

征服英语专业四、八级

英语专业八级 阅读与人文知识 200训

A Guide to Reading Comprehension
and General Knowledge of **TEM-8**

◎ 常骏跃 主编

2004年
新大纲



大连理工大学出版社

Dalian University of Technology Press

征服英语专业四、八级



英语专业八级 阅读与人文知识 200 训

A Guide to Reading Comprehension and General Knowledge of TEM-8

(第二版)

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大连理工大学出版社

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图书在版编目(CIP)数据

英语专业八级阅读与人文知识 200 训 / 常骏跃主编.
2 版. — 大连: 大连理工大学出版社, 2004. 11
(征服英语专业四、八级)
ISBN 7-5611-2429-5

I. 英… II. 常… III. ①英语—阅读教学—高等
学校—水平考试—自学参考资料 IV. H319.4

中国版本图书馆 CIP 数据核字(2003)第 036300 号

大连理工大学出版社出版

地址: 大连市凌水河 邮政编码: 116024

电话: 0411-84708842 传真: 0411-84701466 邮购: 0411-84707961

E-mail: dutp@dutp.cn URL: <http://www.dutp.cn>

大连理工印刷有限公司印刷 大连理工大学出版社发行

幅面尺寸: 140mm×203mm 印张: 14.25 字数: 475 千字

印数: 14 001 ~ 20 000

2003 年 11 月第 1 版

2004 年 11 月第 2 版

2004 年 11 月第 3 次印刷

责任编辑: 庄晓红 于大岳

责任校对: 蔡丽娟

封面设计: 孙宝福

定 价: 19.80 元

前

言

Foreword

英语专业八级统考是目前我国衡量高层次英语专业学生语言水平层次最高、规模最大、科学性最强、可信度最高的英语水平测试。顺利通过专业八级统考是学生语言综合运用能力的重要标志,它现在已经成为我国各用人单位了解应聘人员英语语言技能的重要参考内容。从某种意义上讲,通过八级统考便取得了谋职的一张通行证。

八级考试为什么在社会上赢得这么高的信誉而且还在不断升温呢?这与考试本身的内容设置及考核方式有密切关系。八级考试涉及听力、阅读、改错、翻译、写作共五大项内容。而且每一项都有它区别于其他英语考试的重要形式。听力不仅涉及常见的选择题,而且还要求学生具备听懂录音、快速记录、处理加工英语语言信息的能力;阅读不仅难度高于我国目前组织的其他英语考试,而且对阅读速度、阅读技巧有很高的要求;改错要求考生具备正确理解篇章内容,准确把握句子结构、时态、语态、语汇等多方面的能力;翻译要求考生在理解英、汉原文的基础上运用翻译技巧,忠实、通顺、流畅地翻译所给内容;写作要具备理解作文要求,根据文体要求合理组织材料,得体运用英语的能力。2004年出台的新版《高校英语专业考试大纲》又在调整听力、阅读考试形式的基础上增加了对人文知识的考核,这对考生提出了更高的要求。对付这样的考试,没有一定的语言基础不行,不具备一定的速度及准确性不行。具备了这些条件还需要进行足够的训练,提高应试能力,在考卷上充分体现出自己的语言实力。

本套丛书重在基本功的训练,培养考生语言的综合运用能力,同时注意对应试技巧进行点拨。同学们既可以针对各自语言技能的薄弱环节有选择地使用本套丛书的不同分册,也可以全面使用,对自己听、读、写、译进行全面训练。

本套丛书一经出版就受到了读者的欢迎。为了更好地服务读者,

我们严格按照《高校英语专业八级考试大纲(2004 年新版)》的要求,并根据读者的建议,在第一版的基础上进行了认真的修订,全面充实、调整了丛书的内容,使这套丛书的特色更加鲜明。

本套丛书的特点如下:

1. 作者队伍有特色

本套丛书作者队伍聚集了大学本科阶段英语专业四、八级统考的佼佼者、研究生阶段的精英,而且现在都在从事英语语言的教学与研究。他们既有备考的实际经验和体会,还能站在教学研究人员的角度审视考试的特点、选材特色以及同学的实际需要。

2. 材料选择有特色

本套丛书不是历年考题的罗列,而是根据考试的特点认真选材,充分考虑内容的题材和体裁,考虑了材料的信息含量和难度,使材料真正起到帮助同学打基础、练技巧的作用。

3. 注释详细有针对性

到了专业学习的第四年,同学都具备了一定的分析问题和解决问题的能力,但考虑到同学们八级考前阶段非常特殊且时间非常紧迫,我们特别根据各题的特点为练习提供了注释。有讲解,有新词短语,有解题技巧说明,有听力原文,有参考译文,有写作范文。这样既能节省同学们不少时间还能最大限度地吸收知识,打牢自己的语言基础。

4. 技巧点拨到位且适度

八级考试有自身的要求和特点。丛书为同学们提供了详细的解题技巧说明(但决不夸大应试技巧的作用),对往届考试认真地进行了分析,总结出八级考试的一些特点和规律供同学们备考时参考。

5. 训练量、信息量大

为了让同学们得到更多的训练,本套丛书根据题目特点,利用有限的版面提供了大量的练习。分项练习少则 16 套,多则 100 套,就连《英语专业八级考试直通车》也为各项提供了足足 10 套练习,而且无论是综合训练还是单项训练,同样的练习内容不重复。

希望我们的努力能有助于各位同学打好语言技能基础,提高应试技能,成功通过八级考试,拿到这张求职的通行证!

因为水平所限,错误在所难免,衷心希望各位读者批评指正。

编者

于大连外国语学院英语学院

2004 年 10 月

Contents

前 言

第一部分 阅读理解解题要略

第二部分 阅读理解

TEST 1	6	TEST 9	93
TEST 2	17	TEST 10	105
TEST 3	29	TEST 11	117
TEST 4	39	TEST 12	130
TEST 5	50	TEST 13	142
TEST 6	62	TEST 14	154
TEST 7	72	TEST 15	167
TEST 8	83	TEST 16	179

第三部分 阅读理解参考答案与思路点拨

TEST 1	191	TEST 9	212
TEST 2	194	TEST 10	214
TEST 3	196	TEST 11	216
TEST 4	199	TEST 12	218
TEST 5	202	TEST 13	220
TEST 6	205	TEST 14	222
TEST 7	207	TEST 15	224
TEST 8	210	TEST 16	226

第四部分 阅读提速度训练

TEST 1	228	TEST 9	328
TEST 2	237	TEST 10	338
TEST 3	248	TEST 11	351
TEST 4	261	TEST 12	362
TEST 5	275	TEST 13	373
TEST 6	290	TEST 14	384
TEST 7	302	TEST 15	395
TEST 8	314	TEST 16	406

第五部分 阅读提速度训练参考答案与思路点拨

TEST 1	419	TEST 9	425
TEST 2	420	TEST 10	425
TEST 3	420	TEST 11	426
TEST 4	421	TEST 12	427
TEST 5	422	TEST 13	428
TEST 6	423	TEST 14	428
TEST 7	423	TEST 15	429
TEST 8	424	TEST 16	430

第六部分 人文知识解题要略与模拟训练

一、人文知识解题要略	432
二、人文知识模拟训练	432

第七部分 人文知识模拟训练参考答案

第一部分

阅读理解解题要略

一篇文章包括主题、中心思想、材料、结构、语言、风格、效果等要素。读者阅读一般有两个目的,一是休闲,二是求知。但是,阅读英语专业八级考试阅读理解部分文章的考生是为了迅速准确回答文章后所附问题,充分展现综合运用英语语言知识和阅读技能来理解英语书面材料的能力。为了帮助考生提高阅读水平和顺利通过考试,笔者根据英语八级考试大纲和历年试题归纳总结了常见考试题型及解答策略,力求简明实用。当然,了解一下大纲要求、阅读方法和解题步骤也是十分必要的。

一、阅读测试概述

1. 测试要求:

(a) 能读懂一般英美报刊杂志上的社论和书评。

(b) 能读懂一定难度的历史传记及文学作品。

(c) 能理解所读材料的主旨大意,分辨出其中的事实和细节;能够理解字面意义和隐含意义;能根据所读材料判断和推理;能分析所读材料的思想观点、语篇结构、语言特点和修辞方法。

(d) 能在阅读中根据需要自觉调整阅读速度和阅读技巧。

2. 测试形式:

本部分采用多项选择题,由数篇阅读材料组成。阅读材料约含 3,000 个单词。每篇材料后有若干道多项选择题。学生应根据所读材料内容,从每题的四个选择项中选出一个最佳答案。共 20 题。

二、解题要略

1. 常用的阅读方法

(1) 诵读(边看边念)

很多学生在阅读文章时习惯一字一句地小声念出声,或者在心里默默诵读。这样的话,口部动作的速度低于眼部的移动速度,从而降低阅读速度。应该克服这种不良习惯。

(2)“目读”(只看不念)

在阅读中,学生把目光集中在一个词组正中的一个词,这样可以一眼看清几个词,甚至看完一行中的一个短句。我们知道限制阅读速度的不是大脑,而是眼睛。影响大脑反应思考的是眼睛摄取信息并将信息传递给大脑的速度。

(3)略读(skimming)

略读是一种快速阅读方法。略读的目的不是帮助你搜寻细节,而是找出文章的主题、中心思想、组织结构等宏观信息。因此,略读时只需注意文章的关键部分,如文章的第一段和最后一段,各段的第一、二句和最后一句,其他部分可以一带而过。

(4)寻读(scanning)

寻读也是一种快速阅读的方式。在正式阅读前,心中已有了明确的寻找的目标,即文章中某一个具体信息,如时间、地点、人名、数字等。具体要做的就是先判断所需信息可能在何处出现,然后将目光在此处逐字逐行快速移动,直到搜索到目标为止。

2. 解题步骤

首先应该先读文章后面的问题。这样做既可以对此篇文章内容有大致了解,又可以根据问题的特点来决定采用何种阅读方法。如果问题是有关文章大意或梗概,当然应该略读。倘若问题是有关文章中的具体信息一类,则采用寻读。如果两类问题皆有,则略读寻读相结合,先略读后寻读。

另外需要指出的是:我们应按文章后问题的先后顺序做题,因为科学合理的考试中每篇文章后的问题之间是有逻辑关系的,也就是说上一个问题的正确理解与回答有助于下面问题的回答。

3. 常见题型及解题要略

历年八级考试中出现的题型包括词汇题、指代题、主旨题、目的题、结构题、细节题、推断题、推测题、态度题。

(1)词汇题

词汇题是检测考生对“难词”词义猜测能力的试题。这种题考的是文章中某个具体词的含义。很多猜测生词意思的方法都与该词的上下文有关。

①定义

作者在写一篇文章时,意识到用了一个读者不认识的词时,有时会在此词后加一词或词组加以解释,以便读者理解。

②常识

阅历和知识丰富的读者会根据自身的经验结合上下文判断出生词的意义。

③相关信息

文章是一个相互联系的整体,一个生词与邻近的词、句子和段落都有直接或间接的关联,仅根据该词所在的上下文有时就可以猜出它的意义。

④例证

作者在使用表达抽象事物和概念的词汇时,有时会通过举例来对其进行形象地说明,所以可以从例子中猜出该词的意思。

⑤比较与对比

比较是旨在指出两个事物的相似之处;对比旨在指出两个事物的不同之处。无论是比较还是对比,都可以从一事物理解与其相似或相反的另一事物。

(2)指代题

指代题是判断某个代词或名词指代的对象的试题。回答指代题,首先找到所问代词或名词所在的句子,然后在此句或其上下句中找到该词的指代对象。

(3)主旨题

主旨题是指关于文章主题、中心思想和最佳标题的试题。

①主题

主题是指文章讨论的话题,由一个词或词组表达。主题多出现在文章的首句和尾句,全文中多次重复的词或同义词和代词也是值得注意的重要线索。

关于主题问题有以下形式:

- What does the passage mainly discuss?
- The author is mainly concerned with _____.
- What is the main subject of this passage?
- What is the main topic of the passage?

②中心思想

中心思想是文章作者对所讨论话题的判断,是对主题提出的思想和观点,通常由一个完整的句子来表示。我们把表达中心思想的句子叫主题句,它一般出现在文章的开头或结尾。有的文章也可能没有明示的主题句,但我们可以从文章的主题和文章主体各段的大意出发,结合作者的目的或意图,归纳总结出文章的中心思想。

关于中心思想问题有以下形式:

- What is the author's main point in the passage?
- Which of the following can be regarded as the main idea of the selection?
- This passage illustrates _____.

③最佳标题

标题问题实际上是考查考生对主题和中心思想的理解。标题要能够高度概括文章的内容,而且措词精炼形象。

(4)目的题

目的指促使作者写一篇文章的动机、原因、意图。

常见的提问形式:

a. Which of the following reasons can best describe the writer's purpose of mentioning X?

b. In the opening paragraph the author mentions X in order to _____.

(5)结构题

结构题要求考生能识别一篇文章的总体布局或框架结构。结构是作者把表现中心思想的材料组织起来的形式,具体表现为句子和段落之间排列顺序以及他们之间的联接纽带。

常见结构题的形式如下:

a. The author's purpose of writing this passage can be made clear by _____.

b. The organization of the reading passage can be best expressed by _____.

c. Which of the following can be regarded as the most appropriate format/structure of the selection?

d. Where in the reading section does the author compare X and Y?

(6)细节题

细节题问的是文章中的具体事实,如时间、地点、数字等。细节题的选择项有两类。第一类可以直接在文章中找到相关内容。第二类与原文意义相同,但字面上有很大差异,考生须小心谨慎,避免被措词接近但意义迥异的干扰项所迷惑。

有关细节题的形式如下:

a. According to the passage, who/why/when _____?

b. The author states in the reading selection that _____.

c. The author indicates in the selection that _____.

d. Which of the following is referred to as _____?

e. It is stated in the reading passage that _____.

f. Which of the following statements is NOT true according to the passage?

g. The author describes _____ as all of the following EXCEPT _____.

h. Which of the following is NOT mentioned in the passage?

i. Which of the following is NOT stated in the passage?

j. Which of the following is NOT referred to by the author?

(7)推断题

一篇文章并非每一方面都叙述得十分具体明了。作者在写作过程中常以迂回的手法向读者提供隐约可见的信息,从而达到暗示其真正观点和看法的目的。这就要求读者运用良好的综合判断和归纳推理能力,根据文章的内容做出符合逻辑的推理。

有关推断的考题常以下列形式出现:

- It can be inferred/concluded from the passage that _____.
- We can conclude/infer from the passage that _____.
- Which of the following can be inferred from the passage?
- From the last paragraph we learn/infer that _____.
- What conclusion can be drawn from the passage?
- The author (passage) implies/suggests that _____.
- The passage is intended to _____.

(8)推测题

推测题要求考生根据已知段落推测下文,甚至是上文的内容。如理解了文章的中心思想和结构,就不难推测出上下文的大概内容。文章结构安排可以按以下方式:时间顺序、空间顺序、重要程度、过程步骤、比较和对照等。

有关推测题的问题常以下列形式出现:

- The paragraph preceding (following) the passage most probably discusses _____.
- Where would this passage most probably be found?

(9)态度题

此类问题要求考生根据字面意思分析归纳文章作者对事物的态度。识别作者的态度,既要看作者写了事物的哪些方面和细节,又要看他所使用的语言的风格。

第二部分

阅读理解

Test 1

Text A

Anthrax is an infectious disease caused by spore-forming bacteria. It most commonly occurs in wild and domestic cattle, sheep, goats, camels, antelopes and other herbivores. Several countries have "weaponized" the disease into a highly lethal inhaled form.

Anthrax is a single bacterium but can infect people in three ways. Pulmonary anthrax is contracted from inhaling thousands of tiny spores. Those can germinate in the lungs, spread to chest tissue and produce toxins that enter the bloodstream. This form is usually lethal without quick treatment. Intestinal anthrax most often comes from eating contaminated meat. This form is 25 percent to 60 percent lethal. Cutaneous anthrax is the least lethal and most common form. Infection occurs when bacteria enters an abrasion on the skin.

Anthrax spores themselves are too small to see. If the spores are mass-produced, then dried, they may resemble a fine powder when concentrated. If anthrax were pumped into a building ventilation system and dispersed, it would be undetectable to the eye.

You might not know. Flu-like symptoms set in one to six days after anthrax is inhaled. Those symptoms may even appear to improve over a few days. Then, suddenly, someone infected would experience difficult breathing, heavy sweating, blue-colored skin and shock. Death follows in 24 ~ 36 hours. Intestinal anthrax causes nausea, loss of appetite, fever, abdominal pain and severe diarrhea. Cutaneous an-

thrax is easier to spot. At first, it looks like an insect bite, but in one or two days the infection becomes a painless ulcer with a black area in the center.

There is no evidence of person-to-person transmission. Clothes can be disinfected with a mixture of bleach and water. But anthrax spores can survive in soil, water and other materials for years. Disinfectant doesn't kill them. Contaminated surfaces must be steam-cleaned. Another concern is livestock. In a biological attack, animals such as sheep and cattle could be infected and could potentially transmit the disease to humans.

Inhaled anthrax used to be considered 100 percent lethal, but a U. S. Army study showed infected monkeys could be effectively treated with antibiotic therapy when the therapy began one day after exposure. This implies that humans could be treated with drugs such as ciprofloxacin, but only if they're aware they've been exposed and seek treatment immediately. Other types of anthrax require similar antibiotic therapy.

Only custom-fitted gas masks with special filters are effective against inhaled anthrax. Those cost hundreds of dollars and must be worn during exposure to anthrax spores. Many experts have said it's unlikely people would know they are being exposed until it's too late to don a mask.

Ciprofloxacin, or Cipro, does not make people immune to the disease. Taking it may lower one's ability to fight other illnesses and could even hamper doctors from diagnosing an anthrax infection. Federal health officials say they can fly ample supplies of ciprofloxacin to anywhere in the United States within 12 hours of an outbreak.

The anthrax vaccine was licensed by the FDA in 1970 for at-risk veterinary and laboratory workers and livestock handlers. The Department of Defense also reserves a stockpile of the vaccine for military use. The military began vaccinating all soldiers on active duty in 1998 but has since slowed the program because the company that produces the vaccine, BioPort, has ceased production. The company's facilities didn't meet FDA requirements. The vaccine is effective if started at least four weeks before exposure. It consists of six doses with yearly booster shots. Up to 35 percent of those vaccinated experience rashes, muscle aches, headaches and other flu-like symptoms.

Anthrax is fairly easy to acquire. It can be stored in dry, powder form and remain potent for decades. With enough expertise, the spores can be dispersed in the

air and inhaled by unprotected troops and civilians. Infection from inhaled spores is highly lethal, and spores that are not inhaled remain in the soil for many years. The U.S. military developed a strain of anthrax so lethal, just 8 gallons could kill everyone on earth.

A terrorist would need detailed knowledge and sophisticated facilities to mass-produce anthrax spores or even find the most potent strains of the bacteria. Only extremely fine, dry anthrax powders can make it to the lungs. And distributing is difficult. Iraq failed to adapt crop dusters to spread the spores during the Gulf War. The Japanese cult Aum Shinrikyo released anthrax ineffectively on several occasions in the 1990s. Anthrax spores are even vulnerable to the sun's ultraviolet rays and weather conditions.

1. *Which of the following statements about anthrax is NOT true?*
 - A. Anthrax is highly contagious.
 - B. Animals feeding on grass are most likely to be infected.
 - C. Infection occurs when bacteria enter through a cut on the skin in the case of pulmonary anthrax.
 - D. People can survive anthrax infection if they get quick treatment.
2. *Anthrax infection is hard to detect in the first few days, because _____.*
 - A. people infected have no signs of being sick
 - B. anthrax infection is very likely to be mistaken for flu
 - C. people's health condition may even improve in the first few days
 - D. the infection looks just like an insect bite
3. *One might have cutaneous anthrax if he had which of the following symptoms?*
 - A. Cough.
 - B. Bleeding.
 - C. An ulcer with a black area in the center.
 - D. Red-colored skin.
4. *All the following statements are wrong EXCEPT that _____.*
 - A. ciprofloxacin is a type of antibiotic therapy and can make people immune to anthrax
 - B. the biggest problem with custom-fitted gas masks is that they are too expensive to be available to ordinary people
 - C. the anthrax vaccine is effective as long as it is given before exposure to an-

thrax

D. vaccination can bring side effects to about a third of the people vaccinated

5. *From the passage, we can infer that* _____.

A. terrorists use anthrax as a weapon because it's easy to acquire

B. up to now, there is no satisfying way of preventing and curing the disease

C. right now, people can do nothing to fight against anthrax attack from terrorists

D. there is no need to worry, because we can prevent infection by vaccinating every citizen

Text B

In the 1991 Gulf War it was Patriot missiles, smart bombs and stealth technology that helped win the day. If and when the U.S. fights in the region again, it will be with an even bigger arsenal of cutting-edge weaponry.

"This war is really high tech," says L-3 Communications CEO Frank Lanza and he should know. Lanza's \$4-billion-dollar firm is one of the military's leading suppliers of advanced technology, selling everything from secure communication equipment to attack aircraft simulators.

"The deployment now is a lot on intelligence resources, reconnaissance resources, communications, the buildup of our smart munitions, and that's a big change over what the focus was in '90 and '91, which was really on people and munitions," says Lanza.

In the next Gulf War, improved spy satellites from TRW will allow U.S. air and naval forces to see more clearly through bad weather than they could a decade ago.

Unmanned aerial vehicles from Northrop Grumman will be used to monitor enemy troop movements and strike elusive targets. Smart weapons will be even smarter, guided to their targets by an advanced global positioning system made by Boeing.

But the most powerful and most sophisticated weapon of all will be the ability to link a variety of intelligence and surveillance assets together to see and share a real time picture of the battlefield.

"In the future, the United States military does not believe that a bigger tank for example is going to win the war," says Andrew Koch of Jane's Defense Weekly.

"Information... is going to win the war. Knowing where your enemy is and knowing where your friend is very precisely and being able to share that information in real time... is going to be the vast difference in winning a war and losing a war."

Technology is changing the military from what analysts call a platform-centric fighting force of separate weapon systems to a network-centric structure based on information and communication.

It's also improving the capabilities of fighting forces on the ground. Take advanced ceramics in the '91 Gulf War—this technology created the radar-evading skin of the stealth fighter; today, it's being used to make body armor plates for U.S. troops.

"This is the way the plate comes out; this is very light weight; it's the lightest ceramic; it's the hardest ceramic and we're making them by the thousands really," says Ceradyne CEO Joel Moskowitz.

California-based Ceradyne has just received a big order from the military for its ceramic chest and back plates which can stop multiple rounds from a 30-to-50 caliber machine gun at point blank range.

"We did about \$45 million in shipments sales last year and this year we've already come very close to that in the first 9 months," says Moskowitz.

While hundreds of smaller defense suppliers with advanced technology are seeing a boost in business from the latest military buildup, industry watchers say most of the military's money is flowing to the major contractors like Boeing, Lockheed Martin and Northrop Grumman.

6. According to the passage, in modern time, _____ is the decisive factor in winning a war.
- A. munitions
 - B. information and communication
 - C. strategy and tactics
 - D. soldier's morale
7. Improvements in the next Gulf War will be the following EXCEPT that _____.
- A. the focus will be shifted from people and munitions to intelligence resources, communication resources, etc.
 - B. a platform-centric fighting force of separate weapons systems will be turned into a network-centric structure based on information and communication