

SHORT

PRACTICE

大学英语强化训练丛书



大学英语 四级考试 简短回答强化训练 新题型

殷书林 沈卫 编著

上海外语教育出版社

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前 言

《大学英语四级考试简短回答强化训练》是依据大学英语教学大纲和大学英语四级考试大纲的基本要求而设计和编写的,旨在通过精练的讲解和丰富多样的练习使读者熟练掌握和运用解答“简短回答题”的技巧和方法,从而提高读者的阅读及书面表达能力。本书的主要读者对象是准备参加大学英语四级考试的同学,此外,本书也可以作为有一定基础的英语自学者的阅读材料。

全书由六个单元组成。第一单元简要介绍了大学英语四级考试“简短回答题”的要求和考试样题;第二单元是应试指导,着重强调答题时应该注意的事项;第三单元是题型分析,主要结合具体实例分析和讲解“简短回答题”的主要题型以及各种题型的特点和应答技巧;第四单元是针对不同题型而设计的分类练习,目的在于训练和掌握解答主要题型的要领;第五单元是精心设计的六十套模拟试题,内容丰富,涵盖面广,题型多种多样;第六单元是参考答案,包括分类练习的参考答案和模拟试题的参考答案,为读者,特别是自学者,提供了必要的参考。

本书的特点是讲练结合。讲解时力求做到精练和简洁。对于一些基本的阅读技能,本书均未提及,而是侧重于通过具体实例对“简短回答题”的特点、题型以及应答技巧等加以分析。对于尚未熟练掌握基本阅读技能的同学,最好把《大学英语》一至四册中每一课课后的阅读技能部分系统地加以学习,在此基础上使用本书会更加得心应手。在设计和编写练习及模拟试题的过程中,本书始终围绕“简短回答题”的特点,既包括了“简短回答题”与“阅读理解题”的共性,又突出了“简短回答题”的特殊性,从而避免了某些辅导教材中的不足,即:简单地把一些现成的阅读理解题的选项去掉就变为简短回答题。本书内容新颖,选材广泛,全部练习和模拟试题都是根据不同材料的不同特点而设计编写的,力求体现“简短回答题”的风格特点。

同时,本书始终以提高读者的阅读能力为宗旨。在设计、编写练习和模拟试题时,并没有对所有超出四级水平的词汇加以注释,而是根据具体情况分别对待:对于确实会影响理解主要内容的词汇给予必要的注释,而对那些根据上下文就能判断其大意的词汇则不予注释。希望读者在使用本书时不要一遇到生词就查阅词典,而应该学会利用上下文所提供的信息进行判断或推测。

由于时间仓促,加之编者水平所限,书中不妥之处在所难免,敬请广大读者批评指正。

编 者

一九九八年十月
于上海外国语大学

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第一单元

简短回答题型简介及样题

I. 简短回答题型简介

简短回答(Short Answer Questions)安排在阅读理解部分之后。每次考试为一篇文章,文章后有5个问题或不完整的句子,要求在阅读文章之后用简短的英语(可以是句子,也可以是单词或短语)回答所提的问题或补足不完整的句子。考试时间为15分钟。

简短回答题主要考核考生对英语书面材料的准确理解能力。

II. 简短回答样题及参考答案(摘自《全国大学英语四、六级考试新题型》第一辑)

Short Answer Questions (CET-4)

Directions: In this part there is a short passage with five questions or incomplete statements. Read the passage carefully. Then answer the questions or complete the statements in the fewest possible words. (答案多于10个词将被扣分,标点符号不计字数)

In many businesses, computers have largely replaced paperwork, because they are fast, flexible, and do not make mistakes. As one banker said, "Unlike humans, computers never have a bad day." And they are honest. Many banks advertise that their transactions (业务往来) are "untouched by human hands" and therefore safe from human temptation. Obviously, computers have no reason to steal money. But they also have no conscience, and the growing number of computer crimes shows they can be used to steal.

Computer criminals don't use guns. And even if they are caught, it is hard to punish them because there are no witness and often no evidence. A computer cannot remember who used it: it simply does what it is told. The head teller at a New York City bank used a computer to steal more than one and a half billion dollars in just four years. No one noticed this theft because he moved the money from one account to another. Each time a customer he had robbed questioned the balance in his account, the teller claimed a computer error, then replaced the missing money from someone else's

account. This man was caught only because he was a gambler (赌徒). When the police broke up an illegal gambling operation, his name was in the records.

Some employees use the computer's power to get revenge (报复) on employers they consider unfair. Recently, a large insurance company fired its computer-tape librarian for reasons that involved her personal rather than her professional life. She was given thirty days notice. In those thirty days, she erased all the company's computerized records.

Most computer criminals have been minor employees. Now police wonder if this is "the tip of the iceberg". As one official says, "I have the feeling that there is more crime out there than we are catching. What we are seeing now is all so poorly done. I wonder what the real experts are doing — the ones who really know how a computer works."

Questions:

1. What is the passage mainly about?

2. Transactions in many banks are claimed to be safe because they _____.

3. The bank teller covered up his crime by _____.

4. What must the librarian do thirty days after she received the notice?

5. According to the last paragraph, what kind of criminal are the police unable to catch?

Ⅲ. 简短回答 (CET-4) 样题参考答案

1. Computer crimes. / Computer criminals.
2. are untouched by human hands / are handled by computers
3. claiming a computer error / moving money from one account to another
4. Leave her job. / Quit her work.
5. Computer experts.

第二单元

应试指导

在大学英语四级考试中,“简短回答题”主要考核考生对英语书面材料的确切理解能力,而“阅读理解题”也是考核考生对书面材料的理解能力。从表面上看,两者似乎有些重复。其实并非如此。“简短回答题”大大地降低了靠猜测答对题目的可能性。在一定程度上,“简短回答题”更能较好地体现考生的实际能力和水平。要想正确无误地回答试题中的问题,一方面要理解准确,另一方面还要书面表达正确。考生在回答问题时需要注意以下几个方面:

一、力求做到语言简练。“简短回答题”要求考生使用简短的句子、从句、短语或者单词回答所提出的问题或者补足不完整的句子。因此,不管是回答问题还是补充句子,都要在理解正确的基础上,尽可能做到简洁。回答问题时,能用短语时就不要用从句,能用从句时就不要用句子。其实,“简短回答题”的答案往往就是完整回答的一部分。在平时训练或考试中,考生如果没有把握,可先用一个完整的句子回答问题,然后再把完整回答进行简化,去掉可省去的部分,就可以得到一个既简练又准确的答案。请看下面两例:

例 1:

Proponents of seat belts on school buses — many of them parents and medical organizations — argue that seat belts are necessary not only to reduce fatality and injury, but also to teach children lessons about the importance of using them routinely in any moving vehicle. A side benefit, proponents point out, is that seat belts help keep children in their seats, away from the bus driver.

Question:

What is most medical organizations' attitude toward using seat belts on school buses?

回答这一问题时,考生们可能会给出多种的答案。比如:

1. Seat belts are necessary.
2. They think seat belts are necessary.
3. Their attitude is that seat belts are necessary.
4. Their attitude toward using seat belts on school buses is that seat belts are

necessary.

其中,第一种回答最为简洁,第二种回答也符合试题要求和英语习惯,第三种回答就显得啰唆,第四种回答则偏离了“简短”这一基本要求。

例 2:

The extent of the disaster in an earthquake depends on many factors. If you carefully build a toy house with an Erector set, it will still stand no matter how much you shake the table. But if you build a toy house with a pack of cards, a slight shake of the table will make it fall. An earthquake in Agadir, Morocco, was not strong enough to be recorded on distant instruments, but it completely destroyed the city. Many stronger earthquakes have done comparatively little damage. If a building is well constructed and built on solid ground, it will resist an earthquake. Most deaths in earthquakes have been due to faulty building construction or poor building sites. A third and very serious factor is panic. When people rush out into narrow streets, more deaths will result.

The United Nations has played an important part in reducing the damage done by earthquakes. It has sent a team of experts to all countries known to be affected by earthquakes. Working with local geologists and engineers, the experts have studied the nature of the ground and the type of most practical building code for the local area. If followed, these suggestions will make disastrous earthquakes almost a thing of the past.

Questions:

1. What was the main reason that caused the complete destruction of Agadir in an earthquake according to the passage?
2. The UN experts' purpose in studying the nature of the ground and the building code was _____.

在例 2 中,第一段讲述的是影响地震灾害程度的三个主要因素,而与第一个问题相关的是文中讲述的第一个原因,即: faulty building construction。因此,如果先用完整的句子回答,答案应是: The main reason was faulty building construction。去掉与提问中相同的部分,就可以得到简练的答案: Faulty building construction。同样,第二个问题的完整回答为: Their purpose was to put forward suggestions。简化之后,就可以得到相应答案: to put forward suggestions。

二、正确运用语法和词汇。在回答提问时,考生往往需要用到名词短语、动词不定式短语、介词短语、动词-ing 形式及动词-ed 形式等来回答问题。因此,何种情况下用不定式,何种情况下用动词-ing 形式或动词-ed 形式,需要引起特别注意,不能混淆。在补足不完整句子时,要注意时态、语态主谓一致以及语气等。需要用

被动语态就不能用主动语态,该用虚拟语气就不能用陈述语气或其他语气。

三、标点符号和字母的大小写。在回答提问时,答案的第一个单词的首字母必须大写,答案的末尾要加上句号。在补足不完整句子时,除非是人名、地名或其他专用名词,句首一般不大写。这一点请参看前面的样题,这里不再重复举例。

四、回答问题要全面、准确。有些试题的答案可以直接在阅读材料中找到,而另一部分却需要考生通过理解、归纳或推理等作出判断。在回答后一类问题时,要透彻理解问题的相应部分,避免片面地抄袭文中的某一部分。请阅读下面一段文字,然后回答后面的问题:

Speeding is now the most common motoring offense in Britain. Offenses for speeding fall into three classes: exceeding the limit on a restricted road, exceeding on any road the limit for the vehicle you are driving, and exceeding the 70 m. p. h. speed limit on any road. A restricted road is one where the street lamps are 200 yards apart, or more.

Now complete the following statement:

Speeding is a motoring offense a driver commits when he _____.

这一段主要讲述了超速行驶违章的三种情况:第一种情况是在限定路段超速行驶;第二种情况是超过自己车辆规定的速度行驶;第三种情况是在任何路段上以超过每小时七十英里的速度行驶。由此可见,违章的共同特点是超速行驶。因此,答案应该是:“exceeds the speed limit”,而不应该断章取义,或者把三种情况全部罗列出来。

五、书面表达要符合英语习惯。在答题时不能生搬硬套或简单地根据大意从汉语翻译成英语。这样做会不可避免地造成这样或那样的错误。

第三单元

题型分析

“简短回答题”这一项目的问题可分为两大类,即:提问或者补足不完整的句子。对于很多问题,命题者既可以采用提问的形式,也可以采用补足不完整句子的形式。当然,在有些情况下,采用其中的某一种形式会比另一种形式更好,这往往取决于命题能否更好地体现“简短回答题”的特点,能否更好地反映出考生的理解能力和书面表达能力等因素。总体上讲,不管采取哪种形式,所有问题都是围绕所给的书面材料、针对不同的目的而设计的。因此,它们都具有一些共性。归纳起来,这些题目大致可以分为三大类型:概括题、细节题和推论题。下面就简要地分析一下各种题型的主要特点。

I. 概括题

概括性题型主要考核考生对所给的书面材料内容的篇章主旨、段落大意以及作者的写作目的、观点和态度等有关内容的理解和概括能力,也可以用来考核考生对某一细节内容的概括能力。以下从概括文章的主旨、段落大意、作者的目的和观点以及特定细节等四个方面加以说明。

1. 文章的主旨

就文章的不同特点而言,有些情况下,作者在文章开头就直接用一个主题句(thesis statement)陈述其全文的主旨。有些情况下,作者用实例、轶事或者背景知识等等开篇,从而引出全文的主题。在这种情况下寻找文章的主旨时,一方面要注意区分概括性的陈述与具体的细节和事实论据,另一方面还要注意它们之间的相互联系。由于作者所运用的实例、轶事和背景知识等都具有相对的独立性和完整性,一般来说,文章的主旨在实例、背景介绍结束时以一个概括性的陈述出现。还有一种情况是,文章的主旨是隐含的。在这种情况下,读者必须自己作出正确判断。然而,不论文章的主旨是直接的还是隐含的,读者必须牢记下面两个问题并作出相应的回答:

- 1) What is the subject or topic of this passage?
- 2) What does the author want me to understand about the subject or topic?

通常,针对全文的主旨进行提问的题型主要有两方面,即:主题(topic or subject)与主旨(main idea)。常用的提问句型有:

(1) 主题

What is the passage mainly about?

What is the topic of this passage?

This passage mainly concerns / discusses / explains / analyzes _____.

(2) 主旨

What is the passage mainly concerned with?

What is the main idea of the passage?

What is the main point of the passage?

What is the central idea of the passage?

What is the theme of this passage?

What is the message of this passage?

What is the thesis of this passage?

In this passage, the author intends to tell the reader that _____.

2. 段落主旨

同文章主旨一样,段落主旨可能是直接的也可能是隐含的。判断和概括段落主旨与判断全文主旨方法类似,因此,这里不再重复。有一点需要指出,对段落的理解,不仅要理解其中心意思,还要理解其在整篇文章的篇章结构中的作用。比如,有的段落是承上启下的过渡段,有的是阐述或举例说明上一段的观点,而有的则是概括和总结性的段落。对这些段落的理解有助于对全文的理解。

对段落主旨进行提问,除了使用类似文章主旨部分的句型外,还经常使用以下句型:

The author's intention in the use of the example in paragraph 3 is _____.

The author uses the example/anecdote of ... in paragraph 2 to show _____.

What is the author's purpose in writing the fourth paragraph?

3. 作者的目的和观点

针对作者的写作目的、观点、态度等方面进行提问的常见句型有:

What is the author's purpose in writing this passage?

What is the author's attitude towards ...?

What does the author think about ...?

What does the author intend to show by the example in paragraph 2?

In the author's opinion,

According to the author,

What is the general tone of this passage?

The author's tone in the passage is _____.

When he says / argues against ..., the author's tone is _____.

正确理解作者的写作目的是理解全文不可或缺的重要环节。不同的文章,其

写作目的往往也不同,但是,我们可以把常见的类型归纳起来,这样就比较容易掌握。根据常见的文章类型,作者的目的大体上可划分为以下几种:解释(explain)、介绍(inform or introduce)、描写(describe)、批评(criticize)、劝说(persuade)或说服(convince)、讨论(discuss)、争辩(argue)和分析(analyze)等。至于文章具体解释的是什么、批评的是什么或者为什么争辩,则要与文章的主题联系起来。

4. 概括细节内容

在简短回答题中,有的题目要求对文章某一细节内容进行概括以考查考生的理解和概括能力。在回答这类问题时,要注意运用归纳、分析等方法从不同的个性中找出共性,或者从特殊中总结出一般。下面是一个比较典型的例子。

Speeding is now the most common motoring offense in Britain. Offenses for speeding fall into three classes: exceeding the limit on a restricted road, exceeding on any road the limit for the vehicle you are driving, and exceeding the 70 m. p. h. speed limit on any road. A restricted road is one where the street lamps are 200 yards apart, or more.

Question:

Speeding is a motoring offense a driver commits when he _____.

说明:这一段主要讲述了超速行驶违章的三种情况。第一种情况是在限定路段超速行驶;第二种情况是超过自己车辆规定的速度行驶;第三种情况是在任何路段上以超过每小时七十英里的速度行驶。由此可见,违章的共同特点是超速行驶。因此,答案应该是:“exceeds the speed limit”,而不应该断章取义,或者把三种情况全部罗列出来。

II. 细节题

细节类题型在考试中所占的比例较高,往往针对文章的某些细节内容进行提问,考核考生对某些特定细节的理解。这类题型常常用 why, what, when, who, which, where, how, how many, how long 等特殊疑问词或短语进行提问。常见的细节类题型有因果题、指代题、重述题、比较题等等。

1. 因果题

因果题主要针对文章的内容考核考生对有关因果关系的理解。常用的命题句型有:

Why ...?

... because _____.

What is the author's reason for advocating underground living?

The reason why ... is _____.

What was the cause of the complete destruction of the city Agadir in the earth-

quake?

According to the author, literacy problem in the USA *is a result of* _____.

In the author's opinion, modern credulity *results from* _____.

Failure to communicate with each other in a family may *result in* _____.

What is the main factor that contributes to one's success according to the passage?

The forest fire *was caused by* _____.

What *led to* the failure in the experiment?

According to the passage, the increase in crime is mainly *due to* _____.

On what ground does the author say that it is necessary to give children the right to failure?

Most Asian Americans *owe* their academic success *to* _____.

People's failure to communicate with each other in modern societies is *attributable to* _____.

在回答因果关系题的时候,要特别注意文章中表示原因或结果的词汇和短语,如表示原因的 because, as a result of, result from, due to, owing to, thanks to 和表示结果的 so, as a result, therefore, result in, lead to 等等。有些情况下,一个原因只产生一个结果;有些情况下,一个原因导致多种结果;有些情况下,不同的原因导致不同的结果;还有些情况下,不同的原因所导致的结果却一样。请看下面两个例子:

例 1:

The extent of the disaster in an earthquake depends on many factors. If you carefully build a toy house with an Erector set, it will still stand no matter how much you shake the table. But if you build a toy house with a pack of cards, a slight shake of the table will make it fall. An earthquake in Agadir, Morocco, was not strong enough to be recorded on distant instruments, but it completely destroyed the city. Many stronger earthquakes have done comparatively little damage. If a building is well constructed and built on a solid ground, it will resist an earthquake. Most deaths in earthquakes have been due to faulty building construction or poor building sites. A third and very serious factor is panic. When people rush out into narrow streets, more deaths will result.

Questions:

1. What was the cause of the complete destruction of Agadir in an earthquake?
2. Widespread panic in an earthquake may result in _____.

上文讲述了与地震灾害程度有关的三个因素,即: faulty building construction, poor building sites 和 panic。而 Agadir 城的毁灭是由其中的一个原因促成的。到底

是哪一个原因需要读者仔细阅读。根据上下文关系,我们可以断定,Agadir 城毁灭的原因是 faulty building construction。因此,答案应为:Faulty building construction。第二个问题与文中的第三个原因相关,答案比较明显,即:more deaths。

例 2:

The most common type of family now is one in which both parents are breadwinners. In 1950, only 20 percent of all American families had both parents working; today, it is 60 percent. Even women with young children are going back to work. About 51 percent of women with children under one year of age now work outside the home. This fundamental change in family pattern is attributable partly to a continuation of the prolonged social and economic trends and partly to the reflection of pressure on families to increase incomes.

Question:

Both parents go to work in the most common type of family because of _____.

这是一个一果多因题。文中讲到,“这一根本变化一方面归因于社会经济趋势,一方面归因于家庭经济压力”。因此,回答问题时,要考虑到两个方面的原因,避免片面。本题的答案应该是:Social and economic trends and financial pressure.

2. 指代题

“简短回答题”中的指代题与阅读理解题中的指代题不同,命题者一般情况下不会直接提问某个词语或某个短语指代什么,而是间接地提问。对这类问题,考生只有在理解某个词语(如 it, this, they, the first, the former, the latter 等)所指代意义的基础上才能作出正确的判断。下面举一个典型的例子:

Psychologists take opposing views of how external rewards, from warm praise to cold cash, affect motivation and creativity. Behaviorists, who study the relation between actions and their consequences, argue that rewards can improve performance at work and school. Cognitive researchers, who study various aspects of mental life, maintain that rewards often destroy creativity by encouraging dependence on approval and gifts from others.

The latter view has gained many supporters, especially among educators. But the careful use of small monetary rewards sparks creativity in grade-school children, suggesting that properly presented inducements indeed aid inventiveness, according to a study in the June *Journal of Personality and Social Psychology*.

Question:

What is many educators' attitude toward external rewards for their students?

要回答这个问题,关键是要理解“the latter view”所指的含义。从上下文中可

以判断,“the latter view”指的是“cognitive researchers' view”,即:Rewards often destroy creativity, 因此,答案就是:External rewards often destroy creativity.

3. 重述题

重述题通常要求考生用另一种不同的表达方式说明同一个意思。这类题常用于考核考生对文章中的某一个细节、词语或句子的理解。从广义上讲,“简短回答题”这个项目中的绝大多数题(包括前面所提到主旨题、因果题、指代题等)都是重述题。但是,许多主旨题、因果题和指代题的答案都可以用原文中的词汇、短语或句子来表达。因此,这里所讲述的重述题是指那些需要考生在理解的基础上,用自己的语言来回答的重述类题目。常见的重述题可以归纳为句型转换式和解释式两种类型。

(1) 句型转换式

句型转换式题目要求考生通过词语转换、句型转换等手段表达原文中的同一个意思。这类题目通常采取完成句子的形式。要正确回答此类问题,考生一方面要熟练掌握常用词语的用法和词性间的转换,另一方面还要掌握不同句型间的相互转换,如主动语态与被动语态、陈述语气与虚拟语气等等。下面举几个例题加以说明。

例 1:

Psychologists take opposing views of how external rewards, from warm praise to cold cash, affect motivation and creativity.

Question:

Psychologists are divided in their opinion about the _____.

这一题的意图很明显,即:要求把从句“how external rewards, from warm praise to cold cash, affect motivation and creativity”改变为名词短语。根据需要,要把动词 affect 转换为名词 effect, 然后,根据简短这一要求,省去不必要的部分“from warm praise to cold cash”,就可以得到答案:effect of external rewards on motivation and creativity.

例 2:

To what extent does more money lead to greater productivity? The workers themselves certainly think this important. But perhaps they want more money only because the work they do is so boring. Money just lets them enjoy their spare time more. A similar argument may explain demands for shorter working hours. Perhaps if we succeed in making their jobs more interesting, they will neither want more money, nor will shorter working hours be so important to them.

Question:

According to the author, workers won't demand more money or shorter working hours if their jobs _____.

例2 中的这一问题主要是关于主动语态与被动语态的转换。回答此类问题,首先要确定文章中与提问相关的内容,然后根据题目要求作相应的回答。本题的目的就是要求重述文章最后一句话的意思。答案应为:are made more interesting。

(2) 解释式

解释类题型可以直接地,也可以间接地提问用以考核考生对文章中某一词汇、短语或句子的理解。

直接提问题常用的句型有:

What does the author mean by "..."?

The word/phrase/sentence "..." in the context means _____.

间接提问题目往往需要考生在理解某一词语、术语或者句子的基础上,根据提问,用自己的语言,或者用原文中同义的词语或表达正确回答问题。例如:

The closeness with which people sit together varies in interesting ways among people of different cultures. In the United States, for example, people try to keep their bodies apart even in a crowded elevator; in Paris they take it as it comes!

Question:

According to the passage, in a crowded elevator, Frenchmen do not _____.

要正确回答这一问题,必须理解“in Paris they take it as it comes”这句话的含义。回答这类题目通常要借助上下文,从上下文的关系中进行理解和判断。就本题而言,文中第一句“不同文化的人在就座时保持不同的距离”是主题句;第二句则是用实例来进一步说明。联系上下文,不难看出,作者举此实例,目的在于说明:美国人与法国人在乘电梯时所保持的距离不同。由于美国人“即使在拥挤的电梯中也试图与他人保持距离”,因此,可以判断,法国人在乘电梯时与美国人不同,即:法国人并不介意距离的远近,不会试图与他人保持距离。所以,本题的答案应该是:try/bother to keep their bodies apart 或 mind being kept too close。

III. 推论题

推论题主要有两种情况:推理(making inferences)和结论(drawing conclusions)。经常用于提问的句型有:

(1) 有关文章内容的推论

According to the passage, it can be concluded that _____.

From the passage we can infer that _____.

From the passage we can see that _____.