


新大学英语 四级实战教程

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新大学英语 四级实战教程

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南京大学出版社

内容简介

本书针对广大大学生备考大学英语四级考试,准确把握考试方向和难度,精选编写多套全新四级真题和模考题,以满足广大考生应考需求。

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前 言

针对广大考生在大学英语四级备考阶段的需求,特编写《新大学英语四级实战教程》一书。此书精选最新的五套四级真题并编写六套四级模考题,充分满足考生的备考需求。本书的特色如下:

选材新、精、准

选取四级考试最新真题,精心编写四级模考题,准确把握考试难度。

讲解透彻,方法高效

无论是真题,还是模考题,都附有答案详解,分析透彻,方法实用高效,易于掌握。

本书由刘沛主编,曹永波、刘黎黎任副主编,张珺、李荷、江倩、张羽佳参与编写。

在此,祝广大英语学习者和考生学业成功!

编者

2015年7月

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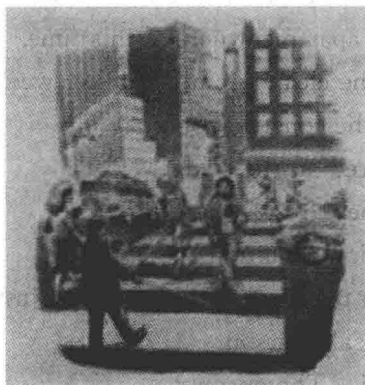
2013 年 12 月大学英语四级考试真题(第二套)

Part I

Writing

(30 minutes)

Directions: For this part, you are allowed 30 minutes to write a short essay based on the picture below. You should start your essay with a brief account of **the increasing use of the mobile phone in people's life** and then **explain the consequences of overusing it**. You should write at least 120 words but no more than 180 words.



People are crossing the street looking at their cellphones and using walking sticks in order to see.

Part II

Listening Comprehension

(30 minutes)

Section A

Directions: In this section, you will hear 8 short conversations and 2 long conversations. At the end of each conversation, one or more questions will be asked about what was said. Both the conversation and the questions will be spoken only once. After each question there will be a pause. During the pause, you must read the four choices marked A), B), C) and D), and decide which is the best answer. Then mark the corresponding letter on **Answer Sheet 1** with a single line through the centre.



1. A) Go to a place he has visited. B) Make her own arrangements.
C) Consult a travel agent. D) Join in a package tour.
2. A) They are on a long trip by car. B) They are stuck in a traffic jam.
C) They are used to getting up early. D) They are tired of eating out at night.
3. A) He is a person difficult to deal with.

- B) He dislikes any formal gathering.
 - C) He is unwilling to speak in public.
 - D) He often keeps a distance from others.
4. A) Work in another department. B) Pursue further education.
C) Recruit graduate students. D) Take an administrative job.
 5. A) He would not be available to start the job in time.
B) He is not quite qualified for the art director position.
C) He would like to leave some more time for himself.
D) He will get his application letter ready before May 1.
 6. A) Cleaner. B) Mechanic. C) Porter. D) Salesman.
 7. A) Request one or two roommates to do the cleaning.
B) Help Laura with her term paper due this weekend.
C) Get Laura to clean the apartment herself this time.
D) Ask Laura to put off the cleaning until another week.
 8. A) A problem caused by the construction.
B) An accident that occurred on the bridge.
C) The building project they are working on.
D) The public transportation conditions.

Questions 9 to 11 are based on the conversation you have just heard.

9. A) To look for a job as a salesperson.
B) To have a talk with Miss Thompson.
C) To place an order for some products.
D) To complain about a faulty appliance.
10. A) The person in charge is not in the office.
B) The supplies are out of stock for the moment.
C) They failed to reach an agreement on the price.
D) The company is re-cataloguing the items.
11. A) 0743,12536 extension 15. B) 0734,21653 extension 51.
C) 0734,38750 extension 15. D) 0734,62135 extension 51.

Questions 12 to 15 are based on the conversation you have just heard.

12. A) Since he found a girlfriend.
B) Since he took to heavy smoking.
C) Since he began to exercise regularly.
D) Since he started to live on his own.
13. A) He is getting too fat. B) He smokes too much.
C) He doesn't eat vegetables. D) He doesn't look well at all.
14. A) They are overweight for their age.
B) They are respectful to their parents.

- C) They are still in their early twenties.
- D) They dislike doing physical exercise.
- 15. A) To quit smoking. B) To reduce his weight.
- C) To find a girlfriend. D) To follow her advice.

Section B

Directions: *In this section, you will hear 3 short passages. At the end of each passage, you will hear some questions. Both the passage and the questions will be spoken only once. After you hear a question, you must choose the best answer from the four choices marked A), B), C) and D). Then mark the corresponding letter on Answer Sheet 1 with a single line through the centre.*

Passage One

Questions 16 to 19 are based on the passage you have just heard.

- 16. A) They have destroyed several small towns.
- B) They will soon spread to San Francisco.
- C) They have injured many residents.
- D) They are burning out of control.
- 17. A) They have been hospitalized.
- B) They have got skin problems.
- C) They were choked by the thick smoke.
- D) They were poisoned by the burning chemicals.
- 18. A) It failed because of a sudden rocket explosion.
- B) It has been re-scheduled for a midday take-off.
- C) It has been canceled due to technical problems.
- D) It was delayed for eleven hours and thirty minutes.
- 19. A) They made frequent long-distance calls to each other.
- B) They illegally used government computers in New Jersey.
- C) They were found to be smarter than computer specialists.
- D) They were arrested for stealing government information.

Passage Two

Questions 20 to 22 are based on the passage you have just heard.

- 20. A) Peaceful. B) Considerate. C) Generous. D) Cooperative.
- 21. A) Someone dumped the clothes left in the washer and dryer.
- B) Someone broke the washer and dryer by overloading them.
- C) Mindy Lance's laundry blocked the way to the laundry room.
- D) Mindy Lance's threatened to take revenge on her neighbors.
- 22. A) Asking the neighborhood to committee for help.
- B) Limiting the amount of laundry for each wash.

- C) Informing the building manager of the matter.
- D) Installing a few more washers and dryers.

Passage Three

Questions 23 to 25 are based on the passage you have just heard.

- 23. A) She is both a popular and a highly respected author.
B) She is the most loved African novelist of all times.
C) She is the most influential author since the 1930's.
D) She is the first writer to focus on the fate of slaves.
- 24. A) The Book Critics Circle Award. B) The Nobel Prize for Literature.
C) The Pulitzer Prize for Fiction. D) The National Book Award.
- 25. A) She is a relative of Morrison's. B) She is a slave from Africa.
C) She is a skilled storyteller. D) She is a black woman.

Section C

Directions: *In this section, you will hear a passage three times. When the passage is read for the first time, you should listen carefully for its general idea. When the passage is read for the second time, you are required to fill in the blanks with the exact words you have just heard. Finally, when the passage is read for the third time, you should check what you have written.*

Many college students today own personal computers that cost anywhere from \$1,000 to perhaps \$5,000 or more. (26) _____, it is not uncommon for them to purchase (27) _____ costing another several hundred dollars. Twenty years ago, computers were (28) _____, but they were very large and extremely expensive. Few, if any, (29) _____ purchased computers for home use. Over the years, the price of the "guts" of a computer—its memory—has declined to less than a thousandth of the price per unit of memory that prevailed twenty years ago. This is the main reason why computers cost so much less today than they used to. Moreover, (30) _____ improvements have made it possible to (31) _____ memory circuitry that is small enough to fit into the portable personal computers that many of us own and use. (32) _____, as the price of computation has declined the average consumer and business have spent more on purchasing computers.

(33) _____, improved agricultural technology, *hybrid* (杂交) seeds, (34) _____ animal breeding, and so on have vastly increased the amount of output a typical farmer can produce. The prices of goods such as meats and grains have fallen sharply relative to the prices of most other goods and services. As agricultural prices have fallen, many households have decreased their total expenses on food. Even though the (35) _____ of a product purchased generally increases when its price falls, total expenses on it may decline.

Part III**Reading Comprehension****(40 minutes)****Section A**

Directions: In this section, there is a passage with ten blanks. You are required to select one word for each blank from a list of choices given in a word bank following the passage. Read the passage through carefully before making your choices. Each choice in the bank is identified by a letter. Please mark the corresponding letter on **Answer Sheet 2** with a single line through the centre. You may not use any of the words in the bank more than once.

Questions 36 to 45 are based on the following passage.

To get a sense of how women have progressed in science, take a quick tour of the Physics Department at the University of California, Berkeley. This is a storied place, the 36 of some of the most important discoveries in modern science — starting with Ernest Lawrence's invention of the *cyclotron* (回旋加速器) in 1931. A generation ago, female faces were 37 and, even today, visitors walking through the first floor of LeConte Hall will see a full corridor of exhibits 38 the many distinguished physicists who made history here, 39 all of the white males.

But climb up to the third floor and you'll see a 40 display. There, among the photos of current faculty members and students are portraits of the 41 head of the department, Marjorie Shapiro and four other women whose research 42 everything from the mechanics of the universe to the smallest particles of matter. A sixth woman was hired just two weeks ago. Although they're still only about 10 percent of the physics faculty, women are clearly a presence here. And the real 43 may be in the smaller photos to the right: graduate and undergraduate students, about 20 percent of them female. Every year Berkeley sends its fresh female physics PhDs to the country's top universities. That makes Shapiro optimistic, but also 44. "I believe things are getting better," she says, "but they're not getting better as 45 as I would like."

- | | |
|-----------------|--------------|
| A) circumstance | I) honoring |
| B) confidence | J) hope |
| C) covers | K) presently |
| D) current | L) rare |
| E) deals | M) realistic |
| F) different | N) site |
| G) exposing | O) virtually |
| H) fast | |

Section B

Directions: In this section, you are going to read a passage with ten statements attached

to it. Each statement contains information given in one of the paragraphs. Identify the paragraph from which the information is derived. You may choose a paragraph more than once. Each paragraph is marked with a letter. Answer the questions by marking the corresponding letter on **Answer Sheet 2**.

Is College a Worthy Investment ?

- A) Why are we spending so much money on college? And why are we so unhappy about it? We all seem to agree that a college education is wonderful, and yet strangely we worry when we see families investing so much in this supposedly essential good. Maybe it's time to ask a question that seems almost *sacrilegious* (大不敬的): is all this investment in college education really worth it?
- B) The answer, I fear, is no. For an increasing number of kids, the extra time and money spent pursuing a college diploma will leave them worse off than they were before they set foot on campus.
- C) For my entire adult life, a good education has been the most important thing for middle-class households. My parents spent more educating my sister and me than they spent on their house, and they're not the only ones... and, of course, for an increasing number of families, most of the cost of their house is actually the cost of living in a good school district. Questioning the value of a college education seems a bit like questioning the value of happiness, or fun.
- D) The average price of all goods and services has risen about 50 percent. But the price of a college education has nearly doubled in that time. Is the education that today's students are getting twice as good? Are new workers twice as smart? Have they become somehow massively more expensive to educate?
- E) Perhaps a bit. Richard Vedder, an Ohio University economics professor, says, "I look at the data, and I see college costs rising faster than inflation up to the mid-1980s by 1 percent a year. Now I see them rising 3 to 4 percent a year over inflation. What has happened? The federal government has started dropping money out of airplanes." Aid has increased, *subsidized* (补贴的) loans have become available, and "the universities have gotten the money." Economist Bryan Caplan, who is writing a book about education, agrees: "It's a giant waste of resources that will continue as long as the subsidies continue."
- F) Promotional literature for colleges and student loans often speaks of debt as an "investment in yourself." But an investment is supposed to generate income to pay off the loans. More than half of all recent graduates are unemployed or in jobs that do not require a degree and the amount of student-loan debt carried by households has more than five times since 1999. These graduates were told that a diploma was all they needed to succeed, but it won't even get them out of the spare bedroom at Mom and Dad's. For many, the most tangible result of their four years is the loan

payments, which now average hundreds of dollars a month on loan balances in the tens of thousands.

- G) It's true about the money—sort of. College graduates now make 80 percent more than people who have only a high-school diploma, and though there are no precise estimates, the wage *premium* (高出的部分) for an outstanding school seems to be even higher. But that's not true of every student. It's very easy to spend four years majoring in English literature and come out no more employable than you were before you went in. Conversely, chemical engineers straight out of school can easily make almost four times the wages of an entry-level high school graduate.
- H) James Heckman, the Nobel Prize-winning economist, has examined how the returns on education break down for individuals with different backgrounds and levels of ability. "Even with these high prices, you're still finding a high return for individuals who are bright and motivated," he says. On the other hand, "if you're not college ready, then the answer is no, it's not worth it." Experts tend to agree that for the average student, college is still worth it today, but they also agree that the rapid increase in price is eating up more and more of the potential return. For borderline students, *tuition* (学费) rise can push those returns into negative territory.
- I) Everyone seems to agree that the government and parents should be rethinking how we invest in higher education—and that employers need to rethink the increasing use of college degrees as crude screening tools for jobs that don't really require college skills. "Employers seeing a surplus of college graduates and looking to fill jobs are just adding that requirement," says Vedder. "In fact, a college degree becomes a job requirement for becoming a bar tender."
- J) We have started to see some change on the finance side. A law passed in 2007 allows many students to cap their loan payment at 10 percent of their income and forgives any balance after 25 years. But of course, that doesn't control the cost of education; it just shifts it to taxpayers. It also encourages graduates to choose lower-paying careers, which reduces the financial return to education still further. "You're subsidizing people to become priests and poets and so forth," says Heckman. "You may think that's a good thing, or you may not." Either way it will be expensive for the government.
- K) What might be a lot cheaper is putting more kids to work. Caplan notes that work also builds valuable skills—probably more valuable for kids who don't naturally love sitting in a classroom. Heckman agrees wholeheartedly, "People are different, and those abilities can be shaped. That's what we've learned, and public policy should recognize that."
- L) Heckman would like to see more *apprenticeship-style* (学徒式) programs, where

kids can learn in the workplace—learn not just specific job skills, but the kind of “soft skills,” like getting to work on time and getting along with a team, that are crucial for career success. “It’s about having *mentors* (指导者) and having workplace-based education,” he says. “Time and again I’ve seen examples of this kind of program working.”

M) Ah, but how do we get there from here? With better public policy, hopefully, but also by making better individual decisions. “Historically, markets have been able to handle these things,” says Vedder, “and I think eventually markets will handle this one. If it doesn’t improve soon, people are going to wake up and ask, ‘Why am I going to college?’”

46. Caplan suggests that kids who don’t love school go to work.

47. An increasing number of families spend more money on houses in a good school district.

48. Subsidized loans to college students are a huge waste of money, according to one economist.

49. More and more kids find they fare worse with a college diploma.

50. For those who are not prepared for higher education, going to college is not worth it.

51. Over the years the cost of a college education has increased almost by 100%.

52. A law passed recently allows many students to pay no more than one tenth of their income for their college loans.

53. Middle-class Americans have highly valued a good education.

54. More kids should be encouraged to participate in programs where they can learn not only job skills but also social skills.

55. Over fifty percent of recent college graduates remain unemployed or unable to find a suitable job.

Section C

Directions: *There are 2 passages in this section. 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 Answer Sheet 2 with a single line through the centre.*

Passage One

A recent global survey of 2,000 high-net-worth individuals found that 60% were not planning on a traditional retirement. Among US participants, 75% expected to continue working in some capacity even after stepping away from full-time jobs. “Many of these people made their wealth by doing something they’re *passionate* (有激情的) about,” says Daniel Egan, head of behavioral finance for Barclays Wealth Americas.

“Given the choice, they prefer to continue working.” Barclays calls these people “nevertirees.”

Unlike many Americans compelled into early retirement by company restrictions, the average nevertiree often has no one forcing his hand. If 106-year-old investor Irving Kahn, head of his own family firm, wants to keep coming to work every day, who’s going to stop him? Seventy-eight-year-old Supreme Court Justice Ruth Bader Ginsburg’s job security is guaranteed in the Constitution.

It may seem that these elderly people are trying to cheat death. In fact, they are. And it’s working. Howard Friedman, a professor at UC Riverside, found in his research that those who work hardest and are successful in their careers often live the longest lives. “People are generally being given bad advice to slow down, take it easy, stop worrying, and retire to Florida,” he says. He described one study participant, still working at the age of 100, who was recently disappointed to see his son retire.

“We’re beginning to see a change in how people view retirement,” says George Leeson, co-director of the Institute of Population Ageing at Oxford. Where once retirement was seen as a brief reward after a long struggle through some miserable job, it is now *akin* (近似) to being cast aside. What Leeson terms “the Warren Buffett effect” is becoming more broadly appealing as individuals come to “view retirement as not simply being linked to economic productivity but also about contribution.”

Observers are split on whether this is a wholly good thing. On the one hand, companies and financial firms can benefit from the wisdom of a *resilient* (坚韧的) chief. On the other, a new generation can find it more difficult to advance—an argument that typically holds little sway to a nevertiree.

56. What do we learn about the so-called “nevertirees”?

- A) They are passionate about making a fortune.
- B) They have no choice but to continue working.
- C) They love what they do and choose not to retire.
- D) They will not retire unless they are compelled to.

57. What do Irving Kahn and Ruth Bader Ginsburg have in common?

- A) Neither of them is subject to forced retirement.
- B) Neither of them desires reward for their work.
- C) Both cling to their positions despite opposition.
- D) Both are capable of coping with heavy workloads.

58. What is the finding of Howard Friedman’s research?

- A) The harder you work, the bigger your fortune will be.
- B) The earlier you retire, the healthier you will be.
- C) Elderly people have to slow down to live longer.
- D) Working at an advanced age lengthens people’s life.

59. What is the traditional view of retirement according to the passage?

- A) It means a burden to the younger generation.
- B) It is a symbol of a mature and civilized society.
- C) It is a compensation for one's life-long hard work.
- D) It helps increase a nation's economic productivity.

60. What do critics say about "nevertirees"?

- A) They are an obstacle to a company's development.
- B) They lack the creativity of the younger generation.
- C) They cannot work as efficiently as they used to.
- D) They prevent young people from getting ahead.

Passage Two

Questions 61 to 65 are based on the following passage.

When we talk about Americans barely into adulthood who are saddled with unbearable levels of debt, the conversation is almost always about student loan debt. But there's a growing body of evidence suggesting that today's young adults are also drowning in credit card debt—and that many of them will take this debt to their graves.

More than 20% overspent their income by more than \$100 every single month. Since they haven't built up their credit histories yet, it's a safe bet that these young adults are paying relatively high interest rates on the resulting credit card debt.

Although more young people blame "socializing" as a barrier to saving money, most of them aren't knocking back \$20 drinks in *trendy* (时尚的) lounges. They're struggling with much more daily financial demands.

To a disturbingly large extent, the young and the broke are relying on credit cards to make it until their next pay day. This obviously isn't sustainable in the long run, and it's going to put a huge drag on their spending power even after they reach their peak earning years, because they'll still be paying interest on that bottle of orange juice or box of *spaghetti* (意式面条) they bought a decade earlier.

A new study out of Ohio State University found that young adults are accumulating credit card debt at a more rapid rate than other age groups, and that they're slower at paying it off. "If what we found continues to hold true, we may have more elderly people with substantial financial problems in the future," warns Lucia Dunn, professor of economics at Ohio State University. "If our findings persist, we may be faced with a financial crisis among elderly people who can't pay off their credit cards."

Dunn says a lot of these young people are never going to get out from under their credit card debt. "Many people are borrowing on credit cards so heavily that pay-off rates at these levels are not sufficient to recover their credit card debt by the end of their life, which could have loss implications for the credit card issuing banks."

61. What is the main idea of the first paragraph?

- A) Many young Americans will never be able to pay off their debts.
 - B) Credit cards play an increasingly important role in college life.
 - C) Credit cards are doing more harm than student loans.
 - D) The American credit card system is under criticism.
62. Why do young people have to pay a higher interest on their credit card debt?
- A) They tend to forget the deadlines.
 - B) They haven't developed a credit history.
 - C) They are often unable to pay back in time.
 - D) They are inexperienced in managing money.
63. What is said to be the consequence of the young adults relying on credit cards to make ends meet?
- A) It will place an unnecessary burden on society.
 - B) It will give them no motivation to work hard.
 - C) It will exert psychological pressure on them.
 - D) It will affect their future spending power.
64. What will happen to young adults if their credit card debt keeps accumulating according to Lucia Dunn?
- A) They will have to pay an increasingly higher interest rate.
 - B) They may experience a financial crisis in their old age.
 - C) Their quality of life will be affected.
 - D) Their credit cards may be cancelled.
65. What does Lucia Dunn think might be a risk for credit card issuing banks?
- A) They go bankrupt as a result of over-lending.
 - B) They lose large numbers of their regular clients.
 - C) Their clients leave their debts unpaid upon death.
 - D) Their interest rates have to be reduced now and then.

Part IV

Translation

(30 minutes)

Directions: For this part, you are allowed 30 minutes to translate a passage from Chinese into English. You should write your answer on **Answer Sheet 2**.

中国结(the Chinese knot)最初是由手工艺人发明的,经过数百年不断的改进,已经成为一种优雅多彩的艺术和工艺。在古代,人们用它来记录事件,但现在主要是用于装饰的目的。“结”在中文里意味着爱情、婚姻和团聚。中国结常常作为礼物交换或作为饰品祈求好运和避邪。这种形式的手工艺(handicraft)代代相传,现在已经在中国和世界各地越来越受欢迎。

2014 年 6 月大学英语四级考试真题(第一套)

Part I

Writing

(30 minutes)

Directions: For this part, you are allowed 30 minutes to write a short essay on the following topic. You should write at least 120 words but no more than 180 words.

Suppose a foreign friend of yours is coming to visit your hometown, what is the most interesting place you would like to take him/her to see and why?

Part II

Listening Comprehension

(30 minutes)

Section A

Directions: In this section, you will hear 8 short conversations and 2 long conversations. At the end of each conversation, one or more questions will be asked about what was said. Both the conversation and the questions will be spoken only once. After each question there will be a pause. During the pause, you must read the four choices marked A), B), C) and D), and decide which is the best answer. Then mark the corresponding letter on **Answer Sheet 1** with a single line through the centre.



1. A) See a doctor about her strained shoulder.
B) Use a ladder to help her reach the tea.
C) Replace the cupboard with a new one.
D) Place the tea on a lower shelf next time.
2. A) At Mary Johnson's. B) At a painter's studio.
C) In an exhibition hall. D) Outside an art gallery.
3. A) The teacher evaluated lacks teaching experience.
B) She does not quite agree with what the man said.
C) The man had better talk with the students himself.
D) New students usually cannot offer a fair evaluation.
4. A) He helped Doris build up the furniture.
B) Doris helped him arrange the furniture.
C) Doris fixed up some of the bookshelves.
D) He was good at assembling bookshelves.
5. A) He doesn't get on with the others. B) He doesn't feel at ease in the firm.
C) He has been taken for a fool. D) He has found a better position.
6. A) They should finish the work as soon as possible.
B) He will continue to work in the garden himself.
C) He is tired of doing gardening on weekends.