

最新大学英语阅读理解考试教程

ZUIXIN DAXUE YINGYU YUEDU LIJIE KAOSHI JIAOCHENG

四级阅读 100 篇

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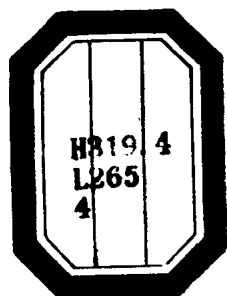
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主 编 李剑波
主 审 Richard London (美)



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主编：李剑波

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前言

阅读能力是大部分大学生今后工作中所需要的主要技能。阅读是掌握语言知识、获取信息、提高语言应用能力的基础。因此,新修订的《大学英语教学大纲》强调,在大学英语教学中要始终注重阅读能力的培养,并对分级教学要求作了具体描述,把四级英语教学定为全国各类高等院校均应达到的基本要求。即使在非重点和专科院校中,从预备级开始的学生经过基础阶段两年的学习达到三级要求后,在高年级阶段还应继续努力达到四级要求。

在大学英语四级考试、六级考试和硕士研究生入学考试中,阅读理解考项都在 40 分左右。这是试题各考项中所占分数比例最大的一项。阅读能力的高低直接影响到英译汉、完形填空或简短回答问题等要求阅读理解能力较强的考项的得分比例,这些考项均占 10 分左右。因此,阅读水平是决定考生能否通过考试的关键。假如与阅读理解考项有关的正确率达到 75% ($50 \text{ 分} \times 75\% = 37.5 \text{ 分}$, $60 \text{ 分} \times 75\% = 45 \text{ 分}$),而其他考项的正确率在 50~60% 之间,那么考生就比较容易通过考试关了。考生失利的主要原因:一是缺乏严格而标准的模拟训练,二是阅读累计字数总量达不到大纲要求。教学实践和有关考生通过率的资料表明,考生在考前目标阅读训练 200 篇(每篇 350 字左右)短文后,阅读理解正确率在 70% 左右。目标阅读训练 300 篇短文后,阅读理解正确率在 80% 左右。目标阅读训练 400 篇短文后,阅读理解正确率在 90% 以上。这是因为应试阅读训练严格按考试大纲和题型要求,有针对性地反复训练后形成了应试的理解思维模式:在阅读训练中巩固词汇,扩大词汇量;在熟练词汇的基础上提高了阅读速度——从而形成了正确的应试思维刺激反应。

“最新大学英语阅读理解考试教程”就是为了实现这一目标,在兼容大学英语泛读教程和快速阅读教程特点的基础上,针对大学英语四级考试的特点而专门设计编写的。本教程的主要特点是:(1)严格按新修订的《大学英语教学大纲》和《大学英语四级考试大纲》编写。每册由 20 单元组成,共 100 篇短文。本系列共 400 篇短文,阅读总量累计字数为 140,000 以上。(2)以全真考试题型为编写体例。每个单元就是两个完整的考项。即分别由四篇阅读短文、简短回答问题(一级、三级)、完形填空(二级、四级)、段落划句英译汉(三级)组成。(3)每个单元之后附有正确答案。答案的深入分析可参考《最新大学英语阅读理解 400 篇详解》。(4)短文难度呈梯级编排,难易渐进过渡。

教程的主要适用对象是参加 CET-1, CET-2, CET-3, CET-4 的考生和参加硕士研究生入学英语考试的考生及相当水平的学习者。全套教程共四册,本书为第四册,即大学英语四级考试水准要求。每单元分别由四篇 400 字左右的阅读理解短文和完形填空组成,其中阅读理解短文难度略高于考试要求。因此,本系列可在教师的指导下与《新编大学英语》配合使用,分四个学期阅读,也可在考前 80 天按每天一单元的计划进行强化阅读训练。

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Unit One

Part I Reading Comprehension

Passage One

Munshi Ram, an illiterate laborer who lives in a crude mud hut in the village of Babarpur, India, 60 miles north of New Delhi, has no land and very little money. But he has eight children, and he regards them as his greatest wealth.

"It's good to have a big family," Mr. Ram explained, as he stood in the shade of a leafy tree, in a hard dry courtyard crowded with children, chickens, and a dozing cow. "They don't cost much and when they get old enough to work they bring in money. And when I am old, they will take care of me."

Millions of Indians share Mr. Ram's view. And that, in the opinion of a number of family-planning workers, is a major obstacle to the effort to curb the rapid growth of this country's population.

A decade or so ago, many people here, including some of the Americans who had flooded in to help, assumed that once a villager understood birth control he would practise it, so as to keep his family small and thus improve his economic status. But lately some experts have concluded that simply spreading the word about birth control, and providing the means, is not enough, because many poor people actively want to have more children, even after they know how not to. A Harvard-educated sociologist named Mohammed Mamdani put it this way in a recent study:

"People are not poor because they have large families. Quite the contrary, they have large families because they are poor. To practise contraception would have meant to willfully court economic disaster."

Some of the reasons relate to social customs that the government is trying to abolish. The dowry system, for example, often compels a couple with two or three daughters to keep trying for sons to offset the economic liability they will face when their daughters marry.

1. A good title for this article would be "_____".

- A. A Personal Look at India's Population Problems
- B. Why Poor People in India Have Many Children
- C. India's Birth-control Program
- D. India's Population Problems

2. In general, Para.2 explains _____.

- A. Mr. Ram's possessions
- B. why Mr. Ram wants a large family
- C. Mr. Ram's plans for his old age
- D. Mr. Ram's plans for his family

3. In Para.2, Sentence 2 is _____.

- A. the main idea of the paragraph
- B. an example to support the main idea

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C. the conclusion of the paragraph

D. an outline of the paragraph

4. Para. 4 implies, but does NOT directly say, that _____.

A. the birth-control program hasn't worked

B. the villagers didn't like the Americans

C. villagers don't understand the purpose of birth control

D. the birth-control program has worked well

5. The passage states "they have large families because they are poor" (L. 1-2, Para. 5). An explanation of this sentence would be _____.

A. Para. 1

B. Para. 2

C. Para. 3

D. Para. 4

Passage Two

To Mr. Ram, a man in his mid-fifties who wears a tattered gray turban and an Indian dhoti, having eight children means security, especially since five of them are rarely here; but no matter what kind of disaster befalls Babarpur, he says, there will almost certainly be someone to take care of him until he dies.

His wife's view appeared to be of little consequence. When any questions about family planning were put to her, Mrs. Ram, a woman of about 45, giggled shyly and turned away without answering.

In a similar village west of here, a water carrier recently greeted a visiting social worker this way: "You were trying to convince me in 1960 that I shouldn't have any more sons. Now, you see, I have six sons and two daughters, and I sit at home in leisure. They are grown up and they bring me money. You told me I was a poor man and couldn't support a large family. Now you see, because of my large family, I am a rich man."

The effects on the society at large, of course, are quite different from the effects noted by these two proud fathers of eight. With 600 million people and a pace of development that never quite outdistances the population growth, India is making a determined effort to bring down its birth rate, which is currently about 35 per 1,000, more than twice that of in the United States.

Several Indian states are drafting legislation that would force the sterilization of people who have more than two or three children, and the federal government is strengthening its programs of incentives to encourage voluntary sterilization. But India has nearly 600,000 villages like this one, and few people think that compulsion will really be possible all across the land.

"The best contraceptive is development," says Health Minister Karan Singh, meaning that when people's standards of living are raised and health care improves, their birth rate declines without compulsion or government pressure. "When child mortality is high, fertility is high,

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because people are never sure whether their children are going to survive, they will have more children than they require," Mr. Singh said recently.

The family of eight children that Mr. Ram has here in Babarpur is, statistically, the size that many Indians think they have to aim for over the years to be sure that, after allowing for girls, and for boys who die during youth, they will still have two adult sons.

6. The subject of Para. 4 and 5 is _____.

- A. the difficulties of India's effort to bring down the birth rate
- B. the difficulties involved in reaching 600,000 villages
- C. legislation regarding sterilization
- D. to bring down families

7. In Para. 6 an explanation of "the best contraceptive is development" (L. 1) appears _____.

- A. in Para. 5
- B. in the rest of the same sentence
- C. in the following sentence
- D. in Para. 4

8. Para. 7 implies, but does NOT directly say, that _____.

- A. Indian parents would rather have sons than daughters
- B. people feel they should have eight children
- C. Mr. Ram's family is statistically typical
- D. people feel they should have six children

9. Although they do not say it directly, if the two men in this article were young and just starting to have families, they would probably _____.

- A. limit their families to two to three children
- B. undergo voluntary sterilization
- C. have eight children again
- D. have more than eight children

10. The author's attitude toward the people in this article is _____.

- A. impersonal—he makes no judgement
- B. sympathetic—he thinks they are right
- C. negative—he is against their policies
- D. affirmative—he quite agrees with their policies

Passage Three

Everybody talks about "the dream I had last night". In fact, dreams and dream interpretations have been acknowledged from the beginning of the recorded history. Biblical Joseph interpreted a dream of Egypt's Pharaoh that saved the country from famine. Freud used

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dreams in an attempt to solve people's psychological troubles. Artists/writers John Keats, August Strindberg, Nathaniel Hawthorne and Ingmar Bergman have all used dreams in their works.

"Dreams are a vehicle for knowledge not open to the waking mind," declared Robert Abrams, assistant professor of English at the University of Washington, who taught a class on dreams and literature last year. "In some ways, our dreams may be smarter than we are," he continued. "Our waking conscious mind is culturally contaminated, constricted—by things like media and current morality."

The nineteenth-century writers—the Romantics—were fascinated by dreams and encouraged people to look inward and be more receptive to irrationality, according to Abrams. They believed that the greatest minds should have a negative capability—the ability to be in doubt, be mystified or uncertain without any irritable reaching after fact or reason.

Ignoring the Romantics, 20th-century psychologists, psychiatrists, and doctors have come up with some startling facts about dreams:

Everybody dreams every night (with few exceptions). Some don't remember.

A dream may last up to 20 minutes, or you could have several during the 20-minute dreaming phase.

You dream more toward morning as you enter into lighter phases of sleep.

Depressants like alcohol or barbiturates can suppress dream phases.

Dream-deprived people become irritable, anxious, less tolerant in stressful and emotional situations.

11. The main idea of this article is that _____.

- A. all people dream
- B. dreams are interesting
- C. dreams are important
- D. dreams are strange

12. Para. 1 discusses in general _____.

- A. biblical interpretations of dreams
- B. how artists and writers use dreams
- C. the uses of dreams throughout history
- D. different kinds of dreams

13. In Para. 1, _____.

- A. Sentence 2 is an example of Sentence 3
- B. Sentence 3 is an example of Sentence 2
- C. Sentence 3 is not related to Sentence 2
- D. Sentence 2 contains the meaning of Sentence 3

14. According to Para. 3, the Romantics were probably most interested in _____.

- A. emotional responses
- B. scientific methods
- C. writing about dreams
- D. facts on dreams

15. A good title for this article would be "_____".

- A. The Dream I Had Last Night
- B. Why People Sleep

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C. Some Facts about Dreams

D. Dreams at Night

Passage Four

The Mexican, whether young or old, criollo or mestizo, general or laborer or lawyer, seems to me to be a person who shuts himself away to protect himself: his face is a mask and so is his smile. In his harsh solitude, which is both barbed and courteous, everything serves him as a defense: silence and words, politeness and disdain, irony and resignation. He is jealous of his own privacy and that of others, and he is afraid even to glance at his neighbors, because a mere glance can trigger the rage of these electrically charged spirits. He passes through life like a man who has been flayed; everything can hurt him, including words and the very suspicion of words. His language is full of reticence, of metaphors and allusions, of unfinished phrases, while his silence is full of tints, folds, thunderheads, sudden rainbows and indecipherable threats. Even in a quarrel, he prefers veiled expressions to outright insults: "A word to the wise is sufficient." He builds a wall of indifference and remoteness between reality and himself, a wall that is no less impenetrable for being invisible. The Mexican is always remote, from the world and from other people. And also from himself.

The speech of our people reflects the extent to which we protect ourselves from the outside world: the ideal of manliness is never to "crack", never to back down. Those who "open themselves up" are cowards. Unlike other people, we believe that opening oneself up is a weakness or a betrayal. The Mexican can bend, can bow humbly, can even stoop, but he cannot back down; that is, he cannot allow the outside world to penetrate his privacy. The man who backs down is not to be trusted, is a traitor or a person of doubtful loyalty; he babbles secrets and is incapable of confronting a dangerous situation. Women are inferior beings because, in submitting, they open themselves up. Their inferiority is constitutional and resides in their sex, their submissiveness, which is a wound that never heals.

16. It is obvious from Para.2 that the author is _____.

- A. an American
- B. a Mexican
- C. a European
- D. a woman

17. A supporter of women's liberation upon reading Para.2 _____.

- A. would whole-heartedly agree
- B. would be somewhat dubious about the statements about women
- C. would be angered by the statements about women
- D. would be angered by the statements about men

18. Which statement is NOT necessarily true ?

- A. Mexican men prefer not to confide in their friends.

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- B. Mexican men do not openly display their feelings.
C. Mexican men are less sensitive than other men are.
D. Mexican men don't rely on their friends.
19. "The Mexican is always remote, from the world and from other people. And also from himself." (L.12-13, Para.1) The author ends Para.1 with a sentence fragment (incomplete sentence) because _____.
A. he does not know the rules of grammar and composition
B. he wants to achieve a certain stylistic effect
C. either he made a mistake or a mistake was made by the printer
D. he used the oral English
20. "The Mexican can bend, can bow humbly, can even stoop, but he cannot back down; *that is*, he cannot allow the outside world to penetrate his privacy." (L.4-5, Para.2) The italicized words mean _____.
A. the author is going to restate the same idea using different words
B. a stress
C. more explanation
D. the author is going to go on to a new idea in the second part of the sentence

Part II Cloze

In 1959 the 1 American family paid \$ 989 2 a year's supply of food. In 1972 the family paid \$ 1,311. That was a price 3 of nearly one-third.

Every family has 4 this sort of experience. Everyone agrees that the cost of 5 a family has risen sharply. But there is less agreement 6 reasons for the rise are being discussed. Who is really 7 ?

Many blame the farmers who 8 the vegetables, fruit, meat, eggs, and cheese 9 store for 10. According to the U. S. Department of 11, the farmer's share of the \$ 1,311 spent by the family in 1972 was \$ 521. This was thirty-one percent 12 than the farmer had received in 1959.

But farmers claim that this increase was very small 13 to the increase in their cost of 14. Farmers tend to blame others for the sharp 15 in food prices. They particularly blame those who 16 the farm products after the products leave the farm. These 17 truck drivers, meat packers and manufacturers of packages, and the 18 of stores where food is sold. They are among the "middlemen" who stand 19 the farmer and the people who buy and eat the food. 20 middlemen the ones to blame for food price?

- | | | | |
|---------------|-------------|-------------|---------------|
| 1. A. average | B. poor | C. rich | D. well-being |
| 2. A. on | B. to | C. for | D. with |
| 3. A. paid | B. increase | C. decrease | D. income |

Unit One

- | | | | |
|-----------------------|----------------|-----------------|--------------------|
| 4. A. earned | B. pay | C. expend | D. had |
| 5. A. expense | B. expenditure | C. feeding | D. living |
| 6. A. that | B. which | C. in which | D. when |
| 7. A. responsible | B. fault | C. reason | D. cause |
| 8. A. had produced | B. produce | C. had bought | D. buy |
| 9. A. these | B. that | C. they | D. them |
| 10. A. bargaining | B. sale | C. auction | D. auctioning |
| 11. A. Agriculture | B. Industry | C. Economy | D. Commercial |
| 12. A. rather | B. different | C. better | D. more |
| 13. A. leading for | B. included | C. compared | D. known |
| 14. A. feeding for | B. living | C. expenses | D. education |
| 15. A. rise | B. arise | C. promote | D. rising |
| 16. A. sale | B. buy | C. eat | D. process |
| 17. A. exclude within | B. include | C. are confined | D. are included |
| 18. A. visitors | B. robbers | C. owners | D. window-shoppers |
| 19. A. for | B. out | C. among | D. between |
| 20. A. Are | B. Does | C. Are there | D. Ought |

Key to Reading Comprehension

1. B 2. B 3. B 4. A 5. B 6. A 7. B 8. A 9. C 10. A
 11. C 12. C 13. B 14. A 15. C 16. B 17. C 18. C 19. B 20. A

Key to Cloze

1. A 2. C 3. B 4. D 5. C 6. D 7. A 8. B 9. B 10. C
 11. A 12. D 13. C 14. B 15. A 16. D 17. B 18. C 19. D 20. A

Unit Two

Part I Reading Comprehension

Passage One

Hotels were among the earliest facilities that bound the United States together. They were both creatures and creators of communities, as well as symptoms of the frenetic quest for community. Even in the first part of the nineteenth century, Americans were already forming the habit of gathering from all corners of the nation for both public and private, business and pleasure purposes. Conventions were the new occasions, and hotels were distinctively American facilities making conventions possible. The first national convention of a major party to choose a candidate for President (that of the National Republican Party, which met on December 12, 1831, and nominated Henry Clay for President) was held in Baltimore, at a hotel that was then reputed to be the best in the country. The presence in Baltimore of Barnum's City Hotel, a six-story building with two hundred apartments, helps explain why many other early national political conventions were held there.

In the longer run, too, American hotels made other national conventions not only possible but also pleasant and convivial. The growing custom of regularly assembling from afar the representatives of all kinds of groups—not only for political conventions, but also for commercial, professional, learned, and avocational ones—in turn supported the multiplying hotels. By the mid-twentieth century, conventions accounted for over a third of the yearly room occupancy of all hotels in the nation; about eighteen thousand different conventions were held annually with a total attendance of about ten million people.

The nineteenth-century American hotel keepers, who were no longer the genial, deferential “hosts” of the eighteenth-century European inn, became leading citizens. Holding a large stake in the community, they exercised power to make it prosper. As owners or managers of the local “palace of the public”, they were makers and shapers of a principal community attraction. The travelers from abroad were mildly shocked by this high social position.

1. The word “bound” (L.1, Para.1) is closest in meaning to “_____”.

- | | |
|---------|-----------------|
| A. led | B. protected |
| C. tied | D. strengthened |

2. The National Republican Party is mentioned in L.6-9, Para.1 as an example of a group _____.

- | | |
|-------------------|-------------------------|
| A. from Baltimore | B. of learned people |
| C. owning a hotel | D. holding a convention |

3. The word “it” (L.3, Para.3) refers to _____.

- | | |
|---------------------|---------------|
| A. the European inn | B. the host |
| C. the community | D. the public |

Unit Two

4. It can be inferred from the passage that early hotel keepers in the United States were _____.

- A. active politicians
- B. European immigrants
- C. professional builders
- D. influential citizens

5. Which of the following statements about early American hotels is NOT mentioned in the passage ?

- A. Travelers from abroad did not enjoy staying in them.
- B. Conventions were held in them.
- C. People used them for both business and pleasure.
- D. They were important to the community.

Passage Two

Craters scar the surface of every planet and satellite in the inner solar system (Mercury, Venus, Earth, and Mars). Although craters have been discovered on the Jovian moon Callisto and the Saturnian moon Dione, no planet in the outer solar system has yet been photographed with sufficient resolution to reveal craters.

The ubiquity of the craters on the surface of the inner planets provides astronomers and geologists with powerful clues about both the astronomical and geological processes that shaped these planets. As astroblemes (literally, "star wounds") left by impacting interplanetary bodies, craters provide evidence about the population of those bodies in the solar system over billions of years. As features modified by geological processes such as volcanism, erosion, sedimentation, and tectonic activity, they provide valuable information about the surface environments of the planets.

Most scientists believe that the great majority of craters are the ancient vestiges of meteorites; indeed meteorites continue to leave their marks in the present geological period. Planets were evidently bombarded with meteorites more heavily in the early history of our solar system, however. Why? Some scientists speculate that the nascent sun, as it condensed, generated enormous rotational gravity, thereby drawing nearby matter into its orbit. The larger "chunks" of matter ultimately became planets; the smaller ones became meteorites, which throughout the eons have, thankfully, dispersed toward the outer reaches of our galaxy, and beyond.

6. What is the main subject of this passage ?

- A. Interplanetary bodies.
- B. Geological processes.
- C. Craters.
- D. Solar photography.

7. Which of the following is NOT an inner planet ?

Unit Two

A. Venus.

B. Callisto.

C. Mars.

D. Mercury.

8. It can be inferred from the passage that _____.

A. there are no craters on the surfaces of the outer planets

B. it is possible to take relatively clear photographs of some outer planets' moons

C. Saturn has only one moon

D. the surfaces of inner planets have more craters than do the surfaces of outer planets

9. According to the passage, our knowledge of craters is limited to the inner planets because _____.

A. photographs of the outer solar system are inconclusive

B. craters of inner planets resemble craters on the Earth

C. volcanism and tectonic activity do not occur on outer planets

D. inner planets have more craters

10. According to the passage, craters provide clues about all of the following EXCEPT _____.

A. the number of interplanetary bodies present at different times in the galaxy's history

B. the geological processes that shape planets

C. the origins of the moons of different planets

D. the surfaces of the planets

Passage Three

Perhaps the most striking quality of satiric literature is its freshness, its originality of perspective. Satire (讽刺) rarely offers original ideas. Instead, it presents the familiar in a new form. Satirists do not offer the world new philosophies. What they do is look at familiar conditions from a perspective that makes these conditions seem foolish, harmful, or affected. Satire jars us out of complacency into a pleasantly shocked realization that many of the values we unquestioningly accept are false. *Don Quixote* makes chivalry seem absurd; *Brave New World* ridicules the pretensions of science; *A Modest Proposal* dramatizes starvation by advocating cannibalism. None of these ideas is original. Chivalry was suspect before Cervantes, humanists objected to the claims of pure science before Aldous Huxley, and people were aware of famine before Swift. It was not the originality of the idea that made these satires popular. It was the manner of expression, the satiric method that made them interesting and entertaining. Satires are read because they are aesthetically satisfying works of art, not because they are morally wholesome or ethically instructive. They are stimulating and refreshing because with common-sense briskness they brush away illusions and second-hand opinions. With spontaneous irreverence, satire re-arranges perspectives, scrambles familiar objects into incongruous juxtaposition,

and speaks in a personal idiom instead of abstract platitude.

Satire exists because there is need for it. It has lived because readers appreciate a refreshing stimulus, an irreverent reminder that they live in a world of platitudinous thinking, cheap moralizing, and foolish philosophy. Satire serves to prod people into an awareness of truth, though rarely to any action on behalf of truth. Satire tends to remind people that much of what they see, hear, and read by popular media is sanctimonious, sentimental, and only partially true. Life resembles in only a slight degree the popular image of it. Soldiers rarely hold the ideals that movies attribute to them, nor do ordinary citizens devote their lives to unselfish service of humanity. Intelligent people know these things but tend to forget them when they do not hear them expressed.

11. What does the passage mainly discuss ?

- A. Difficulties of writing satiric literature.
- B. Popular topics of satire.
- C. New philosophies emerging from satiric literature.
- D. Reasons for the popularity of satire.

12. Which of the following can be found in satiric literature ?

- A. Newly emerging philosophies.
- B. Odd combinations of objects and ideas.
- C. Abstract discussion of morals and ethics.
- D. Wholesome characters who are unselfish.

13. According to the passage, there is need for satire because people need to be _____.

- A. informed about new scientific developments
- B. exposed to original philosophies when they are formulated
- C. reminded that popular ideas are often inaccurate
- D. told how they can be of service to their communities

14. As a result of reading satiric literature, readers will be most likely to _____.

- A. teach themselves to write fiction
- B. accept conventional points of view
- C. become better informed about current affairs
- D. re-examine their opinions and values

15. The various purposes of satire include all of the following EXCEPT _____.

- A. introducing readers to unfamiliar situations
- B. brushing away illusions
- C. reminding readers of the truth
- D. exposing false values

The ability of falling cats to right themselves in midair and land on their feet has been a source of wonder for ages. Biologists long regarded it as an example of adaptation by natural selection, but for physicists it bordered on the miraculous. Newton's laws of motion assume that the total amount of spin of a body cannot change unless an external torque (扭力) speeds it up or slows it down. If a cat has no spin when it is released and experiences no external torque, it ought not to be able to twist around as it falls.

In the speed of its execution, the righting of a tumbling cat resembles a magician's trick. The gyrations of the cat in midair are too fast for the human eye to follow, so the process is obscured. Either the eye must be speeded up, or the cat's fall must be slowed down for the phenomenon to be observed. A century ago the former was accomplished by means of high-speed photography using equipment now available in any pharmacy. But in the nineteenth century the capture on film of a falling cat constituted a scientific experiment.

The experiment was described in a paper presented to the Paris Academy in 1894. Two sequences of twenty photographs, one from the side and one from behind, show a white cat in the act of righting itself. Grainy and quaint though they are, the photos show that the cat was dropped upside down, with no initial spin, and still landed on its feet. Careful analysis of the photos reveals the secret: as the cat rotates the front of its body clockwise, the rear and tail twist counterclockwise, so that the total spin remains zero, in perfect accord with Newton's laws. Halfway down, the cat pulls in its legs before reversing its twist and then extends them again, with the desired end result. The explanation is that while nobody can acquire spin without torque, a flexible one can readily change its orientation, or phase. Cats know this instinctively, but scientists could not be sure how it happened until they increased the speed of their perceptions a thousandfold.

16. What does the passage mainly discuss ?

- A. The explanation of an interesting phenomenon.
- B. Miracles in modern science.
- C. Procedures in scientific investigation.
- D. The differences between biology and physics.

17. The word "process" (L.2, Para.2) refers to ____.

- A. the righting of a tumbling cat
- B. the slowdown of a cat's fall
- C. high-speed photography
- D. a scientific experiment

18. Why are the photographs mentioned in L. 1, Para. 3 referred to as an "experiment"?

- A. The photographs were not very clear.
- B. The purpose of the photographs was to explain the process.