

英语阶梯阅读100篇

曾宇涛 主 编

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英语阶梯阅读100篇

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朱彦之

副主编

- 大学英语四、六级
- 研究生入学考试
- MBA 入学考试
- 同等学力英语考试
- 公共英语等级考试
-

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前言

阅读理解在各类英语考试中向来占据极为重要的地位，一般由 4 篇总数约 1600 词的短文阅读组成，有的带有 1 篇 400 词左右的短文简答，占考试总分的 40% 至 50%。阅读理解的测试包括理解的准确度与速度两方面。阅读材料题材广泛，以议论文和说明文两种体裁为主，内容包括政治、经济、文化、教育、管理、科技等方面，可谓包罗万象、面广而量大。要在有限的时间内做到速度和准确度的和谐统一，则必须具备相当的语言基础和阅读技能。英语阅读测试对考生提出了如下要求：(1) 有丰富的词汇知识，正确掌握词义、词的搭配关系及用法；按考试大纲规定，英语考生应掌握一定的词汇量以及由这些单词构成的常用词组，并具有一定的识别生词的能力；(2) 扎实的语法知识；(3) 充分的语篇分析能力，即在语篇层面上把握文章结构、段落及句子之间的逻辑关系、作者的观点、态度、文体风格等。从某种意义上讲，英语阅读理解成绩的高低直接决定了考生总成绩的高下。

我们编写此书的目的是希望通过精心筛选和编排的 100 篇阅读和练习，最大限度地帮助考生从各自的起点开始尽快恢复、巩固和加深所学的英语知识，通过阅读实践来理解消化阅读方法和解题技巧，进而逐步培养对阅读考试的自信心和英语的综合运用能力，从而在大学英语四、六级的基础上挑战全国研究生入学等英语联考并取得高分。本书具备以下特色：

● **内容权威、针对性强**：本书紧扣英语考试大纲，结合多年硕士入学命题研究经验编写而成，具有较强的权威性、实战性和目的性。本书的编者多年从事专业学位入学考试的命题研究和考前辅导，深谙命题原则、思路与动态。考虑到不同考生英语单词量参差不齐、英语文化知识较为薄弱，本书特为考生量身定做了经济、媒体、科技、社会、文化等十个单元。每单元各设有针对性的三个阶梯难度的阅读文章十篇、单元主题测试一篇以及阅读技巧小结一份。

● **体例新颖、讲解透彻**：本书体例设计一改以往书山题海般的习题堆砌，在参照历年研究生入学考试、MBA 联考、同等学力统考以及大学英语四、六级等阅读真题的测试要点的基础上，重点分析和讲解了本书各篇文章的难点和疑点，力求使各题的阐述精辟准确、脉络清新、逻辑分明、技巧实效。让考生在吃透篇章要点的基础上，根据规律触类旁通、举一反三。每篇文章的问题后面都附有生词及短语，非常有利于英语基础薄弱的考生尽快恢复和巩固英语基础。各单元的阅读技巧篇则针对考生普遍存在的弱点和误区有的放矢、入木三分。

● **专项突破、循序渐进**：本书在题材、体裁、题型和篇幅上都作了详细编排和设计，因

此内容全面、重点突出。作为考生应试的基础和提高篇，本书文章具有由易到难、阶梯式递进的特色，非常有助于广大考生备战期间逐步提高英语阅读能力和应试技巧。不同起点的学生都能找到适合自己水平的文章作为阅读起点，然后循序渐进，逐步提高。建议起点在 CET 四级水平以下的考生首先要完成各单元的前五篇的阅读，然后再循序渐进；而已通过四级尚未通过六级的考生则应先完成各单元的前七篇文章，再向后三篇冲刺；六级已过的考生需完成全部所有十篇。各单元最后的启发性测试紧扣单元主题，有利于考生再次印证所领悟的阅读技巧、提高阅读速度。

我们相信，通过阅读本书，考生们一定可以在英语词汇、句法及阅读理解的速度、准确率和技巧等方面都能有明显提高。

本书的内容、解题思路和规律对于参加大学英语四、六级、MBA、MPA、普研、同等学力、PETS 以及其他类型的英语等级考试的考生都大有裨益。

本书由从事硕士入学考试研究和辅导多年的曾宇涛老师担任主编，副主编朱彦之副教授，编委包括：李昕辉、于文娟、苏波和于华老师。本书的编写工作还得到郭伟、顾玉莲、陈蓓、慕冰、苏昕、冯瑗、徐青、赵芳、肖凡、林红、李娜老师的大力支持和帮助，在此一并表示感谢。

由于编者水平和编写时间有限，错误和疏漏在所难免，敬请广大读者不吝赐教。

编 者
2004 年 5 月

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Economy

When a country's currency depreciates, the effects are reversed. Consumers face higher prices; people who sell and service imported goods suffer; but export industries boom, and import-competing industries enjoy a relief from international competition. The former winners become the losers, and *vice versa* (反之亦然). These effects insure that exchange rates are a matter of constant concern for policymakers. (146 words)

答案与分析

1. 【答案】B 细节题。原文第一段第二句提到，国家货币升值的时候，企业会受到进口产品的冲击，出口行业受损。由此可见，B项“受损害”符合原文的意思，是正确的；A项“受益”和D项“利润增加”都与原文的意思南辕北辙；C项“不受影响”与原文相悖，故都是错误的。
2. 【答案】D 细节题。由第二段第二句可知A项“出口企业蓬勃发展”和B项“进口商品的销售商和售后服务商受损失”都是原文中提到的国家货币贬值所带来的结果；根据常识可知货币贬值必然导致商品价格的上涨，故C项的表述也是正确的；综上推出D项“以上结果都会出现”是正确的。
3. 【答案】D 推断题。第一段第三句提到，货币升值时，消费者可以买到低价的进口产品，而且国内生产商为了与外商竞争，会降价并且提高产品质量，这也将使消费者受益。据此，A项“消费者从与外商的竞争中受益”是国家货币升值的结果；由以上又可概括出C项“消费者从低成本的进口中获益”也是正确的；第一段最后一句虽有谈到，在使用进口原料和为进口产品做营销和售后服务的行业用工需求会增加，但B项“消费者会获得更多的就业机会”中“消费者”这一群体范围过大，不能准确体现用工增多的产业特点，故是错误的；所以只有D项“A和C”是最全面的选项。
4. 【答案】C 推断题。第一段第三句间接提到，为应对来自国外的竞争，国内生产商往往通过降低成本和提高产品质量的方法来增强竞争力，所以可见C项“降低成本和提高质量”是正确的；A项“雇佣更多的员工”和B项“解雇更多的员工”原文都没有提及；D项“降低产品的价格”不够全面，忽视了质量的提高，故也是错误的。
5. 【答案】A 细节题。根据文章最后一句“这些影响就使得汇率问题成为决策者们始终关注的问题”可知，A项“持续的”是正确的；而B项“偶尔的”、C项“暂时的”和D项“无关紧要的”都与原文不符。

Passage Two

There is much discussion today about whether economic growth is desirable. At an early period, our desire for material wealth may have been justified. Now, however, this desire for more than we need is causing serious problems. Even though we have good intentions, we may be producing too much, too fast.

Those who criticize economic growth argue that we must slow down. They believe that society is approaching certain limits on growth. These include the fixed supply of natural resources, the possible negative effects of industry on the natural environment, and the continuing increase in the world's population. As society reaches these limits, economic growth can no longer continue, and the quality of life will decrease.

People who want more economic growth, on the other hand, argue that even at the present growth rate there are still many poor people in the world. These proponents of economic growth believe that only more growth can create the capital needed to improve the quality of life in the world. Furthermore, they argue that only continued growth can provide the financial resources required to protect our natural surroundings from industrialization.

This debate over the desirability of continued economic growth is of vital importance to business and industry. If those who argue against economic growth are correct, the problems they mention cannot be ignored. To find a solution, economists and the business community must pay attention to these problems and continue discussing them with one another. (242 words)

Words & Expressions

justified *adj.* (做某事)有正当理由的
capital *n.* 物质财富
business community 经济界

fixed *adj.* 固定的
vital *adj.* 至关重要的



1. According to those who argue against economic growth we must slow down for the following reasons **EXCEPT** that _____.
 - A. the fixed supply of natural resources marks a point beyond which economic growth cannot continue
 - B. our natural surroundings are in danger of being destroyed by industry
 - C. the world population is ever increasing
 - D. more efforts should be made to improve the quality of our material life
2. Those who want more economic growth believe that continued economic growth _____.
 - A. is essential to the well-being of society as a whole
 - B. can provide us with more natural resources for industrialization
 - C. can protect our environment from being polluted by industry
 - D. can provide the solution to many of our social problems today
3. We may infer from the content that “proponents” (paragraph 3) most probably means _____.
 - A. disagreements
 - B. arguments in support of something
 - C. people who argue against something
 - D. people who argue for something
4. The passage is mainly about _____.
 - A. the contradiction between economists and the business community
 - B. the present debate on economic growth
 - C. the advantage and disadvantage of economic growth
 - D. the importance of the debate on economic growth
5. We may infer from the passage that _____.
 - A. the author describes the case as it is
 - B. the author is for economic growth
 - C. the author is indifferent about the problems caused by continued economic growth
 - D. the author is against continued economic growth

答案与分析

1. 【答案】D 判断题。本题的问题是“下面哪一项不是减缓经济增长的理由”。根据文章第二段可知，批评经济增长过快的人士认为经济发展到一定程度必然带来许多负面影响，并且直接导致人们的生活质量下降。从第三句可以看出 A 项“自然界所提供的自然资源是固定的，超过了一定的限度经济就不能继续增长了”、B 项“自然环境面临着被破坏的危险”和 C 项“世界人口在持续增长”都是支持“应放慢经济增长”人士的观点，故不符合题意；只有 D 项“要提高物质生活水平就要付出更多的努力”意味着要提高物质生活就不能减缓经济增长，这正好是反方人士的观点，故为本题的答案。
2. 【答案】A 细节题。文章第三段第二句指出，支持经济增长的人士认为只有经济进一步增长才能提供改善全世界物质生活水平的物质财富，由此可知 A 项“是社会繁荣兴旺的必要条件”是正确的；B 项“可以为我们提供更多工业化所需的自然资源”犯了常识性错误，众所周知，发展经济一定会消耗自然资源，而不会提供资源；C 项“可以保护环境不受工业污染”也是不正确的，因为工业生产所产生的废弃物一定会污染环境，支持经济增长的人士只是认为经济增长可以提供保护环境的资金，但并不能保护环境不受污染；D 项“为当今许多社会问题提供解决办法”范围过广，而且不是文中支持经济增长人士的观点，所以也是错误的。
3. 【答案】D 词语释义题。分析上下文可知，proponents 是代表一些“希望保持经济增长的人”，因此 A 项“不同意”，B 项“支持某事的论证”和 C 项“反对某事的人”都与文意不符；只有 D 项“支持某事的人”合乎逻辑分析，是正确的。
4. 【答案】B 主旨题。通观全文，文章主要描述了当今社会的一场激烈的大辩论——经济增长是利还是弊，

因此 B 项“当今关于经济增长的争论”综合概括了文章的主题，是正确的；A 项“经济学家和经济界人士的矛盾”和 D 项“关于经济增长辩论的重要性”均属无中生有，因此都是错误的；虽然 C 项“经济增长的利与弊”是文中辩论双方的观点，但是这并不是文章的主题，所以也是错误的。

5. 【答案】D 推断题。纵览全篇，作者围绕经济增长是否合理的话题，介绍了赞成与反对经济增长的人们的不同观点，但实际上作者一开篇就暗示了他的看法：经济的过快增长给我们的生活带来严重问题。尽管人们的出发点是好的，但我们可能生产得过多、过快。最后一段作者再次提出：如果反对经济增长的人士的观点正确，那么他们的观点就不容忽视。由此可见，D 项“作者反对经济的持续增长”符合文意，是正确的；同时可以推断 A 项“作者客观地描述了问题”、B 项“作者赞同经济增长”和 C 项“作者对经济增长所带来的问题漠不关心”都是错误的。

Passage Three

The advantage and disadvantage of a large population has long been a subject of discussion among economists. It has been argued that the supply of good land is limited. To feed a large population, inferior land must be cultivated and the good land worked intensively. Thus, each person produces less and this means a lower average income than could be obtained with a smaller population. Other economists have argued that a large population gives more scope for specialization and the development of facilities such as ports, roads and railways, which are not likely to be built unless there is a big demand to justify them.

One of the difficulties in carrying out a worldwide birth control program lies in the fact that official attention to population growth varies from country to country depending on the level of industrial development and the availability of food and raw materials. In the developing country where a vastly expanded population is pressing hard upon the limits of food, space and natural resources, it will be the first concern of government to place a limit on the birthrate, whatever the consequence may be. In a highly industrialized society, the problem may be more complex. A decreasing birthrate may lead to unemployment because it results in a declining market for manufactured goods. When the pressure of population on housing declines, prices also decline and the building industry is weakened. Faced with considerations such as these, the government of a developed country may well prefer to see a slowly increasing population, rather than one that is stable or in decline. (263 words)

Words & Expressions

subject *n.* 主题，题目

inferior *adj.* 劣质的，次等的

intensively *adv.* 精耕细作地

specialization *n.* 特殊化，专门化

availability *n.* 可利用，可得到

1. A small population may mean _____.
A. higher productivity, but a lower average income
B. lower productivity, but a higher average income
C. lower productivity and a lower average income
D. higher productivity and a higher average income
2. It is no easy job to carry out a general plan for birth control throughout the world because _____.
A. there are too many underdeveloped countries in the world
B. underdeveloped countries have low level of industrial development
C. different governments have different views of the question
D. even the developed countries may have more complex problems
3. In a developed country, people will perhaps go out of work if _____.

- A. the birthrate goes up
B. the birthrate goes down
C. the birthrate remains stable
D. there is a great demand for manufactured goods
4. According to the passage, slowly rising birthrate perhaps is good for _____.
A. a developing nation
B. a developed nation
C. every nation with a big population
D. every nation with a small population
5. Which of the following may be the title of the passage?
A. Population and Economy.
B. Population Problems of Developing Countries.
C. Population Problems of Developed Countries.
D. Argument about Population.

答案与分析

1. 【答案】D 细节题。文章第一段第四句提到：人口多，每个人的产值低，人均收入就少；反之，人口少，生产能力较高，人均收入也会较高，因此D项“生产能力较高，人均收入也较高”正是人口少的国家的经济优势，是正确的；A项“生产能力较高，但是人均收入较低”和B项“生产能力较低，但是人均收入较高”内容自相矛盾，也不符合题意，因此都是错误的；C项“生产能力较低，人均收入也较低”反映了人口多的国家的经济特点，与题干的内容相矛盾，所以也不对。
2. 【答案】C 细节题。文章第二段第一句指出：很难在世界范围内实施人口控制计划是因为各国政府对人口增长的态度不同，因此C项“不同的政府对这一问题的观点不同”是正确的；根据文章第二段的内容，A项“世界上有太多的不发达国家”和B项“不发达国家工业发展水平很低”都不是难于在世界范围内实施人口计划的原因，文不对题，所以都是错误的；D项“即便是发达国家也可能有更复杂的问题”只谈及人口问题所涉及的一部分国家，失之片面，故不可取。
3. 【答案】B 细节题。文章第二段第四句提到在高度发达的国家中，如果出生率下降，就会带来失业问题，因为出生率下降会导致市场产品销售下降，故B项“出生率下降”可能导致人们失业符合题意，是正确的；A项“出生率上升”和D项“大量的产品需求”都会增加消费，刺激经济增长，不是导致失业的原因，故是错误的；根据文章的内容，只有出生率下降才会导致失业率上升，所以C项“出生率平稳”也是不符合经济规律的。
4. 【答案】B 细节题。文章最后一句讲到发达国家的政府可能更愿意人口慢速增长，从而刺激经济的发展，因此B项“发达国家”符合题意，是正确的；文章第二段第二句指出，人口的急剧增长已经让发展中国家不堪重负，政府最关心的是如何控制人口的增长的问题，因此A项“发展中国家”不符合常识，是错误的；文章中没有提到人口的缓慢增长是否会对C项“每个人口众多的国家”或对D项“每个人口少的国家”有利，并且every一词过于绝对化，由于国情各不相同，人口的缓慢增长不一定对同一类的国家都有利，因此这两项都不可取。
5. 【答案】A 主旨题。纵观全文，作者自始至终都在讨论人口与经济之间的关系，因此A项“人口与经济”作为文章的标题最恰当也最全面；B项“发展中国家的人口问题”、C项“发达国家的人口问题”和D项“关于人口问题的讨论”都只是从某一侧面反映了文章的主旨，失之片面，不适合作为文章的标题，因此都是错误的。

Passage Four

Most inhabitants of cities earn their income by the provision of goods and services to other inhabitants in the same city, so they frequently fail to realize that in the final analysis every city is dependent for its survival in the world beyond its boundaries. This is true not only in the obvious sense that commodities must be supplied from outside the city to feed and clothe the urban population and fuel its machinery, but also in the fundamental sense

that a city exists in particular location only because that site enables it to serve the economic and political needs of areas outside the city.

Geographers and economists categorize as “basic enterprise”, those enterprises which produce goods or perform services largely for sale outside the city. For example most book publishing companies are not. A factory producing cars would be a basic enterprise, but one producing bottled drinks for the local market would not be. The ratio of workers in basic enterprises to workers serving the internal market of the city itself is designated the “basic-service ratio” .

Generally speaking, the largest cities generate so much internal demand for goods and services that only a third of their labor force is likely to be involved in activities serving the surrounding territory. Nevertheless it is the surrounding territory that **sustains** the city, for the city as an economic unit would have no income if those who inhabited in it merely served one another, and consequently it could not survive. No city has ever been self-sustaining.

But what is the “surrounding territory” of a major city? Most exchanges of goods and services between a city and other regions occur within a 100-mile region of the city, but it is obvious that all cities have at least some economic relations with places much more distant than that. For instance most manufactured products can be distributed economically by road anywhere within a 450-mile radius of the factory where they are produced, and goods that can be transported by ship or by train can reach even more distant markets. Thus the “surrounding territory” served by a major city may include the entire world. (361 words)

Words & Expressions

inhabitant *n.* 居民

fundamental *adj.* 基础的

self-sustaining *adj.* 自给自足的

categorize as 定义为, 归类为

boundary *n.* 边界

ratio *n.* 比例

radius *n.* 半径

surrounding territory 周边地区

- 6
- ▲
- ▲
1. According to the author, the particular location of a city enables it _____.
A. to serve the needs of other cities
B. to attract more people from other areas
C. to serve the needs of areas outside the city
D. to serve the needs of areas inside the city
 2. The word “sustain” in the Para. 3 probably means _____.
A. support
B. survive
C. circulate
D. suspend
 3. According to the passage, “basic enterprises” _____.
A. produce bottled drinks for the local market
B. produce cars for sale both in and outside the city
C. produce goods or perform services largely for sale inside the city
D. produce goods or provide services chiefly for sale outside the city
 4. What does the author imply by saying “No city has ever been self-sustaining”?
A. No city can survive.
B. Every city can supply enough goods and services for itself.
C. No city can survive without being involved in activities serving the surrounding territory.
D. No city can survive, because a third of the labor force in large cities provide service to other cities.
 5. According to the passage, the “surrounding territory” of a major city refers to _____.
A. the entire country
B. the whole world

C. the region within 100 miles

D. the region within 450 miles

答案与分析

1. 【答案】C 细节题。文章第一段最后一句提到,城市存在于一个特定的位置是因为这个位置可以使城市为周边的区域生产物品或提供服务,由此可知C项“满足城市以外区域的需求”是正确的;A项“满足其他城市的需求”无端地将城市以外的区域局限于城市,故缩小了议题范围;B项“从其他地区吸引更多的人”纯属无中生有;D项“满足城市内部的需求”与原文正反混淆,因此也是不对的。
2. 【答案】A 词语释义题。从含有sustain的句子的上下文意思来看,是周边地区sustain城市,否则,单凭城市居民之间相互服务与支持,城市将无法生存下去,也就是说没有哪个城市可以自给自足。因此A项“支持”是对sustain一词的同义解释,是正确的;B项“幸存”、C项“流传、传播”和D项“悬挂、吊起”都不符合上下文及sustain的意思,所以都是错误的。
3. 【答案】D 细节题。basic enterprises的定义出现在文章第二段第一句,即“主要为城市以外的区域生产物品或提供服务”,因此D项是对基础企业这一概念的同义复述,所以是正确的;文章第二段举例说明了什么是“基础企业”,其中A项“为当地市场生产瓶装饮料”不属于“基础企业”的范畴,因此是错误的;根据“基础企业”的定义(生产和服务都是为城市以外的区域提供的)还可以推知B项“生产的汽车既在城市内部销售,也销往城市以外的区域”和C项“主要为城市内部生产物品和提供服务”都是错误的。
4. 【答案】C 词语释义题。第三段中作者认为任何一个城市都或多或少地依赖于周边地区,没有周边地区的支持,城市就无法存在。也就是说“任何城市都不能自给自足。”C项“如果不参与对周边地区的服务,任何城市都不能存在”既符合文章的意思,又符合题意,因此是正确的;A项“任何城市都不能存在”过于绝对,且不符合常识,故错误;B项“每个城市都能为自己提供足够的产品和服务”与题意南辕北辙,因此是错误的;D项“因为城市有三分之一的劳动力在为其他城市服务,因此任何城市都无法存在”本身有逻辑错误,有劳动力为其他城市服务才是城市存在的保证,而不是城市无法存在的原因,因此也是错误的。
5. 【答案】B 细节题。根据文章最后一句我们得知大城市所服务的周边地区可以是整个世界,因此B项“整个世界”是正确的;A项“全国”、C项“100英里以内的区域”和D项“450英里以内的区域”都缩小了范围,故都是错误的。

Passage Five

There are various ways in which individual economic units can interact with one another. Three basic ways may be described as the market system, the administered system and the traditional system.

In a market system individual economic units are free to interact among each other in the marketplace. It is possible to buy commodities from other economic units or sell commodities to them. In a market, transactions may take place via barter or money exchange. In a barter economy, real goods such as automobiles, shoes, and pizzas are traded against each other. Obviously, finding somebody who wants to trade my old car in exchange for a sailboat may not always be an easy task. Hence, the introduction of money as a medium of exchange eases transactions considerably. In the modern market economy, goods and services are bought or sold for money.

An alternative to the market system is administrative control by some agency over all transactions. This agency will issue edicts or commands as to how much of each good and service should be produced, exchanged, and consumed by each economic unit. Central planning may be one way of administering such an economy. The central plan, drawn up by the government, shows the amounts of each commodity produced by the various firms and allocated to different households for consumption. This is an example of complete planning of production, consumption, and exchange for the whole economy.