

最新大学英语教学与考试指导丛书

最新大学英语 四、六级考试 阅读理解和翻译

姜绍禹 孙丽 张晶 主编



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阅读理解和翻译

姜绍禹 孙丽 张晶 选编

夏培厚 ~~主审~~

朋友,
请珍惜,莫自伤你的形象

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序 言

《最新大学英语阅读理解及翻译》的目的旨在提高英语阅读理解及英译汉水平。本书适于文理工科大学生、研究生及广大英语自学爱好者学习之用。它既可作为学生教材,也可作为参加 TOEFL、GRE、大学英语四、六级统考等英语考试的预先练习。

全书共选择文章 200 篇,内容涉及人文、政治、经济、地理、科技、体育、卫生各领域。短文材料都是从国外教材、报刊杂志及各类书籍中选出的,在选材中尽量考虑到知识性、可读性和趣味性。

阅读理解多项选择题类型大致分为以下五种:

1、词义理解性问题,即要求对文章中个别关键词、难词作出解释。

2、直接解答性问题,即通过阅读全文可从中直接引句便可答出的题目。

3、评价性问题,即在理解原文的基础上作出切题的概括、总结和评价。

4、推理性问题,这类题目则需靠上下文句义上的关系进行推理才能得出正确答案。

5、假设性问题,即通过对原文进行合理的假设推断出文中未曾说出的内容。

翻译的句子都是从短文中挑先出的有代表性的句子,它们在语句结构,遣词造句等方面特点比较突出,适合于大学英语四级考试中的英译汉训练和自学者进行练习。书后附有英译汉的参考译文和多项选择题的答案。

为使读者更好地理解原文,保证正常阅读速度,本书对一些较出僻的词、进行了注释。

本书在选编过程中难免有不足之处希望批评指正。

编者

1997.6

目 录

I. 政治、经济、文化: Passage 1—passage 90	70	(1)
II. 历史、地理: Passage 91—Passage 125	35	(160)
III. 医学、生物、体育: Passage 126—Passage 140	15	(225)
IV. 科学、技术: Passage 141—Passage 200	60	(254)

I. 政治、经济、文化

Passage 1

George Bellows (1882—1925) was perhaps the most popular artist America has produced—people loved him because he was one of them. He has a genius for finding subjects to paint in the interesting life around him. He painted prizefights, political powwows, revival meeting, and dead-end kids swimming in New York's East River. His pictures captured the exorbitant(过份的) vitality of the circus poster and the athletic integrity of the home-run hitter(全垒打击手).

Bellows' prizefight pictures are unsurpassed in American art in spite of the good humored criticism of professional pugilists. One of the best of these paintings, Stag at Sharkey's, captures the thrilling climax of a brutal professional battle.

"I've never seen so O. K. a picture of two boys throwing leather," says former world champion boxer Mickey Walker, himself an exhibiting painter, "but as a fighter I am kayoed(被击倒) by the thing. Here is the big guy delivering the knock-out punch, a left hook on the jaw, and a cross to follow, but he has his right foot way up in the air—nobody could flatten nobody with his right foot up in the air. I'm not complaining; it's a great picture, and as an artist, I'm a bum, just a fighter who can paint a little. Bellows was an artist, and there's a big difference; that's why the foot is in the air."

Multiple Choices:

1. Bellows' choice of subject fell mainly in the area of _____.
A. athletics
B. everyday activities
C. prizefights
D. circus scenes
2. The selection says that Bellows work has _____.
A. vitality
B. bright colors
C. extreme realism
D. satirical techniques

3. According to the selection, Bellows' prizefight pictures may be called

- A. accurate in every detail B. good-humored criticism
C. the best in American art D. both B and C

4. Walker's comments indicate that he thought Bellows had ____.

- A. deliberately destroyed the realism of the picture
B. made an insignificant error
C. added to the artistic balance of the picture
D. either B or C

5. An appropriate title for this selection would be ____.

- A. The People's Choice
B. One Artistic Technique
C. Paintings of Boxing Matches
D. When the Critic Was a Boxer

6. Translate the sentence underlined into Chinese:

Passage 2

The Atlantic Ocean, named for the legendary lost Island of Atlantis, has made up for the romantic origin of its name by becoming the most important commercial highway in the world; yet traces of romance continually mingle with the business of the sea.

For instance, the Spanish adventurers who first sought gold and silver in America frequently found their ships becalmed. Usually on the edge of the steady trade winds—about 30 degrees north or south latitude. A sailing ship could carry only so much water, and as it lay motionless under a hot sun for days or weeks, the tortures of thirst were agonizing(使极度痛苦).

The horses were generally the first victims; they had to be thrown overboard when they died or became crazed with thirst. Because the Spanish caballeros thought highly of their horses, even crediting them with souls, they suffered great remorse and believed the ghosts of the proud war horses were haunting the scene; they saw the restless spirits in their dreams and related their dreams to sailors.

Whenever the mariners passed that way, they would see in the spray or clouds images of wild horses bearing down on them; they began to call the broad belts of calm the "horse latitudes," the romantic name by

which they are known today.

Multiple Choices:

1. According to the selection, today the Atlantic is _____.
A. romantic, rather than businesslike
B. completely lacking in romance
C. less important to business than in the days of the sailing ships
D. important in world commerce
2. This area was perilous because _____.
A. ships could easily be wrecked there.
B. there was no wind
C. ships had no power other than the wind
D. both B and C
3. Horses were probably thrown overboard in order to _____.
A. conserve water
B. lighten the ship
C. spare the men the agonies of thirst
D. spare the men the trouble of caring for them
4. Proof of the Spaniards' placing a high value on their horses was their _____.
A. taking them to America
B. crediting them with souls
C. regretting their loss
D. all of the above
5. The selection says that sailors called the area the "horse latitudes" because _____.
A. the Spaniards told them it was haunted by the ghosts of horses
B. they regretted the loss of the horses
C. they had dreams about the lost horses
D. the Spaniards had named it that
6. Translate the sentence underlined into Chinese:

Passage 3

Ballet training in Russia begins at age nine or ten. Whatever the limitations of ballet in the Soviet Union, it is no wonder that Russian ballet dancers perform with ease leaps and lifts seldom attempted elsewhere, and that the standard of dancing in a Russian corps de ballet is far above that usually seen in other countries—nine years of ballet discipline is al-

C. The author does not think that Soviet ballet is excellent in every respect.

D. Financial security is more important to Soviet ballet dancers than is ballet itself.

6. Translate the sentence underlined into Chinese:

Passage 4

Bad publicity almost destroyed the reputation of the bloodhound. During the latter half of the nineteenth century, innumerable road companies toured the United States presenting Uncle Tom's cabin, and theaters resounded to the baying of vicious "bloodhounds" pursuing poor Eliza across the ice. The audience who paid admission to be shocked and enraged cared little that the ferocious pack on the stage contained no bloodhounds, but only assorted neighborhood dogs hired for the performance.

The beasts that tracked slaves weren't really bloodhounds either, but crossbreeds made vicious by ill treatment, confinement, or fright. The South before the Civil War may not have had a single purebred bloodhound; still, it has taken a century of hard work by the breed's admirers to re-establish its reputation and to separate fiction from fact.

Stories of bloodhounds' exploits are not exaggerated. Bloodhounds are more successful with older trails and greater distances than other hounds; set midway on a track, they can determine in which direction to head. The quarry who tries any of the timeworn dodges—wearing another man's shoes or crossing water—is not likely to get far.

A word of caution to anyone fleeing from a bloodhound: if caught, brace yourself. In all probability, your pursuer will be so happy at finding you that he will embrace you with muddy paws, lick your face fondly, and, unless the police arrive in time, settle his hundredpound weight cozily in your lap.

Multiple Choices:

1: Bloodhounds were made famous in the nineteenth century theater by

_____.
A. their travels with touring companies

- B. a scene in Uncle Tom's Cabin
 - C. the popularity of dog shows
 - D. a play showing their tracking skill
12. The dogs used on stage were
- A. purebred bloodhounds
 - B. assorted village dogs
 - C. dogs made vicious
 - D. naturally ferocious dogs
13. Compared with other hounds, bloodhounds are ____.
- A. less successful tracking at long distances
 - B. worse at following a new trail
 - C. more likely to go in the wrong direction
 - D. better at following old trails for great distances
14. The author advises anyone fleeing from a bloodhound to
- A. try all the familiar methods of escape ____.
 - B. cross running water
 - C. brace himself if he is caught
 - D. wear another man's shoes
15. When a bloodhound finds his quarry, he is likely to ____.
- A. attack him
 - B. run away
 - C. become vicious
 - D. embrace him
16. Translate the sentence underlined into Chinese:

Passage 5

The year. 1925. Gas stations and other local businesses were increasing trade by put-ting up advertising signs along the nation's high-ways. Perhaps, thought Allan Odell, the family business—a small com-pany that made a brushless shaving cream—could also step up sales by us-ing the same medium. He could put up sets of signs. Five in a set. They would not have to be big. A short line on each sign would do.

At first Odell tried the hard-sell approach. Sales began to increase once. But that did not satisfy him. Motorists see these signs, he told himself, at remote spots on the highway, perhaps after hours of monotonous driving. Wouldn't they appreciate a touch of rhyme?

They would indeed! It was not long before the catchy Burma—Shave sings—some ironic, some cynical, some absurd, but all of them funny—caught the fancy of nearly every-one, including those people usu-ally critical of advertising. An example:

IF YOU DON'T KNOW
WHOSE SIGNS THESE ARE
YOU HAVEN'T DRIVEN
VERY FAR

Burma-Shave

These signs continued as the advertising medium of the company for 35 years. And then, when cars travelled too fast for people to take in these messages—more than a dozen words painted in rather small letters—the company gradually withdrew its roadside advertising. Perhaps a growing criticism of this kind of advertising, which interfered with highway scenery, also influenced the company's decision.

By late 1965 this criticism resulted in president Lyndon Johnson's highway beautification bill. This bill authorised a federal-state campaign to improve the scenery on either side of major highways, to conceal or remove junkyards, and to put billboards(广告牌) sufficiently far back from the highway, so that they would not interfere with the view. States which did not comply with the bill could lose 10 per cent of their federal highway grant(拨款)

But this was not the end of the billboard industry. Many roads were not part of the highway system which was supported by federal grants, and these roads were not affected by the law. Nor were signs in commercial and industrial areas.

In one form or another, the poster will always be with us!
multiple Choices:

1. Allan Odell decided to use roadside advertising because _____.
 - A. his company was along the roadside
 - B. other people were trying to use it
 - C. other businessmen were increasing their sales through it
 - D. it was the cheapest form of advertising
2. Allan Odell's first advertisement were _____.
 - ☒ A. Successful
 - B. monotonous
 - C. hard to understand
 - ☒ D. too far away from the road
3. Allan Odell's advertising with a touch of rhyme _____.
 - A. was criticised by the public
 - B. amused people
 - ☒ C. did not comply with the federal bill
 - ☒ D. irritated people

4. Allan Odell decided to stop roadside advertising because _____.
☒ A. it was no longer effective
B. it offended the federal officials
C. he didn't like the hard-sell approach
D. he couldn't compete with other companies
5. The main purpose of Lyndon Johnson's was to _____.
☒ A. improve the condition of the roads
B. keep traffic order
C. reduce federal grants
D. make the countryside more pleasant
6. Translate the sentence underlined into Chinese:

Passage 6

For all young Australians who are neither certified as insane nor serving prison sentences of a year or more, a solemn public duty follows hot on the heels of the excitement of their twenty-first birthday. They must register as voters.

Having done so, they cannot, as can some American or English adults if they so wish, then forget all about it—voting is compulsory in Australia. Failure to vote without a “true, valid, and sufficient reason” can result in a fine for an Australian citizen. Australians must vote frequently, too, for in proportion to its size, Australia is a much-governed country. For its ten million persons it has seven parliaments—one for each of six states and one commonwealth, or federal, parliament with representatives from all states. Every adult, unless he lives in one of the two territories that do not have state status, must do his share in electing both state and federal representatives. What's more, with only one exception, these parliaments have two houses each and comprise among them 701 members.

This may seem a great many politicians to govern Australia's relatively small population of ten million, especially when one considers that 630 members of Britain's House of Commons govern forty million people. But just as government in the United States and England developed gradually as the result of events in those two countries, so the Australian system has developed in response to the needs of the nation.

Multiple Choices:

1. One unusual aspect of voting in Australia is that it ____.
☒ A. is compulsory
B. is allowed to those under the age of 21
C. is always preceded by registration
D. requires voters to pay a fee
2. The writer's comparison of American and Australian voting habits implies that ____.
A. all citizens should be compelled to vote
B. Americans often neglect their right to vote
C. compulsory voting has harmed the Australian government
D. voting should be allowed before the age of 21
3. The writer describes Australia as ____.
A. populous B. politically unorganized
C. sparsely settled D. much governed
4. An Australian may be exempted from voting for state representatives if he ____.
A. lives in a state with no parliament
B. is a candidate for office
C. lives in a territory without state status
D. has already voted once that year
5. Implied but not stated:
☒ A. The U. S. system of government developed slowly.
B. Elections are more frequent in Australia than in England.
C. The Australian system works well in Australia.
D. Britain's House of Commons has 701 members.
6. Translate the sentence underlined into Chinese:

Passage 7

Until very recently, the songs of colonial America were known only in small, isolated areas of the United States. They were handed down within a family circle, and there was no way for them to become known over the whole country or to be a real part of the nation's culture. since each generation tended to remember its own songs and to forget the older songs it once knew, much of the nation's song heritage may have disappeared.

The first step toward preserving America's song heritage was taken by scholars, collectors and researchers who gathered and studied songs; next, singers became interested, and soon folk songs could be heard nationally on radio. Finally, America's rediscovered musical heritage spread to the schools, becoming part of every child's experience.

Many colonial songs were rediscovered in the southern Appalachian Mountains. Universities, the Library of Congress, and many individual collectors added to the treasury of song. In some parts of the nation old Scottish, Irish, Welsh, or English songs had not been pushed out of existence by newer music. There collectors found ten, twenty, even thirty versions of the same ballad — sometimes with a different tune or story, but always recognizable and always originating in the same old song. In a few isolated places, the ballads still existed in what was probably the form sung in colonial day; but since the songs were transmitted orally, individual variations have probably crept (爬) in.

Multiple Choices:

1. Many colonial songs may have disappeared because _____.
A. people remembered older songs better
B. families kept their songs a secret
☒ C. each generation remembered its own music best
D. later generations wrote better music
2. Many additional songs were found by _____.
A. university researchers B. Library of Congress collectors
C. individual collectors ☒ D. all of the above
3. Old ballads that managed to survive were often found in _____.
A. unrecognizable versions
B. exactly their original forms
C. versions dealing with current events
☒ D. 20 or 30 different versions
4. It was unusual to find songs that _____.
A. had more than one tune
☒ B. originated in one old song
☒ C. were still in their original form
D. came from Scottish and English ballads
5. We cannot tell whether any songs are exactly as they were in colonial days because _____.

- A. there are many versions of every song
✓ B. individual singers probably varied the songs
C. we have only the modern versions
D. the songs were written down in very rough fashion
6. Translate the sentence underlined into Chinese:

Passage 8

Liberia, the oldest independent Negro state in West Africa, has been struggling for survival ever since its foundation in 1822. Progress has been hampered by constant hostility between the American Negroes whose families returned there in the early nineteenth century and the West Africans whose ancestors never left the continent. Though the two groups are of the same race, they are divided by language and outlook and regard each other with deep suspicion, creating a conflict which was not foreseen by Liberia's founders.

In addition, neighboring states, native tribes, disease, and poverty have made life dangerous and difficult. The government has tried desperately, through loans and a trickle of trade, to make ends meet. Anxiety about financial matters lessened somewhat when, in 1910, the United States accepted responsibility for Liberia's survival. However, not until Harvey Firestone, the American rubber magnate, (大王、巨头) decided that the United States must produce its own rubber—with Liberia as the site of the rubber plantations—did Liberia have much hope of paying its debts and balancing its budget.

The rubber industry, founded in the 1920's, and the activity that followed it, brought both progress and profit to Liberia. Before that time Liberia had no roads, no mechanical transport, and no good port; its people had little education and no good port; its people had little education and few tools. Now Liberians feel that the country is being ruled by rubber. For this reason the recent discovery of iron ore is important. Liberian leaders are trying to moderate the power of the rubber industry and to establish the country's political and economic independence.

Multiple Choices:

1. Liberia's history has been marked by ____.

- A. economic independence
 - ☒ B. a continuous struggle for survival
 - C. constant progress and prosperity
 - D. the absence of internal conflicts
2. Conflicts between American Negroes and West Africans initially result from ____.
- A. economic differences
 - B. racial differences
 - ☒ C. differences in outlook
 - D. political differences
3. the greatest problem of the Liberian government has been ____.
- A. a trade surplus
 - ☒ B. finances
 - C. loans to other countries
 - D. suspicious neighbors
- ☒ 4. Liberia's finances were given the greatest boost by ____.
- A. grants made by Harvey Firestone
 - B. Firestone's decision to grow rubber there
 - C. the payment of all debts by the United States
 - ☒ D. Purchases of rubber by the United States
5. Implied but not stated: The establishment of the rubber industry ____.
- A. brought both progress and profit to Liberia
 - B. solved all of Liberia's problems
 - C. created a problem between the two groups of Negroes
 - ☒ D. Solved some problems in Liberia and created others
6. Translate the sentence underlined into Chinese:

Passage 9

One of the most exotic kinds of money in the world today is a belt two inches wide and thirty feet long fashioned of glue, fibers, and the downy(长绒毛的) red feathers of a tropical forest bird. This primitive currency is the basis of a complex monetary and trading system in the Santa Cruz Islands of the southwest Pacific.

Improbable as it is, the red-feather currency fits the most rigorous definition of the term money: It serves as a means of accumulating wealth and as a universal medium of exchange in the highly diversified commerce of the islands. It is fully interchangeable, each belt having a precisely negotiable value in terms of other belts. Moreover, it has maintained its economic integrity against the recent invasion of the Australian pound—it