

新东方学校·大学英语丛书

大学英语

四级考试阅读理解精要

根据教育部最新大纲编写

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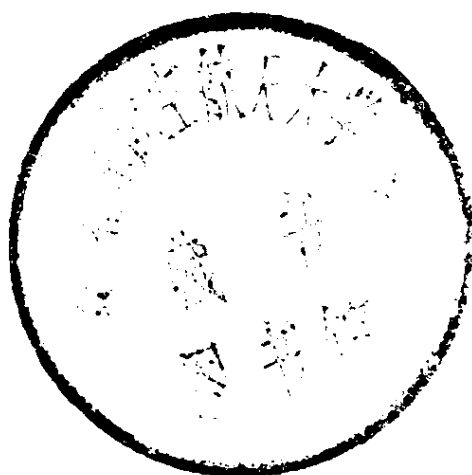
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前言

大学英语四级考试(CET-4)自1987年以来一直是测试高校学生英语水平最权威的尺度,为推动我国高校英语教学、提高高校学生英语水平起到了重要作用。

大学英语四级教学大纲把阅读能力摆在最重要的位置,事实上,阅读理解是任何一项英语考试中都必不可少的项目,也是任何一项英语考试试卷构成中占总分最多的一个项目,在四级考试中占总分的比例更是高达40%。但目前的现状是:不少考生对阅读理解这部分把握不大。尽管做了不少题,但提高仍不明显。究其根源,除了在基本的词汇和语法方面有欠缺之外,考生对阅读方法和做题技巧掌握较差也是原因。阅读理解这一部分成了四级考试成绩提高的瓶颈。

是先读文章,后看问题?还是先看问题,后读文章?阅读理解主要有哪些题型?有无行之有效的解题方法?针对考生的这类疑问,本书系统地介绍了有关阅读方法和解题技巧。

本书涉及大学英语四级、TOEFL、EPT等中的阅读理解部分,具有如下特点:

1. 严格按照教育部最新大纲的有关要求编写;
2. 本书所用材料全部取自历年四级考试真题;在分析

真题的基础上，结合作者在久负盛名的新东方多届四级辅导班的阅读教学经验，通过与四级考试得分在 85 分以上（阅读理解部分得分 36 分以上）的多名考生的晤谈，系统阐述针对各类题型的可操作性很强的解题方法和技巧；

3. 对最新的四套四级考试试题的阅读理解部分做了详解，这是同类书籍中的独家做法，使考生能在做完这几套题的模考以后，深入体会和理解真题的题型与思路，为未来的考试做好准备；

4. 阅读理解的困难在一定程度上是由文章里的难句造成的，有鉴于此，本书作者从历年四级考试真题阅读理解部分中选出 100 个有代表性的难句，对它们进行归类、结构分析，并辅以忠实、通顺的译文，考生只要认真阅读和研究它们，达到了然于胸的境界，考试时对难句就能举重若轻；

5. 除了阅读理解本身以外，与阅读理解密切相关的简答题和翻译在本书中也有实用的论述，使考生能够从容应对这两种新题型。

在本书的编写过程中，作者有幸得到了著名英语教学专家、新东方资深教师胡敏先生的热情指导和帮助，特深表谢意。

祝广大考生四级考试取得成功！

李传伟

1999 年 12 月于北京

目 录

第一部分 四级阅读理解总论	(1)
一、大纲要求	(10)
二、题材、体裁与语言	(10)
三、如何准备四级考试	(12)
1. 练习阅读方法,提高阅读速度(12)	
2. 精研历年真题(19)	
3. 熟悉题型(20)	
4. 扩大阅读量(22)	

第二部分 四级阅读理解题型、解题方法与技巧	(24)
一、主旨题	(24)
1. 把握文章逻辑结构(24)	
2. 抓主题句(29)	
3. 概括段落大意(39)	
4. 根据论述详略确定(43)	
二、主旨题型的变体	(45)
1. 标题(45)	
2. 写作目的(49)	
3. 作者态度(56)	
三、主旨题干扰选项的特点	(65)
1. 局部信息(65)	
2. 概括范围过宽(66)	
3. 无关信息(66)	
四、细节题	(67)
1. 是非题(68)	
2. 例证题(72)	
3. 其他形式的具体题(77)	
五、细节题干扰选项的特征	(99)

六、词义题 (104)

1. 破解词汇本身的意义(105) 2. 利用上下文线索(122) 3. 利用语法和逻辑(134) 4. 指代题(138)

七、推理题 (144)

1. 无标志词的推理题(146) 2. 暗示推理题(152)
3. 推论题(157)

第三部分 最新四级阅读理解试题详解 (171)

第四部分 简答题

- 一、概述 (256)
二、题型与对策 (257)
三、简答题练习 (267)
四、简答题答案与解释 (280)

第五部分 英译汉 (287)

- 一、四级考试英译汉试题简介 (287)
二、“英译汉”样题、评分标准与原文 (288)
三、四级考试英译汉详论 (295)
四、常见结构的翻译 (308)
五、“英译汉”练习与参考答案 (318)

第六部分 四级阅读理解 100 难句
分类、结构分析与翻译 (352)

第一部分

四级阅读理解总论

四级考试的阅读理解部分共四篇短文,考试时间为 35 分钟。每篇文章 5 道题,共计 20 道题。每篇文章的长度约在 230~280 词之间,平均为 250 词,总阅读量控制在 1000 词左右。考试形式为多项选择,四个答案中选一个最佳答案。下面是 1995 年 6 月四级试题的阅读部分,我们在后面的讲述中会反复引用其中的材料。

Part III Reading Comprehension

(35 minutes)

Directions: *There are 4 reading passages in this part. Each passage is followed by some questions or unfinished statements. For each of them there are four choices marked A), B), C) and D). You should decide on the best choice and mark the corresponding letter on the Answer Sheet with a single line through the centre.*

Questions 21 to 25 are based on the following passage:

Researchers have established that when people are mentally engaged, biochemical changes occur in the brain that allow it to act more effectively in cognitive (认知的) areas such as attention and

memory. This is true regardless of age.

People will be alert (警觉的) and receptive (愿意接受的) if they are faced with information that gets them to think about things they are interested in. And someone with a history of doing more rather than less will go into old age more cognitively sound than someone who has not had an active mind.

Many experts are so convinced of the benefits of challenging the brain that they are putting the theory to work in their own lives. "The idea is not necessarily to learn to memorize enormous amounts of information," says James Fozard, associate director of the National Institute on Aging. "Most of us don't need that kind of skill. Such specific training is of less interest than being able to maintain mental alertness." Fozard and others say they challenge their brains with different mental skills, both because they enjoy them and because they are sure that their range of activities will help the way their brains work.

Gene Cohen, acting director of the same institute, suggests that people in their old age should engage in mental and physical activities individually as well as in groups. Cohen says that we are frequently advised to keep physically active as we age, but older people need to keep mentally active as well. Those who do are more likely to maintain their intellectual abilities and to be generally happier and better adjusted. "The point is, you need to do both," Cohen says. "Intellectual activity actually influences brain-cell health and size."

21. People who are cognitively healthy are those _____.

A) who can remember large amounts of information

- B) who are highly intelligent
 - C) whose minds are alert and receptive
 - D) who are good at recognizing different sounds
22. According to Fozard's argument, people can make their brains work more efficiently by _____.
- A) constantly doing memory work
 - B) taking part in various mental activities
 - C) going through specific training
 - D) making frequent adjustments
23. The findings of James and other scientists in their work _____.
- A) remain a theory to be further proved
 - B) have been challenged by many other experts
 - C) have been generally accepted
 - D) are practised by the researchers themselves
24. Older people are generally advised to _____.
- A) keep mentally active by challenging their brains
 - B) keep fit by going in for physical activities
 - C) maintain mental alertness through specific training
 - D) maintain a balance between individual and group activities
25. What is the passage mainly about?
- A) How biochemical changes occur in the human brain.
 - B) Why people should receive special mental training as they age.
 - C) How intellectual activities influence brain-cell health.
 - D) Why people should keep active not only physically but also mentally.

Questions 26 to 30 are based on the following passage:

Attention to detail is something everyone can and should do — especially in a tight job market. Bob Crossley, a human-resources expert notices this in the job applications that come across his desk every

day. "It's amazing how many candidates eliminate themselves," he says.

"Résumés (简历) arrive with stains. Some candidates don't bother to spell the company's name correctly. Once I see a mistake, I eliminate the candidate," Crossley concludes. "if they cannot take care of these details, why should we trust them with a job?"

Can we pay too much attention to details? Absolutely. Perfectionists struggle over little things at the cost of something larger they work toward. "To keep from losing the forest for the trees," says Charles Garfield, associate professor at the University of California, San Francisco, "We must constantly ask ourselves how the details we're working on fit into the larger picture. If they don't, we should drop them and move to something else."

Garfield compares this process to his work as a computer scientist at NASA. "The Apollo II moon launch was slightly off-course 90 percent of the time," says Garfield. "But a successful landing was still likely because we knew the exact coordinates of our goal. This allowed us to make adjustments as necessary." Knowing where we want to go helps us judge the importance of every task we undertake.

Too often we believe what accounts for others' success is some special secret or a lucky break (机遇). But rarely is success so mysterious. Again and again, we see that by doing little things within our grasp well, large rewards follow.

26. According to the passage, some job applicants were rejected

- A) because of their carelessness as shown in their failure to present a clean copy of a resume
 - B) because of their inadequate education as shown in their poor spelling in writing a resume
 - C) because they failed to give a detailed description of their background in their applications
 - D) because they eliminated their names from the applicants' list themselves
27. The word "perfectionists" (Para. 3, Line 1) refers to those who _____.
- A) demand others to get everything absolutely right
 - B) know how to adjust their goals according to the circumstances
 - C) pay too much attention to details only to lose their major objectives
 - D) are capable of achieving perfect results in whatever they do
28. Which of the following is the author's advice to the reader?
- A) Although too much attention to details may be costly, they should not be overlooked.
 - B) Don't forget details when drawing pictures.
 - C) Be aware of the importance of a task before undertaking it.
 - D) Careless applicants are not to be trusted.
29. The example of the Apollo II moon launch is given to illustrate that _____.
- A) minor mistakes can be ignored in achieving major objectives
 - B) failure is the mother of success
 - C) adjustments are the key to the successful completion of any work
 - D) keeping one's goal in mind helps in deciding which details can be overlooked

30. The best title for this passage would be _____.

- A) Don't Be a Perfectionist
- B) Importance of Adjustments
- C) Details and Major Objectives
- D) Hard Work Plus Good Luck

Questions 31 to 35 are based on the following passage:

Britain almost more than any other country in the world must seriously face the problem of building upwards, that is to say, of accommodating a considerable proportion of its population in high blocks of flats. It is said that the Englishman objects to this type of existence, but if the case is such, he does in fact differ from the inhabitants of most countries of the world today. In the past our own blocks of flats have been associated with the lower-income groups and they have lacked the obvious provisions, such as central heating, constant hot water supply, electrically operated lifts from top to bottom, and so on, as well as such details important notwithstanding (然而), as easy facilities for disposal of dust and rubbish and storage places for baby carriages on the ground floor, playgrounds for children on the top of the buildings, and drying grounds for washing. It is likely that the dispute regarding flats versus (对, 对抗) individual houses will continue to rage on for a long time as far as Britain is concerned. And it is unfortunate that there should be hot feelings on both sides whenever this subject is raised. Those who oppose the building of flats base their case primarily on the assumption (设想) that everyone prefers an individual home and garden and on the high cost per unit of accommodation. The latter ignores the higher cost of providing full services to a scattered community and the cost in both money and time of the journeys to work for the suburban resident.

31. We can infer from the passage that _____.
- A) English people, like most people in other countries, dislike living in flats
 - B) people in most countries of the world today are not opposed to living in flats
 - C) people in Britain are forced to move into high blocks of flats
 - D) modern flats still fail to provide the necessary facilities for living
32. What is said about the blocks of flats built in the past in Britain?
- A) They were mostly inhabited by people who did not earn much.
 - B) They were usually not large enough to accommodate big families.
 - C) They were sold to people before necessary facilities were installed.
 - D) They provided playgrounds for children on the top of the buildings.
33. The word "rage"(Line 15) means "_____."
- A) be ignored
 - B) develop with great force
 - C) encourage people greatly
 - D) be in fashion
34. Some people oppose the building of flats because _____.
- A) the living expenses for each individual family are higher
 - B) it involves higher cost compared with the building of houses
 - C) they believe people like to live in houses with gardens
 - D) the disposal of rubbish remains a problem for those living in flats
35. The author mentions that people who live in suburban houses _____.
- A) do not have access to easy facilities because they live away from the city

- B) have to pay a lot of money to employ people to do service work
- C) take longer time to know each other because they are a scattered community
- D) have to spend more money and time travelling to work every day

Questions 36 to 40 are based on the following passage:

Where do pesticides (杀虫剂) fit into the picture of environmental disease? We have seen that they now pollute soil, water, and food, that they have the power to make our streams fishless and our gardens and woodlands silent and birdless. Man, however much he may like to pretend the contrary, is part of nature. Can he escape a pollution that is now so thoroughly distributed throughout our world?

We know that even single exposures to these chemicals, if the amount is large enough, can cause extremely severe poisoning. But this is not the major problem. The sudden illness or death of farmers, farm workers, and others exposed to sufficient quantities of pesticides is very sad and should not occur. For the population as a whole, we must be more concerned with the delayed effects of absorbing small amounts of the pesticides that invisibly pollute our world.

Responsible public health officials have pointed out that the biological effects of chemicals are cumulative (积累的) over long periods of time, and that the danger to the individual may depend on the sum of the exposures received throughout his lifetime. For these very reasons the danger is easily ignored. It is human nature to shake off what may seem to us a threat of future disaster. "Men are naturally

most impressed by diseases which have obvious signs,” says a wise physician, Dr. Rene Dubos, “yet some of their worst enemies slowly approach them unnoticed.”

36. Which of the following is closest in meaning to the sentence “Man, . . . is part of nature.” (Para. 1, Lines 4 – 5)?
- A) Man appears indifferent to what happens in nature.
 - B) Man acts as if he does not belong to nature.
 - C) Man can avoid the effects of environmental pollution.
 - D) Man can escape his responsibilities for environmental protection.
37. What is the author’s attitude towards the environmental effects of pesticides?
- A) Pessimistic.
 - B) Indifferent.
 - C) Defensive.
 - D) Concerned.
38. In the author’s view, the sudden death caused by exposure to large amounts of pesticides _____.
- A) is not the worst of the negative consequences resulting from the use of pesticides
 - B) now occurs most frequently among all accidental deaths
 - C) has sharply increased so as to become the center of public attention
 - D) is unavoidable because people can’t do without pesticides in farming
39. People tend to ignore the delayed effects of exposure to chemicals because _____.
- A) limited exposure to them does little harm to people’s health
 - B) the present is more important for them than the future
 - C) the danger does not become apparent immediately
 - D) humans are capable of withstanding small amounts of poi-