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大学英语四、六级决胜丛书

# 大 学 英 语

## 简答与改错精选题解

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## 前 言

《大学英语四、六级决胜丛书》是根据教育部最新颁布的《大学英语教学大纲》、《大学英语四级考试大纲》、《大学英语六级考试大纲》、在严格遵循和研究四、六级考试规律的基础上,由近二十所高校中具有多年丰富的四、六级教学经验的教师,经过近三年的精心策划和潜心研究编写而成的。参加本丛书编写的高校有:大连海事大学、大连理工大学、吉林工业大学、吉林工学院、吉林大学、东北师范大学、大连国际商务学院、吉林省华侨外语专修学院、吉林省教育学院、吉林北华大学、东北财经大学、大连轻工学院、大连大学、北京轻工学院、辽宁师范大学、长春师范学院、长春光机学院、长春邮电学院、大连水产学院等。本丛书由前国家大学英语四级考试委员会委员、大连理工大学外语系孔庆炎教授担任总主审,大连海事大学外语系范凤祥教授任总主编,大连海事大学外语系宫玉波副教授担任本丛书总策划。本套丛书包括(1~6级)词汇测试、大学英语语法结构测试、大学英语语言点精华测试、大学英语阅读与完型填空、四、六级考试简答与改错、大学英语精典范文与点评、四级精典试题及六级精典试题模拟等共十部。另外,刘文阁,单文博,周世界三位同志参加了《四、六级精典试题模拟与详解》(下册)一书的编写工作,并担任本书副主编。本丛书有以下几个特点:

1. 所用全部语料为计算机精心筛选,内容丰富,题材新颖。
2. 重点突出,针对性强,对考试项目进行分解,做到各个击破,以不变应百变,触类旁通,稳中求胜。
3. 测试内容多样化,避免单一性。
4. 注解精练、言简意赅。
5. 丛书各部前后呼应,即相互独立又相互贯穿,各有侧重,浑然一体。

英语中有句谚语叫 Practice makes perfect.(熟能生巧),它告诉人们要想做好一件事,就要多实践。要想在四、六级考试中取得理想的成绩,考生除认真掌握教材内容的基础上还得进行大量的、系统的、具有针对性的测试不可。但是,我们不主张测试代替教学,也不主张“题海战术”,但恰倒好处的测试与实践会促进教学,取得好成绩,换句话说,学要得法。《大学英语四、六级决胜丛书》就是基于这一思想应运而生的。它会使广大考生从令人眼花缭乱的四、六级考试的书籍中走出,心有所从,心有所适。我们可以肯定地说,如果能认真研读此丛书,考生定会有信心百倍、稳操胜券之感,定会领略“曾经沧海难为水,除却巫山不是云”的境界。本丛书不仅适合四、六级考生,也是英语自考生、入学研究生、在职研究生、TOEFL 考生不可多得的备考材料。

英语中还有一句谚语叫 To err is human(人非圣贤,孰能无过)。尽管我们已尽了全力,书中定有不妥之处,还望广大同仁及读者不吝赐教。

编 者

1999年7月1日于大连

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## Section One Short Answer Questions

**Directions:** In this part, there are 70 short passages. At the end of each passage, there are five questions or incomplete statements. Read the passage carefully. Then answer the questions or complete the statements in ten or less than ten words.

### Practice 1

The term "hormone" was first used with reference to secretin (分泌素). Starling derived the term from the Greek "hormon", meaning "to excite or set in motion". Some research findings show that without regular supplies of some hormones our capacity to behave would be seriously weakened; without others we would soon die. Tiny amounts of some hormones can modify our moods and our actions, our feelings to eat or drink, and our reproductive behavior. And hormones do more than influence adult behavior; early in life they help to determine the development of bodily form and may even determine an individual's behavioral capacities. Later in life the changing outputs of some endocrine glands (内分泌腺) and the body's changing sensitivity to some hormones are essential aspects of the phenomena of aging.

Communication within the body and the consequent inclusion of behavior were considered the exclusive province of the nervous system up to the beginning of the present century. The emergence of endocrinology as a separate discipline can probably be traced to the experiments of Bayliss and Starling on the hormone secretin. This substance is produced from cells in the intestinal (肠的) walls when food enters the stomach, it travels through the bloodstream and liberates a kind of juice, which aids in digestion. By showing that special cells secrete chemical agents that are conveyed by the bloodstream and regulate distant target organs or tissues, Bayliss and Starling demonstrated that chemical mixture can occur without participation of the nervous system.

#### Questions:

1. What does the passage mainly discuss?

hormone

2. On what respect of people to hunger and thirst do hormones have an influence?

3. What can be concluded from the passage about the human body's requirement?

4. What was the nervous system believed to do?

5. What do you guess might be discussed in the next paragraph?

## Practice 1 注解答案

### Main Idea:

本文介绍荷尔蒙一词的来历及其一般性知识。荷尔蒙影响人们对诸如饥渴的敏感性。没有某些荷尔蒙常规性供给,我们的行为能力会大大削弱,甚至死亡。化学混合物的分泌实属内分泌学科。

### Key:

1. Some general information about hormones
2. People's sensitivity to hunger and thirst
3. The human body requires large amounts of most hormones
4. To control the chemical mixture
5. How chemical mixture occurs

## Practice 2

This is a distrustful age, but although our faith in many of the things in which our forefathers earnestly believed has weakened, our confidence in the curative properties of the bottle of medicine remains the same as theirs. This modern faith in medicines is proved by the fact that the annual drug bill of the Health Services is mounting to astronomical figures and shows no signs at present of ceasing to rise. The majority of the patients attending the medical out-patient departments of our hospitals feel that they have not received adequate treatment unless they are able to carry home with them some remedy in the shape of a bottle of medicine, a box of pills, or a small jar of ointment (软膏), and the doctor in charge of the department is only too ready to provide them with their requirements. There is no quicker method of disposing of patients than by giving them what they are asking for, and since most medical men in the Health Services are overworked and have little time for offering time-consuming and little-appreciated advice on such subjects as diet, right living, and the need for abandoning bad habits, ect., the bottle, the box, and the jar are almost always granted them.

Nor is it only the ignorant and ill-educated person who has such faith in the bottle of medicine, especially if it be wrapped in white paper and sealed with a dab (涂擦) of red sealing-wax by a clever chemist. It is recounted to Thomas Carlyle that when he heard of the illness of his friend, Henry Taylor, he went off immediately to visit him, carrying with him in his pocket what remained of a bottle of medicine formerly prescribed for a disease of Mrs Carlyle's.

### Questions:

1. What is suggested as the main reason for the annual drug bill of the Health Services mounting to astronomical figures?  
no trust no weakened faith
2. What tendency is there in the modern age about the faith in medicines?

- ~~Answer~~
3. What did the majority of out-patients complain?  
only got no benefit of medicine but no
4. Could the medicine remained of the bottle in Mr. Carlyle's pocket act on Henry Taylor's illness?  
not necessarily.
5. What is the example of Thomas Carlyle used to prove?  
that point

## Practice 2 注解答案

### Main Idea:

人们轻信药物导致药物的滥用。人们对药物疗效的信心仍与其祖先当时一样。某些医生滥用开药职权；某些病人不听医生劝阻而一意孤行。受过良好教育而轻信药物者也不乏其人。

### Key:

1. Faith in the curative properties of medicines like our forefathers'
2. No sign of losing its popularity
3. They haven't received what they are asking for
4. Not necessarily
5. Some well-educated people also believe in medicines

## Practice 3

Language is such a widespread cultural phenomenon that it can truly be called second nature. In the immeasurable length of time since this form of behavior was acquired by the human race, language has always been the best integrated and most often used medium of cultural expression. The idea of human society and of man himself as a reasoning being cannot be separated from the fact that man possesses language.

On the nature of language in general, volumes have been written and schools of philosophy founded. Over specific languages in particular, arguments are easily urged and political disputes are often based. Fantastic and wholly disproportionate emotional responses can be raised by the issue of language, and yet a satisfactory definition of it has never been reached. In the mind of the average person, it is undistinguished from other systems of communication and is surrounded by a mass of misinformation and emotional implications. The situation is compounded in many language-teaching classrooms, where time-honored nonsense gets passed on from generation to generation. Although every person has the fantastic complexities of his language at his command, science has yet to perceive, record, list or render them into a comprehensive scheme.

Social order, be it human or animal, is impossible without some form of communication. Co-



operation depends upon the existence of some kind of sign system, signals which can take a variety of forms. You can whistle for a dog. Your cat can scratch at the door to be let in. You can hail a taxi by holding up your hand. You can point to your mouth and rub your stomach to ask for food. But human language in the form of human speech must be considered the best of all existing or known sign systems.

**Questions:**

1. What is commonly accepted as the means acquired exclusively by man?  
language
2. What conclusion may be drawn from the fact that no satisfactory definition of language has been reached?  
language is a mystery
3. What aspects can the response of a person to the language another person is using be shown in?  
thoughts, emotions and attitudes
4. How is the human sign system supposed to be?  
the best of all known sign systems
5. What is the difficulty in making a comprehensive study of language concerned with?  
complexity of individual language, plenty of misinformation and emotional implications

### Practice 3 注解答案

**Main Idea:** 语言与文化是密不可分的。语言始终是进行文化交流的最完善,最常用的媒介;这种作用可为语言的第二属性。有语言流派研究广义的语言及狭义的语言。不同社会群体对自己的语言的情感暗示是语言社会性的反映。

**Key:**

1. Language
2. Any existing theory on language is speculative at best
3. Thoughts, emotions and attitudes
4. The best of all known sign systems
5. Complexity of individual language, plenty of misinformation and emotional implications

### Practice 4

The term "satellite city" is used to describe the relationship between a large city and neighboring smaller cities and towns that are economically dependent upon it. Satellite cities may be collection and distribution points in the commercial linkages of a trading metropolis (中心城市), or they may be manufacturing or mining centers existing with one-industry economies as the creatures of some nearby center. This latter form is what is generally meant when one uses the term

“satellite city”. Taken in this sense, nineteenth-century Chicopee and Lowell, Massachusetts, were satellites of Boston. Both were mill towns created by Boston investors to serve the economy of that New England metropolis. Located on cheap land along water power sites in the midst of a farming region that could supply ample(充足的) labor, they were satellites in the fullest sense of the term. Pullman, Illinois, and Gary, Indiana, were likewise one-industry towns created in conjunction(连同) with the much broader economy of nearby Chicago. Such places, as Vera Schlakman and Stanley Buder have pointed out in their excellent urban biographies, had a one-dimensional(单一方面的) quality, a paucity(缺乏) of social vigor(活力). These cities could not stand alone; they were in a sense colonies of a multifunctional mother city.

**Questions:**

1. What is characteristic of a satellite city?  
\_\_\_\_\_.
2. Why were Chicopee and Lowell ideal locations for development of towns?  
\_\_\_\_\_.
3. Could you list some towns which are economically dependent on another city?  
\_\_\_\_\_.
4. What do you suppose Vera Schlakman and Stanley Buder are?  
\_\_\_\_\_.
5. How would Vera Schlakman and Stanley Buder would describe the economies of towns like Pullman and Gary?  
\_\_\_\_\_.

## Practice 4 注解答案

**Main Idea:**

术语“卫星城”意指在大城市周围并在经济上依赖于它的邻近小城市或城镇的城镇。卫星城的经济特点是趋向于生产单一产品。在商业上,卫星城是与中心贸易城市有联系的集散地。

**Key:**

1. Concentration on production of a single product
2. Because they could supply ample labor
3. Chicopee, Massachusetts; Lowell, Massachusetts; and Pullman, Illinois
4. Authors
5. Dependent

## Practice 5

By about A. D. 500 the Mound Builder culture was declining, perhaps because of attacks from other tribes or perhaps because of severe climatic changes that undermined agriculture. To

the west another culture, based on intensive agriculture, was beginning to flourish. Its center was beneath present-day St. Louis, and it radiated out to encompass most of the Mississippi watershed, from Wisconsin to Louisiana and from Oklahoma to Tennessee. Thousands of villages were included in its orbit. By about A.D. 700 this Mississippian culture, as it is known to archaeologists, began to send its influence eastward to transform the life of most of the less technologically advanced woodland tribes. Like the Mound Builders of the Ohio region, these tribes, probably influenced by Meso-American cultures through trade and warfare, built gigantic mounds as burial and ceremonial places. The largest of them, rising in four terraces to a height of one hundred feet, has a rectangular base of nearly fifteen acres, larger than that of the Great Pyramid of Egypt. Built between A.D. 900 and 1100, this huge earthwork faces the site of a palisaded Indian city which contained more than one hundred small artificial mounds marking burial sites. Spread among them was a vast settlement containing some 30,000 people by current estimations. The finely crafted ornaments and tools recovered at Cahokia, as this center of Mississippi culture is called, include elaborate ceramics, finely sculpted stonework, carefully embossed and engraved copper and mica sheets, and one funeral blanket fashioned from 12,000 shell beads. They indicate that Cahokia was a true urban center, with clustered housing, markets, and specialists in tool-making, hide-dressing, potting, jewelry-making, weaving and salt-making.

#### Questions:

1. What is the main topic of the passage?  
\_\_\_\_\_.
2. What does the paragraph preceding this one most probably discuss?  
\_\_\_\_\_.
3. In relation to the Mississippian culture, where was the Mound builder culture located?  
\_\_\_\_\_.
4. What were the mounds used as according to the passage?  
\_\_\_\_\_.
5. What was the mound at Cahokia made of?  
\_\_\_\_\_.

### Practice 5 注解答案

#### Main Idea:

本文介绍了古密西西比河流域的文化出现及兴旺。大约在公元 500 年古基建筑文化衰落时,辐射多半密西西比河文化产生。它具有巨大的埋葬土墓及繁荣的文化社区;大量的出土文物证实了这一点。

#### Key:

1. The Mississippian culture
2. The Mound Builder culture
3. To the east

4. Places for burying the dead

5. Dirt

## Practice 6

For as long a period as we have written records, people have attempted to overcome their dissatisfaction with the various imperfections of life by looking forward to an experience of perfect happiness at some time in the future. Many people have found great comfort through hope of a reward after death. Others have been able to overlook present difficulties by means of a persistent belief that someday they'd strike it rich or that at least tomorrow things would be better. Still others have been able to console themselves with complaints about how bad things are "these days" as opposed to how good things were in the days of their youth.

The literary-minded, in order to cope with the feeling that things are not as they should be, have at times resorted to writing descriptions of a perfect state or society. These descriptions are generally called "utopias", after one such work by Thomas More. While such authors usually attempt to describe a society in which mankind's deepest longings are met, they more often construct a kind of society which would enable them to fulfill their own purposes. While Plato's "Republic", for example, is often cited as the model for an ideal state, a careful reading of it reveals a rigid dictatorship of a privileged minority and an effective hereditary(世袭的) serfdom(农奴制) for the masses, whose primary function is to labor for the leisure class. This may have reflected Plato's dreams of a social order but could hardly have satisfied those who could not be as certain of a place at the top.

### Questions:

1. By what do people usually deal with present dissatisfaction?

2. What are utopias according to the passage?

3. What idea is expressed in many utopias according to the writer?

4. What does "the literary-minded" (Line 1, Paragraph 2) refer to?

5. Who is the leisure class composed of according to Plato's dreams?

## Practice 6 注解答案

### Main Idea:

自从有文字记载历史以来,人们就一直企图通过对未来什么时候会有完全幸福的期望来战胜现实生活中的各种不完美。许多人寄希望于来世;有些人坚

信总有一天会发达;也有些人通过谈过去的美好、现在的恶劣而获得安慰。文人通过描写完美“乌托邦”社会来满足情感,但他们的理想社会却带有深深的偏颇及自我理想的烙印。

**Key:**

1. By thinking of future happiness
2. Descriptions of perfect states or societies
3. The masses enjoy neither happiness nor freedom
4. Men of letters
5. The privileged minority

### Practice 7

For most of us, work is the central, dominating fact of life. We spend more than half our conscious hours at work, preparing for work, travelling to and from work. What does it largely determine our standard of living and to a considerable extent the status we are accorded by our fellow citizens as well. For the foreseeable future, the material and psychological rewards which work can provide, and the conditions in which work is done, will continue to play a vital part in determining the satisfaction that life can offer.

Inequality at work is still one of the cruellest and most glaring forms of inequality in our society. The best example of this is that between managers and workers. For most managers, work is an opportunity and a challenge. Their jobs engage their interest and allow them to develop their abilities. They are able to exercise responsibility; they have a considerable degree of control over their own—and others'—working lives. Most important of all, they have the opportunity to initiate. By contrast, for most manual workers, and for a growing number of white-collar workers, work is a boring, monotonous, even painful experience. The majority have little control over their work; it provides them with no opportunity for personal development. Often production is so designed that workers are simply part of the technology. In offices, many jobs are so routine that workers justifiably feel themselves to be mere cogs (从属物) in the bureaucratic machine. As a direct consequence of their work experience, many workers feel alienated (与……疏远) from their work and their firm, whether it is a public or private organization.

Rising educational standards feed rising expectations, yet the amount of control which the worker has over his own work situation does not rise accordingly. In many cases his control has been reduced. Symptoms of protest increase—rising sickness and absenteeism, high turnover of employees, restrictions on output, and strikes. As management becomes more professional, the opportunity for promotion from the shop floor lessens. The only escape is to another equally frustrating manual job; the only compensation is found not in the job but, if there is a rising standard of living, outside it.

**Questions:**

1. By what do people judge others?

- 
2. What does the writer think is needed to solve our industrial problems?
  3. What advantages does the writer say managers have over other workers?
  4. In the writer's view, what is the position nowadays of white-collar workers?
  5. Why are so few ordinary workers promoted nowadays?
- 

## Practice 7 注解答案

### Main Idea:

工作对我们是重要的,支配我们的生活,是我们物质与精神的回报。工作不平等回报也不平等。雇主工作优越于工人是因为他能主动决定一切。随着教育水平的提高,人们的期望也提高,但工人对自身工作状况的控制程度没有相应提高。下层普通者无法被提升到上层。

### Key:

1. The type of work they do
2. A more equal distribution of responsibility
3. They can make their decisions and do whatever interests them
4. They are finding their work pointless
5. Because professional managers are hired instead of promoting from within

## Practice 8

Television—that most pervasive(遍布的) and persuasive of modern technologies, marked by rapid change and growth—is moving into a new era, an era of extraordinary sophistication and versatility, which promises to reshape our lives and our world. It is an electronic revolution of sorts, made possible by the marriage of television and computer technologies.

The word “television”, derived from its Greek (tele: distant) and Latin (visio:sight) roots, can literally be interpreted as sight from a distance. Very simply put, it works in this way: through a sophisticated system of electronics, television provides the capability of converting an image (focused on a special photoconductive(光电导的) plate within a camera) into electronic impulses, which can be sent through a wire or a cable. These impulses, when fed into a receiver (television set), can then be electronically reconstituted into that same image.

Television is more than just an electronics system, however. It is a means of expression, as well as a vehicle for communication, and as such becomes a powerful tool for reaching other human beings.

The field of television can be divided into two categories determined by its means of transmission. First, there is broadcast television, which reaches the masses through broad-based airwave transmission of television signals. Second, there is non-broadcast television, which provides for the needs of individuals or specific interest groups through controlled transmission techniques.

Traditionally, television has been a medium of the masses. We are most familiar with broadcast television because it has been with us for thirty seven years in a form similar to what exists today. During those years, it has been controlled, for the most part, by the broadcast network: ABC, NBC, and CBS, who have been the major purveyors(传播者) of news, information, and entertainment. These giants of broadcasting have not only shaped television but our perception(感觉) as well. We come to look upon the picture tube as a source of entertainment, placing our role in this dynamic medium as the passive viewer.

**Questions:**

1. What is the passage primarily about?

2. What does the word "television" mean?

3. How can you depict the function of electronics in television transmissions?

4. What field of television is intended for specific groups?

5. What relationship between television and its viewers can best be inferred from the passage?

## Practice 8 注解答案

**Main Idea:**

电视这个最流行的现代科技成果正迈入一个新时代,它有可能重塑我们的生活和世界。电视传输的原理是把形象变成电子脉冲,然后再把电信号馈入电视接受器。电视这个大众媒体一直影响着我们。我们现在与电视的关系是我们观众是被动的接受者。

**Key:**

1. The role of television in today's society
2. Sight from a distance
3. Converting image into electronic impulse and feeding into a receiver
4. Non-broadcast
5. Viewers are passive receivers

## Practice 9

In its short history, the art of motion pictures has frequently undergone changes that seemed fundamental, such as that resulting from the introduction of sound. It exists today in styles that differ significantly from country to country and in forms as diverse as the documentary created by one man with a hand-held camera and the multimillion-dollar "epic" (史诗事迹), involving hundreds of performers and technicians. Despite its diversity, however, an essential unchanging nature can be discerned (识别) in most of its manifestations (表现形式).

A number of factors immediately come to mind in connection with the motion picture experience. For one thing, there is something mildly hypnotic (催眠性的) about the illusion (错觉) of movement that holds the attention and may even lower critical resistance. Also, the accuracy of the motion picture image is compelling because it is made by a nonhuman, scientific process. And, the motion picture gives what has been called a strong sense of being present the film image always appears to be in the present tense. There is also the concrete nature of film; it appears to show the actual people and things.

No less important than any of the above are the conditions under which the motion picture ideally is seen, where everything helps to dominate the spectator. He or she is taken from the everyday environment, partially isolated from others, and comfortably seated in an air-conditioned auditorium. There, the darkness concentrates attention and prevents comparison of the image on the screen with the objects or people around the viewer. For a while, the motion picture unfolds the world in which the spectator lives.

### Questions:

1. What is the main idea of the passage?  
\_\_\_\_\_.
2. What does the author include as a part of the motion picture experience?  
\_\_\_\_\_.
3. To which is the nature of movies most comparable, describing a painting or reading a book?  
\_\_\_\_\_.
4. What does the author most probably believe that the main purpose of movies is to do?  
\_\_\_\_\_.
5. What does the motion picture projected on the screen do to viewers' mind?  
\_\_\_\_\_.

## Practice 9 注解答案

### Main Idea:

电影艺术种类繁多,表现形式多样,但基本性质不变。电影使人们看见现实人们的生活。电影使人们着迷,分隔于外界,专注投入。



**Key:**

1. The fundamental characteristics of motion pictures remain unchanged
2. Being controled, being isolated, and being fascinated
3. Reading a book
4. To allow audience to see actual places, people and things
5. It captivates viewers

**Practice 10**

For centuries man dreamed of achieving vertical flight. In 400 A.D. Chinese children played with a fan-like toy that spun upwards and fell back to earth as rotation ceased. Leonardo da Vinci conceived the first mechanical apparatus, called a "Helix", which could carry a man straight up, but this was only a design and was never tested.

The ancient dream was finally realized in 1940 when a Russian immigrant, an aeronautical engineer, piloted a strange-looking craft of steel tubing with a rotating fan on top. It rose awkwardly(笨拙地) and vertically into the air from a standing start, hovered(盘旋) a few feet above the ground, went sideways and backwards, and then settled back to earth. That vehicle was called a helicopter.

Imaginations were fired. Men dreamed of commuting(来往) to work in their own personal helicopter. Every man would have one in his backyard. People anticipated that vertical flight transports would carry millions of passengers as do the airliners of today. Such fantastic expectations were not fulfilled.

The helicopter has now become an extremely versatile(多用途的) machine. It excels(优越) in military missions, carrying troops, guns and strategic instruments where other aircraft cannot go. Corporations use them as airborne offices, many metropolitan(大城市的) areas use them in police work, construction and logging companies employ them in various advantageous ways, engineers use them as the best way to make offshore and remote work stations accessible to crews and supplies. Any urgent mission to a hard-to-get-to place is a likely task for a helicopter. Among their other multitude of uses, they deliver people across town, fly to and from airports, assist in rescue work, and aid in the search for missing or wanted persons.

**Questions:**

1. What is a helicopter?

2. What is said about the development of the helicopter?

3. Under what conditions are helicopters found to be almost indispensable?

4. How has the use of helicopters developed?