

大学英语四、六级 应试技巧

—— 阅读理解与题解

李薇 主编

ENGLISH

机械工业出版社

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——阅读理解与题解

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前 言

《大学英语教学大纲》规定,大学英语教学的主要目的是培养学生具有较强的阅读能力。阅读是获取专业所需要的信息的主要手段。所以,无论是教学,还是测试,一般都把阅读放在第一位。目前,培养阅读技能,增强阅读能力已成为大学英语教学中的首要任务。国内外各类英语测试,特别是我国的大学英语四级考试(CET-4)和大学英语六级考试(CET-6),阅读理解题占试卷总分的40%。

本书立足于四级考试和六级考试的要求,全面地介绍了阅读理解的应试方法和解题对策,以帮助学生提高阅读水平及应试能力。本书的内容,同样符合研究生考试的需要。对参加EPT和TOEFL等考试的读者来说, also 具有很大的参考价值。

全书共分为四章。第一章简单阐述了阅读理解在CET-4和CET-6中的重要地位。第二章详细介绍了阅读理解题中常见的五种题型特征,即主题型、细节型、词语型、转述型和推断型,以及这五种题型的各种解题方法。第三章概括性地介绍了对付阅读理解题的应试技巧和解题步骤。第四章是60篇阅读理解测试短文,并配有对短文中的生词、难词的注释,可供读者全面、准确客观地测试阅读能力。

由于水平有限,书中难免会有错误之处,敬请各位读者批评指正。

编 者

1995.4 郑州

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第一章 阅读理解在 CET-4 和 CET-6 中的意义

《大学英语教学大纲》规定,大学英语教学的目的在于“培养学生具有较强的阅读能力,一定的听的能力,初步的写和说的能力”。《大纲》对于各种语言技能的要求不同,但把阅读能力放在首位。

《大纲》指出:“掌握基本阅读技能,能顺利阅读并正确理解语言难度中等的一般题材文章和科普、科技读物,阅读速度达到每分钟 50 词。阅读难度略低,生词不超过总词数 3% 的材料时,速度达到每分钟 80 词,阅读理解的准确率以 70% 为合格。

CET-4(大学英语 4 级考试)和 CET-6(大学英语 6 级考试)中对阅读理解的测试,一般有 4 篇短文,4 级阅读量为 1000~1200 词,6 级阅读量不超过 1400 词。这些词汇都在《教学大纲》的范围内。如果超出这个范围,无法猜测而又影响理解的重要词,都在阅读短文中用汉语标明词义。阅读短文要求在 35 分钟内完成,其后共设计有 20 道题,每题 2 分,总分 40 分。

《教学大纲》中所提到的“一般题材文章和科普、科技读物”,包括人物传记、社会、文化、日常知识、科普常识等,但所涉及的背景知识应能为考生所理解。具体地说,通常有各国概况、风土人情、天文地理、历史典故、名人轶事、政治风云、妇女运动、交通运输、环境卫生、地球科学、宇宙探索、尖端科学等。从文章体裁上看,CET-4 和 CET-6 的阅读短文多为叙述文,说明文和议论文,这是学生以英语为工具,获得有关专业信息的主要形式。

CET-4 测试中的阅读理解要求考生:1)掌握所读材料的主旨和大意;2)了解说明主旨和大意的事实和细节;3)既理解字面的意义,也能根据所读材料进行一定的判断和推论;4)既理解个别句子的意义,也理解上下文的逻辑关系。

CET-6 测试中的阅读理解要求考生:1)既能理解个别句子的意义,也能理解上下文的逻辑关系;2)既能理解字面的意思,也能理解隐含的意思;3)既能理解事实和细节,也能理解所读材料的主旨和大意;4)能就文章的内容进行判断、推理和信息转换。

CET-4 和 CET-6 测试中的阅读理解是测试考生通过阅读获得信息的能力,既要求准确,也要求一定的速度。阅读理解题是 CET-4 和 CET-6 测试中份量最重的一类试题,占整个测试时间(120 分钟)的 29% 左右;得分占总分的 40%,是各类试题中占比例最多的一类。因此,这一部分成绩的好坏直接影响着考生的总成绩。

第二章 常见的阅读理解试题类型与解题方法

CET-4 和 CET-6 分别对考生在阅读理解部分测试的各种能力做了明确的规定。前面已经提到,这里就不多说了。

阅读理解题的种类很多,常见的有主题型、细节型、词语型、转述型和推断型五种类型。其中前四种为低档次的试题,后一种为较高档次的试题。CET-4 考试中主要考低档次的试题,但也会插入少数较高档次的试题。而 CET-6 考试中较高档次的试题会明显增多。

第一节 主题型试题

主题型试题旨在测试考生掌握所读材料的主旨和大意的能力。具体地说,主要测试考生对整篇文章或其中一段的理解,旨在寻找文章的中心思想和段落大意。有时也可以涉及文章的标题,作者的态度和写作动机等。因此,主题型试题在阅读理解部分中出现率较高。

一、题型特征

在阅读理解题中,第一个设置的选择题往往就是主题型试题。它通常可以有下列几种特征。

1. 测试整篇文章主旨

测试整篇文章的主旨和大意是这类试题最主要的形式。因此,考生必须运用归纳能力,将前后呼应的几个自然段落在内容上加以综合。这类题常见的表现形式为:

- 1) What is the main idea / topic of the passage?
- 2) What does the passage mainly deal with?
- 3) What is the subject of the passage?
- 4) What does the passage talk about?
- 5) The passage is mainly about——.

2. 测试段落大意

为了测试考生对各自然段的掌握,试题设计者可能会提出以下一些问题:

- 1) What is the main idea/topic of the first paragraph?
- 2) What is the subject of the first paragraph?
- 3) What does the second paragraph deal with?
- 4) What is the third paragraph mainly about?

3. 测试归纳、分析和辨别能力

试题设计者为了测试考生的归纳、分析和辨别的能力,可能在最后提这样的问题:

- 1) The purpose of this passage is ____.
- 2) What is the purpose of the author/writer?
- 3) What is the best/most suitable title of the passage?

二、解题方法

解主题型试题的最好方法就是找出每段的主题句。特别是说明文和议论文,主题句就是段落大意。综合几个段的主题句就是全文的中心思想。主题句分为四种情况,即位于段首的主题句;位于段尾的主题句;位于段中的主题句和前后呼应的主题句。除了这四种情况外,还有一种情况,就是确定短文的主题思想。

1. 位于段首的主题句。

为了辨认段落中的主题句以及文章的主题句,我们首先要熟悉主题句通常出现的位置。如果文章是说明性或论证性的,主题句常出现在段首位置。

[例 1]

Our life today depends very much on energy. In towns and in villages, on farms and in factories, machines have made life easier than it used to be. The machines use energy, and energy is needed for heating, lighting, communications, carrying goods — everything. Factories and industrial plants use a great deal of energy to make the things that we use and buy and sell.

What is the main idea of this paragraph?

- A. Factories and farms use a great deal of energy.
- B. Life is much easier than it used to be.
- C. Our life today depends greatly on energy.
- D. Energy is needed for everything.

这段文字所讲的主要是能源问题。第一句就概括性地提出“我们目前的生活很大程度上依赖于能源”。而随后出现的三句都是具体事例,对第一句进行说明和论述。我们可以断定第一句为该段的主题句,将确定的主题句与四个选择项进行对照。显然,选择项 C 与主题句最接近,可以确定 C 为正确答案。

[例 2]

Television is addictive (上瘾的). For example, when a set breaks, most families rush to have it repaired, often renting one if the repair process takes longer than a day or two. When "nothing's on TV," people experience boredom (厌烦, 无趣) with their lives, not knowing what to do with themselves. Perhaps the best example of television addiction was an experiment in Germany, where 184 volunteers were paid to go without television for a year. At first, most volunteers did well, reporting that they were spending more time with their children, reading, and vis-

iting friends. Then, within a month, tension, restlessness, and quarrels increased. Not one volunteer lasted more than five months without a television set. Once the sets were on again, people lost their anxieties and returned to normal.

The main idea of this passage is that ____.

- A. many people have fallen victims to television addiction
- B. most families can not go without a TV set even for a couple of days
- C. with no exciting TV programmes to entertain them with, people will feel bored to death
- D. an experiment in Germany showed none of the 184 volunteers could last more than five months without a TV set

第一句“电视是会让人上瘾的”具有概括性,为主题句。段中的其他各句便服务于主题句所表述的主题,充任电视会让人上瘾的证据。它举了这么几个例子:1)当电视出故障时,很多家庭都会赶忙去修理,若修理需要超出一天或两天,他们常常先租用一台电视来看。2)当电视上没有什么节目时,人们会觉得生活无聊,不知道要干什么。3)在德国做的试验表明,能摆脱电视五个月以上的没有一个人。故此,A项表述的与主题句十分接近,因此是正确答案,其他选项都属细节,是用来支撑主题思想的。

由此看来,段首主题句文章的结构可以这样表示:

事例

主题句(重要) ← 事例(次要)

事例

2. 位于段尾的主题句

当文章是归纳性或推理性时,主题句一般出现在段尾。位于段尾的主题句也叫结尾句。这类段落的写作程序是:表述细节的句子在前,概述性的句子在后。通常用归纳法撰写的段落大多如此。

[例3]

Albert Einstein, one of the world's geniuses, failed his university entrance examinations on his first attempt. William Faulkner, one of America's noted writers, never finished college because he could not pass his English courses. Sir Winston Churchill, who is considered one of the masters of the English language, had to have special tutoring in English during elementary school. These few examples show that failure in school does not always predict failure in life.

The main idea of this passage is that ____.

- A. those who failed in school will be a genius
- B. those who failed in school will be a great man
- C. those who failed in school will be failures in life

D. those who failed in school will not necessarily be failures in life

本段只有四句话,前三句话举了三个例子,显然都不是主题句。该段讲了三个伟人,即爱因斯坦、福克纳和邱吉尔,他们在上学期间学习都不过关,后来却成了奇才、伟人。最后一句以“这几个例子表明在学校不行并不意味着一生都不行”作了概括总结。由此得知,D项为正确答案。

[例 4]

In 1950, Brazil lost the World Cup (世界杯) in soccer to Uruguay (乌拉圭) in Rio de Janeiro. The entire country was overcome by sadness; some people even died from it. Brazilians react very strongly to potential defeat in championship soccer games. Some people have heart attacks, and others beat their heads against cement posts. Brazilians are very emotional about soccer.

What's the main idea of this passage?

- A. Brazilians are quite emotional about soccer competitions.
- B. Brazilians are always drunk with the championship soccer games.
- C. Brazilians are sad with their defeats.
- D. None of the above.

本段很短,描述了巴西人对足球比赛失利的反应,如整个国家沮丧,有些人甚至因球赛失利而死,有的患了心脏病,有的人以头撞击水泥柱等。最后的概括是“巴西人对足球的感情很脆弱”。很显然,选项 A 为正确选择。

[例 5]

English is spoken by pilots and airport control operators on all the airways of the world. Over 70 percent of the world's mail is written in English. More than 60 percent of the world's radio programs are in English. Clearly English is an international language.

Which sentence best expresses the main idea?

- A. English is used almost everywhere.
- B. English is the only language spoken in the world.
- C. If you want to travel by air, you have to know English.
- D. Over 70 percent of mailmen can write in English.

这段文章主要谈英语在机场、邮电、广播等方面的广泛使用。前三句为具体事例,而最后一句为结论性主题句,即“显然,英语是一种国际性语言”。一旦找到主题句,我们就可以看出 B,C,D 三项虽与原文内容有关,但都过于具体和片面。只有选择项 A 具有概括性, everywhere 与主题句中的 international 相符。因此,可以确定 A 为正确答案。我们应注意到该主题句是以 clearly 一词开始的。一般说,结论性主题句往往都有此类引导词或引导性词语。例如: For this reason...; Accordingly...; As a result...; In short...; What we know from...; Therefore...; In conclusion...

The conclusion we can draw...

段尾主题句通常是作者对前面所提及的内容的归纳和总结,也可能是因果关系。所以,此类主题句往往很肯定、坚决、不容置疑。其目的在于使作者的观点更有说服力。段尾主题句文章的结构可表示为:

事例

(次要)事例→主题句(重要)

事例

3. 位于段中的主题句

出现于段中的主题句有两种情况,或先提出问题,然后给予回答(主题句),再给予解释;或先引介主题,然后点出主题思想(主题句),最后给予解释。

[例 6]

Californians and New Englanders are both Americans. They speak the same language and abide by (遵守) the same federal laws. But they are very different in their ways of life. Mobility — both physical and psychological — has made a great impression on the culture of Californians; lack of mobility is the mark of the customs and morality of New Englanders.

The main idea of this passage is that ____.

- A. Californians and New Englanders are very different in their ways of life
- B. Californians and New Englanders are both Americans
- C. Mobility has made a great impression on the culture of Californians
- D. New Englanders lack mobility

本段也只有四句话,前两句是“加利福尼亚人和新英格兰人都是美国人,他们讲同样的语言,遵守同样的联邦法律。”讲的是加州人和新英格兰人的共同之处,而第三句却点出了其不同之处。紧接着文章就其不同之处从 mobility(易动性)方面作了比较。显然,第三句属主题句。因此,A 应为正确选项。

[例 7]

One of the most popular fields of study for college students these days is leisure study. The names of the courses, “Introduction to Sport” or “The Philosophy of Sport” conjure up (凭幻想作出) scenes of college students idly (空闲) talking of Frisbees (飞碟) and sleeping on the grass. But leisure study is a deadly serious field; students learn how to run the sports programs of big city park departments, how to manage a ski resort or a vacation hotel. The students learn how to organize a teenage soccer league where little or no interest exists in the sport, how

to teach and keep beginners interested, and how to keep track of admission money. To do all these things, they must take courses in psychology and business management along with those in leisure. As people grow more involved in sports activities, in vacations, and in trips, the job outlook for leisure majors is quite good, but can you imagine trying to explain to your parents that you're spending their tuition (学费) money studying leisure?

The main idea of this passage is that ____.

- A. college is becoming too easy
- B. academic classes are incorporated into the leisure study program
- C. leisure study students learn to run city park departments
- D. leisure study is actually a serious field of study

通读上文可以发现,本段的主题句既不在段首,也不在段尾。文章开段第一句概括地谈到“娱乐课程是目前大学里最为时兴的学科之一”,并在第二句中举例加以说明。初看起来,第一句似乎是主题句。但第三句开头处作者用了一个转折词 but,一反前面的观点,指出娱乐课程本身却是一个很正统的学科,并不是纯娱乐性的,它同样要求学生努力学习。由此可以断定第三句才是主题句,这是一种反命题的写作方法,其目的在于提醒人们注意,不要忽略问题的实质。抓住这一中心思想,就可确定选择项 D 为正确答案。

与前两类相比,段中出现主题句的可能性最小,也最难辨认。这一类段落初看杂乱无章,难以抓住中心,但仍有规律可循。段中主题句的文章一般都有一句或几句引导性词语,大致有这样几种形式:1)以提问形式出现,主题句起回答问题的作用,紧接着是几句解释;2)先有一系列事例,主题句紧随其后得出结论,然后再进一步阐述;3)开段提出一命题,之后再提一个反命题,最后加以阐述和论证。这里反命题为主题句。段中主题句文章的结构可这样表示:

解释
引导性句子(次要)——主题句(重要)←—事例(次要)
论证

4. 前呼后应的主题句

有的段落有前后两个主题句。两个主题句述说的是同一个内容,但用词不尽一致,这样不但强调了主题思想,而且显得更灵活多变。这两个句子并非简单的重复,后一个主题句或者对该主题作最后的评述,或把主要要点做一概括,或使之引伸留给读者去思考。

[例 8]

Synonyms, words that have the same basic meaning, do not always have the same emotional meaning. For example, the words “stingy” (吝啬的,小气的) and “frugal” (节约的,俭朴的) both mean “careful with

money". However, to call a person stingy is an insult, while the word frugal has a much more positive connotation (含蓄, 涵义). Similarly, a person wants to be slender but not skinny, and aggressive, but not pushy (有进取心的; 有冲劲的). Therefore, you should be careful in choosing words because many so-called synonyms are not really synonymous at all.

What's the main idea of this passage?

- A. Synonyms are not always synonymous.
- B. Synonyms do have the same basic meaning.
- C. Synonyms sometimes have the same emotional meaning.
- D. None of the above.

段首的主题句是“同义词,即基本意义相同的词,并不总具有相同的情感意义”。段中举了同义词 stingy 和 frugal, slender 和 skinny, aggressive 和 pushy 的差异。段尾的主题句再次点题,提醒人们在使用同义词时要特别留心。它的意思是“因此,在挑选词汇时要谨慎,因许多所谓的同义词并不真的同义”。故选择项 A 正确。

一些过渡性、描写性的段落,往往没有主题句,这时可以对 who, what, where, when, why, how 等几个方面进行提问,也不难找出试题的答案。

5. 确定短文的中心思想

前面已经提到,主题句就是段落大意。综合几个段的主题句就是全文的中心思想。确定文章的中心思想,首先要找出文章与段落主题句的对应部分,即引言段。引言段多位于文章的开头部分。引言段中有一个表现主题且具概括性的句子,即破题句。破题句多为引言段的最后一句话,找到它,文章的主旨便一目了然了。

[例 9]

The earthworm is a useful animal. Out of the ground, it is food for other animals. In the ground, it makes rich soil for fields and gardens.

Earthworm dig tunnels that loosen the soil and make it easy for air and water to reach the roots of plants. These tunnels help keep the soil well drained.

Earthworms drag dead leaves, grass, and flowers into their burrows (地洞; 穴). When this plant material decays, it makes the soil more fertile.

No other animal is so useful in building up good topsoil. It is estimated that in one year fifty thousand earthworms carry about eighteen tons of fine soil to the surface of an acre of land. One worm may add three quarters of pound of earth to the topsoil.

The best title for this passage is ____.

- A. Fertilizing the Soil.
- B. How Earthworms Improve the Soil.
- C. Working Underground.
- D. How Earthworms Carry Topsoil.

这篇文章由四个段落组成,考生首先要概括出全文中心。通读全文后可以看出后三段分别叙述了蚯蚓通过什么方法增加土壤肥力。而这实际就是对第一段最后一句“蚯蚓能使农田和园子的土壤更加肥沃”的进一步解释。不难确定这就是全文的主题。根据前面提到的选择文章标题的标准,这篇文章的标题自然应包括蚯蚓及土壤以及两者间的关系。选择项 B 更符合要求,应为正确答案。

[例 16]

The old idea that talented children “burn themselves out” in the early years, and therefore, are subjected to failure and at worst, mental illness, is unfounded. As a matter of fact, the outstanding thing that happens to bright kids is that they are very likely to grow into bright adults.

To find this out, 1,500 gifted persons were followed up to their thirty-fifth year with these results:

On adult intelligence tests, they scored as high as they had as children. They were, as a group, in good health, physically and mentally. 84 per cent of their group were married and seemed content with their lives.

About 70 per cent had graduated from college, though only 30 per cent had graduated with honors. A few had even dropped out, but nearly half of these had returned to graduate.

Of the men, 80 per cent were in one of the professions or in business management or semiprofessional jobs. The women who had remained single had office, business, or professional occupations.

The group had published 90 books and 1,500 articles in scientific, scholarly, and literary magazines and had collected more than 100 patents(专利).

In a material way they did not do badly either. Average income was considerably higher among the gifted people, especially the men, than for the country as a whole, despite their comparative youth.

In fact, far from being strange, most of the gifted were turning their early promise into practical reality.

Which of the following sentences expresses the main idea?

- A. Bright children were unlikely to be mentally healthy.
- B. Between childhood and adulthood there was a considerable loss of intelligence.

C. Talented children were most likely to become gifted adults.

D. Among the 1,500 gifted persons followed up, men were more likely to have professional occupations.

本文首段为引言段,其中破题句概括了全文的中心思想,即“...the outstanding thing that happens to bright kids is that they are very likely to grow into bright adults”. 接下来各发展段为说明这一中心思想罗列了对1,500名神童跟踪至35岁的调查结果。最后一段对此进行总结。由于C与破题句的意思最为接近,故应选其为正确答案。A,B,D与题目要求相差甚远,故予排除。

第二节 细节型试题

细节型试题目的在于测试考生快速阅读时掌握文章细节的能力。当然,快速阅读的主要目的是获取整体信息,但某些细节往往会影响读者对全文的理解,所以不能忽视。一个重要的细节往往是对文章主旨或主题的补充说明,起着加强和烘托文章主题的作用。细节型试题是阅读理解题中出现最多的一类试题。它根据短文提供的信息和事实进行提问,通常涉及到故事或事件发生的时间、地点、人物、原因、经过、结果等方面,即涉及到短文的信息、事实、细节的一切有关的试题,这类题属于客观题目。与主观题相比,客观题目的信息不像主观题目那样隐秘,所以,客观题目要容易做些。因此,这类试题也称为“直接解答性问题”,即读者通读全文或某一有关细节部分就可获取信息,直接选择正确答案。

一、题型特征

1. 提问式

客观题目的一种常用形式是用 what, who, when, where, why, which 和 how 引导的问题进行提问,问题主要涉及时间、人物、地点、原因、定义、数字等方面。常见形式为:

1). According to the passage, who/what/where/why...?

2). In the passage, how many/how much/how long...?

由于阅读理解文章的内容多种多样,问题发问的内容并非一般公式所能概括。

2. 不完全式

这类题目包括题干及所附的几项选择项目。题干为不完全句形式,而选择项目为完形部分。选择的项目主要涉及人物、事件、时间、地点、事物、数字、目的、原因等,而且答案在原文中都比较容易找到。常见的形式有:

1) The reason why sb. did sth. was _____.

2) The reason why sth. happened was _____.

3) Sth. is/was done because _____.

4) Sb. is/was because _____.

5) According to the author, sth. is/was caused by _____.

- 6) Sb. does/did sth. in order to _____.
- 7) According to the passage sth. happened in _____.
- 8) The purpose of sth. is _____.
- 9) The result of sth. is _____.
- 10) The price for..... is/was _____.

.....

这类试题的形式也是多种多样, 举不胜举。这类题需要从已知信息中综合答题。

二、解题方法

一般在快速阅读时, 考生往往由于时间紧迫而忽略某些具体细节。这时, 只凭记忆和粗浅的印象解题是不可靠的。试题设计者的真正意图是要求考生运用查读和推导等方法解题。

1. 查读法

先看文章后面的问题, 凭已知信息和线索再返回原文进一步查找所需信息, 如人物、时间、地点、原因、事件等, 确定每个问题的发问中心, 也就是说, 某个问题针对什么提问的。这样, 带着问题去阅读文章, 做到有的放矢。由于问题内容基本与文章的某一部分内容相符, 考生如找到问题中的关键词, 再以此为线索返回原文, 必能找到问题的答案。答案往往可直接从短文中获得, 正确的答案与原文含有关信息的句子用词几乎相似, 我们把这一类试题也叫做直接细节型试题。

[例 1]

Two days later, having pulled down the barn, Mr. Fox was digging over the ground in preparation for the installation of a green house, when he discovered the two missing pieces. When he had stuck them in position, the bowl looked so fine that Amelia agreed to its being placed on a table in the living room, in front of the window.

The missing pieces happened to be found in _____.

A. the kitchen B. a green house C. the old barn D. the ground

很明显, 试题的目的是测试考生是否注意到地点这一细节。要回答这个问题, 应先确定问题的关键词语: the two missing pieces 和 to be found。这两个词语都出现在原文第一句的时间状语从句中, 那么可以肯定答案就在这个句子的主句中。果然, 主句提到 digging over the ground。由此可以断定选择项 D 为正确答案。

[例 2]

Few animals other than monkeys have handlike paws. The monkey, like man, has an opposable (可相对的) thumb—that is, it can place its thumb opposite its other fingers. By pressing its first finger against its thumb a monkey can pick up things as tiny as a flea. Because other animals lack this thumb, it is difficult for them to pick small things and car-

ry them.

Not many animals have _____.

- A. fingers B. paws C. hands D. handlike paws

这个题句与前一个例子稍有不同,因为在这个题句中并没有非常明显的关键词,只有一个短语 not many animals. 然而原文第一句中的 few animals, 在意义上与之相近。从全句“除了猴子外,很少有几种动物长有像手一样的爪子”看,可以肯定选择项 D 为正确答案。

2. 简易推导法

除了上面提到的直接细节型试题外,还有间接性细节型试题。这一类题有时在原文中找不到同正确的选择项相似的词,正确的答案可能是短文中某一事实或情节的原因,结果或前提等。这就需要把分散在文章各处的信息加以综合,才能得出答案。试题设计者出此类题的方法可能有三种:1)文章中提到某类事物,而题目的正确答案则是此类事物中某个更具体的事物。这涉及到上下文关系和概念的内涵与外延。2)题目的正确答案在不改变原文细节原意的前提下改用新的词语,也就是对原文中的词语进行“解释”。3)有关某人或某物的细节牵涉到几个句子,在答题时要用简易推导法。

[例 3]

Unexpectedly, Tom was extremely interested in the bowl and sent an expert to inspect it. It turned out that it was a Chinese Ming fish bowl, dating back to around 1590, and might be expected to get a five-figure sum at an auction (拍卖).

According to the expert, the bowl could be sold at the price of _____.

- A. five thousand pounds
B. less than ten thousand pounds
C. one thousand, five hundred and ninety pounds
D. at least ten thousand pounds

此题的关键词应为 be sold 和 price. 文中最后一句里的 at an auction 相当于问题中的 be sold; five-figure sum 相当于 price. 可见它们既是上下文关系又是释义关系。最后推导一下“five-figure sum”自然是“at least ten thousand”。应选 D 作正确答案。

[例 4]

The part of the film that records the images is the emulsion (感光乳剂). It is a silver compound containing thousands of grains of silver. Light rays hitting the grains disturb them, so that when the film is developed in chemicals, the disturbed grains turn black and remain on the film. Another chemical process washed away the grains not touched by light, and at the same time fixes the disturbed, or exposed, grains.