



绝杀高考

高考英语阅读理解

主 编 金 利

副主编 刘夏菲 杨云云 崔祥会 高楠楠



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内 容 介 绍

本书在全方位透视阅读理解题型与命题特点的基础上,深度总结了阅读理解的解题思路与技巧,帮助高考考生更好地了解高考知识的能力要求,熟悉题型特点,把握命题趋向,探索命题规律和应试对策,掌握解题的步骤与技巧。本书分高考动态、专项阅读训练、绝杀高考和答案详解。书中精选了历届高考阅读文章,同时也摘选了精美的英语文学阅读篇章。专项阅读训练部分,约为 240 篇文章,并配有答案详解、词组(文章中出现的词组)、长难句(长难句解析)。全书约为 285 篇文章。本书适合高考学生和老师使用。

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◎ 前言

Preface

众所周知,英语是高考三大学科之一,在高考成绩中占有很大的比例。然而,很多同学在学习高中英语时会感觉漫无目标、毫无重点,不知该从何下手!其实,学习英语有诀窍,只要方法对,攻克英语就不是难题。

为了让更多的同学在英语科目上取得好成绩,我们对近五年来的英语高考试题进行了全面统计和细致分析,以《普通高等学校招生全国统一考试大纲》为依据,根据高考试题类型,编写了这套《绝杀高考》系列英语教辅材料,其中包括《高考英语单项选择汇编》《高考英语完形填空》《高考英语阅读理解》等。希望本系列图书能够帮助高中学生尤其是高三学生把握高考考点,掌握解题技巧,锻炼其分析问题、解决问题的能力,全面提升英语能力。

无论从题目数量,还是分值多少来看,阅读理解在英语高考试卷中所占比重最大,是一种综合性语言测试题,考查学生对文章的主旨大意、细节意思、篇章结构等的整体理解以及词汇意义的准确判断。阅读理解要求学生具备良好的阅读技能和理解能力,并能根据上下文语境进行合理的分析,最终选出恰当的答案。

本书科学地分析了近五年各地区的高考英语真题的阅读理解命题,分体裁与话题对学生进行了专项辅导,科学合理地编写了10套完整的阅读理解试题,旨在帮助学生全面备战高考。

为了帮助学生提升英语阅读理解的解题能力,在高考中取得好成绩,我们精心编写了《高考英语阅读理解汇编》,本书具有以下特色。

命题科学,考点突出

依据近五年的高考真题阅读理解的命题特点和趋势,本书精心挑选200篇文章,题型分布科学、命题难易合理、考点突出、话题全面、帮助学生整体把握备考方向、高效备战高考。

选材全面,各个击破

分析了高考英语考试大纲及新课程标准,选材全面涵盖了经济、科技、人文、社会、情感、教育等课程标准所要求高中生掌握的话题,帮助考生从容应对高考阅读理解的挑战。

解析详尽,方法点拨

本书对文章中的考点进行了系统解析,并且归纳、总结了阅读材料中出现的高考必备词组,不但帮助学生理清解题思路,还有助于考生掌握常考考点和单词词义辨析。

希望本书能帮助广大考生系统地掌握语法知识,彻底攻克英语阅读理解,最终在高考中取得好成绩!

编委会

2013年6月

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Chapter 1

高考动态

高考阅读理解命题规律

高考英语试题在阅读理解部分主要考查考生理解文章的主旨要义及细节信息、根据上下文猜测词义、根据文中信息作出推理判断、梳理文章的基本结构以及推测作者的写作意图等方面的能力。根据近几年来高考英语试题阅读理解部分的命题特征,我们从题材、文章写作风格以及设题特点等几方面,为同学们总结了下面三个高考英语阅读理解的命题规律。

1. 从阅读理解材料的题材特征来看,近几年来阅读理解文章的题材呈现出多样化、现代化和生活化三大特征。所选题材涉及日常生活、人物传记、社会变迁与发展、文化演变、历史地理、科技发展等各个方面。文章多改编自原汁原味的英语国家的主流报纸杂志中的文章,题材的选择很好地体现了《高中英语课程标准》所要求的“贴近时代、贴近生活、贴近学生”的原则。

2. 从文章的写作风格来看,高考阅读理解文章不再沿用平铺直叙的写作手法,而是兼有倒叙、插叙等多种写作方法;一词多义、熟词僻义、多种时态的混用、结构复杂的长句、省略句以及插入语等语言现象频频出现。这些语言现象综合地考查了学生的英语语言掌握程度,对考生的语言实际应用能力提出了更高的要求。

3. 从设题特点来看,高考阅读理解的答题选项的设置大多使用原文中的词句的同义转换,对原文内容进行归纳总结或推理判断,考查学生提取文章信息、理解文章大意、推断作者态度、理清文章结构的阅读能力。

高考阅读理解命题趋向

通过对近几年来高考英语阅读理解命题的研究,我们发现高考英语试题阅读理解部分的命题特征主要呈现出以下三大趋势。

1. 事实细节题所占比例较大,推理判断题难度加大,篇章结构题较少。事实细节题考查的是学生准确定位原文信息、提取原文信息的能力,通常学生能够比较容易地在文章中找到与题目相关的信息和细节,难度较小;推理判断题在近几年高考英语中难度较大,一改之前简单的细节转换,成为高考英语阅读理解试题的难点所在;主旨大意题主要考查学生对文章观点、标题、段落大意和主旨大意的概括总结,其中段落大意和文章标题类在近几年高考中考查较多;词义猜测题考查数目较少,难度居中,学生必须结合上下文才能

准确判断出所考词语的意义;由于许多省份的高考英语试题中加入了任务型阅读这一部分,篇章结构题在阅读理解部分基本不考。

2. 对语篇的整体把握能力的检测仍是重点和基本点。高考英语阅读理解重点检测考生对语篇的整体把握能力、根据所提供的语境进行语篇分析的能力以及综合利用有效信息解决实际问题的能力。在近几年的高考中,涉及较低能力要求的事实性和细节性考题的比例虽呈上升趋势,但词义猜测、推理判断和主旨概括等深层次试题仍为高考英语阅读理解的重难点。

3. 文章难度有所降低,但词汇量与篇幅有所增加,从而提高了阅读材料以及命题的信息含量,这也体现了《高中英语课程标准》所倡导的理念。

高考阅读理解的分类和解题技巧

阅读理解的题目类型主要包括事实细节题、主旨大意题、推理判断题及词义猜测题四种。下面,我们会对这四种主要题型逐一进行分析、点拨。

1. 事实细节题

事实细节题是指题干针对原文所提到的某一事物、现象或理论进行发问,通常包括直接事实题及语义转换题。在解答事实细节题时,搜查及定位原文信息的能力非常重要,主要涉及对原文中的具体事实、数据、图表等细节信息的定位。在一篇阅读文章中,大部分篇幅都是由围绕文章主题展开的细节所组成的。解答事实细节题通常采用寻读法,即先读题,然后带着问题快速阅读文章,在原文中找出与问题相关的词句,再对相关部分进行分析对比,最后得出答案。准确理解文章的事实与细节既是做好该类题目的关键,也是做好其他类型题目的基础,因为这是把握文章中心思想的前提。

(1) 排序题

排序题的考查形式是在选项中列出一些具体的事实,要求考生对所列事实进行排序。考生通常需要根据事物发生的先后顺序或语段之间的逻辑关系,找出事物发生、发展及结束的线索。考生可以先找出最早的一个时间和事件,把它作为事件发生的具体点,然后用排除法将范围一一缩小,从而快速选出正确答案。例如:

(2011 山东卷 D 篇) The researchers designed a special cap for the user. This head cover picks up the signals from the scalp (头皮) and sends them to a computer. The computer interprets the signals and commands the motorized wheelchair. The wheelchair also has two cameras that identify objects in its path. They help the computer react to commands from the brain.

73. Which of the following shows the path of the signals described in Paragraph 5?

- A. scalp→computer→cap→wheelchair
- B. computer→cap→scalp→wheelchair
- C. scalp→cap→computer→wheelchair
- D. cap→computer→scalp→wheelchair

【答案】C

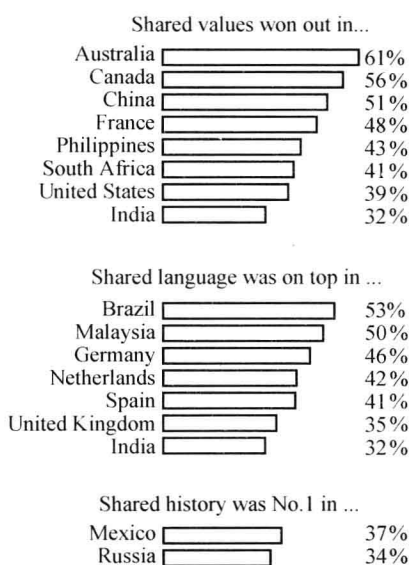
【解析】本题是事实细节题之排序题。根据文章第五段的描述,我们可以根据常识推断出这是电脑控制的轮椅,根据第二句 This head cover picks up the signals from the scalp

(头皮) and sends them to a computer 就可排除 A、B、D 三个选项。这里我们还需要对 head cover 进行同义转换,它所指的就是选项中的 cap。在这里,我们可以先找出一个关键点 head cover,把它作为事件发生的切入点,然后使用排除法缩小信息搜索范围,从而快速准确地得出答案。

(2) 图表题

在有图表的阅读理解试题中,有的图表出现在阅读文章中,有的则出现在选项中,这些图表的出现增加了试题的直观性,同时也暗含着和文章内容相关的信息。在解答此类试题时,一定要把握图表所含的信息,如数据分类与对比,我们可以在图表中查找到正确答案。例如:

(2012 陕西卷 A 篇) What brings a nation together? Of the four choices—shared values, language, history, and religion, it's shared values. In our latest poll (民意调查), seven out of 16 countries chose values as the greatest factor (因素) bringing a nation together, and six preferred language. Both choices scored high in the poll, suggesting that our values and how we express them are closely linked. Still, history was not forgotten in some countries, particularly in Mexico and Russia. Even Canada and the United States chose national histories as the second-most important factor uniting their people. The biggest surprise? Not one country picked religion as its top choice.



<p>Respect your elders</p> <p>In most countries, the oldest generation considered values more important to a nation than did those who are under 45 years old.</p>	<p>Do you speak Canadian?</p> <p>Language scored lower in Canada than in all other countries polled, perhaps because the country speaks two official languages, French and English.</p>	<p>Church and state</p> <p>Most people polled do not connect their religious beliefs to their national pride. Religion ranked last in 13 countries with France scoring it at 1%, the lowest of all.</p>
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47. In which country did language score the lowest in their national pride?

- A. Canada. B. Mexico. C. France. D. America.

【答案】A

【解析】由 Do you speak Canadian? 中的第一句 Language scored lower in Canada than in all other countries polled 可知,加拿大对语言的重视程度得分最低,故选 A。

48. According to the charts, shared values and language were considered equally important in _____.

A. Australia

B. Brazil

C. China

D. India

【答案】D

【解析】由题目可知,答案应该在文中的图表部分,根据图表信息可知 India 对价值取向和语言看得同等重要,故选 D。

(3) 语义转换题

语义转换题要求考生将题目信息与原文相关信息进行语义转换,由于两者表达上存在差异,考生有时需要对原文信息进行加工或整理,方能得出答案。例如:

(2012 天津卷 C 篇) The practice of students endlessly copying letters and sentences from a blackboard is a thing of the past. With the coming of new technologies, like computers and smart phones, writing by hand has become something of nostalgic (怀旧的) skill. However, while today's educators are using more and more technology in their teaching, many believe basic handwriting skills are still necessary for students to be successful—both in school and in life.

46. What makes writing by hand a thing of the past?

A. The absence of blackboard in classroom.

B. The use of new technologies in teaching.

C. The lack of practice in handwriting.

D. The popular use of smart phones.

【答案】B

【解析】根据该段第二句 With the coming of new technologies, like computers and smart phones, writing by hand has become something of nostalgic (怀旧的) skill 可知,随着新技术的发展,手写技能已成为一种过时的事物,故选 B。

2. 主旨大意题

主旨大意题旨在考查考生对文章整体的理解把握能力以及归纳总结能力,要求考生能够把握全文的中心思想,在理解全文的基础上对文章进行高度概括和总结。这类题目常就文章或段落的中心思想或文章标题进行设问。

(1) 标题概括题

标题是文章中心思想最精炼的表达形式。高考英语阅读理解不仅要求考生能够通过已知的信息概括出语篇的中心思想,还要对概括出的中心思想加以提炼,总结出语篇的标题。

标题位于文章之首,以短小精悍、主题鲜明为特点,涵盖性强,要求能覆盖全文内容,其范围要恰当,既不能太大,也不能太小。通常,我们可以通过主题段或主题句来把握文章的主题,或者通过梳理文章结构,把握文章脉络之后,找出能够概括文章大意和主题的信息句,对比所给选项,排除干扰项,确定正确答案。例如:

(2012 全国卷 I A 篇) Honey (蜂蜜) from the African forest is not only a kind of natural

sugar, it is also delicious. Most people, and many animals, like eating it. However, the only way for them to get that honey is to find a wild bees' nest (巢) and take the honey from it. Often, these nests are high up in trees, and it is difficult to find them. In parts of Africa, though, people and animals looking for honey have a strange and unexpected helper—a little bird called a honey guide.

59. What can be the best title for the text?

A. Wild Bees

B. Wax and Honey

C. Beekeeping in Africa

D. Honey-Lover's Helper

【答案】D

【解析】全文都是围绕 Honey-Lover's Helper 展开的,第一段通过介绍引出了 Honey-Lover's Helper 中心词;第二段讲述了 Honey-Lover's Helper 获取蜂蜡的过程;第三段提出了科学家们对 Honey-Lover's Helper 的困惑。故选 D。

(2) 主旨大意题

一篇文章通常是围绕一个中心展开的,作者会从不同的方面以不同的形式来表达文章的中心大意。主旨大意题要求考生在准确理解全文后,归纳全文中心大意,其中也包括总结段落大意。一篇文章的主旨大意一般建立在各个段落的中心基础上,各段落的中心思想归纳起来,便能得出全文的中心思想。例如:

(2012 广东卷 D 篇) Sports account for a growing amount of income made on the sales of commercial time by television companies. Many television companies have used sports to attract viewers from particular sections of the general public, and then they have sold audiences to advertisers.

45. What is the passage mainly about?

A. Television viewers are determined by male viewers.

B. Rich viewers contribute most to television companies.

C. Sports are gaining importance in advertising on television.

D. Commercial advertisers are the major sponsors of sport event.

【答案】C

【解析】本文主要讲述了体育赛事决定电视台的收视率,从而决定了广告的收入,根据该段第一句即可得出答案。

3. 推理判断题

高考英语阅读理解通过推理判断题考查学生应用英语作出逻辑推理的能力,解答推理判断题可以采取根据文中线索找到相关句或联系相关背景和常识作出推理。切忌凭借主观猜测,随意得出答案。对于文章所隐含的信息、作者未言明的观点或含蓄表达的立场或态度所设置的问题,考生往往需要运用比较判断、逻辑推理、综合概括、归纳总结等综合语言能力,才能得出准确答案。

(1) 观点态度题

观点态度题又称为含蓄推断题,主要考查学生对作者的立场、观点和态度的把握,分为主观和客观两种。主观态度一般能从字里行间推断出来,而客观态度往往需要通过事实或文中的信息比较明显地表达出来。该类题目的干扰项通常具有以下特点:或是自己的某种看法或观点,或是社会的普遍倾向,或是与本文无关或与作者相反的观点或看法

等。例如:

(2012 辽宁卷 D 篇) The café now averages 65 to 70 customers (and eight volunteers) a day. And the spirit of generosity behind the project appears to be spreading. In early 2007, one volunteer who had cleared snow for his meals during the long winter said goodbye to the Birkys. “He said he was going to New Orleans to help with the hurricane cleanup,” says Birky.

70. The author's attitude towards running such a café is _____.

- A. unfavorable B. approving C. doubtful D. cautious

【答案】B

【解析】根据该段可知作者认为这个项目是慷慨之举,并且这种精神在传播。因此,作者所持的是赞成态度。

(2) 文章出处题

这类题目要求考生推断文章的来源出处或风格体裁,这要求考生有一定的文体知识,了解诸如演讲、社论、新闻、书评、教科书、传记、文学评论、科技论文、广告、通知、假条、日记等的内容特点和语言风格。例如:

(2012 全国卷 I E 篇) Are you looking for some new and exciting places to take your kids (孩子) to? Try some of these places:

75. Where does this text probably come from?

- A. A science textbook. B. A tourist map.
C. A museum guide. D. A news report.

【答案】C

【解析】根据文章的第一句话 Are you looking for some new and exciting places to take your kids (孩子) to? Try some of these places: 和下面的 4 个博物馆介绍可知,这是一则博物馆广告介绍,由此可推断出文章取材于博物馆导游解说词。故选 C。

4. 词义猜测题

词义猜测题考查考生对文章中出现的单词或短语的理解能力。考生必须通过语法知识确定单词的词性,并且借助单词或短语所在上下文的语境及逻辑关系,猜测出所考单词或短语的准确含义。解答该类题目时,常用的解题依据包括以下几种。

1. 因果关系:文章中经常会出现表示因果或类比关系的关联词,如 because (of), thanks for, owing to, therefore, so, thus 等。根据这些连接词我们可以判断出上下文之间是因果关系,进而推断出生词的含义。

2. 转折关系:当原文中出现 while, but 等表示转折的连接词时,暗示它们连接意思相反或相对的两个部分。通过这样的信号词我们可以根据其中一部分的意思来推断与之相反的另外一个部分的意思。

3. 同义关系:我们通常可以根据 likewise, in other words, that is to say, in the same way 等指示性词语得到作者给出的提示,有时还可以根据生词后表示同义关系或解释的语法标记作出推断,如冒号、破折号和括号。另外,我们还可以根据 such as, like, for example, for instance 后的例子总结出生词的意思。

4. 指代关系:文章中常用 it, one 等指代上文提到的人或物,有时指代比较模糊,这就需要我们仔细分析句子结构,领会语境意义,才能找出所指代的对象。

5. 构词法猜测:有时,我们可以利用构词法的知识来推测词义,尤其是词后缀。

6. 生活经验和常识:有些生词的含义需要我们运用生活中的经验和常识来作出猜测。这种情况下我们要将阅读材料和生活实际进行合理的联系,联想与生词出现语境相关或相似的生活场景,推断生词的意思。

例如:When Frida Kahlo's paintings were on show in London, a poet described her paintings as "a ribbon (丝带) around a bomb". Such comments seem to suggest Kahlo had a big influence on the art world of her time. Sadly, she is actually a much bigger name today than she was during her time.

64. What does the phrase "a much bigger name" in Paragraph 1 most probably mean?

- | | |
|----------------------------|-------------------------------|
| A. A far better artist. | B. A far more gifted artist. |
| C. A much stronger person. | D. A much more famous person. |

【答案】D

【解析】根据上文中的 a big influence on the art world of her time 以及该句中的 Sadly 所暗示的轻微转折,我们能够推断出 a much bigger name 说的是她的影响在她死后比生前更大。故选 D。

Chapter 2

专项阅读训练

专项训练一 记叙文

Passage 1

Blind photography, a striking exhibition of photographs in California, sounds strange. But it develops as a result of the contemporary (当代的) art. The show "Sight Unseen", at the California Museum of Photography until Aug. 29, includes everything: underwater scenes, landscapes, abstracts and everything else you may expect from a "sighted" photographer.

How do the blind present the arts before us? Some depend on assistants to set up and then describe the shots (镜头), and others just point and shoot in the right place. "Just like any good artists," says McCulloh. "They have their unique ways of operating." One participating photographer is Pete Eckert, an artist with multiple degrees in design and sculpture who only turned to photography after losing his vision in the mid-1990s. He opens the shutter (快门) on his camera and then uses flashlights, lights, and candies to paint his scene on film. A former fashion photographer in Chicago, Weston, lost his vision owing to AIDS in 1996 and focuses on.

What do gallery-goers say? "I was very impressed by it. The technique and experience was amazingly different," says John Hesketh, a printmaker in Anaheim. "You never have a sense of feeling sorry for these people because they've worked very hard to prove their value."

But, beyond the praise, the exhibition also makes a great example for disabled people everywhere. That point was explained in early May during a discussion on the TV show. At the end of the talk, one attender expressed his opinion. "This exhibition is extraordinary and revolutionary for many reasons. I think that by being an artist with a disability, you are continuing the work of those people who fought for basic civil rights to gain access and to have a voice. In that way, it's so wonderful that your photographs say it all."

1. From the passage we could learn that some blind people take photos by _____.

- A. explaining the things to their assistants
- B. holding the camera and shooting randomly
- C. opening the shutter with the help of others
- D. using special equipment designed for them

2. From the passage we can infer that blind photographers _____.
 - A. were born blind
 - B. do jobs not related to art
 - C. focus on different subjects
 - D. like photos of destruction
3. What is people's reaction to the blind photography show?
 - A. They admire the blind photographers' hard work.
 - B. They feel terribly sorry for those blind photographers.
 - C. They think some have good techniques while others not.
 - D. They appreciate the real meaning of each photograph.
4. The significance of the exhibition lies in the fact that _____.
 - A. the California Museum of Photography receives praises for holding the show
 - B. the public has an opportunity to know what the blind people are concerned about
 - C. the blind photographers have an excellent place to show their works
 - D. the exhibition can be very inspiring to the blind in the world

Passage 2

Eddie's father had worked at the pier (码头) day after day, breathing seawater. Now, away from that ocean, in the hospital bed, his body began to look like a beached fish. His condition went from fair to stable and from stable to serious. Friends went from saying, "He'll be home in a day" to "He'll be home in a week." Because his father was in hospital, Eddie had to help out at the pier, working evenings after his taxi job.

When Eddie was a teenager, if he ever complained or seemed bored with the pier, his father would shout, "What? This isn't good enough for you?" And later, when he'd suggested Eddie take a job there after high school, Eddie almost laughed, and his father again said, "What? This isn't good enough for you?" And before Eddie went to the war, when he'd talked of marrying Marguerite and becoming an engineer, his father said, "What? This isn't good enough for you?"

And now, regardless of all that, here he was, at the pier, doing his father's job.

Parents rarely let go of their children, so children let go of them. They move on. They move away. It is not until much later, as the heart weakens, that children understand: their stories and all their accomplishments sit on top of the stories of their mothers and fathers, stones and stones, beneath the waters of their lives.

One night, finally, at his mother's urging, Eddie visited the hospital. He entered the room slowly. His father, who for years had refused to speak to Eddie, now lacked the strength to even try.

"Don't sweat it, kid," the other workers told him. "Your old man will pull through. He is the toughest man we've seen."

When the news came that his father had died, Eddie felt the emptiest kind of anger, the kind that circled in its cage.

In the following weeks, Eddie's mother lived in a confused state. She spoke to her husband as if he were still there. She yelled (号叫) at him to turn down the radio. She cooked enough food for two. One night, when Eddie offered to help with the dishes, she said, "Your father will put them away." Eddie put a hand on her shoulder. "Mom," he said, softly, "dad's gone."

"Gone where?"

1. In Paragraph 4, the writer indicates that _____.
 A. children like moving away from their parents
 B. children often feel regretful for they leave their parents
 C. children wouldn't have achieved so much without their parents' support
 D. children can never appreciate how much their parents have devoted to them
2. The underlined sentence probably means "_____."
 A. Don't give up
 B. Don't worry about it
 C. Don't let him down
 D. Don't leave it
3. Which of the following shows the correct order of the story?
 a. Eddie's father died.
 b. Eddie's job is a taxi driver.
 c. Eddie married Marguerite.
 d. Eddie was fed up with his father's job.
 A. b, a, c, d B. d, c, a, b C. b, c, d, a D. d, c, b, a
4. From the last part of the passage, we can learn that _____.
 A. Eddie's mother liked to listen to the radio
 B. Eddie often helped his mother wash the dishes
 C. Eddie and his wife lived in his mother's apartment
 D. Eddie's mother missed her husband so much that she was at a loss

Passage 3

The man traveling in the back of the ambulance which was running at a high speed along the streets of Baltimore that morning in 2008 had no business to be alive. By everything that was reasonable, and there were plenty of such things before, he should have been very dead indeed, But he wasn't. As the people in the hospital pointed out after they had examined him, he was only slightly hurt. Yet he had just fallen 150 feet down a hotel lift shaft (电梯通道)!

Unknown to the man, two things had occurred which were to affect his life that day. On the thirteenth floor of the hotel, somebody had carelessly left the lift gate open. Down in the basement, a pipe had burst and, it had flooded the bottom of the lift shaft to a depth of two feet.

Modern lifts have all sorts of fail-safe system to prevent accidents, but this was ancient equipment unreliable, slow, dangerous, and suitable material to recycle.

The man was very tired that morning. He had overslept. The hotel had forgotten to call him and now he was late for an important business appointment. He dressed quickly, shaved

hurriedly, took hold of his briefcase and hurried off down the hotel corridor.

Good! The lift gate was open. The lift must be there. He need not press the button and wait while the large, clumsy lift made its way upwards. Without looking or thinking, he stepped out into space. The lift cage was, in fact, one floor above him on the fourteenth. The world which he had walked was a narrow space of not very fresh air, ending 150 feet below in two feet of dirty water.

The man fell, making his journey to the ground at a speed he had never dreamed of. Confused patterns, a rush of air, time enough to be afraid, split-second thoughts of death, and then crash!

Perhaps this gave him the record for some sort of high-diving act. No doubt in future he always looked before he jumped. Certainly he learnt that this was no way to save time. The experts said that those two feet of water had saved his life.

1. What do we learn about the man?
 - A. He fell from the 13th floor.
 - B. He was hit by an ambulance.
 - C. He got caught in a serious flood.
 - D. He made a record for high-diving.
2. By "... had no business to be alive", the writer means that the man _____.
 - A. had missed his business appointment
 - B. was alive with excitement
 - C. was alive surprisingly
 - D. didn't do any business
3. What made the man survive the accident?
 - A. The lift was very slow.
 - B. The lift had all sorts of fail-safe system to prevent accidents.
 - C. There was two feet of dirty water below.
 - D. He was young and active.
4. Why did the man fall down a hotel lift shaft?
 - A. He was careless.
 - B. Somebody had carelessly left the lift gate open.
 - C. A pipe had burst and flooded the bottom of the lift shaft to a depth of two feet in the basement.
 - D. All of the above.

Passage 4

Three Central Texas men were honored with the Texas Department of Public Safety's Director's Award in a Tuesday morning ceremony for their heroism in saving the victims of a fiery two-car accident.

The accident occurred on March 25 when a vehicle lost control while traveling on a rain-soaked State Highway 6 near Baylor Camp Road. It ran into an oncoming vehicle, leaving the