

行家辅导 PETS 系列

# 全国公共英语 等级考试

## 三级阅读技巧

伍梅 陈文珊 金南辉 编著

李蕙 主审



Public English  
Test System

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## 内容简介

本书是为配合全国公共英语等级考试而编写的辅导用书。全书分“阅读技巧分析”和“阅读理解练习”两大部分,收录阅读材料 90 篇,涉及文艺、体育、医药卫生、科技、教育、史地、生活、娱乐、经济各个方面。本书有助于广大考生提高阅读速度和增强阅读能力。

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## 全国公共英语等级考试 三级阅读技巧

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伍梅 陈文珊 金南辉 编著 李蕙 主审

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# 前 言

由国家教育部 1999 年推出的全国公共英语等级考试(Public English Test System)(PETS)为中国英语考试社会化拉开了一道全新的序幕,它使每个有志在英语学习上进阶、努力的人有了奋斗的目标。它打破了只有在校生才能获取一张英文水平等级证书的局面,中国也不再是只有大学英语四、六级考试一统天下的格局。PETS 考试为更多的有志者提供了方便和可能性,它更注重测定学生英语的实际应用能力,实在是可喜可庆之事。

国家教育部推出的 PETS 考试共分五级,每级大致为:一级相当于优秀的初中毕业生参加中考的英语水平;二级相当于高考英语水平;二、三级可替代专、本科自学英语考试;四级相当于大学英语六级考试,拟替代研究生英语考试;五级拟替代国家公费出国留学英语水平考试,相当于英语专业二年级水平。本丛书作为 PETS 考试的同步辅导书,一~三级每级分别有“必备词汇”、“必备语法”、“阅读技巧”、“听力会话”和“考试自测”。四、五级分别为“语法、阅读解析”、“考试模拟自测”。

全套行家辅导 PETS 系列丛书均由熟悉 PETS 考试的家行执笔编写。它的特点是新、快、准。所谓“新”就是思路新,练习新;“快”是指学生使用时,运用快、掌握快;“准”是针对考试切题准。

《全国公共英语等级考试三级阅读技巧》一书是依据全国公共英语等级考试(PETS)大纲的要求而编写的。本书有如下特点:本书对考题作分类说明,并结合实例详细讲解解题技巧;本书阅读材料大多选自国内外优秀期刊杂志并略有改动;本书编有三级阅读新题型,难易度尽量与考试要求程度相一致。

希望本书对广大考生通过 PETS 三级阅读考试有所帮助。参与本书编写的还有王悦,彭永华,聂明亮,刘星星,在此一并表示感谢。

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# Chapter One

*Reading Skills*

(阅读技巧)

## I Main idea

阅读的目的是理解。如果把一篇文章比喻成一片森林,具体的词句则是林中的树木。对一篇文章的理解包括对总体的思想(main idea)和对细节(details)的理解。有时一个段落的中心意思用一个句子表达出来,称为主题句(topic sentence)。主题句的位置不定,或出现于段首,或出现于段尾,或隐藏于段中。如果一个段落给出主题句,找出主题句即找出了整个段落的中心思想。在理解文意中就不会出现方向性的偏差。

请读下面段落。

Education is necessary in understanding how to treat those with AIDS. A student who is educated about AIDS will often make humane decisions about how to treat an AIDS victim. Most importantly, the educated student will know that AIDS is a virus. Also, he or she will be aware that this virus is not gotten through casual contact. AIDS, he or she will remind us, is transferred often through intimate physical contact. The student will further realize that the actual transfer of the virus occurs through the exchange of fluids, especially through the blood.

The best title for this passage might be \_\_\_\_\_.

- A. Education And AIDS
- B. How To Treat Those With AIDS
- C. The Transfer Of AIDS
- D. Student And AIDS

答案是 A。因为只有选项 A 与主题句 Education is necessary in understanding how to treat those with AIDS. 一致。

有时主题句不明显,需要读者自己总结。请读下面段落。

Your mind like your body is a thing where the powers are developed

by efforts. This is a principle use, as I see it, of hard work in studies. Unless you train your body you can't be a good sportsman, and unless you train your mind you can't be much of a scholar. The four miles a boatman covers at top speed is in itself nothing to the good, but the physical capacity to cover the distance is valuable. So a good part of what you learn by hard study may not be retained forever, and may not seem to be of much final value, but your mind is a better and more powerful instrument because you have learned it. "Knowledge is power", but still more the ability of acquiring and using knowledge is power. If you have a trained and powerful mind, you are bound to have stored it with something. Its value is more in what it can do, what it can grasp and use, than in what it contains. If it were possible to come out of college with a trained mind and nothing useful in it, you would still be ahead, and still, in a manner, educated.

The title that best expresses the main idea of this passage is \_\_\_\_\_.

- A. Knowledge Is Power
- B. How To Retain And Use Knowledge
- C. Physical And Mental Efforts
- D. The Trained Mind Is What One Needs

答案是D。这是本文中心思想,并贯穿全文。学习的意义不在于知识本身,而在于大脑能力在学习中得到的锻炼和提高。获取知识的能力远比知识本身更为重要。

抓住了每段的中心意思,那么整篇文章的主旨就不难理解了。请读下文。

What does a scientist do when he or she "explains" something? Scientific explanation comes in two forms: generalization and reduction. Most



psychologists deal with generalization. They explain particular instances of behavior as example of general laws. For instance, most psychologists would explain a strong fear of dogs as example of classical conditioning. Maybe, the person was frightened earlier in life by a dog. The sight of the animal (perhaps the person was knocked down by a dog) evokes the earlier response—fear.

Most physiologists deal with reduction. Phenomena are explained in terms of simpler phenomena. For example, the movement of a muscle is explained in terms of changes in muscle cells, entry of particular chemicals and interactions between protein molecules within these cells. A molecular biologist would “explain” these events in terms of forces that bind various molecules together and cause various parts of these molecules to be attracted to one another.

The task of physiological psychology is to “explain” behavior in physiological terms. Like other scientists, physiological psychologists believe that all natural phenomena—including human behavior—are subject to the laws of physics. Thus, the law of behavior can be reduced to description of physiological process.

The passage mainly discusses \_\_\_\_\_.

- A. the difference between “scientific” and “unscientific” explanations
- B. the difference between human and animal behavior
- C. how fear would be explained by the psychologists, physiologists, and molecule biologist
- D. how scientists differ in their ways explaining natural phenomena

答案是D。第一段,第二段,第三段分别是心理学家(psychologists),生理学家(physiologists),生理心理学家(physiological psychologists)用各自的方法解释自然现象。

训练理解文章中心思想的方法之一是用稍快于正常阅读的速度快速浏览全文。读完全文后,趁文章的开头至结尾的内容仍清晰地留在记忆中,作出对文章主旨的判断。不要在生词和难句上停留过长时间,否则会暂时中断头脑中对段落和段落间联系的记忆,从而影响对全文大意的判断。

考察主旨题常见题型有:

The passage tells us \_\_\_\_\_.

The passage mainly discusses \_\_\_\_\_.

Which of the following statements best expresses the main idea of the passage?

What is the main idea of the passage?

The phrase that best expresses the main idea of this passage is \_\_\_\_\_.

The best title for this passage could be \_\_\_\_\_.

## II Details

对全文中心的把握是正确理解全文的指南针。但对于一篇文章理解程度的深浅取决于对文章细节的理解,即对具体词句的理解。重要细节也是文章出题最多的考点所在。

常见题型有:

What of the following is Not mentioned by the author?

Which of the following statements is (not) true of...?

According to the passage, \_\_\_\_\_?

此外还有根据文章具体内容而设的 what, who, when, why, how many, how 等问句。

答此类问题时,要根据问题在原文中找出相对应的句子。联系上下文,把这些与问题密切相关的句子意思读懂,就能作出正确

选择了。

下列两则短文均选自 1999 年 6 月大学英语四级考试试卷。

The biggest safety threat facing airlines today may not be a terrorist with a gun, but the man with the portable computer in business class. In the last 15 years, pilots have reported well over 100 incidents that could have been caused by electromagnetic interference. The source of this interference remains unconfirmed, but increasingly, experts are pointing the blame at portable electronic devices such as portable computers, radio and cassette players and mobile telephones.

RTCA, an organization which advises the aviation industry, has recommended that all airlines ban such devices from being used during "critical" stages of flight, particularly take-off and landing. Some experts have gone further, calling for a total ban during all flights. Currently, rules of using these devices are left up to individual airlines. And although some airlines prohibit passengers from using such equipment during take-off and landing, most are reluctant to enforce a total ban, given that many passengers want to work during flights.

The difficulty is predicting how electromagnetic fields might affect an aircraft's computers. Experts know that portable devices emit radiation which affects those wavelengths which aircraft use for navigation and communication. But, because they have not been able to reproduce these effects in a laboratory, they have no way of knowing whether the interference might be dangerous or not.

The fact that aircraft may be vulnerable to interference raises the risk that terrorists may use radio systems in order to damage navigation equipment. As worrying, though, is the passenger who can't hear the instructions to turn off his radio because the music's too loud.

1. What is said about the over 100 aircraft incidents in the past 15 years?

- A. They may have been caused by the damage to the radio systems.
- B. They may have taken place during take-off and landing.
- C. They were proved to have been caused by the passengers' portable computers.
- D. They were suspected to have resulted from electromagnetic interference.

原文中相对应的句子是: In the last 15 years, pilots have reported well over 100 incidents that could have been caused by electromagnetic interference. 与 D 选项一致。故选 D。

2. Why is it difficult to predict the possible effects of electromagnetic fields on an airplane's computers?

- A. Because it is extremely dangerous to conduct such research on an airplane.
- B. Because it remains a mystery what wavelengths are liable to be interfered with.
- C. Because research scientists have not been able to produce the same effects in labs.
- D. Because experts lack adequate equipment to do such research.

从第三段的第一句 The difficulty is predicting how electromagnetic fields might affect an aircraft's computers. 可知答案在第三段。往下读,得到的信息是 because they have not been able to reproduce these effects in a laboratory……而 C 选项正好与原文意思一致。故选 C。

Brazil has become one of the developing world's great successes at reducing population growth—but more by accident than design. While

countries such as India have made joint efforts to reduce birth rates, Brazil has had better result without really trying, says George Martine at Harvard.

Brazil's population growth rate has dropped from 2.99% a year between 1951 to 1.93% a year between 1981 and 1990, and Brazilian women now have only 2.7 children on average. Martine says this figure may have fallen still further since 1990, an achievement that makes it the envy of many other Third World countries.

Martine puts it down to , among other things, soap operas and installment plans introduced in the 1970s. Both played an important, although indirect, role in lowering the birth rate. Brazil is one of the world's biggest producers of soap operas. Globo, Brazil's most popular television network, shows three hours of soaps six hours a week, while three others show at least one hour a night. Most soaps are based on wealthy characters living the high life in big cities.

"Although they have never really tried to work in a message towards the problems of reproduction, they describe middle and upper class values—not many children, different attitudes towards sex, women working," says Martine. "They sent this image to all parts of Brazil and made people conscious of other patterns of behaviour and other values, which were put into a very attractive package."

Meanwhile, the installment plans tried to encourage the poor to become consumers. "This led to an enormous change in consumption patterns and consumption was incompatible with unlimited reproduction," says Martine.

1. According to the passage, Brazil has cut back its population growth \_\_\_\_\_ .  
A. by educating its citizens  
B. by careful family planning

C. by developing TV programs

D. by chance

原文中相对应的句子是第一句 Brazil has become one of the developing world's great successes at reducing population growth—but more by accident than design. “by accident”与“by chance”意思一致。故选 D。

2. Soap operas have helped in lowering Brazil's birth rate because

— — .

A. they keep people sitting long hours watching TV

B. they have gradually changed people's way of life

C. people are drawn to their attractive package

D. they popularize birth control measures

此题涉及的原文内容不仅仅是一句话,而是整个段落(第三段最后一句话,第四段)。肥皂剧有利于降低人口出生率的原因在于这些电视剧上演中、上层社会阶级的生活方式及其价值观。其中一点就是孩子少。这种价值观通过此类电视剧的播出逐渐吸引和影响了巴西人。与此段意思相吻合的只有选项 B。故选 B。

总之,出题者针对原文中某句话,某个重要细节,在题目中换用同义词或换用另一句话来表达与原文句子相同的意思。只要找对了原文中相对应的句子,就找到了正确答案。

### III Skimming and Scanning

考试中,时间有限。如何充分利用时间,在最短的时间内解题呢?无论是解主旨题,还是解细节题都需运用快速阅读技巧——略读(skim)和扫视(scan)。

略读的目的是快速抓住文章大意。略读过程中,读者要善于抓文章的关键性词句及段落,区分文章的重要部分与非重要部分,全局部分与枝节部分,还要特别留意文章的开头与结尾,段落的主

题句和段落之间的过渡句。枝节部分要大胆略去不读。这样阅读速度会大幅度提高。有关统计表明,略读的阅读速度是正常阅读速度的两倍。可见在时间特别紧张的考试中,掌握略读技巧非常重要。

扫视与略读的区别在于略读注重 main idea 而扫视注意寻找 details。一篇阅读文章有五道阅读题。为提高解题速度,在读文章之前先读题目,根据题目在文章中找答案是一个好办法。我们不需要对文章每一部分都仔细阅读,只需对与题目相关的部分仔细阅读即可。

无论是略读还是扫视技巧,都可通过快速阅读训练获得。请读下列短文,并做相应的练习。

What is the author's main purpose in the passage?

- A. To teach us how to make use of electricity.
- B. To warn us the danger of electricity.
- C. To tell us the advantages of electricity.
- D. To tell us the disadvantages of electricity.

Electricity is very useful to us in many ways. We can use it to make our lives more comfortable. But it can be very dangerous to us also.

The electricity which we use from the electrical circuits in our homes and schools can kill us if we are not careful. Here are some points to remember.

1. Do not touch a bare wire from the main electrical circuit. It may be live wire, that is, there may be electricity in it. If you touch it, the electricity will flow into your body and give you an electric shock.

2. Climbing a lamp post carrying electric wires is dangerous. A lamp post is usually made of metal and is therefore a good conductor of electricity. Some electricity may have escaped from the electric wires to the lamp post and so you could be electrocuted.

3. Do not push a needle through an electric wire. An electric wire is

covered by rubber or plastic insulators. If you do so, electric current will flow through the needle to your body.

4. Do not try to repair electrical appliances. Leave it to an electrician.

5. Touching an electrical appliance with wet hands is dangerous! Water can conduct electricity.

6. Ask an electrician to tell you about electrical safety.

从文章开头两段即可判断答案为 B。如有疑问,其余各段主题句(topic sentence)则可进一步证实答案为 B。

The "Blue-Backed Speller" was published for \_\_\_\_\_.

- A. English schoolchildren
- B. American schoolchildren
- C. educators and writers
- D. teachers and students

What do you do when you want to learn the meaning of a certain word? If you are like most people, you do one of two things. You ask someone to tell you the word's meaning, or you look up words in a dictionary.

The fact that you can look up words in a dictionary can be traced to a man named Noah Webster. He produced the first dictionary of American English.

Noah Webster was a person who loved words. He was born in West Hartford, Connecticut, in 1758. Webster studied at Yale and later became a teacher and a writer.

In 1782 Webster was teaching art at an elementary school in Gishen, New York. He saw that the school books he was using had left out something he felt was important. The books Webster had to use in his teaching came from England. These books were just fine for teaching English chil-



dren. But they paid no attention to American culture. Remember, the United States had only just won its independence from England. Americans still educated their children the same way the British did. Noah Webster wanted to give his students an education that was strongly American.

To do this, in 1783 he published a spelling book for schoolchildren. Its full title was *The American Spelling Book*, but it came to be known as the "Blue-Backed Speller". The spelling guide became very popular. Over the years, it sold more than a hundred million copies. Copies were still being sold during much of the 1990s.

在文中找出“Blue-Backed Speller”所在,对此部分仔细阅读可知答案为 B。

#### IV Tone

中级阅读技巧之一是如何领会作者的观点、意图和态度。常见题型如下:

The tone of the passage is \_\_\_\_\_.

The author's tone in this passage is \_\_\_\_\_.

The author's attitude towards the subject is \_\_\_\_\_.

The writer probably feels that \_\_\_\_\_.

The author's purpose is \_\_\_\_\_.

选项常用词如下:

Cheerful, optimistic, confident, approval, positive, excited, subjective

Doubtful, hostile, critical, disappointed, pessimistic, biased, puzzling, disapproval, negative, sarcastic

Matter-of-fact, neutral, indifferent, objective, humorous, serious

要做好此类题型,一方面要从全文把握作者的观点,另一方面从作者的选词也可体会出作者的态度和感情。