

大学英语6级

阅读训练



中国致公出版社

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归 樱 贾 云 编
茹 奇 俐
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DW31/06

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中国致公出版社出版发行

北京市西城区太平桥大街 4 号 (邮编:100034)

北京燕山印刷厂印刷 新华书店经销

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开本:787×1092 1/32 印张:10.125 字数:230 千字

1998 年 3 月第 1 版 1998 年 3 月第 1 次印刷

印数:1—5 000 册

ISBN 7-80096-237-7/G · 153

定价:11.00 元

前 言

在大学英语六级全国统考中,阅读是占分最多的一个部分,共 20 题 40 分,时间为 35 分钟。六级的阅读主要测试考生的下述能力:

- 一、既能理解个别句子的意义,也能理解上下文的逻辑关系。
- 二、既能理解字面的意思,也能理解隐含的意思。
- 三、既能理解事实和细节,也能理解阅读材料的主旨和大意。
- 四、能就文章的内容进行判断、推理和信息转换。

本书的目的就是要让广大考生掌握一定的技巧,并有针对性地提供一些练习,使大家通过练习达到事半功倍的效果。

首先,我们要对目前的六级考试阅读部分所选的题材有所了解,大学英语六级考试的大纲规定,阅读部分选材的原则是“题材广泛”(包括科技、社会、文化等方面,但所涉及的背景知识应能为学生所理解)、“体裁多样”(包括叙述文、说明文、议论文等)。

我们还必须对文章的结构有所了解。六级考试中每一篇文章都是不同的,但每一篇文章都有其内在逻辑性。我们读过的文章就其结构来说,最常见的可分为两大类:一类是归纳性的(Inductive),另一类是演绎性的(Deductive)。归纳性的文章是由一个个的具体事实来导出的一个结论,从个别到一般;演绎性的文章结构是先得出一个结论或规律,然后再用一个一个的具体事实来说明这一结论或规律,即从一般到个别,如下图所示:

| | |
|---------|-----|
| 具体事实 | I |
| 具体事实 | II |
| 具体事实 | III |
| 结论或一般法则 | |

| | |
|---------|-----|
| 结论或一般法则 | |
| 具体事实 | I |
| 具体事实 | II |
| 具体事实 | III |

上述是两类最常见的文章结构,掌握好将有助于我们对于文章的理解。

谈了文章的题材、结构,下面我们应该来看看文章后面提的都有些什么问题,而我们又应当如何对待这些问题。

回顾历年的试卷,各种各样的题目数不胜数,但是我们再仔细研究这些题目的特点后,便可将所有题目分为两大类。

第一类:客观题。即针对文章提出的一些具体的问题,可以径直在文章中找到答案。

一、以 5W 开头的问题。这类问题常常是以 when, who, where, why, what 开头的。我建议大家使用查读(Scanning)的方法。所谓的查读就是在最短的时间找到答案有可能出现的地方,再仔细阅读,找到所需的信息,而不需为旁边无关的信息或材料所分神。整个的查读过程是具体的,聚焦的。操作起来要注意以下几点:(一)首先要明确你要找什么;(二)事先确定所需资料可能出现的形式。如找人名就要寻找大写字母开头的词,如找书名,就得寻找斜体字,如找日期,就得找数字,等等;(三)迅速跳过凡与所寻找的资料无直接关系的所有材料,注意力不能偏离具体目标,否则就会降低速度,甚至还会忘记本来目的。

另外,尽管这类问题的答案大都可以直接在文中找到,但有时主考者在出题时故意绕个弯子,让考生非得动一番脑筋之后才能找到答案。例如:当问及时间、距离以及其它用数字表示的细节时,问题并不是简单地问文章中出现的数据,而是要用文章中的数据进行一番计算后方能得出答案。此时一定要认真对待,切不可想当然地随便算一下即确定答案,否则一定会失分。再者,在文章中,为了避免重复提及某一词或短语,作者常使用(reference words)来代替。在寻找答案时,考生必须准确理解被指代的对象。通常可以根据上下文的句子的结构,主谓一致的关系,以及语义关系来确定指代的内容。

二、客观题中的另一类题目就是要求考生解释文章的某一单词、短语或句子。例如:

The word "hassles" in the passage probably means _____.

- (A) agreements (C) worries
(B) disadvantages (D) quarrels

hassel 这个词是一个不太常见的词,即使考生了解其意义,仍需要费一番思考才能确定答案。因为 hassel 可以理解为烦恼,也可以理解为争吵。那么答案究竟是(C)还是(D)呢?只需要看一下上下文:

Living at home, says Knighton, a school teacher, continues to give her security and moral support. Her mother agreed, "It's ridiculous for the kids to pay all that money for rent. It makes sense for the kids to stay

at home. "But sharing the family home requires adjustments for all. There are the hassles over bathrooms, telephones and privacy. Some families, however, are able to manage the delicate balancing act.

读了上下文之后,我们便可以确定答案是(D)。

为了能正确回答这一类型的问题,每位考生在平时的学习中要注意积累、扩大自己的词汇量。如果这个词实在从未见过。首先,可以利用该生词的上下文所提供的信息,联系整个段落的主题,进行猜测。再者,利用文中的举例进行猜测。或者,利用文中说明词义的同位语,或定语进行猜测。最后还可以利用构词法来进行猜测,即通过辨认单词的前缀,后缀,词根来猜出这一单词的意义。

第二大类:主观题。即所提的问题的答案无法直接在文章中找到,必须经过考生自己的思考、推理方能得到。主观题大致有以下几种形式:

一、关于文章主题(main idea 或 subject matter)的提问。

What is the main idea expressed in this passage?

What is the main topic of this passage?

What is the point that the author of this passage is trying to make?

The main theme of this passage is _____.

The author's main purpose is _____.

有时这类问题还会变换一下形式,例如:对文章的题目提问。这同样也是要读者对于整篇文章的内容进行一番概括和总结,然后找出符合这段文章的题目。这类问题常见的提问方式有:

What should be the best title for this passage?

A good title for the passage would be _____.

不论问题的形式如何,其目的都是要找到文章的中心思想。最简单、最常见的方法就是寻找主题句(Topic sentence)。主题句是文章的主旨,灵魂之所在。在归纳性的文章中,主题句在段末;在演绎性的文章中,主题句在段首。当然并不排除主题句出现在段落的中间,有时甚至隐含在段落中。

Green space facilities are contributing to an important extent to the quality of the urban environment. Fortunately it is no longer necessary that every lecture or every book about this subject has to start with the proof of this idea. At present it is generally accepted, although more as a

self-evident statement than on the base of a closely-reasoned scientific proof. The recognition of the importance of greenspaces in the urban environment is a first step on the right way, this does not mean, however, that sufficient details are known about the functions of greenspace in towns and about the way in which the inhabitants are using these spaces. As to this rather complex subject I shall, within the scope of this lecture, enter into one aspect only, namely the recreative function of greenspace facilities.

The theoretical separation of living, working, traffic and recreation which for many years has been used in town-and-country planning, has in my opinion resulted in disproportionate attention for forms of recreation far from home, whereas there was relatively little attention for improvement of recreative possibilities in the direct neighbourhood of the home. We have come to the conclusion that this is not right, because an important part of the time which we do not pass in sleeping or working, is used for activities at and around home. So it is obvious that recreation in the open air has to begin at the street-door of the house. The urban environment has to offer as many recreation activities as possible, and the design of these has to be such that more obligatory activities can also have a recreative aspect.

如果仔细阅读一下上面一段文字,就会发现这段的主题句就在句首。这个主题句 Greenspace facilities are contributing to an important extent to the quality of the urban environment. 就是该段的中心思想。

在寻找中心思想时,阅读方法也应作相应的调整,用快读(skimming)而非查读(scanning)。快读的目的是浏览全文,了解其大意,而不拘泥于细节,如具体日期,姓名等。只要抓住主题句,把握住作者的中心思想即可。

二、关于文章中隐含意义(Implied Meaning)的提问。

这类题目要求指出文章中沒有直接说明的事情,其答案无法在文章中明确查到。这就要求读者能够从字里行间读出文章隐含的意思,然后经过自己的判断、推理、分析得出自己的结论。

这类题目常以以下几种形式出现:

It can be inferred from this passage that _____.

It can be concluded from this passage that _____.

The writer (author, passage) implies (suggests) that _____.

An inference which may be made from this passage is _____.

In this passage the author agrees that _____.

The author thinks (suggests) that _____.

对于这类在文章中没有现成答案的题目,我们必须通过自己的思考来进行判断和推理。所谓判断,就是对文章中阐述的事实或细节,按照逻辑发展的规律,进行分析、概括并以此为依据得出相应的结论;所谓推理就是要在已知的事实基础上,来分析、推测作者隐含的意思,从而获得未知的信息。例如:

The word "conservation" has a thrifty (节俭) meaning. To conserve is to save and protect, to leave what we ourselves enjoy in such good condition that others may also share the enjoyment. Our forefathers had no idea that human population would increase faster than the supplies of raw materials; most of them, even until very recently, had this foolish idea that the treasures were "limitless" and "inexhaustible". Most of the citizens of earlier generations knew little or nothing about the complicated and delicate system that runs all through nature, and which means that, as in a living body, an unhealthy condition of one part will sooner or later be harmful to all the others.

Fifty years ago nature study was not part of the school work; scientific forestry was a new idea; timber was still cheap because it could be brought in any quantity from distant woodlands; soil destruction and river floods were not national problems; nobody had yet studied long-term climatic cycles in relation to proper land use; even the word "conservation" had nothing of the meaning that it has for us today.

For the sake of ourselves and those who will come after us, we must now set about repairing the mistakes of our forefathers. Conservation should, therefore, be made a part of everyone's daily life. To know about the water table (地下水位) in the ground is just as important to us as a

knowledge of the basic arithmetic formulas. We need to know why all watersheds (水滨) need the protection of plant life and why the running current of streams and river must be made to yield their full benefit to the soil before they finally escape to the sea. We need to be taught the duty of planting trees as well as of cutting them. We need to know the importance of big, mature trees, because living space for most of man's fellow creatures on this planet is figured not only in square measure of surface but also in cubic volume above the earth. In brief, it should be our goal to restore as much of the original beauty of nature as we can.

Question: It can be inferred from the third paragraph that earlier generations didn't realize _____.

- (A) the interdependence of water, soil and living things
- (B) the importance of the proper use of land.
- (C) the harmfulness of soil destruction and river floods.
- (D) the value of the beauty of nature

这个问题的答案是(A)。在文章中并不能找到 the interdependence of water, soil and living things. 我们在第一段可以找到这样一个句子:

Most of the citizen of earlier generations knew little or nothing about the complicated and delicate system that runs all through nature, and which means that, as a living body, an unhealthy condition of one part will sooner or later be harmful to all the others.

由此句我们可得出答案是(A)。

以上,我们对六级考试中阅读部分的选题、文章结构、题目题型、答题方法,做了一番初步的分析和介绍。考场上风云变幻,我们所作的分析不可能面面俱到。但是我们认为,上面所谈的乃是一些带普遍性的问题,相信对于广大考生准备六级考试有所帮助。“冰冻三尺,非一日之寒”,光有技巧是不够的,还要靠每位考生自己的长期积累。希望每一位渴望通过六级考试的同学,进行广泛的阅读,多看英文报刊杂志、书籍,扩大词汇量,拓宽知识面。

本书中搜集的英文阅读材料题材广泛,体裁多样,模拟六级考试编排,每个单元(Unit)相当于一套试卷上的阅读测试内容。相信它对提高读者的阅读能力将有较大的帮助。

目 录

| | |
|-------------------------|-----|
| 前言 | 1 |
| Unit One | 1 |
| Unit Two | 11 |
| Unit Three | 20 |
| Unit Four | 30 |
| Unit Five | 38 |
| Unit Six | 47 |
| Unit Seven | 56 |
| Unit Eight | 65 |
| Unit Nine | 75 |
| Unit Ten | 84 |
| Unit Eleven | 93 |
| Unit Twelve | 103 |
| Unit Thirteen | 112 |
| Unit Fourteen | 123 |
| Unit Fifteen | 134 |
| Unit Sixteen | 144 |
| Unit Seventeen | 157 |
| Unit Eighteen | 168 |
| Unit Nineteen | 177 |
| Unit Twenty | 188 |
| Unit Twenty-one | 199 |
| Unit Twenty-two | 209 |
| Unit Twenty-three | 219 |

| | |
|-------------------------|-----|
| Unit Twenty-four | 228 |
| Unit Twenty-five | 241 |
| Unit Twenty-six | 253 |
| Unit Twenty-seven | 266 |
| Unit Twenty-eight | 277 |
| Unit Twenty-nine | 289 |
| Unit Thirty | 299 |
| 附录 练习答案 | 310 |
| 后记 | 314 |

UNIT ONE

Passage I

Can one really describe a person's characteristics according to a Sun sign, that particular zone of the zodiac in which the sun was located at the moment of one's birth? Experts state that the personality characteristics influenced by one's Sun sign will be approximately eighty percent accurate when one describes that individual. Let us consider two signs, Leo (the lion) and Cancer (the crab) to see what characteristics are typical of persons born under those Sun signs.

The Leo personality is characterized by a desire to rule those around him and by his energetic and sociable nature. The Cancer personality is characterized by the display of a variety of passing moods. The Cancerian enjoys laughter and is often the funniest in a room; he secretly loves attention. While he doesn't actively pursue fame, he also does not shrink from it. Similarly, the Leo enjoys being in the spotlight, and, unlike the Cancerian, actively achieves attention with bold and dramatic statement.

Both are sensitive to others. Leos have vulnerable egos that can be wounded by those who do not respect their wisdom and generosity. Cancerians, when hurt, seek solitude; their feelings are sensitive and their tears are real. Known for their changing moods, they may appear happy, sad, or irritable at

times.

Both personalities have distinctive physical features. A typical Leo may have thick, wavy hair, a deceptively lazy look, a walk that is straight and proud yet smooth and gliding like a cat's, and a commanding appearance. The typical Cancerian may have a large skull, brow, and cheekbones, long arms and legs, an extremely thin body, and enormously expressive features that show his many moods.

Cancerians' moods are intense and they can make one feel them, too. They are known for their secrecy, compassion, and intuition; people often confide in them. Likewise, Leos are shrewd, but they act in a more commanding way; they love to teach and tell others how to manage their lives. They are especially good at reasoning and smoothing out someone's problems. Leos often behave dramatically and act in a superior or commanding manner as they direct others or organize matters. Similarly, Cancerians take in all there is to know about others with compassion, and they never reveal their inner thoughts. Unlike Leos, they rarely judge; rather, they gather, absorb, , and reflect. They help others, but cautiously decide how to distribute their time, money, and emotions.

1. Although both are known as shrewd judges of others' feelings, _____.

A) Leos are unconcerned with others' problems

B) Cancer personalities never get involved in others' problems

- C) Leos, more than Cancerians, act to work out a friend's problems
- D) Cancerians, not Leos, want to rule others' emotions
2. Cancerians, but not Leos, are typically known for their ____.
- A) shrewd insight into others' behavior
- B) range of emotions and moods
- C) sensitiveness to others
- D) deceptive laziness
3. A conscious desire for attention is characteristic of ____.
- A) the funny Cancer personality
- B) both the Leo and the Cancerian
- C) neither the Leo nor the Cancer
- D) the bold and dramatic Leo personality
4. Which of the following statements would the author probably agree with?
- A) A person's Sun sign is a good indicator of general behavior traits.
- B) The Cancer personality is more appealing than the Leo personality.
- C) Seeking attention is a negative personality trait.
- D) The Leo is more physically interesting than the Cancerian.
5. It CANNOT be logically drawn from the selection that ____.
- A) a typical Cancerian might well be a collector of old treasures

- B) many Leos become educators, politicians, and psychiatrists
- C) Cancerians probably can't help feeling superior to those around them
- D) many Leos enjoy being hosts at elegant parties

Passage II

Sleep is part of your daily activity cycle, but there are several different types or stages of sleep, and they too occur in cycles. If you are an average sleeper, your sleep cycle will go something like this:

1. When you first drift off into slumber, your eyes will roll about a bit, your temperature will drop slightly, your muscles will relax, and your breathing will slow and become quite regular. Your brain waves slow down a bit too, with the alpha rhythm predominating for the first few minutes. This is called Stage 1 sleep.

2. For the next half hour or so, as you relax more and more, you will drift down through Stage 2 and Stage 3 sleep. The lower your stage of sleep, the slower your brain waves will be.

3. Then, about 40-60 minutes after you lose consciousness, you will have reached the deepest sleep of all. Your brain waves will show the delta rhythm. This is Stage 4 sleep.

4. You may think that you stay at this deep fourth stage all the rest of the night, but that turns out not to be the case. Instead, about 80 minutes after you fall into slumber, your ac-

tivity cycle will increase slightly. The delta rhythm will disappear, to be replaced by the activity pattern of brain waves. Your eyes will begin to dart around under your closed eyelids as if you were looking at something occurring in front of you. This period of Rapid Eye Movements lasts for some 8-15 minutes and is called REM sleep.

During both light and deep sleep, the muscles in your body are relaxed but capable of movement. However, as you slip into REM sleep, a very odd thing occurs—most of the voluntary muscles in your body become paralyzed. Although your brain shows very rapid bursts of neural activity during REM sleep, your body is incapable of moving. In more technical terms—as we will see later in this chapter—we can say that REM sleep is accompanied by extensive muscular inhibition.

6. The lower the stage of sleep, _____.
 - A) the greater the alpha waves will be
 - B) the greater the activity pattern of the brain
 - C) the slower the brain waves will appear
 - D) the closer one is to the initial Stage 1 sleep
7. REM sleep is characterized by _____.
 - A) a lack of body movement
 - B) a drop in temperature
 - C) the appearance of delta waves
 - D) a loss of consciousness
8. Before one reaches the deepest sleep, _____.
 - A) muscular inhibition occurs

- B) loss of consciousness has already occurred
 - C) one's body muscles become paralyzed
 - D) one's eyes begin to move as if looking at something
9. Muscular relaxation, a temperature drop, and breath regularity are characteristics of _____.
- A) Stage 2 and 3 sleep
 - B) REM sleep
 - C) delta rhythms
 - D) Stage 1 sleep
10. An increase in the activity cycle indicates _____.
- A) one is waking up
 - B) the beginning of the Rapid Eye Movement stage
 - C) a relaxing of body muscles
 - D) an increase in the body's delta rhythm

Passage III

Robert Spring, a 19th century forger, was so good at his profession that he was able to make his living for 15 years by selling false signatures of famous Americans. Spring was born in England in 1813 and arrived in Philadelphia in 1858 to open a bookstore. At first he prospered by selling his small but genuine collection of early U. S. autographs. Discovering his ability at copying handwriting, he began imitating signatures of George Washington and Ben Franklin and writing them on the title pages of old books. To lessen the chance of detection, he sent his forgeries to England and Canada for sale and circulation.