



PRACTICE TESTS
上册

中高级英语考试

阅读理解

试题选编

陈厚勤 朱月珍 编

华中理工大学出版社

前 言

在中高级英语考试中，阅读理解占有较大的比例。阅读理解的重要性已为越来越多的人所认识。为了帮助广大读者了解、掌握阅读理解的基本技能，我们把平时教学中积累起来的资料加以综合整理，编成这本《中高级英语考试阅读理解试题选编》。希望它能给读者带来一些益处。

书中的练习题大都选自我国近年来研究生英语考试试题，英语水平考试试题、出国访问学者英语考试试题以及近年来海外英语考试试题。这些材料的题材丰富、体裁多样，体现了当前中高级英语测试中阅读理解试题的各项要求。本书第一部分专门介绍阅读理解的几种基本技能。第二部分为阅读理解练习。练习材料按体裁分类。选材时，注意到了题材的多样性，趣味性和时代感。为了便于读者自我测试和扩大词汇量，材料中的生词都根据其具体内容注明中文词义、英语音标。此外，对语言难点也作了简明的注释，有的还作了汉译。本书适于作为准备大学英语四级、六级考试，EPT和TOEFL考试的阅读参考材料。本书分为上下两册。

由于编者水平所限，缺点错误在所难免，恳切希望广大读者批评指正。

编 者

1988年5月于武汉华中理工大学

目 录

一、阅读理解技能介绍	(1)
1. 理解段落的主要思想	(2)
2. 作出判断	(14)
3. 作出结论	(18)
4. 推论	(25)
5. 查读	(31)
6. 猜词	(32)
二、阅读理解	(34)
1. 单句阅读	(34)
2. 索引与图表	(42)
3. 说明书	(54)
4. 通知与广告	(65)
5. 学校信息	(76)
6. 科普报告	(85)
7. 名人轶事	(160)
三、参考答案	(181)

一、阅读理解技能介绍

近年来,国内外从事英语教学与研究的学者、教师越来越注意学员的语言基本技能的训练和培养,尤其是阅读理解技能更受重视。目前,阅读理解能力已成为衡量人们英语水平高低的一个重要尺度,现在几乎所有比较正式的英语考试都有阅读理解这一项,而且它在整个考试中占的比例越来越大。在美国 TOEFL 考试中,阅读理解占 17%,在我国 EPT 考试中占 25%,在我国大学英语四级、六级统考中占 40%。这几年我国硕士研究生英语考试也逐渐加大了阅读理解的比例。因此,熟练掌握运用这项技能对于以高分成绩通过英语考试是十分重要的。当然,更重要的是,真正要把英语作为一种有用的工具就必须掌握一定的阅读技能。

什么是阅读?阅读不是逐字逐句那种翻译式的读,而是理解阅读。通过阅读要能理解作者的观点,文章的主旨大意,能作出正确的推理、判断等等。衡量一个人阅读能力的强弱通常是用阅读速度来计量的,即每分钟能阅读多少个英语单词。英语里阅读速度单位用 wpm 表示 (w = words p = per m = minute)。不过仅用阅读速度还不确切反映一个人的阅读能力,还应该有两个附加条件:即在一定的词汇量范围内规定一定的答对率。答对率不应低于 70%。不同难度和级别的考试,对词汇量的要求是不一样的。例如:目前全国大学英语四级标准考试的词汇量为 5000, EPT 考试的词汇量要求在 7000 左右, TOEFL 考试的词汇量则为 10,000 左右。在答对率和词汇量范围已确

定的两个前提下，不同级别考试规定了它自己的阅读速度。例如大学英语四级统考规定阅读速度约为 50wpm, EPT 和 TOEFL 要求的阅读速度为 70wpm 左右。虽然 EPT 和 TOEFL 的阅读速度差不多，但由于 TOEFL 要求的词汇量大，因而 TOEFL 对阅读的要求也就更高了。

如何有效地提高阅读能力？首先要进行有选择的广泛的阅读。通过广泛、大量的阅读实践扩大自己的词汇量，建立语感，提高自己阅读原版外文书刊的能力。多看一些不同题材、体裁的文章，例如：广告、说明书、信件这样的应用文，还有名人传记、科普小品等。此外，必要的文化背景知识对于提高我们的阅读能力也是很有作用的。平时可以读一些有关英国、美国社会文化知识的书籍和文章。丰富的文化知识有时对于我们的阅读理解也是十分重要的。

要提高阅读能力，还要注意养成良好的阅读习惯。不要逐字地阅读，而应一个一个意群地读；不要只停留在单句水平上的翻译阅读，而应学会对篇章的阅读理解。这样就会提高阅读速度。没有速度的阅读在实际工作中意义是不大的，当然也谈不上以高分通过考试了。可以做些限时的阅读练习以提高阅读速度。

要提高阅读能力必须掌握一些阅读技能。有位语言专家说，阅读技能超过一百种。对于不从事语言研究的人来说，无需了解那么多。这里仅介绍在考试中常见的几种最基本的阅读技能。

1. 理解段落的主要思想

在阅读时，我们常常需要理解文章的主要思想，或中心思想。在阅读理解测试中也常常有这类问题。例如：

What is the main idea?

What is the subject?

What would be a good title?

Which statement best expresses the main idea?

怎样才能准确地抓住主要思想呢?

我们知道文章是分段写成的。每段都有它的主要思想或段落思想。而主要思想通常是由我们称之为主题句 (topic sentence) 的句子来揭示的。其余的句子则是用来说明、论证主题句所揭示的主要思想。因此迅速地找出主题句的位置对于理解文章的主要思想极为重要。主题句在段落中的位置究竟如何呢? 主题句在段落中的位置一般有三种情况:

(1) 位于段落的开头; (2) 位于段落的末尾; (3) 位于段落中间。

位于段落开头的主题句

试读下列短文:

Coffee is a universal beverage that is served in different ways around the world. In London, for example, some Englishmen dip mustard into their coffee, while in Denver, a person might add a dash of ketchup. Strips of orange and lemon peel, cloves and cinnamon sticks are not unusual additions to the brew in Europe. An Asian delight consists of coffee brewed in boiling sugar. Perhaps the richest cup of coffee can be enjoyed in Ireland where whiskey and whipped cream are important ingredients. In Australia a waitress will ask, "Do you want black or white?" Black is plain black coffee, but white is half coffee

and half warm milk. If an Australian orders iced coffee, he will be served a cup of steaming coffee with a scoop of ice cream. It sounds like the Australian version of a "snowball in hell."

1. Which statement best expresses the main idea?
 - a. The richest cup of coffee can be enjoyed in Ireland.
 - b. Asians enjoy a sweet cup of coffee.
 - c. Coffee is enjoyed in a variety of ways.
 - d. Australians have an unusual sense of humor.
2. The paragraph suggests that coffee can be
 - a. expensive. b. rare. c. common. d. exciting.
3. The paragraph could be entitled
 - a. Some Like It Hot.
 - b. Coffee Around the World.
 - c. Oriental Delights.
 - d. A Snowball in Hell.

文章的第一句 Coffee is a universal beverage that is served in different ways around the world. 即为主题句。此句与选择 C. Coffee is enjoyed in a variety of ways. 为同一种意思。抓住了主题句就是抓住了文章的中心思想。即世界上人们用不同的方式享饮咖啡。而以后的句子则列举了世界各地饮用咖啡的不同方式，对主题句作了具体的说明。

位于段落末尾的主题句

有时候，主题句则位于段落末尾。出现这种情况往往是在讨论某一个新的问题，或者读者一下子还不容易接受的观点和看法，或者是作者为了说明或使人相信什么。

试读下列短文：

If the wind becomes gusty after a period of calm, you should seek shelter. The sky needs careful watching, too. Gradual darkening and "boiling" clouds should quicken your pace. Lightning and thunder are common enough storm indicators, but few people realize that the brightness of the lightning is not nearly as important as the number of lightning flashes. The signs of an oncoming storm are many, and a person's life may depend on his ability to interpret them.

这段短文的主题句就是最末尾的一句：“即将来临的风暴迹象是很多的，而人们的活动则取决于他们对这些迹象理解的能力。”这是作者在前面讲述了暴风雨到来之前的各种迹象和人们应作的事情之后而自然得出的结论。

位于段落中间的主题句

试读下列短文：

Despite the fact that cars from Germany and Japan are flooding the American market, Ford, General Motors and Chrysler are hiring more workers than ever before. The flood of cheaper foreign cars has not cost American auto workers their jobs as some experts predicted. Ford operates as far as Asia, and General Motors is considered Australia's biggest employer. Yet GM has its huge American work force and hires hundreds of people every day to meet the needs of an insatiable society.

这段短文共有四个句子。第一句仅列出了下文要引出结论的事实：即尽管德国、日本的汽车涌入美国市场，但福特通用

公司和克里斯特公司仍在雇佣比以往更多的工人。第二句为主题句，即这些廉价的外国汽车并没有象某些专家们预言的那样使美国汽车工人失业。这表达了作者关于这一问题的观点。但是，作者显然感到第一句所列举的事实还不充分，于是作者又用第三句和第四句列举一些事实进一步说明自己的观点：即远至亚洲，福特公司在发挥作用，通用汽车公司被认为是澳大利亚最大的雇主。而且通用汽车公司在美国还有巨大的劳动大军，每天雇佣着数以百计的人以满足社会不断增长的需要。

除了上述三种情况外，有时主题句并不在段落中直接出现(not stated, but implied)。在这种情况下，段落的主要思想是由一系列的句子逐步加以说明的。我们应把它们视为一个整体。例如：

Joshua Bingham studied four years at the University of Paris and decided to leave before his graduation. He transferred to the University of Berlin and graduated with honors. Harvard Law School and, later, Boston College provided him with an excellent legal background. He is presently a corporation lawyer in Miami, Florida.

在这段短文中，我们找不出明显的主题句。但是，从整体上看，文章的主要思想又是十分清楚的。即：Joshua Bingham 受过良好的教育。

下面是一些有关寻找主题句和理解文章主要思想的练习，大家不妨试试。

Exercise 1

Whether you are a smoker or a nonsmoker, you should take measures to protect your lungs. You can test your lung capacity by hol-

ding a lighted match about six inches from your face and trying to blow it out with your mouth wide open. If you cannot blow out the flame, arrange for a medical examination. Using a simple machine called a spirometer (spir om e ter), a doctor can measure the lungs' strength and capacity. In other words, he can test how efficiently you breathe. When combined with a complete physical examination, the spirometer test may detect early signs of respiratory problems.

1. Which sentence expresses the main idea?
 - a. Necessity is the mother of invention.
 - b. An ounce of prevention is worth a pound of cure.
 - c. Don't count your chickens before they're hatched.
 - d. Join the unhooked generation.
2. The paragraph is in favor of
 - a. forbidding smoking in public places.
 - b. outlawing the sale of tobacco products.
 - c. promoting good health habits.
 - d. enforcing strict air-quality controls.
3. If a person passes the match test, he can assume that he
 - a. must have an examination.
 - b. need not worry about lung disease.
 - c. is in good physical health.
 - d. has no obvious lung problems.
4. Underline the topic sentence.

Exercise 2

No single adjective is adequate to describe the size of the blue whale, and few people realize how it compares with other mammals. By any standard, it is the largest creature known to man. To be specific, one of its fins, called a fluke, would fill the cargo space of the average dump truck. Although its skull is the size and weight

of a car, its brain is only the size of a carburetor. Its heart is so large that five strong men would be needed to lift it, while its skin could be used as a tarpaulin to cover half a football field. Every person in Boston could be supplied with a whaleburger, and a pretty good one, too, from the meat of one blue whale. Combine the weights of 100 horses, 100 dairy cows, and 5 Indian elephants, and you would arrive at the weight of one female blue whale. Fortunately for the whale, its watery environment has protected it from the extinction suffered by the dinosaur millions of years ago.

1. Which sentence best expresses the main idea?
 - a. Although the blue whale is enormous, its brain is very small.
 - b. The meat of the blue whale is one of the tastiest meats known to man.
 - c. Female blue whales are larger than males.
 - d. The blue whale is one of nature's largest and most fascinating wonders.
2. The author develops his main idea—the great size of the blue whale—by:
 - a. giving the reasons for its enormous growth.
 - b. using descriptive adjectives.
 - c. comparing its size to known objects.
 - d. defining its watery environment.
3. The paragraph could be entitled
 - a. A Close Look at the Blue Whale.
 - b. Useful Products from the Blue Whale.
 - c. Mammals of the Deep.
 - d. The Survival of the Blue Whale.
4. Underline the topic sentence of the paragraph

Exercise 3

If you were planning to buy a television set, the following advertisement would certainly attract your attention, "Color TV, only \$79. Two day sale. Hurry." However, when you go to the store ready to buy, you may discover that the advertised sets were sold out. But the salesman is quick to reassure you that he has another model, a more reliable set which is "just right for you." It costs \$359. This sales tactic is called "bait and switch." Buyers are baited with a sales offer, and then they are switched to another more costly item. Buying items on sale requires careful consideration of the merchandise and the reasons for the sale.

1. Which sentence best expresses the main idea?
 - a. The customer must be on his guard when purchasing items on sale.
 - b. Color television sets which sell for \$79.00 are sold out quickly.
 - c. Many stores use the "bait and switch" technique to attract customers.
 - d. Anyone planning to buy a television set should look for a sale.
2. The paragraph could be entitled
 - a. Buyer Beware.
 - b. Closeout Sale.
 - c. Crime Pays.
 - d. Buying a TV Set.
3. Which of the following supports the main idea?
 - a. A good lie for its own sake is always pleasing to honest men.
 - b. You may prove anything by figures.
 - c. Words of his tongue can no man trust.
For in his heart there is deceitful thought.
 - d. The creative genius of the salesman is rarely matched on the

stage.

4. Underline the sentence which clearly illustrates the main idea.

Exercise 4

The influence of advertising is felt in every phase of American life. The advertiser made the cigarette synonymous with masculine virility and suave sophistication. He gave birth to the multi-million dollar chewing gum industry by promising to double the public's pleasure and fun. Brand names for toothpastes, soaps, detergents, and deodorants have, through his efforts, become household expressions. Perhaps a public service was performed when advertisers were asked to convince the American public that it should eat horse mackerel. The advertising industry met this challenge by changing the horse mackerel's name to tuna fish.

1. Which of the following expresses the main idea?
 - a. Advertising molds public opinion.
 - b. The American public lacks taste.
 - c. The Federal Government should control advertisers.
 - d. Advertising increases the cost of living.
2. The advertiser is to the consumer as
 - a. strategy is to promotion.
 - b. fish is to water.
 - c. profit is to business.
 - d. suggestion is to action.
3. The author develops his main idea by
 - a. demonstrating how brand names become household expressions.
 - b. giving examples from the advertising world.
 - c. warning the public about certain unfair advertising techniques.
 - d. demonstrating how advertisers perform a public service.

4. Underline the key word in the topic sentence.

Exercise 5

The days of guesswork and sticky fingers are gone. Confectioners have solved the problem of identifying a chocolate's contents by shaping letters atop each piece. For example, a "V" represents vanilla, a large "C" chocolate butter cream, a small "O" cordial cherry, an "O" orange, a "P" pineapple, and an "R" raspberry cream. Besides the letter clue, the shape of a chocolate is also an indication of its contents. Creams are round, caramels square, and nougats oblong. The ability to interpret a few shapes and markings enables the chocolate lover to select his favorites with confidence.

1. The main idea of the paragraph suggests that chocolate markings
 - a. solve a problem for the candy lover.
 - b. have always been used.
 - c. are difficult to recognize and interpret.
 - d. are more reliable than shapes.
2. The main idea also suggests that
 - a. confectioners are eager to demonstrate their talents.
 - b. old-fashioned chocolates were more attractive than today's chocolates.
 - c. easy identification is important to those who love chocolates.
 - d. chocolate lovers prefer soft over hard centers.
3. The author develops the main idea by
 - a. listing an assortment of the more popular kinds of chocolates.
 - b. explaining the coding system used by confectioners.
 - c. solving the problem of chocolate identification.
 - d. satisfying the demands of chocolate lovers.

Underline the topic sentence.

Exercise 6

The Cherokee Indians, who considered themselves the "real people," established their villages along the streams and rivers of what are now the Carolinas, Georgia, Virginia, and Kentucky. The building methods used by the Cherokee people reveal a unique civilization. The walls of their houses were constructed with large sturdy posts planted at three-foot intervals. Smaller posts were used to fill in the intervening spaces. The posts were held in place by twigs and long grasses interwoven to provide strength and protection. To insulate against the wind and cold, the woven walls were plastered with a mixture of grass and clay. This process also improved the appearance of the house and kept the posts from rotting. Many historians feel that these building techniques place the Cherokee at the forefront of early American Indians.

1. Which sentence best expresses the main idea?
 - a. The Cherokee Indians considered themselves superior.
 - b. Most Indian tribes built permanent homes.
 - c. The architectural skill of the Cherokee Indians represents an advanced civilization.
 - d. Today's historians are impressed by such advanced building techniques.
2. The Cherokee Indians
 - a. were inventive builders.
 - b. were peaceable hunters.
 - c. built strong fortifications.
 - d. built comfortable homes.
3. Which is the best title for the paragraph?
 - a. Early American Architects
 - b. Life among the Cherokees

c. Modern Indian Structures

d. Early Indian Culture

4. Underline the topic sentence.

Exercise 7

Mt. McKinley's eternal snowcap towers 20,320 feet—the highest point on the North American continent. Wide valleys, worn by such meandering streams as the Kuskokwim and the mighty Yukon, are filled with unique and colorful plants and animals. Big game hunting and fishing are unparalleled. Moose, bear, Dall sheep and caribou are plentiful. Arctic grayling, salmon, and spectacular trout abound in lakes and rivers. About 95 percent of Alaska is still public domain, where adventure can be enjoyed on a grand scale. Alaska, home of the Eskimo, Indian and Aleut, remains untamed.

1. Which sentence best expresses the main idea?
 - a. Big game hunting and fishing are Alaska's primary tourist attractions.
 - b. Traveling through Alaska is difficult since much of it is untamed.
 - c. Alaska, a vast wilderness, offers thrilling opportunities for adventure.
 - d. Alaska, home of moose, bear, and caribou, is noted for its lakes and rivers.
2. The paragraph could be entitled
 - a. Migrations of Arctic Animals.
 - b. Big Game Hunting and Fishing.
 - c. The Untamed Giant.
 - d. Arctic Explorations.
3. The main idea of the paragraph suggests that Alaska would appeal to

a. thrill seekers.

c. tourists.

b. skiers.

d. mountain climbers.

4. Underline the topic sentence.

2. 作出判断 (Making a Judgement)

什么是判断呢？这里讲的判断就是以事实为依据作出的合乎逻辑的正确的推断。推断应合乎逻辑。因为对于同一事实也可能作出不同的判断。当然事物发展的最后结果可以证实究竟那一种判断是正确的。判断必须是以事实为依据，必须是合理的。在作出判断时，一般有以下三个过程：（1）正确理解所提供的事实；（2）对提供的事实进行分析估量；（3）作出判断。

试读下列短文：

Pollution is a real concern of many people. They are alarmed by the poor quality of air and water and bothered by people who pollute and don't care. Concerned citizens are prepared to fight the battle against pollution with every legal weapon they can use. A final solution will only come, however, when more citizens become concerned.

在这篇短文里列举了以下事实：许多人关心污染问题；而有些人在制造污染，而且对此漠不关心；关心污染的人则准备发动一场反污染的斗争。我们对以上事实进行分析、估量就可以作出以下判断：如果有更多的人来关心污染，污染问题就可以得到解决。

试作下列关于作出判断的阅读练习：