背景知识，使读者在洞悉世界最新动态的同时，了解其相应的文化背景。

4. 采用中英文对照,方便阅读理解

本书内容广泛,均来自英美报刊的最新刊载,中英文对照,在进一步了解文意的基础上,不断提高自己的英语阅读能力。

5. 试题练习逼真

编者经过多年对 SAT 阅读考试的研究,在每篇文章后都提供了阅读练习,练习题接近真实考试难度;解析详尽,方便掌握出题思路。

翻开这本书,就如同交上一位良师益友。它可以改变你人生的坐标,奏响生命的乐章;它能让你变得睿智、豁达、优雅、美丽;它虽不能改变你人生的起点,但可以改变你人生的终点。相信通过本书的学习,你的英语水平定会有质的飞跃!

由于时间仓促且编者水平有限,书中错误和不妥之处希望广大读者批评指正。

编 者

C 目 录

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Cheaper Tickets will Not Solve Rail's Problems

降低票价并不能解决铁路的问题

本文作者分析了铁路行业目前存在的问题以及相应的解决方法。这是一篇现象解释型文章,按照“指出现象—解释现象—补充说明”的脉络展开论述。

Most of the time, **parliamentary**^① committee reports **embody**^② every foreign **stereotype**^③ of the British—dry, reserved and slightly dull, with only the occasional flash of sarcasm to lighten the mood. Not so those of the transport committee. Its latest report, on rail fares, accuses the rail industry of “**holding passengers to ransom**^④” with “**extravagant**^⑤” fares and an “**impenetrable**^⑥ jungle” of ticket types.

Some of these criticisms are fair. Ticketing arrangements, especially for long-distance journeys, are **Byzantine**^⑦: the National Fares Manual describes over 70 ticket types within its 102 pages. Stung by public criticism, several big train companies, including Virgin, GNER and First Great Western, promise to simplify things.

多半时候,议会委员会报告总能体现外国人眼中英国人的所有典型特点——呆板、保守且略显迟钝,仅仅靠偶尔闪现的嘲讽来提升情绪。但交通委员会报告却并不如此。它最近关于列车票价的报告中,指控铁路行业用“奢侈的”票价和有如“无法穿越的密林”般的车票种类来“勒索乘客”。

其中一些指责是公平的。票务安排(特别是长途)简直是复杂而死板:《国内票价指南》用102页的篇幅描绘了70多种车票。被公众批评刺痛的几家大型铁路公司,包括维珍、大东北线铁路和第一大西部铁路公司等,都承诺把事情弄得简单一些。

① **parliamentary** /ˌpɑːlɪˈmentəri/ *a.* 议会的,设有议会的

② **embody** /ɪmˈbɒdi/ *v.* 体现;使(想法、感情等)具体化

③ **stereotype** /ˈsteriətaɪp/ *n.* 模式化观念

④ **hold sb. to ransom** 胁迫,要挟

⑤ **extravagant** /ɪkˈstrævəɡənt/ *a.* 过于昂贵的

⑥ **impenetrable** /ɪmˈpenetrəbl/ *a.* 不能通过或穿过的;刺不进的,透不过的

⑦ **Byzantine** /bɪˈzæntaɪn/ *a.* 拜占庭式复杂神秘而死板的

The MPS are on shakier ground with their complaints. They point to the amount of state money given out to the railways—£ 4.4 billion this year, with £ 5.3 billion planned for next year—and argue that train firms should be forced to cut prices. Costly tickets, they claim, are “pricing many passengers out of the market”.

That is a tough argument to **sustain**^⑧ at a time when more people than ever are using the railways. On some parts of the network, overcrowding, not under-use, is the biggest problem, with commuter routes into big cities such as London, Leeds and Manchester especially jammed. Fares on these routes are already **capped**^⑨. That's unwise, says Stephen Glaister of Imperial College. “If there is traffic jams in the system, then the economically correct solution is higher prices,” he says. “Otherwise you just end up with shortages and queues.” Giving railway firms greater freedom to set their own prices would let them spread demand around peak times, cutting traffic jams.

The only way to reduce traffic jams and prices together is to do things like lengthening platforms and upgrading signals, which would mean more people could be carried in the busiest areas. That would require tough decisions. A big improvement to the railway network would be expensive, and the government has shown little enthusiasm for increasing **subsidies**^⑩ still further. Extra cash

国会议员们关于票价的指控是站不住脚的。他们谈到政府发放给铁路的资金数量——今年 44 亿英镑, 明年预计达到 53 亿英镑, 并认为应该强制铁路公司降价。他们声称, 昂贵的车票会“因索价过高而无人问津”。

在有史以来乘坐火车的人达到最多的时候, 以上论点难以成立。在铁路网的一些部分, 人满为患而不是未充分利用是最大的问题, 通往伦敦、利兹、曼彻斯特等大城市的客运线尤其拥堵。这些路线的车费已被限额。来自伦敦帝国学院的史蒂芬·格雷斯特认为那么做是不明智的。他说: “如果这个系统拥堵, 那么正确的经济解决办法是提高票价。否则你只能以容量不足和排长队而告终。”给予铁路公司更大的自由制定票价就可以让它们在高峰期分散需求, 从而减少拥堵。

同时减少拥堵、降低票价的唯一办法是做如加长车站月台和改良信号这样的事情, 这就意味着铁路能在最繁忙的地区运载更多的乘客。这么做是艰难的决定。对铁路网的一次大改良将是昂贵的, 而且政府似乎没有热情进一步提高补贴。额外的资金可以从关闭很少使用的(并且补贴很多的)乡村路线中得到, 但这又会遭到铁路交通拥护者的反对。他们认为, 铁

⑧ **sustain** /sə'steɪn/ *v.* 证明, 证实例

⑨ **cap** /kæp/ *v.* 限额收取

⑩ **subsidy** /sʌbsɪdɪ/ *n.* 补贴; 补助金; 津贴

could be found by closing little-used (and heavily subsidised) rural lines, but that would be unpopular with fans of rail transport, who argue that branch lines provide a vital service to the poor and the carless.

The report occasionally hints at such dilemmas^①, only to shy away^② from discussing them in a satisfactory way. The transport committee plans a broader look at rail policy next year. Perhaps then it will do a more thorough job.

路支线为穷人和无车族提供了至关重要的服务。

这份报告偶尔暗示到了这些进退两难的困境,却避开了对其进行令人满意的讨论。交通委员会对明年的铁路政策规划了一个更广阔的前景。或许到时候它会开展更彻底的工作。

试题

- Parliamentary committee reports are mentioned in the first paragraph to highlight _____.
 - typical characteristics of British people
 - general features of government reports
 - the peculiarity of the transport committee's reports
 - wrong opinions about the rail industry
- The word "Byzantine" (Line 3, Para. 2) most probably means _____.
 - absurd
 - complex
 - excessive
 - puzzling
- The author believes that raising railway ticket prices is _____.
 - the result of government underfunding
 - not complying with the market rules
 - an effective way to relieve crowding
 - vital to maintain the railway system
- Which of the following is one of the chief problems confronting the train companies?
 - They are blamed by the public for overcharging.
 - They have no freedom of pricing.
 - They lack funds to upgrade mainline services.
 - They have not sufficiently used rural lines.
- Which of the following is true of the text?
 - Spending more to avoid high traffic appeals to commuters.
 - The government is aware of the high cost of railway operation.

① dilemma /dɪ'lemə/ *n.* 进退两难的境地

② shy away (from sth.) 畏避, 回避

- [C] The train companies plan to spend their money more rationally.
 [D] The transport committee supports the improvement of railway system.

长难句

Extra cash could be found by closing little-used (and heavily subsidised) rural lines, but that would be unpopular with fans of rail transport, who argue that branch lines provide a vital service to the poor and the carless.

解析: 该句主干是 *extra cash could be found by... , but that would be... , but* 连接两个并列分句。后一分句中的 *that* 代指前一句的 *closing little-used rural lines*, *who* 引导定语从句修饰 *fans of rail transport*。

译文: 额外的资金可以从关闭很少使用的(并且补贴很多的)乡村路线中得到,但这又会遭到铁路交通拥护者的反对。他们认为,铁路支线为穷人和无车族提供了至关重要的服务。

真题词汇

flash [flæʃ] *v.* 闪光, 闪现; 闪光灯; 简讯; 浮华; 反射 *n.* 闪光, 闪亮; 一瞬间; [F-] Flash 动画制作技术

【真题例句】 They don't like prey that *flashes*. 桀足动物不喜欢捕捉会发光的猎物。

stereotype [ˈstiəriətaɪp] *n.* 铅版, 陈词滥调, 老套, 陈规, 旧框框 *v.* 使用铅版, 套用老套, 使一成不变; 对……产生成见

【真题例句】 Each Asian sighting that breaks through the constricting *stereotypes* gives another reason to celebrate. 每一位“电视上的亚裔”都打破了固有的风格, 这是另一个值得庆祝的理由。

hint [hɪnt] *n. / v.* 提示; 暗示; 迹象, 线索; [pl.] 注意事项, 建议

【真题例句】 The first *hints* of water under the ice were detected in the 1970s; much later, in the early 1990s, satellites and data from earlier seismic surveys revealed Lake Vostok's full extent. 第一条关于冰下存在水系的线索在 20 世纪 70 年代被发现; 此后, 在 20 世纪 90 年代早期, 卫星和早期地震勘测的数据才揭露了沃斯托克湖的全貌。

slightly [ˈslaɪtli] *ad.* (和比较级连用) 稍稍地, 略微

【真题例句】 There ain't any man enjoys a *slightly* bit of nature—a smooth piece of interval with half a dozen good-sized wine-glass elms in it—more than I do. 其实没有人比我更热爱景观, 像那种柔美的、载有如酒杯一样优美树形的榆树的开阔地。

discuss [dɪsˈkʌs] *vt.* 讨论, 谈论, 论述

【真题例句】 In this 2002 passage, the author *discusses* the feeling known as “the sublime”, which he experiences while traveling in the Sinai desert. 这篇文章发表于 2002 年, 作者讨论了他在游历西奈沙漠时产生的那种“令人敬畏的”情感。

spread [sprɛd] *v.* 展开, 伸开; 散布, 蔓延; 涂, 敷 *n.* 传播, 蔓延; 幅度, 范围; 涂抹食品的酱; 整版的文章(或广告等)

【真题例句】She took it out and spread it on her lap. 她把那块布料拿出来铺在膝盖上。

argument [ˈɑːɡjʊ:mənt] *n.* 争论, 争吵, 辩论; 理由, 论据, 论点; 说理, 论证

【真题例句】This was an argument made in the absence of evidence, as women did not yet have the vote. 它是在没有证据支持的情况下便随意提出的, 因为女性那时还没有投票权。

试题答案

- [C] 本题考查写作目的。文章首段提到了议会委员会报告、英国人的典型特点、交通委员会报告和对铁路行业的指控。考生需要在众多细节中梳理出作者的写作意图。提到英国人的典型特点是为了说明议会委员会报告的特点, 即, 这类政府报告总是呆板而保守。提到议会委员会报告是为了将其与交通委员会报告做比较, 指出后者不呆板不保守。为了证明这一点, 作者介绍了交通委员会报告的内容: 对铁路行业的指控既生动又一针见血。因此[C]是作者通过议会委员会报告想要真正说明的。
- [B] 本题考查根据上下文推测词义。理解词汇要联系上下文。先定位到第二段第二句。该句中 Byzantine 一词用来形容票务安排的特点, 冒号后面部分是对这一特点的解释说明: 国内票价指南用 102 页的篇幅描绘了 70 多种车票。显然这种安排是极其复杂的。此外, 上文第一段末句提到, 铁路行业被指责其车票种类有如“无法穿越的密林”。这也说明了票务安排的复杂性, [B]为最准确的含义。
- [C] 本题考查作者观点。第三段首句作者明确指出, 国会议员们关于票价的指控站不住脚。从下文可知, 这里的“指控”是指火车票价过于昂贵。第四段首句作者再次提出, 由于乘坐火车的人太多, 因此“火车票价过高”的论点难以成立。可见, 作者认为火车票价并不昂贵。接着第四段作者借专家史蒂芬·格雷斯特斯的言论指出, 解决铁路系统拥堵的正确方法是提高票价, 因此[C]是作者的观点。[B]显然与作者观点相悖, 应排除。它是第三段末句提到的国会议员们的观点(pricing many passengers out of the market)。第三段中, 国会议员们谈到政府对铁路部门的资助, 认为它已经很丰厚, 因此火车公司应该降价。但作者没有对政府资助发表任何看法, 排除[A]。[D]中“维护铁路系统”的内容在文中没有涉及, 应排除。
- [C] 本题考查事实细节。第一段末句提到, 交通委员会报告指控铁路行业用昂贵的票价和复杂的车票种类“勒索乘客”。第二段接着就复杂的车票种类展开论述, 指出对它的批评是公平的, 而且由于公众的批评, 一些大型铁路公司承诺作出改善。由此可知, 公众批评的只是复杂的车票种类, 不包括昂贵的票价, [A]与事实不符。第四段末句作者谈到, 给予火车公司更大的自由制定票价可以让它们在高峰期分散需求, 从而减少拥堵。这是在谈论定价自由带来的益处, 但不能由此推出铁路公司没有定价的自由, 排除[B]。第五段前三句提到, 对铁路网的改良可以提高铁路在繁忙地区的载客容

量,但其费用昂贵,而政府又不愿意提高补贴。这里谈的是对主干铁路线的改良。因为紧接着第四句就提到,额外的资金可以从关闭乡村铁路支线中得到,因此[C]符合文意。[D]本身是事实,但文中提到乡村铁路支线只是就是否关闭它展开讨论,其未被充分利用并没有被看作是铁路公司面临的主要问题。

5. [B] 本题考查推理引申。本题要求考生对全文细节综合理解。第四段作者只是客观评价提高票价是减少拥堵的有效措施,但这种方式是否受到通勤者的欢迎不得而知,排除[A]。第三段第二句提到,国会议员们谈到政府发放给铁路的资金数量不断上升,因此认为火车公司应该降低票价。第五段第三句又提到,政府不太愿意进一步提高对铁路系统的补贴。由此可推知,政府已意识到铁路运营的成本很高,不想再增加资助,[B]是正确项。第五段提到改进铁路系统费用昂贵,这额外的支出可以通过关闭使用很少的乡村路线来得到。但这只是作者的看法,火车公司是否采纳还不得而知,排除[C]。交通委员会在文中只出现了两次:第一段末句提到它的报告指控铁路行业昂贵的票价和繁杂的车票种类,最后一段第二句提到它对明年的铁路政策计划了一个更广阔的前景。因此[D]中“支持改进铁路系统”从文中无从得知。

Passage 2

America's New Dietary Advice

美国的新膳食建议

作者介绍了在美国提倡饮食健康很难的背景下出台的新膳食指南图表。这是一篇新事物介绍型文章,按照“介绍背景—比较新旧事物—评价新事物”的脉络展开论述。

Trying to get Americans to eat a healthy diet is a frustrating business. Even the best-designed public-health **campaigns**^① can not seem to compete with the tempting flavours of the snack food and fast food industries and their fat-and sugar-loaded products. The results are apparent on a walk down any American street—more than 60% of Americans are overweight, and a full quarter of them are overweight **to the point of**^② **obesity**^③.

Now, health advocates say, an ill **conceived**^④ redesign has taken one of the more successful public health campaigns—the Food Guide Pyramid—and **rendered**^⑤ it confusing to the point of uselessness. Some of these critics worry that America's Department of Agriculture caved in to pressure from parts of the food industry anxious to protect their products.

试图让美国人吃健康饮食是一件令人倍感受挫的事,即使是精心设计的公共卫生运动似乎也不能与零食业和快餐业的诱人香味及其生产的高脂高糖食品相媲美。走在美国任何一条街道上,结果很明显:超过 60% 的美国人超重,其中整整 1/4 达到肥胖的程度。

现在,健康提倡者说,一个构思拙劣的新设计取代了更成功的公共健康运动之一——膳食指南金字塔,并使它令人困感到毫无用处的程度。这些批评者中有些人担心美国农业部屈从于急于保护自己产品的部分食品行业的压力。

① **campaign** /kæm'peɪn/ n. [C] 运动;活动;宣传活动

② **to the point of (doing)** 达到某种程度;近乎

③ **obesity** /əʊ'bi:səti/ n. 肥胖症;过度肥胖

④ **conceive** /kən'si:v/ v. 构想出,设想;想象

⑤ **render** /'rendə/ vt. 使成为;使处于某种状态

The Food Guide Pyramid was a graphic which emphasizes that a healthy diet is built on a base of grains, vegetables and fruits, followed by ever-decreasing amounts of dairy products, meat, sweets and oils. The agriculture department launched the pyramid in 1992 to replace its previous programme, which was centred on the idea of four basic food groups. The “Basic Four” campaign showed a plate divided into quarters, and seemed to imply that meat and dairy products should make up half of a healthy diet, with grains, fruits and vegetables making up the other half. It was replaced only over the **strenuous**^⑥ objections of the meat and dairy industries.

The old pyramid was undoubtedly imperfect. It failed to distinguish between a doughnut and a whole grain roll, or a hamburger and a skinless chicken breast, and it did not make clear exactly how much of each foodstuff to eat. It did, however, manage to convey the basic idea of proper proportions in an easily understandable way. The new pyramid, called “My Pyramid”, has been simplified to a mere **logo**^⑦. The food groups are replaced with unlabelled, multi-coloured vertical stripes. Anyone who wants to see how this **translates**^⑧ into a healthy diet is invited to go to a website, put in their age, sex and activity level, and get a **custom-designed**^⑨ pyramid, complete with healthy

膳食指南金字塔是一个图表,它强调健康饮食建立在谷物、蔬菜和水果的基础之上,然后是摄入量依次减少的奶制品、肉类、甜食和油脂。农业部于1992年开始使用这个金字塔图表,以取代原来围绕四组基本食物的概念建立的方案。“基本四组”运动展示了一个四等分的盘形,似乎暗示肉类和奶制品应该构成健康饮食的一半,而谷物、水果和蔬菜构成另一半。克服了肉类工业和奶制品工业的极力反对,该方案才被(金字塔图表所)替代。

旧的金字塔图表无疑是不完善的。它不能将甜面圈与全麦卷、汉堡包与去皮鸡胸脯肉区分开来。而且它没有确切地说明每种食物应摄入多少。然而它以一种易被人理解的方式传达了食物正确比例的基本概念。新的金字塔图表称之为“我的金字塔”,它被简化为一个标志,食物组被无标识的、多种颜色的直条所取代。任何想知道这个图表如何转变为健康食谱的人都被邀请访问一个网站,输入他的年龄、性别及活动水平,从而得到一个定制的金字塔图表,包括健康食物选择和建议比例大小。这种做法对那些有积极性的人是适合的,但对那些最需要这些信息的人来说却太费事了。

⑥ **strenuous** /ˈstrenjuəs/ *a.* 劲头十足的;奋力的;顽强的

⑦ **logo** /ˈlɒɡəʊ/ *n.* 标识,标志,徽标

⑧ **translate** /trænsˈleɪt/ *v.* (使)转变,变为

⑨ **custom-designed** 设计订做的,订制的

food choices and suggested portion sizes. This is fine for those who are motivated, but might prove too much effort for those who most need such information.

Admittedly^⑩, the designers of the new pyramid had a tough job to do. They were supposed to **condense**^⑪ the advice in the 84-page *United States' Dietary Guidelines* into a simple, meaningful graphic suitable for printing on the back of a cereal box. Nevertheless, many health advocates believe the new graphic is a missed opportunity. On the other hand, it is not clear how much good even the best graphic could do. Surveys found that 80% of Americans recognized the old Food Guide Pyramid—a big success in the world of public health campaigns. Yet only 16% followed its advice.

诚然,新金字塔图表的设计者颇费了一番周折。他们被要求将长达84页的《美国膳食指导原则》浓缩为简单但含义丰富、适于印在谷物盒背面的图形。然而,许多健康提倡者认为新图表会是一个错失的机会。另一方面,即使是最好的图表能发挥多大的作用也并不清楚。研究发现80%的美国人认可旧的膳食指南金字塔,它可以称得上是公共健康运动的一大成功,但却只有16%的人听从它的建议。

试题

- The first paragraph is written to imply that _____.
 - it is difficult to change the eating habits of Americans
 - Americans do not place enough emphasis on health
 - America failed to carry out public health campaigns
 - it is difficult to promote a healthy diet among Americans
- What can we learn from the text?
 - Health advocates think that the old pyramid is a success.
 - The food industry agrees on being against the old pyramid.
 - “Basic Four” focuses on the equal importance of every food.
 - The new pyramid is likely to win wide acceptance.
- According to the text, the new food pyramid _____.
 - attaches great value to grains, vegetables and fruits
 - replaced the “Basic Four” food guide
 - conveys the general concepts of a healthy diet
 - is designed to be a logo under the industry pressure

⑩ **admittedly** /əd'mɪtɪdli/ *ad.* 诚然,确实地,不可否认地

⑪ **condense** /kən'dens/ *v.* 简缩;压缩(文字、信息等)