

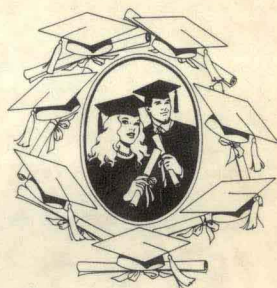


根据教育部最新考试大纲编写

博士系列

CET

大学英语 六级考试



应试教程

(阅读·翻译·简答)

编写 大学英语四六级考试命题研究组
主编 北京大学英语系 李博
总策划 胡东华

科学技术文献出版社

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E-mail:stdph@istic.ac.cn

策 划 编 辑:胡东华

责 任 编 辑:赵 斌

责 任 校 对:赵 斌

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我们的所有努力,都是为了使您增长知识和才干。

前 言

为了迎接 21 世纪的挑战,争取到 2000 年使大学英语教学上一个新台阶,国家教育部高教司于 1999 年推出了新《大学英语教学大纲》,本大纲在继承原大纲优点的基础上,对原大纲作了较多的修改。在新旧大纲交替之际,为了帮助和指导应试者顺利通过大学英语四、六级考试,大学英语四、六级考试命题研究组根据最新《大学英语教学大纲》编写了本系列丛书。

本系列丛书含有全面的英语知识和学习技巧。

本系列丛书包括下列两部分:

1. 大学英语四级考试应试教程(5 个分册)

(1) 听力训练(含 3 盒磁带)

(2) 词汇·语法

(3) 阅读、简答、翻译

(4) 写作与范文

(5) 模拟题库(含 2 盒磁带)

2. 大学英语六级考试应试教程(6 个分册)

(1) 听力训练(含 3 盒磁带)

(2) 词汇、语法

(3) 阅读、简答、翻译

(4) 写作与范文

(5) 语法、改错、综合技巧

(6) 模拟题库(含 2 盒磁带)

本书包括阅读、翻译以及简答三部分,在六级考试中均占有较大分数值。因此,其宗旨是对高分段进行集中地、重点地、专项地训练,复习英语知识,掌握应试技巧,顺利通过六级考试,并取得突破高分的良好效果,同时大幅度提高英语水平。

目 录

UNIT 1	(1)
参考答案与解析	(13)
UNIT 2	(17)
参考答案与解析	(29)
UNIT 3	(32)
参考答案与解析	(45)
UNIT 4	(48)
参考答案与解析	(59)
UNIT 5	(62)
参考答案与解析	(74)
UNIT 6	(77)
参考答案与解析	(89)
UNIT 7	(92)
参考答案与解析	(104)
UNIT 8	(107)
参考答案与解析	(118)
UNIT 9	(121)
参考答案与解析	(132)
UNIT 10	(135)
参考答案与解析	(145)
UNIT 11	(147)
参考答案与解析	(158)
UNIT 12	(160)
参考答案与解析	(171)
UNIT 13	(174)
参考答案与解析	(185)
UNIT 14	(187)
参考答案与解析	(197)
UNIT 15	(199)
参考答案与解析	(209)

UNIT 16	(211)
参考答案与解析	(222)
UNIT 17	(225)
参考答案与解析	(237)
UNIT 18	(241)
参考答案与解析	(252)
UNIT 19	(256)
参考答案与解析	(267)
UNIT 20	(271)
参考答案与解析	(282)

Unit 1

Passage One

Nature doesn't negotiate. This axiom is worth remembering as we enter the second year of the International Decade for Natural Disaster Reduction, declared by the UN. Among the non-negotiable events to be expected during the decade are earthquakes. As an engineer in California observed in the aftermath of the state's 1989 quake: "Earthquakes don't kill people. Buildings do."

Nobody wants to spend extra money preparing for something that may never happen and earthquake engineering has long been neglected. Now that attitude is changing, most obviously on the West Coast, which has more money than other earthquake zones to experiment with new designs and materials. The value of well-built buildings is not lost on Californians. The earthquake of October 17 1989 in San Francisco reached a magnitude of 7.1 on the Richter scale and killed 62 people; the 1988 quake in Armenia, with a magnitude of 6.7, killed about 25,000.

Earthquake engineers may not have needed to be reminded that building design can make all the difference between life and death, but the Californian quake has increased public interest in earthquake-resistant designs. These range from the mundane, such as reinforcing masonry walls with steel beams to strengthen them, to the exotic, such as supporting an entire building on rubber so that the structure "floats" in isolation.

To understand how engineers are preparing for earthquakes, one needs to know a little about how buildings behave when shaken. Place several dishes of jelly on a table and rhythmically shake the edge. The jellies will shake too, but some more than others. Each jelly will sway back and forth in a characteristic time, or period, that depends predominantly on its height and consistency. Those jellies whose natural frequency matches the frequency of the shakes will oscillate with the greatest amplitude—the two frequencies are said to be "in resonance".

1. From the comparison between San Francisco and Armenia, what can you get?
 - A. Nobody wants to spend extra money to prepare for something that may never happen.
 - ~~B.~~ Earthquake engineering has long been neglected.
 - C. West Coast spends more money in experimenting with new designs and materials.
 - ~~D.~~ The value of well-built buildings is not lost on Californians.
2. Why some jellies shake more than others?
 - A. Engineers place several dishes of jelly on a table and rhythmically shake the edge.
 - B. Each jelly will sway back and forth in a characteristic time.
 - C. Each jelly shakes in a style decided predominantly by its height and consistency.
 - D. Those jellies whose natural frequency matches the frequency of the shakes will oscillate with the greatest amplitude.
3. Which of the following statements is the main idea of the passage?
 - A. Building design can make all the difference between life and death, so people should pay more attention to it.
 - B. Nature doesn't negotiate.
 - C. Each jelly will sway back and forth in a characteristic time, or period, that depends predominantly on its height and consistency.
 - D. The 1988 quake in Armenia, with a magnitude of 6.7, killed about 25000.
4. How do buildings behave when quaked?
 - A. Each building will sway back and forth in a characteristic time, or period, and some more than others.
 - B. Each building will shake rhythmically the same with others.
 - C. Each building will break down immediately.
 - D. Buildings will be in resonance with the earthquake.

Attachment: Glossary

negotiate	<i>v.</i>	谈判; 讲条件; 通过谈判达成(或解决)
axiom	<i>n.</i>	公理; 原则; 格言
to neglect	<i>v.</i>	忽略; 疏忽; 不顾
magnitude	<i>n.</i>	大小; 数量; 值; 等级; 震级

2 / 'mæɡnɪtjuːd /

Richter	<i>n.</i>	里氏震级
Armenia		亚美尼亚
earthquake-resistant	<i>a.</i>	抗震的
mundane	<i>a.</i>	世界的;世俗的;平凡的
reinforce	<i>v.</i>	加强;增援;补充,增加数量;修补;加固
masonry	<i>n.</i>	石工(工程),水泥砖石结构
beam	<i>n.</i>	梁;桁条
exotic	<i>a.</i>	外来的;异国情调的
rubber	<i>n.</i>	橡胶;合成橡胶
jelly	<i>n.</i>	果(子)冻;肉冻
rhythmically	<i>ad.</i>	有节奏地;有韵律地
predominantly	<i>ad.</i>	占优势地;主要地,突出地
consistency	<i>n.</i>	粘稠度
frequency	<i>n.</i>	频率
oscillate	<i>v.</i>	摆动;上下波动;振荡;振动
amplitude	<i>n.</i>	幅度;振幅
resonance	<i>n.</i>	共振,谐振;共鸣

Passage Two

One could well imagine a dictionary entry that reads, "Honda, *n.* automobile, cf. affordable, reliable, friendly." Or in the words of the prospective car buyers portrayed in its U. S. television commercials, "I'll take it." Buyers all over the world did, pushing sales of Honda cars and Honda motorcycles into the millions.

Behind those definitions, though, there was a flesh-and-blood Honda, a self-made giant of Japanese industry who hated boardrooms and preferred getting grease on his hands as he tinkered alongside his engineers with the little cars that would zoom across the Pacific and conquer America. When Soichiro Honda, 84, died last week of liver failure, the company he founded in 1948 was ranked fourth in Japan and poised to displace Chrysler as the third largest producer of passenger cars in the U. S.

Honda was fated to build cars. The son of a village black-smith, he was no more than six when, breathless and mesmerized, he ran through the streets of his native town, near Hamamatsu, chasing a Ford Model T. By 18 he had built his

first auto, powered by a discarded American airplane engine. The aftermath of the war provided him with priceless opportunities, especially after U. S. occupation forces purged the upper echelons of Japanese industry and government, opening the doors for outsiders, Honda decided to manufacture affordable motorcycles that would allow the Japanese to move cheaply from farms to cities to buy, sell or work.

Honda refused to obey the Ministry of International Trade and Industry when it ordered him to stick to motorcycles. Japan, it said, did not need more than a few car manufacturers. Honda ignored them. He also helped establish the company policy of setting up factories in the U. S. then Japanese competitors such as Toyota saw no wisdom in building abroad.

5. According to the second paragraph, which one of the following best describes Mr. Honda?

- A. Mr. Honda was an imaginary hero in Japanese Mythology.
- B. Mr. Honda was a diligent person who always seated himself in his office reading a great number of reports.
- C. Mr. Honda was a severe person who always wear clean suit and white gloves.
- D. Mr. Honda loved to fiddle with the little cars in the workshop accompanied by engineers.

6. The company Honda founded was all set to _____.

- A. become the third largest car producer in U.S.
- B. remove Chrysler from its present position
- C. put Chrysler out of business
- D. push sales in the United States

7. Honda was fated to build cars, because _____.

- A. he was the son of a village black-smith
- B. Honda decided to manufacture affordable motorcycles that would allow the Japanese to move cheaply from farms to cities to buy, sell or work
- C. Ministry of International Trade and Industry of Japan said that Japan did not need more than a few car manufacturers
- D. he ran chasing a Ford Model T when he was 6, and by 18 he had built his first auto. By grasping opportunities he began to manufacture motorcycles

8. Which of the following factors contributes to make Honda a giant automaker?

- A. Education, noble origin and inheritance.
 B. Tenacity, determination and timing.
 C. Luck, cunning and cruelty.
 D. Poverty, inferiority and pitiability.

Attachment: Glossary

cf.		【拉】(= confer)参看, 试比较
✓ prospective	a.	预期的; 未来的
portray	v.	描绘, 描写, 描述
motorcycle	n.	摩托车
✓ flesh-and-blood	a.	实际存在的; 现实的
self-made	a.	靠自己奋斗成功的, 白手起家的
boardroom	n.	会议室
grease	n.	油脂; 油腻状物; 润滑油
tinker	v.	做白铁匠; 很不熟练地修补
✓ tinker with		很不熟练地修补; 笨手笨脚地做; 胡乱摆弄
alongside	prep.	在……旁边; 和……在一起
✓ zoom	v.	嗡嗡(或隆隆)地疾行
✓ poise	v.	使平衡; 使做好准备; 使振作
displace	v.	移动……的位置; 取代(某人)的位置; 替代
be poised to		做好准备去……
passenger car		小客车
blacksmith	n.	铁匠
breathless	a.	气喘吁吁的; 呼吸急促的
✓ to mesmerize	v.	迷惑; 迷住
aftermath	n.	后果; 结果; (事件等)结束后的一个时期
priceless	a.	无价的, 无法估价的
✓ purge	v.	使净化; 清洗; 清除
✓ echelon	n.	(军)梯队; 领导系统中的等级, 阶层

Passage Three

The number of women directors appointed to corporate boards in the United

States has increased dramatically, but the ratio of female to male directors remains low. Although pressure to recruit women directors, unlike that to employ women in the general work force, does not derive from legislation, it is nevertheless real.

Although small companies were the first to have women directors, large corporations currently have a higher percentage of women on their boards. When the chairs of these large corporations began recruiting women to serve on boards, they initially sought women who were chief executive officers (CEO's) of large corporations. However, such women CEO's are still rare. In addition, the ideal of six CEO's (female or male) serving on the board of each of the largest corporations is realizable only if every CEO serves on six boards. This raises the specter of director over-commitment and the resultant dilution of contribution. Consequently, the chairs sought women in business who had the equivalent of CEO experience. However, since it is only recently that large numbers of women have begun to rise in management, the chairs began to recruit women of high achievement outside the business world. Many such women are well known for their contributions in government, education, and the nonprofit sector. The fact that the women from these sectors who were appointed were often acquaintances of the boards' chairs seems quite reasonable; chairs have always considered it important for directors to interact comfortably in the boardroom.

Although many successful women from outside the business world are unknown to corporate leaders, these women are particularly qualified to serve on boards because of the changing nature of corporations. Today a company's ability to be responsive to the concerns of the community and the environment can influence that company's growth and survival. Women are uniquely positioned to be responsive to some of these concerns. Although conditions have changed, it should be remembered that most directors of both sexes are over fifty years old. Women of that generation were often encouraged to direct their attention toward efforts to improve the community. This fact is reflected in the career development of most of the outstandingly successful women of the generation now in their fifties, who currently serve on corporate boards: 25 percent are in education and 22 percent are in government, law, and the nonprofit sector.

One organization of women directors is helping business become more responsive to the changing needs of society by raising the level of corporate aware-

ness about social issues, such as problems with the economy, government regulation, the aging population, and the environment. This organization also serves as a resource center of information on accomplished women who are potential candidates for corporate boards.

9. Which one of the following statements is wrong according to the first paragraph?

- A. The number of women directors appointed to corporate boards in the United States has increased.
- B. It is compulsory for companies to recruit women directors in by the law of the United states.
- C. The ratio of female to male directors remains low in the United States.
- D. Companies are under social pressure to recruit women directors.

10. Which of the following is NOT the reason that the chairs began seeking women who had the equivalent of CEO experience?

- A. Large corporations preferred women who were chief executive officers (CEO's) of other large corporations.
- B. Small companies were the first to have women directors.
- C. Women CEO's are still rare.
- D. Recruiting women CEO's raises the specter of director over-commitment and the resultant dilution of contribution.

11. The chairs began to recruit women of high achievement outside the business world because _____.

- A. women are good at dealing with anything unrelated to business
- B. nobody is suitable to the job in business world
- C. it is only recently that large numbers of women have begun to rise in management
- D. many women are well known for their contributions in other fields

12. Why are some successful women particularly qualified to serve on boards?

- A. Because women are uniquely positioned to be responsive to the concerns of the community and the environment.
- B. Because most directors of both sexes are over fifty years old.
- C. Because the recruitment of them raises the ratio of female to male directors.
- D. A company's ability to be responsive to the concerns of the community and

the environment can not influence that company's growth and survival.

Attachment: Glossary

corporate	<i>a.</i>	社团的, 合伙的, 公司的
dramatically	<i>ad.</i>	戏剧地; 引人注目地; 突然地
ratio	<i>n.</i>	比率
recruit	<i>n.</i>	新兵, 新手, 新会员; 补给品
legislation	<i>n.</i>	立法, 法律
nevertheless	<i>a.</i>	然而, 虽然如此
percentage	<i>n.</i>	百分比, 比率; 部分, 可能性
recruit	<i>v.</i>	恢复, 补充; 征募
executive	<i>n.</i>	执行者;
	<i>a.</i>	执行的, 善于执行的
specter	<i>n.</i>	幽灵, 征兆
commitment	<i>n.</i>	委托, 承担义务
dilution	<i>n.</i>	冲淡, 稀释
contribution	<i>n.</i>	捐助, 贡献
consequently	<i>ad.</i>	所以
equivalent	<i>a.</i>	相等的, 相当的, 同意义的
nonprofit	<i>a.</i>	非赢利的, 无利可图的
acquaintance	<i>n.</i>	认识, 相识者
interact	<i>n.</i>	相互影响, 交互作用
responsive	<i>a.</i>	回答的, 应答的, 易感应的
community	<i>n.</i>	社区, 公众, 共同体
environment	<i>n.</i>	环境
survival	<i>n.</i>	生存, 幸存者
accomplished	<i>a.</i>	完成的, 实现的; 有造诣的, 擅社交的
candidate	<i>n.</i>	候选人

Passage Four

If sustainable competitive advantage depends on work - force skills, American firms have a problem. Human - resource management is not traditionally seen as central to the competitive survival of the firm in the United States. Skill acquisition is considered an individual responsibility. Labour is simply another factor of

production to be hired – rented at the lowest possible cost – much as one buys raw materials or equipment.

The lack of importance attached to human – resource management can be seen in the corporate hierarchy. In an American firm the chief financial officer is almost always second in command. The post of head of human – resource management is usually a specialized job, off at the edge of the corporate hierarchy. The executive who holds it is never consulted on major strategic decisions and has no chance to move up to Chief Executive Officer (CEO). By way of contrast, in Japan the head of human – resource management is central – usually the second most important executive, after the CEO, in the firm’s hierarchy.

While American firms often talk about the vast amounts spent on training their work forces, in fact they invest less in the skills of their employees than do either Japanese or German firms. The money they do invest is also more highly concentrated on professional and managerial employees. and the limited investments that are made in training workers are also much more narrowly focused on the specific skills necessary to do the next job rather than on the basic background skills that make it possible to absorb new technologies.

As a result, problems emerge when new breakthrough technologies arrive. If American workers, for example, take much longer to learn how to operate new flexible manufacturing stations than workers in Germany (as they do), the effective cost of those stations is lower in Germany than it is in the United States. More time is required before equipment is up and running at capacity, and the need for extensive retraining generates costs and creates bottlenecks that limit the speed with which new equipment can be employed. The result is a slower pace of technological change. And in the end the skills of the bottom half of the population affect the wages of the top half. If the bottom half can’t effectively staff the processes that have to be operated, the management and professional jobs that go with these processes will disappear.

13. What is the position of the head of human – resource management in an American firm?
- A. He is one of the most important executives in the firm.
 - B. His post is likely to disappear when new technologies are introduced.
 - C. He is directly under the chief financial executive.
 - D. He has no say in making important decisions in the firm.

14. The money most American firms put in training mainly goes to _____.
 A. workers who can operate new equipment
 B. technological and managerial staff
 C. workers who lack basic background skills
 D. top executives
15. According to the passage, the decisive factor in maintaining a firm's competitive advantage is _____.
 A. the introduction of new technologies
 B. the improvement of workers' basic skills
 C. the rational composition of professional and managerial employees
 D. the attachment of importance to the bottom half of the employees
16. What is the main idea of the passage?
 A. American firms are different from Japanese and German firms in human - resource management.
 B. Extensive retraining is indispensable to effective human - resource management.
 C. The head of human - resource management must be in the central position in a firm's hierarchy.
 D. The human - resource management strategies of American firms affect their competitive capacity.

Attachment: Glossary

sustainable	a .	持续的
competitive	a .	竞争性的
firm	n .	公司
human resource		人力资源
acquisition	n .	获得
corporate	a .	公司的
hierarchy	n .	阶层, 等级
strategic	a .	战略性的
CEO	n .	首席执行官
work force		劳动力大军
emerge	n .	出现
bottleneck	n .	瓶颈