

# 大学英语六级 真题详解

主编 林学明

## 阅读理解

世界图书出版公司

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## 2004年1月大学英语六级阅读理解试题

## 试卷一

**Part II Reading Comprehension** (35 minutes)

**Directions:** *There are 4 passages in this part. Each passage is followed by some questions or unfinished statements. For each of them there are four choices marked A), B), C) and D). You should decide on the best choice and mark the corresponding letter on the Answer Sheet with a single line through the centre.*

**Passage One**

**Questions 21 to 25 are based on the following passage.**

For years, doctors advised their patients that the only thing taking multivitamins does is give them expensive *urine* (尿). After all, true vitamin deficiencies are practically unheard of in industrialized countries. Now it seems those doctors may have been wrong. The results of a growing number of studies suggest that even a modest vitamin shortfall can be harmful to your health. Although proof of the benefits of multivitamins is still far from certain, the few dollars you spend on them is probably a good investment.

Or at least that's the argument put forward in the *New England Journal of Medicine*. Ideally, say Dr. Walter Willett and Dr. Meir Stampfer of Harvard, all vitamin supplements would be evaluated in scientifically rigorous clinical trials. But those studies can take a long time and often raise more questions than they answer. At some point, while researchers work on figuring out where the truth lies, it just makes sense to say the potential benefit outweighs the cost.

The best evidence to date concerns folate, one of the B vitamins. It's been proved to limit the number of defects in embryos, and a recent trial found that folate in combination with vitamin B<sub>12</sub> and a form of B<sub>6</sub> also decreases the re-blockage of arteries after surgical repair.

The news on vitamin E has been more mixed. Healthy folks who take 400 international units daily for at least two years appear somewhat less likely to develop heart disease. But when doctors give vitamin E to patients who already have heart disease, the vitamin doesn't seem to help. It may turn out that vitamin E plays a role in prevention but cannot undo serious damage.

Despite vitamin C's great popularity, consuming large amounts of it still has not been positively linked to any great benefit. The body quickly becomes saturated with vitamin C and simply *excretes* (排泄) any excess.

The multivitamins question boils down to this: Do you need to wait until all the evidence is in before you take them, or are you willing to accept that there's enough evidence that they don't hurt and could help?

If the latter, there's no need to go to extremes and buy the biggest 'horse pills' or the most expensive bottles. Large doses can cause trouble, including excessive bleeding and nervous system problems.

Multivitamins are no substitute for exercise and a balanced diet, of course. As long as you understand that any potential benefit is modest and subject to further refinement, taking a daily multivitamin makes a lot of sense.

21. At one time doctors discouraged taking multivitamins because they believed that multivitamins \_\_\_\_\_.
- A) could not easily be absorbed by the human body
  - B) were potentially harmful to people's health
  - C) were too expensive for daily consumption



- D) could not provide any cure for vitamin deficiencies
22. According to the author, clinical trials of vitamin supplements \_\_\_\_\_.
- A) often result in misleading conclusions  
 B) take time and will not produce conclusive results  
 C) should be conducted by scientists on a larger scale  
 D) appear to be a sheer waste of time and resources
23. It has been found that vitamin E \_\_\_\_\_.
- A) should be taken by patients regularly and persistently  
 B) can effectively reduce the recurrence of heart disease  
 C) has a preventive but not curative effect on heart disease  
 D) should be given to patients with heart disease as early as possible
24. It can be seen that large doses of multivitamins \_\_\_\_\_.
- A) may bring about serious side effects  
 B) may help prevent excessive bleeding  
 C) are likely to induce the blockage of arteries  
 D) are advisable for those with vitamin deficiencies
25. The author concludes the passage with the advice that \_\_\_\_\_.
- A) the benefit of daily multivitamin intake outweighs that of exercise and a balanced diet  
 B) it's risky to take multivitamins without knowing their specific function  
 C) the potential benefit of multivitamins can never be overestimated  
 D) it's reasonable to take a rational dose of multivitamins daily

## Passage Two

Questions 26 to 30 are based on the following passage.

Some futurologists have assumed that *the vast upsurge* (急剧增长) of

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women in the workforce may portend a rejection of marriage. Many women, according to this hypothesis, would rather work than marry. *The converse* (相反的事物) of this concern is that the prospects of becoming a multi-paycheck household could encourage marriages. In the past, only the earnings and financial prospects of the man counted in the marriage decision. Now, however, the earning ability of a woman can make her more attractive as a marriage partner. Data show that economic downturns tend to postpone marriage because the parties cannot afford to establish a family or are concerned about rainy days ahead. As the economy rebounds, the number of marriages also rises.

Coincident with the increase in women working outside the home is the increase in divorce rates. Yet, it may be wrong to jump to any simple cause-and-effect conclusions. The impact of a wife's work on divorce is no less cloudy than its impact on marriage decisions. The realization that she can be a good provider may increase the chances that a working wife will choose divorce over an unsatisfactory marriage. But the reverse is equally plausible. Tensions grounded in financial problems often play a key role in ending a marriage. Given high unemployment, inflationary problems, and slow growth in real earnings, a working wife can increase household income and relieve some of these pressing financial burdens. By raising a family's standard of living, a working wife may strengthen her family's financial and emotional stability.

Psychological factors also should be considered. For example, a wife blocked from a career outside the home may feel caged in the house. She may view her only choice as seeking a divorce. On the other hand, if she can find fulfillment through work outside the home, work and marriage can go together to create a stronger and more stable union.

Also, a major part of women's inequality in marriage has been due to



- 
- A) The stability of marriage and the divorce rate may reflect the economic situation of the country.
- B) Even when economically independent, most women have to struggle for real equality in marriage.
- C) In order to secure their marriage women should work outside the home and remain independent
- D) The impact of the growing female workforce on marriage varies from case to case.

### Passage Three

#### Questions 31 to 35 are based on the following passage

For most thinkers since the Greek philosophers, it was self-evident that there is something called human nature, something that constitutes the essence of man. There were various views about what constitutes it, but there was agreement that such an essence exists—that is to say, that there is something by virtue of which man is man. Thus man was defined as a rational being, as a social animal, an animal that can make tools, or a symbol-making animal.

More recently, this traditional view has begun to be questioned. One reason for this change was the increasing emphasis given to the historical approach to man. An examination of the history of humanity suggested that man in our epoch is so different from man in previous times that it seemed unrealistic to assume that men in every age have had in common something that can be called “human nature.” The historical approach was reinforced, particularly in the United States, by studies in the field of cultural *anthropology* (人类学). The study of primitive peoples has discovered such a diversity of customs, values, feelings, and thoughts that many anthropologists arrived at the concept that man is born as a blank sheet of paper on which



each culture writes its text. Another factor contributing to the tendency to deny the assumption of a fixed human nature was that the concept has so often been abused as a shield behind which the most inhuman acts are committed. In the name of human nature, for example, Aristotle and most thinkers up to the eighteenth century defended slavery. Or in order to prove the rationality and necessity of the capitalist form of society, scholars have tried to make a case for acquisitiveness, competitiveness, and selfishness as *innate* (天生的) human traits. Popularly, one refers cynically to “human nature” in accepting the inevitability of such undesirable human behavior as greed, murder, cheating and lying.

Another reason for skepticism about the concept of human nature probably lies in the influence of evolutionary thinking. Once man came to be seen as developing in the process of evolution, the idea of a substance which is contained in his essence seemed untenable. Yet I believe it is precisely from an evolutionary standpoint that we can expect new insight into the problem of the nature of man.

31. The traditional view of “human nature” was strongly challenged by \_\_\_\_\_.

- A) the emergence of the evolutionary theory
- B) the historical approach to man
- C) new insight into human behavior
- D) the philosophical analysis of slavery

32. According to the passage, anthropologists believe that human beings \_\_\_\_\_.

- A) have some traits in common
- B) are born with diverse cultures
- C) are born without a fixed nature
- D) change their characters as they grow up



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33. The author mentioned Aristotle, a great ancient thinker, in order to \_\_\_\_\_ .
- A) emphasize that he contributed a lot to defining the concept of “human nature”
  - B) show that the concept of “human nature” was used to justify social evils
  - C) prove that he had a profound influence on the concept of “human nature”
  - D) support the idea that some human traits are acquired
34. The word “untenable” (Line 4) in the last paragraph of the passage most probably means \_\_\_\_\_ .
- A) invaluable
  - B) imaginable
  - C) changeable
  - D) indefensible
35. Most philosophers believed that human nature \_\_\_\_\_ .
- A) is the quality distinguishing man from other animals
  - B) consists of competitiveness and selfishness
  - C) is something partly innate and partly acquired
  - D) consists of rationality and undesirable behavior

### Passage Four

Questions 36 to 40 are based on the following passage.

Richard Satava, program manager for advanced medical technologies, has been a driving force in bringing virtual reality to medicine, where computers create a “virtual” or simulated environment for surgeons and other medical *practitioners* (从业者).

“With virtual reality we’ll be able to put a surgeon in every trench,” said Satava. He envisaged a time when soldiers who are wounded fighting overseas are put in mobile surgical units equipped with computers.



The computers would transmit images of the soldiers to surgeons back in the U.S. The surgeons would look at the soldier through virtual reality *helmets* (头盔) that contain a small screen displaying the image of the wound. The doctors would guide robotic instruments in the battlefield mobile surgical unit that operate on the soldier.

Although Satava's vision may be years away from standard operating procedure, scientists are progressing toward virtual reality surgery. Engineers at an international organization in California are developing a tele-operating device. As surgeons watch a three-dimensional image of the surgery, they move instruments that are connected to a computer, which passes their movements to robotic instruments that perform the surgery. The computer provides, feedback to the surgeon on force, textures, and sound.

These technological wonders may not yet be part of the community hospital setting but increasingly some of the machinery is finding its way into civilian medicine. At Wayne State University Medical School, surgeon Lucia Zamorano takes images of the brain from computerized scans and uses a computer program to produce a 3-D image. She can then maneuver the 3-D image on the computer screen to map the shortest, least invasive surgical path to the *tumor* (肿瘤). Zamorano is also using technology that attaches a probe to surgical instruments so that she can track their positions. While cutting away a tumor deep in the brain, she watches the movement of her surgical tools in a computer graphics image of the patient's brain taken before surgery.

During these procedures—operations that are done through small cuts in the body in which a miniature camera and surgical tools are maneuvered—surgeons are wearing 3-D glasses for a better view. And they are commanding robot surgeons to cut away tissue more accurately than human surgeons can.

Satava says, "We are in the midst of a fundamental change in the field

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of medicine."

36. According to Richard Satava, the application of virtual reality to medicine \_\_\_\_\_ .

- A) will enable surgeons to be physically present on every battlefield
- B) can raise the spirits of soldiers wounded on the battlefield
- C) will greatly improve medical conditions on the battlefield
- D) can shorten the time for operations on soldiers wounded on the battlefield

37. Richard Satava has visions of \_\_\_\_\_ .

- A) using a remote-control technique to treat wounded soldiers fighting overseas
- B) wounded soldiers being saved by doctors wearing virtual reality helmets on the battlefield
- C) wounded soldiers being operated on by specially trained surgeons
- D) setting up mobile surgical units overseas

38. How is virtual reality surgery performed?

- A) It is performed by a computer-designed high precision device.
- B) Surgeons wear virtual reality helmets to receive feedback provided by a computer.
- C) Surgeons move robotic instruments by means of a computer linked to them.
- D) A 3-D image records the movements of the surgeons during the operation.

39. During virtual reality operations, the surgeon can have a better view of the cuts in the body because \_\_\_\_\_ .

- A) he is looking at the cuts on a computer screen
- B) the cuts can be examined from different angles
- C) the cuts have been highly magnified



- D) he is wearing 3-D glasses
40. Virtual reality operations are an improvement on conventional surgery in that they \_\_\_\_\_.
- A) cause less pain to the wounded
- B) allow the patient to recover more quickly
- C) will make human surgeons' work less tedious
- D) are done by robot surgeons with greater precision

### 试题详解

#### Passage One (Key: A B C A D)

21. At one time doctors discouraged taking **multivitamins** because they believed that multivitamins \_\_\_\_\_. (医生一度不鼓励人们服用多种维生素混合物的原因是相信它们\_\_\_\_\_。)

【试题解析】正确选项为 A)，属于事实细节题。本题关键词为“multivitamins”，出现在文章首句。“For years, doctors advised their patients that the only thing taking multivitamins does is give them expensive urine.” 该句概括介绍了医生曾经对多种维生素混合物的作用所持有的错误看法，认为它们的唯一作用是“...give them expensive urine”，即人体不能吸收维生素添加剂，只能将其排除体外，所以，本题的正确答案是选项 A)。

22. According to the author, **clinical trials of vitamin supplements** \_\_\_\_\_. (作者认为，有关维生素添加剂的临床实验\_\_\_\_\_。)

【试题解析】正确选项为 B)，属于事实细节题。题干中的关键词“clinical trials of vitamin supplements”将我们的注意力吸引到文章第二段第二句话，根据篇章理解的思路，下一句话应当是对该句的解释：“...can take a long time and often raise more questions”