


大学英语

四级考试复习资料

(阅读测试部分)

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副主编●吴嘉中 冯小诗
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College
English

求知书刊社编辑

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内 容 提 要

本书以英语四级考试中阅读理解部分为模式,结合大学英语教学中四个级别,每个级别配题六套,每套题按统考要求有文章四篇约一千字,多选题二十道,全书共选有题材、体裁多样的文章九十六篇,书后附有参考答案,可供大学英语教师配合分级英语教学之用,也可供学生学习时作为提高阅读理解能力及考试水平的补充练习。

前 言

教材是教学的主要依据，但编得再好的教材也不可能完全包括浩瀚的教学内容。所以有经验的教师一般总要在教学进程中根据实际情况对练习作些适当的补充。当前我国大学英语教学的重点是阅读，然而学生在这方面的能力却尚不能尽如人意。研究其中的原因，练习材料不合适是个重要方面，教师缺乏一本适合分级需要，而且语言新近、实用、朴实无华，题材、体裁又广泛多样的练习册。我们编写的这本《大学英语四级阅读测试》收集了九十六篇趣味各别的文章，其中有文学故事、科技报道、政治经济分析、社会文化研究等各种内容。这本“阅读测试”最大的特点是它的编写方式。全书按四个级别编排，每级配备六套练习，套套练习都与标准考试要求一致，含文章四篇、单词一千左右、多选题二十道。大学英语的阅读理解不同于快速阅读，题目要有较大的难度和深度。因此在编写这本“阅读测试”时我们特别注意多选题的出法。题目的重点放在学生最感困难的综合、分析、推断等方面。如果以此书配合正课教学，学生不仅通过大量阅读能增强语感，而且从一开始就能熟悉大学英语阅读课程的要求，在最后通过国家统考时他们不会因平时缺少练习而措手不及。此书内容曾在第二军医大学学生中作过试用，取得了良好的教学效果。我们向在试用过程中对测试题提出过宝贵意见的同志表示谢意。由于整理时间仓促，谅有不少疏漏之处，望读者批评指正。

王重沧

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Band One

Paper One

Direction: There are four passages in this paper. Each passage is followed by some questions. For each question there are four suggested answers marked (A), (B), (C) and (D). You should choose the ONE best answer and draw a line across the letter of your choice with a pencil.

Passage One

The year was 1932. Amelia Earhart was flying alone from North America to England in a small single-engined airplane. At midnight, several hours after she had left Newfoundland, she ran into bad weather. To make things worse, her altimeter failed and she didn't know how high she was flying. At night, and in a storm, a pilot is in great difficulty without an altimeter. At times, her plane nearly plunged into the sea.

Just before daylight, there was further trouble. Amelia noticed flames coming from the engine. Would she be able to reach land? There was nothing to do except to keep going and to hope.

In the end, Amelia Earhart did reach Ireland, and for the courage she had shown, she was warmly welcomed in England and Europe. When she returned to the United States, she was honored by President Hoover at a special dinner in the White House. From that time on, Amelia Earhart was famous.

What was so important about her flight? Amelia Earhart was the first woman to fly the Atlantic Ocean alone, and she had set a record of fourteen hours and fifty-six minutes.

In the year that followed, Amelia Earhart made several flights across the United States, and on each occasion she set a new record for flying time. Amelia Earhart made these flights to show that women had a place in aviation and that air travel was useful.

1. Which of the following is not the difficulty Amelia Earhart met with in her flight from North America to England?
 - (A) She was caught in a storm.
 - (B) One of the important instruments went out of order.
 - (C) Her engine went wrong.

- (D) She lost her direction.
2. When Amelia Earhart saw flames out of the engine, she _____.
(A) did nothing but pray for herself
(B) changed her direction and landed on Ireland
(C) continued flying
(D) lost hope of reaching land
3. Amelia Earhart was warmly welcomed in England and Europe. Which of the following is not mentioned as the reason for that?
(A) She had set a new record for flying time.
(B) She was the first woman airplane pilot to visit there.
(C) She was the first woman to fly across the Atlantic Ocean alone.
(D) She showed great courage in the flight.
4. According to this passage, what was the most important reason for Amelia Earhart to take her flights?
(A) To set new records for flying time.
(B) To successfully fly across the Atlantic Ocean alone.
(C) To show that aviation was not just for men.
(D) To become famous in the world.
5. The best title for this passage would be _____.
(A) A New History in Aviation
(B) Amelia Earhart — Pioneer in Women's Aviation
(C) A New Record of Flying Time
(D) A Dangerous Flight from North America to England

Passage Two

Researchers have found that “cool” colors, such as blues and greens, can make us feel calm and relaxed. Blue and green surroundings can also lower blood pressure, pulse rate, and breathing rate. “Warm” colors, such as reds, yellows, and oranges, affect us differently than “cool” colors do. “Warm” colors can actually make us feel warmer and excited. They stimulate heartbeat, raise blood pressure, and quicken breathing.

Yellow, a bright, sunny color, often makes people feel happy and more active. Yet it makes some people feel hot and restless. Red often makes people feel energetic. But not everyone feels good wearing red.

Color can affect our moods. In certain Soviet stadiums, home team locker rooms are painted a bright, rousing (令人兴奋的) red while the visiting teams must use locker rooms painted in serene (宁静的) shade of blue.

If some colors can make us feel better, might certain colors also help us think better? According to a three-year study in Germany, the answer seems to be yes. Scientists studied how various colors affect school children. And they found that certain colors

could raise I.Q.'s as much as 12 points. In the experiment, rooms with low ceilings were painted in different colors. The more popular colors were light blue, yellow, yellow-green, and orange. Less popular colors such as white, black, and brown caused a drop in I.Q. The study found that the color orange in particular improved social behavior, cheered up children's spirits and made them feel less hostile and irritable.

Do people's color preferences tell us anything about their personalities? Some researchers think they do. According to these researchers, people who are more out-going usually prefer "warm" colors. People who are quieter, less people-oriented, often prefer "cool" colors.

6. If you live in a room painted light blue, you may feel _____.
 - (A) happy and energetic
 - (B) warm and excited
 - (C) calm and relaxed
 - (D) hot and restless
7. If you are working in a "warm"-color surrounding, which of the following is most likely to happen?
 - (A) Severe headache.
 - (B) Low blood pressure.
 - (C) Rapid heartbeat.
 - (D) Breathing difficulty.
8. Home team locker rooms in some Soviet stadiums are painted red because the red color can make players feel _____.
 - (A) energetic
 - (B) calm
 - (C) active
 - (D) relaxed
9. If your sister likes to wear clothes in bright colors, such as reds and yellows, she probably is _____.
 - (A) sociable
 - (B) irritable
 - (C) less people-oriented
 - (D) pretty
10. Which of the following statements is not true according to this passage?
 - (A) Light blue can not only make us feel better but also help us think better.
 - (B) Yellows can often make us feel happy and more active.
 - (C) Oranges can raise children's I.Q. and improve their behavior.
 - (D) White can help us concentrate on our studies.

Passage Three

Every year sharks kill or injure a number of unfortunate bathers in the warmer parts of the world. They are particularly common around the beaches of south-east Australia, where special precautions are taken against them. Near some popular beaches shark-proof wire fences have been built in the sea. In other places helicopters or small aircraft regularly patrol the sea, ready to send a radio message to the shore and to give an alarm as soon as a shark is seen.

One of the richest men in Australia owed some of his success to his courage in facing a shark. When he was an unemployed youth in 1922, Frank Beaurepaire saw a young man being attacked by a shark off a Sydney beach. He saw a lifesaver swim out to help the young man but realised that the lifesaver could not fight off the shark and rescue the injured man at the same time. Although he was not an expert swimmer, he dived into the water and helped the lifesaver to bring the injured man to the beach.

Unfortunately the shark had attacked so viciously that its victim soon died. However, the public heard about the rescue and collected a large sum of money for the rescuers. Frank Beaurepaire received £500 and started a small motor-tyre business. He worked hard and soon became prosperous. By the time the Second World War started he was a millionaire.

11. This passage is mainly about _____.
 - (A) sharks in the south-east Australia
 - (B) precautions against sharks
 - (C) how an Australian became prosperous due to his courage in facing a shark
 - (D) the victims of sharks
12. Which of the following measures is not mentioned to protect bathers against sharks?
 - (A) A wall of wire netting has been set up in the sea.
 - (B) Planes patrol the nearby sea.
 - (C) A warning of danger is given by airborne aircraft as soon as a shark is spotted.
 - (D) Sharks are fenced in to prevent them from attacking bathers.
13. In 1922, Frank was _____.
 - (A) a lifesaver
 - (B) a good swimmer
 - (C) a jobless young man
 - (D) a rich man
14. The man Frank helped to rescue _____.
 - (A) was too weak to reach the beach
 - (B) died soon after he was brought out of the water
 - (C) died before the rescuers got to him
 - (D) gave Frank a large sum of money

15. To show their appreciation of Frank Beaurepaire's bravery, the public _____.
(A) raised money for him
(B) made him a millionaire
(C) helped him run a motor-tyre business
(D) helped him become prosperous

Passage Four

For thousands of years man has valued gold. He has used it for jewellery, ornaments and, of course, money.

Today gold has many uses in industry as a raw material. But it is still valued for itself, not only for its use. The basic properties of gold have a fascination for people in many countries. Gold is easy to work with, it has a beautiful colour and it does not rust. It is not affected by the passage of time.

The first banks held their gold in strong safes. The money they gave out was linked to the amount of gold they had in the safes. Some coins were actually made of gold. For centuries, currencies in many countries were based on gold. Today this doesn't happen. Governments control their supply of money. A currency is valued by the wealth of that country, not only by its gold reserves. For instance, in Britain the value of the pound is judged by the wealth of the country, not just by the amount of gold we have in our banks.

Recently the price of gold has risen a lot. Why has this happened? What does it mean? One view is that people are worried about the world economy. They buy gold because they think it will keep its value. This is important in a world of inflation and higher oil prices. Other people say that the rise in the price of gold is not important to the world economy. They say that gold is simply another commodity. Like all commodities, the price will rise and fall. There is no standard price for gold. They say that speculators encourage the price to rise so that they can make huge profits.

16. Today people value gold mainly for its _____.
(A) worth as jewellery, ornaments and money
(B) uses in industry
(C) stable nature
(D) beautiful colour
17. Nowadays currencies in many countries are based on _____.
(A) the gold reserves in their banks
(B) the actual wealth of their countries
(C) decisions of the governments
(D) both (A) and (B)
18. One view to explain the rising price of gold today is that _____.
(A) many people buy gold for fear that they will lose money in a world of inflation

- (B) people like to keep gold as ornaments
 - (C) the gold reserves are becoming less and less
 - (D) the amount of gold used in industry is constantly increasing
19. But other people believe that ____.
- (A) the rising of gold price has much to do with the world economy
 - (B) there should be a standard price for gold
 - (C) it is natural for the price of gold to rise or fall
 - (D) gold is not a commodity, so its price should remain the same
20. The word "speculators" in the last sentence refers to those ____
- (A) working in the bank
 - (B) working for world economy
 - (C) keeping gold reserves
 - (D) making profits through changes in the market value of goods

Paper Two

Direction: There are four passages in this paper. Each passage is followed by some questions. For each question there are four suggested answers marked (A), (B), (C) and (D). You should choose the ONE best answer and draw a line across the letter of your choice with a pencil.

Passage One

Researchers at Cornell University have found that fewer nutrients are lost when food is cooked in microwave ovens. In the case of fruits and vegetables, for example, up to 50 percent less vitamin C is lost when food is cooked this way.

During regular cooking, nutrients are lost to the cooking water. But microwave cooking uses the water that is already in the food. Microwaves cook food by causing water molecules in food to vibrate. The vibration gives off heat. Microwave cooking is even more efficient when the food is placed in the microwave oven in a paper container.

Since less time is needed (up to 70 percent less time) for cooking, there is less heat damage to nutrients. The researchers found that there is less damage to the protein in flour-based foods because of the shorter cooking time. There has been some concern in the past that microwave radiation leaking from microwave ovens could do harm to us. However, the researchers say that these ovens do not pose a danger to humans.

1. Microwaves cook food by ____.
- (A) using more cooking water
 - (B) using the water inside the food
 - (C) vibrating the food in the ovens
 - (D) giving less heat to the food

2. In microwave cooking, _____.
(A) more nutrients can be kept in food
(B) food must be placed in a paper container
(C) heat does not damage nutrients
(D) no food nutrients are lost
3. Which of the following is not the advantage of microwave cooking as mentioned in the passage?
(A) Less loss of nutrients.
(B) Shorter cooking time.
(C) Less heat damage to nutrients.
(D) Inexpensive cost.
4. People have the concern that _____.
(A) more time is needed for microwave cooking
(B) more vitamin but less protein is kept by microwave cooking
(C) radiation from microwaves may be harmful to health
(D) they will run risks in using microwave ovens
5. According to this passage, we can conclude that _____.
(A) the writer recommends the use of microwave ovens
(B) researchers like to use microwave ovens in their work
(C) microwave cooking has advantages as well as disadvantages
(D) people are unwilling to use microwave ovens because of radiation

Passage Two

Most dog owners feel that their dogs are their best friends. Almost everyone likes dogs because they try hard to please their owners. One of my favorite stories is about a dog who wanted his owner to please him.

One of my friends has a large German shepherd named Jack. These dogs are often very intelligent. Every Sunday afternoon, my friend takes Jack for a walk in the park. Jack likes these long walks very much.

One Sunday afternoon, a young man came to visit my friend. He stayed a long time, and he talked and talked. Soon it was time for my friend to take Jack for his walk, but the visitor didn't leave. Jack became very worried about his walk in the park. He walked around the room several times and then sat down directly in front of the visitor and looked at him. But the visitor paid no attention. He continued talking. Finally, Jack couldn't stand it any longer. He went out of the room and came back a few minutes later. He sat down again in front of the visitor, but this time he held the man's hat in his mouth.

German shepherds aren't the only intelligent dogs. Another intelligent dog is a Seeing Eye dog. This is a special dog which helps blind people walk along the streets

and do many other things. We call these dogs Seeing Eye dogs because they are the "eyes" of the blind people and they help them to "see". Seeing Eye dogs generally go to special schools for several years to learn to help blind people.

6. The writer tells the story about the dog Jack to show that _____.
 - (A) it, like many other dogs, always tried to please its owner master
 - (B) it, unlike many other dogs, always wanted its master to please it
 - (C) it was more intelligent than many other dogs
 - (D) it was the most faithful dog of his friend's
7. Jack came to sit in front of the visitor in order to _____.
 - (A) please him
 - (B) be pleased
 - (C) ask him to leave immediately
 - (D) invite him for a walk
8. "Finally, Jack couldn't stand it any longer." This means that Jack _____.
 - (A) could no longer put up with the visitor
 - (B) could no longer stand but he might sit down
 - (C) was very tired and wanted a rest
 - (D) was very angry with the visitor
9. Seeing Eye dogs _____.
 - (A) are more intelligent than German shepherds
 - (B) have only one eye
 - (C) help blind people go to special schools
 - (D) help and see for blind people
10. Which of the following titles would be the most suitable for this passage?
 - (A) Dogs — A Great Help to People
 - (B) Dogs — Our Faithful Companions
 - (C) An Introduction to Dogs
 - (D) Famous Dogs in Germany

Passage Three

The Metropolitan Railway in London was the world's first underground railway. It was begun in 1860. Even then, the streets of London were so busy that it was difficult to travel around. An underground railway was first suggested in 1843, and there was a lot of talk about the new idea. The government at last gave permission for the railway in 1853.

So, one day in 1860, several hundred workmen arrived in various districts. They first broke up the road, and then dug a deep wide trench where the road had been. The trench was covered with a roof, which carried the new street on top. It formed the tunnel for the trains. This is called the "cut-and-cover" method of building an underground.

railway.

The new railway was very popular and it carried 9,500,000 people in 1863, its first year. But, of course, there was no electricity then, and smoke from the steam trains filled the tunnels. It was very uncomfortable. Holes were cut in the tunnel roof so that the smoke could escape. This made the air in the tunnels better, but the escaping air frightened the horses in the streets above. When the first electric train arrived in 1890, the underground railway was much better.

Because the new railway was very good, other underground railways were built. Later lines were built much deeper. This was very useful during the war. People used the deep underground stations as "air-raid shelters". There they were safe from aircraft attacks. During October 1940, 138,000 people used the stations every night. Some stations and tunnels were used for special things. The government used one old station. The British Museum put many objects in an old tunnel. There they were completely safe for the whole war. In another tunnel there was a factory that made parts for aircraft. After the war, the underground railway returned to its ordinary use.

11. The world's first underground railway was put into service _____.
 - (A) in 1843
 - (B) in 1853
 - (C) in 1860
 - (D) in 1863
12. When the suggestion to build an underground railway was brought up, people in London _____.
 - (A) complained much about the crowd of the streets
 - (B) showed great interest in it
 - (C) were too busy to take any notice of it
 - (D) asked the government for permission
13. In the "cut-and-cover" method of building an underground railway, _____.
 - (A) the road is first cut into two parts
 - (B) a tunnel is dug under the road
 - (C) a deep wide trench is first cut along the road
 - (D) the trench should carry a new street on top
14. The worst thing about the Metropolitan Railway in its first year of operation was that _____.
 - (A) it carried far too many people
 - (B) there was no electricity
 - (C) the air in the tunnel was very poor
 - (D) the escaping air from the tunnel frightened the horses in the streets above
15. During World War II, the underground railways in London _____.
 - (A) suffered several aircraft attacks

- (B) carried 138,000 people every night
- (C) were used as "air-raid shelters" only
- (D) were used for many special purposes

Passage Four

To us it seems so natural to put up an umbrella to keep the water off when it rains. But actually the umbrella was not invented as protection against rain. Its first use was as a shade against the sun !

Nobody knows who first invented it, but the umbrella was used in very ancient times. Probably the first to use it were the Chinese, way back in the eleventh century B.C.

We know that the umbrella was used in ancient Egypt and Babylon as a sunshade. And there was a strange thing connected with its use: it became a symbol of honour and authority. In the Far East in ancient times, the umbrella was allowed to be used only by royalty or by those in high office.

In Europe, the Greeks were the first to use the umbrella as a sunshade. And the umbrella was in common use in ancient Greece. But it is believed that the first persons in Europe to use the umbrella as protection against the rain were the ancient Romans.

During the Middle Ages, the use of the umbrella practically disappeared. Then it appeared again in Italy in the late sixteenth century. And again it was considered a symbol of power and authority. By 1680, the umbrella appeared in France, and later on in England.

By the eighteenth century, the umbrella was used against rain throughout most of Europe. Umbrellas have not changed much in style during all this time, though they have become much lighter in weight. It wasn't until the twentieth century that women's umbrellas began to be made, in a whole variety of colours.

16. According to this passage, the umbrella was probably first invented _____.

- (A) in ancient China
- (B) in ancient Egypt
- (C) in ancient Greece
- (D) in ancient Rome

17. Which of the following statements is not true about the umbrella?

- (A) No one exactly knows who was the inventor of the umbrella.
- (B) The umbrella was first invented to be used as protection against the sun.
- (C) The umbrella changed much in style in the eighteenth century.
- (D) In Europe, the Greeks were the first to use the umbrella.

18. A strange feature of the umbrella's use is that it was used as _____.

- (A) protection against rain
- (B) a shade against the sun
- (C) a symbol of honour and power

- (D) women's decoration
19. In Europe, the umbrella was first used against the rain _____.
(A) during the Middle Ages
(B) by the eighteen century
(C) in Rome
(D) in Greece
20. This passage talks mainly about _____.
(A) when and how the umbrella was invented
(B) why the umbrella was so popular in Europe
(C) the development of the umbrella
(D) the history and use of the umbrella

Paper Three

Direction: There are four passages in this paper. Each passage is followed by some questions. For each question there are four suggested answers marked (A), (B), (C) and (D). You should choose the ONE best answer and draw a line across the letter of your choice with a pencil.

Passage One

Jules Verne was a Frenchman who was born in 1828. He was not an inventor and he was not a scientist, but he read a great many scientific books. He had a very strong imagination and he loved adventure although he did not have many great adventures himself. He wrote a number of exciting books about the things which he thought that scientists and inventors would one day be able to do. At the time, his stories seemed like fairy stories!

Many of Jules Verne's attempts to look into the future, however, were surprisingly accurate. For example, one book was called "From Earth to the Moon". In this, three men and a dog made a journey around the moon. They did this in a hollow "ship" fired from a gun. After going round the moon, they returned to earth and splashed down into the sea not far from where the first real moon travellers landed in July 1969, about a hundred years later!

Jules Verne's most famous book is "Twenty Thousand Leagues (里格) Under the Sea". In those days submarines had not been invented but he describes an underwater ship very like a modern submarine. The Captain of the submarine in this book is called Captain Nemo and he and his crew have many strange adventures and find many strange things at the bottom of the ocean.

In all his books Jules Verne used his scientific knowledge as well as his imagination in describing future inventions. Sometimes he was wrong, of course, but often the accuracy