

大学英语阅读

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大学英语阅读

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内 容 提 要

本书根据高等院校文科《大学英语教学大纲》编写,旨在通过大量的阅读实践提高学生的阅读能力及大学英语四级统考阅读理解的应试能力。

全书共分4级,每级10个单元,共200篇文章。各篇文章后均安排有各种类型阅读测试题,选材包括科普、历史、天文地理、风土人情、人物传记和体育等,内容由浅入深,循序渐进。

本书可做大学英语课堂教学泛读用书,还可供其它相应水平的英语自学者使用。

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前 言

《大学英语阅读》是根据国家教委颁发施行的《大学英语教学大纲》和《大学英语四级考试大纲》编写的。本书旨在帮助考生在短期内,全面有效地提高阅读理解能力。

众所周知,在全国大学四级英语统考中,阅读理解部分占总分百分之四十;因此,阅读能力的高低在很大程度上是学生能否通过四级考试的关键。我们根据教学中学生的主要难点和需求,编写了这本手册。全书共分四级,每级10个单元,每个单元5篇文章,全书共选文章200篇。在选材方面,我们特别注意了难易适中(生词尽量控制在四级大纲内),力求语言规范、结构严谨、内容丰富、多裁多样、同时兼顾知识性和趣味性,以此激发学生的英语学习积极性。所选文章内容涉及科普、历史、天文、地理、风土人情、体育和人物传记等,每篇文章后都有4~5个选择理解题,题型为全国大学英语四级统考中常见的细节、暗示、结论、逻辑、推理、生词短语理解等题型。

本书内容由浅入深、循序渐进;既可作为大学英语课堂的泛读用书,也可作为课外阅读练习教材和其它相应水平读者的阅读材料。

全书由黄慧强主编,刘燕春、张惠珍、张晓宁、马雪梅为副主编。李淑兰、王晓放、韩会敏、谢丽敏、王立军、刘栓刚等参加了全书的编写工作。

编写过程中,我们参阅了国内外大量有关的材料和著作,

恕不一一注明出处,在此一并致谢。

由于时间仓促,编者水平和经验有限,错误和疏漏之处在所难免;敬请读者及各位同行批评指正。

编者

一九九六年六月于石家庄

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BAND ONE

Unit One

Passage 1

Tests conducted at the University of Pennsylvania's Psychological Laboratory showed that anger is one of the most difficult emotions to detect(猜测) from facial expression. Professor Dallas E. Buzby confronted(提供) 716 students with pictures of extremely angry persons, and ask them to identify the emotion from the facial expression. Only two percent made correct judgements. Anger was most frequently judged as "pleased." And a typical reaction of a student confronted with the picture of a man who was(hopping mad) was to classify his expression as either "puzzled," or simply "amazed." Other students showed that it is extremely difficult to tell whether a man is angry or not just by looking at his face. The investigators found further that women are better at detecting anger from facial expression than men are. Paradoxically, they found that psychological training does not sharpen one's ability to judge a man's emotions by his expressions but appears actually to hinder(妨碍) it. For in the university tests, the more courses the subject(被测人) had taken in psychology, the poorer judgment scores he turned in.

1. The information in this passage centers around _____.
 - a. the relation between anger and other emotions
 - b. the differences between men and women with respect to e-

motion

- ☒ c. the influence of psychology on perceptions
- ☒ d. the detection of anger from facial expression

2. The main idea of this passage is that anger _____.

- ☒ a. is difficult to detect by looking at a person's face
- b. is easier to be detected by women than by men
- c. cannot be detected by a psychologically - trained person
- d. resembles bewilderment in its effects

3. When tested, students with psychological training _____.

- a. marked less than two percent of their possible choices correctly
- b. did better than the average student in the group
- ☒ c. seemed less able to judge correctly than the average student
- d. performed in a manner not specified in the passage

4. To achieve the greatest success in detecting anger from facial expression, it would be best to _____.

- ☒ a. use adults rather than students as judges
- ☒ b. ask women in fields other than psychology to judge it
- c. ask men rather than women to judge it
- ☒ d. be satisfied with a two percent success, if such a percentage is guaranteed

Passage 2

Every animal is a living radiator (辐射体) -- heat formed in its cells is given off through its skin. Warm-blooded animals maintain a steady temperature by constantly replacing

lost surface heat; smaller animals, which have more skin for every ounce of body weight, must produce heat faster than bigger ones. Because smaller animals burn fuel faster, scientists say they live faster.

The speed at which an animal lives is determined by measuring the rate at which it uses oxygen. A chicken, for example, uses one - half cubic centimeter (立方厘米) of oxygen every hour for each gram it weighs. The tiny shrew (a small mouse like animal) uses four cubic centimeters of oxygen every hour for each gram it weighs. Because it uses oxygen eight times as fast, it is said that the mouselike shrew is living eight times as fast as the chicken. The smallest of the warm - blooded creatures, the humming - bird (蜂鸟), lives a hundred times as fast as an elephant.

There is a limit to how small a warm - blooded animal can be. A mammal (哺乳动物) or bird that weighed only two and a half grams would starve to death. It would burn up its food too rapidly and would not be able to eat fast enough to supply more fuel.

1. The selection says that every animal is a living radiator because it _____.
 - a. produces heat in its body cells
 - b. burns fuel to produce heat
 - c. gives off heat through its skin
 - d. requires oxygen to produce heat
2. The speed at which an animal lives is determined by measur-

ing _____.

- a. the amount of food it eats
- b. its body temperature
- ☒ c. the rate at which it uses oxygen
- d. the amount of oxygen it uses

3. The amount of oxygen an animal uses depends on _____.

- a. its body weight
- b. the food it eats
- c. its general size and shape
- ☒ d. the length of time it lives

4. An animal weighing less than 2.5 grams would starve because it would not be able to _____.

- ☒ a. get enough oxygen
- b. maintain its body temperature
- c. burn its food fast enough
- ☒ d. eat fast enough to supply fuel

Passage 3

Mrs. Wilson, the middle - aged wife of a rich businessman, invited some of her friends to lunch. She was trying a new way of cooking a fish dish, and she was very pleased with herself when the dish was ready. As the fish was very hot, she put it near the open window to cool for a few minutes. However, five minutes later, when she came back for it, she was surprised to find the neighbour's cat, Chester, at the fish. Fortunately, she was in time to stop the cat before it was too late. That afternoon was a good success and everyone enjoyed

the dish very much. They talked and laughed till four o'clock.

At the end of the afternoon, when she was alone again, Mrs. Wilson felt tired but happy. She was sitting in a chair just near the window when, through the window, she was surprised to see the neighbour's cat dead in her garden! Why, the fish dish must be bad! What would happen to her friends? She at once telephoned the family doctor for help. The doctor told her to telephone each of the visitors to meet him at the hospital as soon as possible. Finally the danger was over. Once again Mrs Wilson was alone in her chair in the living room, still tired but no longer happy. Just then the telephone rang. It was her neighbour. "Oh, Millie," her neighbour cried, "Chester is dead. She was killed by someone in a car and put in your garden..."

1. Chester was a name given to _____.
 - a. Mrs Wilson's neighbour
 - ☒ b. her neighbour's cat
 - c. her neighbour's boy
 - d. Mrs Wilson's cat
2. Chester didn't eat up the fish simply because _____.
 - a. she didn't like it
 - b. the fish had a bad smell
 - c. the fish was too hot
 - ☒ d. she was stopped in time by Mrs Wilson
3. Her party ended _____.
 - a. at four o'clock in the afternoon
 - b. when it was getting dark

☒ c. before four o'clock in the afternoon

d. late at night

4. Seeing Chester dead in her garden, Mrs Wilson thought that

_____.

a. she had been killed by someone in a car

b. she had been killed by her neighbour

c. she had been killed by one of her friends

☒ d. the fish she had eaten was bad

5. How did Mrs Wilson know the truth finally?

a. she knew it from the doctor.

b. her neighbour came to tell her.

☒ c. her neighbour told her on the telephone.

d. she read it in the newspaper.

Passage 4

The modern sailing ship was developed by a man who never went to sea. He was Prince Henry of Portugal, the younger son of the Portuguese King and an English princess.

Prince Henry lived in the fifteenth century. As a boy he became devoted to the sea, and he dedicated himself to improving the design of ships and the methods of sailing them. In 1416, when he was twenty - two, Henry founded a school for mariners, to which he invited everyone who could help him - - Jewish astronomers, Italian and Spanish sailors, and Arab mathematicians and map makers who knew how to use the crude compass of the day and could improve it.

Henry's goal was to design and equip vessels that would be

capable of making long ocean voyages without having to hug(靠近)the shore. The caravel carried more sail and was longer and slimmer than any ship then made, yet was tough enough to withstand gales (海上暴风) at sea. He also developed the carrack, which was a slower ship, but one that was capable of carrying more cargo.

To Prince Henry the world owes credit for the development of craft that made oceanic exploration possible. He lives in history as Henry the Navigator.

1. Henry the Navigator was a member of the royal family of _____.

- | | |
|------------|-------------|
| a. England | b. Spain |
| c. Italy | d. Portugal |

2. Prince Henry started his school for the purpose of _____.

- ☒ a. helping mariners
- b. improving astronomy and mathematics
- c. studying astronomy and mathematics
- d. improving his own skill as a sailor

3. The teachers in Prince Henry's school seem to have been _____.

- a. members of royal family
- ☒ b. astronomers, sailors, and map makers
- c. shipbuilders
- d. all of the above

4. Prince Henry's goal was to design vessels that could _____.

- a. make long deep - sea voyages
 - b. travel faster than those in use at that time
 - c. explore the coastline of Portugal
 - d. carry large crews and more cargo than existing ones
5. Compared with his caravel, Henry's carrack was _____.
- a. longer and slimmer
 - b. able to carry more sails
 - c. able to carry more cargo
 - d. shorter

Passage 5

I was being tested for a driving licence for the third time. I had been asked to drive in heavy traffic and had done so successfully. After having been instructed to drive out of town, I began to acquire confidence. Sure that I had passed. I was almost beginning to enjoy my test. The examiner must have been pleased with my performance, for he smiled and said, "Just one more thing, Mr. Eames. Let us suppose that a child suddenly crosses the road in front of you, as soon as I tap on the window. I want the car to be stopped immediately." I continued driving and after sometime, the examiner tapped loudly. Though the sound could be heard clearly, it took me a long time to react. I suddenly pressed the brake pedal hard and we were thrown forward. The examiner looked at me sadly. "Mr. Eames," he said, in a mournful voice, "you've just killed that child."

1. When the driver was asked to drive out of town he began to feel confident because _____.

- a. he was being tested for the third time
 - b. he was driving away from the heavy traffic
 - c. he had done wonderfully well in driving through the heavy traffic
2. He was beginning to enjoy his test because _____.
- a. he was now in the open country
 - b. he was sure that he had passed
 - c. he had a feeling that the examiner was agreeable
3. The examiner smiled at him, so he thought that the examiner _____.
- a. was satisfied with what he had done so far
 - b. was going to be more pleasant with him
 - c. was feeling used
4. When the examiner tapped loudly on the window, the driver _____.
- a. pressed the brake pedal hard immediately
 - b. failed to stop the car at the signal
 - c. heard the tapping only a long time later
5. So we can well imagine that in the end the driver _____.
- a. must have been arrested for having killed a child
 - b. must have failed in the test
 - c. must have damaged his car badly

Unit Two

Passage 1

Have you ever tried to hold your breath for a long time and

then let it out slowly? This is one of the techniques of an ancient Indian discipline known as Yoga(瑜伽). For thousands of years, people have used Yoga to help search for happiness and contentment.

Students of Yoga often study for as long as 20 years before becoming masters, or Yogis. They learn many different physical exercises. These exercises are designed to put the students in good physical condition. Then they can concentrate on deep religious thoughts without worrying about physical discomforts.

Many Yoga exercises involve putting the body into difficult positions. Some of them are very hard to learn. Have you ever tried to fold your legs over one another? This is one of the basic Yoga positions. It is called the lotus(莲花) position. Most people find it difficult to stay in that position for even a few minutes. But Yogis train themselves to remain in the lotus position for hours or even days. They are taught to overcome the physical discomfort of holding these positions. Other exercise and rules teach concentration(专心). Yogis feel this is the key to finding inner peace. This kind of concentration is called meditation(冥想).

Yogis and many other people practice meditation. They claim that it makes them feel relaxed and peaceful. Some people say that it makes them feel better just as good exercise does. But other people claim that it is a way of achieving a strong religious feeling.

The word Yoga itself comes from an ancient Sanskrit(梵