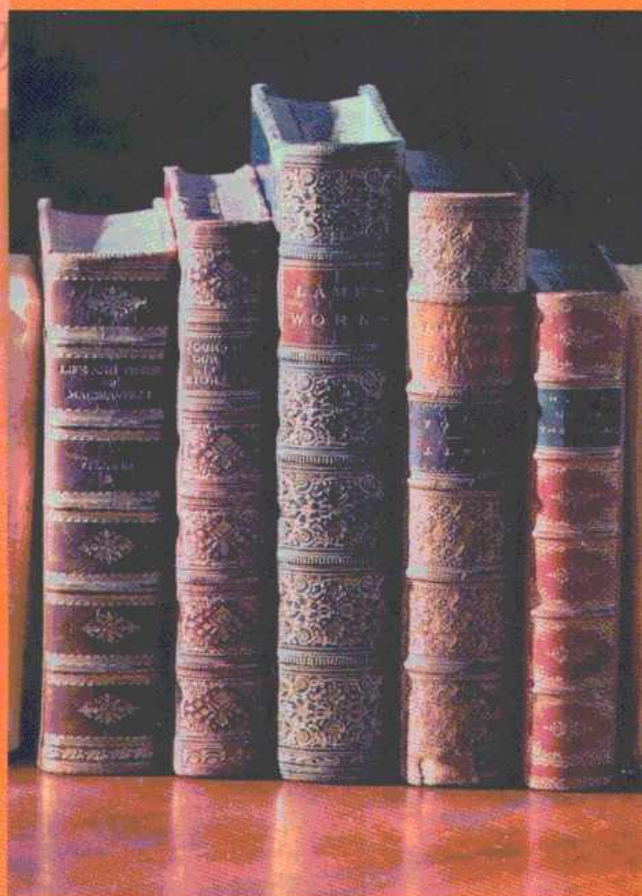


张隆胜 编著

英语考试阅读技巧丛书

研究生英语入学考试 阅读技巧



国防科技大学出版社

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国防科技大学出版社

湖南·长沙

图书在版编目(CIP)数据

研究生英语入学考试阅读技巧/张隆胜等编著. —长沙: 国防科技大学出版社, 1999. 9

ISBN 7-81024-583-X

I. 研… II. 张… III. 英语-阅读教学-研究生-入学考试-升学参考资料 IV. H319.4

中国版本图书馆 CIP 数据核字(1999)第 37642 号

国防科技大学出版社出版发行

电话:(0731)4555681 邮政编码:410073

E-mail: gfkdcbs@public.cs.hn.cn

责任编辑:黄 煌 责任校对:文 慧

新华书店总店北京发行所经销

国防科技大学印刷厂印装

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787×1092 1/32 印张:10.75 字数:251 千
1999 年 9 月第 1 版第 1 次印刷 印数:1-3000 册

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定价:14.00 元

前 言

本书旨在提高研究生入学考试应试者的英语阅读能力,由阅读练习、阅读方法与技巧和历年入学考试试题三大部分组成。方法和技巧部分结合各种阅读技巧,系统地介绍了几类主要题型的解决方法。练习包括60篇阅读练习,根据题材分为社会生活、政治经济、文化教育、科普知识四大类,希望这样的分类尝试能使读者集中熟悉题材类似的阅读材料,迅速提高各类英语文章的阅读能力。书中附有五套研究生入学考试英语试题,供读者进行自测。读者可在完成分类练习掌握了前文介绍的阅读技巧后进行自测,检验自己的阅读能力。

本书适用于广大研究生入学考试应试者及同等学力的英语学习者。因编者水平有限,疏漏之处在所难免,望广大读者不吝赐教。

编者

一九九九年七月

阅读练习

社会生活

Passage One

The Library of Congress in Washington, D. C. , which houses the largest collection of books in the world, is fighting a battle against paper deterioration. The pages of old books, often yellowed and torn, sometimes crumble when they are touched. The main culprit in the battle is the acidic paper which has been used for making books since the nineteenth century.

Air pollution and moisture have added to the problem. Strangely, the books that are most in danger of destruction are not the oldest books. The paper in books made before the last century was made from cotton and linen rags, which are naturally low in acid. And the Gutenberg Bible, printed five centuries ago, was made of thin calfskin and is in remarkably good shape. But in the nineteenth century, with widespread literacy bringing a demand for a cheaper and more plentiful supply of paper, the industry began using chemically treated wood pulp for making paper. It is the chemical in this paper that is causing today's problem.

This problem of paper deterioration is one of global concern. France, Canada, and Austria are all doing research into new methods of deacidification. A new technology has recently been

developed, in fact, that allows for mass deacidification of thousands of books at the same time. It costs less than microfilming and still preserves books in their original form. It is hoped there will soon be treatment facilities all over the world to preserve and deacidify library book collections.

Questions

1. The best title for this passage is _____.
 - (A) Paper Deterioration
 - (B) Techniques of Deacidification
 - (C) Microfilming vs. Deacidification
 - (D) Types of Paper Used in Bookmaking
2. Many countries in the world are _____.
 - (A) deacidifying their book collections
 - (B) producing books from cotton and linen rags
 - (C) doing research into methods of mass preservation
 - (D) building treatment facilities
3. A new technique in deacidification _____.
 - (A) uses microfilm to save books
 - (B) will save the Gutenberg Bible
 - (C) uses chemically treated wood pulp
 - (D) can treat thousands of books at a time
4. We can assume from this passage that _____.
 - (A) cotton and linen rags are not good for making paper
 - (B) calfskin is low in acid
 - (C) wood pulp is expensive
 - (D) microfilming is an inexpensive way to preserve old books

Passage Two

Many of the aids which are advertised as liberating the modern woman tend to have the opposite effect, because they simply change the nature of work instead of eliminating it. Machines have a certain novelty value, like toys for adults. It is certainly less tiring to put clothes in a washing machine, but the time saved does not really amount to much; the machine has to be watched, the clothes have to be carefully sorted first, stains removed by hand, buttons pushed and water changed, clothes taken out, aired and ironed. It would more liberating to pack it all off to a laundry and not necessarily more expensive, since no capital investment is required. Similarly, if you really want to save time you do not make cakes with an electric mixer, you buy one in a shop. If one compares the image of domesticated woman fostered by the women's magazines with the goods advertised by those periodicals, advertising which finances them, one realizes how useful a projected image can be commercially made. A careful balance has to be struck; if you show a labour-saving gadget, follow it up with a complicated recipe on the next page; on no account hint at the notion that a woman could get herself a job, but instead foster her sense of her own usefulness, emphasize the creative aspect of her function as a housewife. So we get cake mixes where the cook simply adds an egg herself, to produce "that lovely home-baked flavour the family love", and knitting patterns that can be made by hand, or worse still, on knitting machines, which became a tremendous vogue when they were

first introduced (difficult to know who would wear all those rapidly produced sweaters, which laced the advantages of hand-made woolens). Automatic cookers are advertised by pictures of pretty young mothers taking their children to the park, not by professional women presetting the dinner before catching a bus to the office.

Questions

1. According to the writer, many of the aids which are supposed to liberate woman _____.
 - (A) remove unpleasant aspects of house work
 - (B) save the housewife very little time at all
 - (C) save time but not money
 - (D) have absolutely no value for the housewife
2. The writer suggests that using an electric mixer to make a cake is _____.
 - (A) less expensive than buying one in a shop
 - (B) more satisfying than buying one in a shop
 - (C) more liberating than buying one in a shop
 - (D) more time-consuming than buying one in a shop
3. According to the text, advertisements in women's magazines try _____.
 - (A) to encourage housewives to use their time more imaginatively
 - (B) to make housewives feel their role is a useful one
 - (C) to persuade housewives that they should think about finding a job
 - (D) to make housewives buy products that they really do not

need

4. The writer's opinion about automatic cooker is that _____.
- (A) they are particularly useful for the professional woman
 - (B) advertisements associate them principally with the conventional housewife
 - (C) they have less appeal for young mothers who do not work
 - (D) professional women do not have much use for them

Passage Three

The nobler and more perfect a thing is, the later and slower it is in arriving at maturity. A man reaches the maturity of his reasoning powers and mental faculties hardly before the age of twenty-eight, a woman at eighteen. And then, too, in the case of woman, it is only reason of a sort—very niggard (吝啬鬼) in its dimensions. That is why women remain children their whole life long; never seeing anything but what is quite close to them, cleaving to the present moment, taking appearance for reality, and preferring trifles to matters of the first importance ... For it is by virtue of his reasoning faculty that man does not live in the present only, like the brute, but looks about him and considers the past and the future; and this is the origin of prudence, as well as of that care and anxiety which so many people exhibit. Both the advantages and the disadvantages which this involves, are shared in by the woman to a smaller extent because of her weaker power of reasoning. She may, in fact be described as intellectually short-sighted, because, while she has an intuitive understanding of what lies quite close to her, her field of vision is narrow

and does not reach to what is remote; so that things which are absent, or past, or to come, have much less effect upon woman than upon men.

This is the reason why women are more inclined to be extravagant, and sometimes carry their inclination to a length that borders upon madness. In their hearts, women think it is men's business to earn money and theirs to spend it—if possible during their husbands' life, but, at any rate, after his death. The very fact that their husband hands them over his earnings for purposes of housekeeping, strengthens them in this belief.

However many disadvantages all this may involve, there is at least this to be said in its favour; that the woman lives more in the present than the man, and that, if the present is at all tolerable, she enjoys it more eagerly. This is the source of that cheerfulness which is peculiar to women, fitting her to amuse man in his hours of recreation, and in case of need, to console him when he is borne down by the weight of his cares.

Questions

1. According to the author, the major difference between a man's and a woman's intellect is that _____.
 - (A) men mature much later than woman
 - (B) men have a broader view of things
 - (C) women are more cheerful than men
 - (D) man's intellect is nobler than that of woman
2. The cause of women's frivolity and cheerfulness is that _____.
 - (A) men do not challenge their intellect

- (B) they are irresponsible by their very nature
(C) they live more in the present
(D) they want to console men
3. The author is probably a _____.
- (A) philosopher (B) gossip columnist
(C) happily married man (D) biologist
4. The author's attitude toward women can best be described as _____.
- (A) contemptuous (B) condescending
(C) paternal (D) cynical

Passage Four

Shopping for clothes is not the same experience for a man as it is for a woman. A man goes shopping because he needs something. His purpose is settled and decided in advance. He knows what he wants, and his objective is to find it and buy it; the price is a secondary consideration. All men simply walk into a shop and ask the assistant for what they want. If the shop has it in stock, the salesman promptly produces it, and the business of trying it on proceeds at once. All being well, the deal can be and often is completed in less than five minutes, with hardly any chat and to everyone's satisfaction.

For a man, slight problems may begin when the shop does not have what he wants, or does not have exactly what he wants. In that case the salesman, as the name implies, tries to sell the customer something else—he offers the nearest he can to the article required. No good salesman brings out such a substi-

tute bluntly; he does so with skill and polish: "I know this jacket is not the style you want, sir, but would you like to try it for size, I happens to be the colour you mentioned." Few men have patience with this treatment, and the usual response is: "This is the right colour and may be the right size, but I should be wasting my time and yours by trying it on."

Now how does a woman go about buying clothes? In almost every respect she does so in the opposite way. Her shopping is not often based on need. She has never fully made up her mind what she wants, and she is only "having a look around". She is always open to persuasion; indeed she sets great store by what the saleswoman tells her, even by what companions tell her. She will try on any number of things. Uppermost in her mind is the thought of finding something that everyone thinks suits her. Contrary to a lot of jokes, most women have an excellent sense of value when they buy clothes. They are always on the look-out for the unexpected bargain. Faced with a roomful of dresses, a woman may easily spend an hour going from one rail to another, to and fro, often retracing her steps, before selecting the dresses she wants to try on. It is a laborious process, but apparently an enjoyable one. Most dress shops provide chairs for the waiting husbands.

Questions

1. When a man is buying clothes, _____.
(A) he buys cheap things, regardless of quality
(B) he chooses things that others recommend
(C) he does not mind how much he has to pay for the right

- things
- (D) he buys good quality things, so long as they are not too dear
2. When a man cannot get exactly what he wants, _____.
- (A) he buys a similar thing of the colour he wants
- (B) he usually does not buy anything
- (C) at least two of his requirements must be met before he buys
- (D) so long as the style is right, he buys the thing
3. In commerce a good salesman is one who _____.
- (A) treats his customers sharply
- (B) always has in stock just what you want
- (C) does not waste his time on difficult customers
- (D) sells something a customer does not particularly want
4. The most obvious difference between men and women shoppers is _____.
- (A) the fact that men do not try clothes on in a shop
- (B) women bargain for their clothes, but men do not
- (C) women stand up to shop, but men sit down
- (D) the time they take over buying things

Passage Five

Tight-lipped elders used to say, "It's not what you want in this world, but what you get."

Psychology teaches that you do get what you want if you know what you want and want the right things.

You can make a mental blueprint of a desire as you would

make a blueprint of a house, and each of us is continually making these blueprints in the general routine of everyday living. If we intend to have friends to dinner, we plan the menu, make a shopping list, decide which food to cook first, and such planning is an essential for any type of meal to be served.

Likewise, if you want to find a job, take a sheet of paper, and write a brief account of yourself. In making a blueprint for a job, begin with yourself, for when you know exactly what you have to offer, you can intelligently plan where to sell your services.

This account of yourself is actually a sketch of your working life and should include education, experience and references. Such an account is valuable. It can be referred to in filling out standard application blanks and is extremely helpful in personal interviews. While talking to you, your could-be employer is deciding whether your education, your experience, and other qualifications will pay him to employ you and your "wares" and abilities must be displayed in an orderly and reasonably connected manner.

When you have carefully prepared a blueprint of your abilities and desires, you have something tangible to sell. Then you are ready to hunt for a job. Get all the possible information about your could-be job. Make inquiries as to the details regarding the job and the firm. Keep your eyes and ears open, and use your own judgement. Spend a certain amount of time each day seeking the employment you wish for, and keep in mind: Securing a job is your job now.

Questions

1. What do the elders mean when they say, "It's not what you want in this world, but what you get."? _____.
 - (A) You'll certainly get what you want
 - (B) It's no use dreaming
 - (C) You should be dissatisfied with what you have
 - (D) It's essential to set a goal for yourself
2. A blueprint made before inviting a friend to dinner is used in this passage as _____.
 - (A) an illustration of how to write an application for a job
 - (B) an indication of how to secure a good job
 - (C) a guideline for job description
 - (D) a principle for job evaluation
3. According to the passage, one must write an account of himself before starting to find a job because _____.
 - (A) that is the first step to please the employer
 - (B) that is the requirement of the employer
 - (C) it enables him to know when to sell his services
 - (D) it forces him to become clearly aware of himself
4. When you have carefully prepared a blueprint of your abilities and desires, you have something _____.
 - (A) definite to offer
 - (B) imaginary to provide
 - (C) practical to supply
 - (D) desirable to present

Passage Six

There are two basic ways to see growth: one as a product, the other as a process. People have generally viewed personal growth as an external result or product that can easily be identified and measured. The worker who gets a promotion, the student whose grades improve, the foreigner who learns a new language—all these are examples of people who have measurable results to show for their efforts.

By contrast, the process of personal growth is much more difficult to determine, since by definition it is a journey and not the specific signposts or landmarks along the way. The process is not the road itself, but rather the attitudes and feelings people have, their caution or courage, as they encounter new experiences and unexpected obstacles. In this process, the journey never really ends; there are always new ways to experience the world, new ideas to try, new challenges to accept.

In order to grow, to travel new roads, people need to have a willingness to take risks, to confront the unknown, and to accept the possibility that they may “fail” at first. How we see ourselves as we try a new way of being is essential to our ability to grow. Do we perceive ourselves as quick and curious? If so, then we tend to take more chances and to be more open to unfamiliar experiences. Do we think we’re shy and indecisive? Then our sense of timidity can cause us to hesitate, to move slowly, and not to take a step until we know the ground is safe. Do we think we’re slow to adapt to change or that we’re not smart enough to cope

with a new challenge? Then we are likely to take a more passive role or not try at all.

These feelings of insecurity and self-doubt are both unavoidable and necessary if we are to change and grow. If we do not confront and overcome these internal fears and doubts, if we protect ourselves too much, then we cease to grow. We become trapped inside a shell of our own making.

Questions

1. A person is generally believed to achieve personal growth when _____.
 - (A) he has given up his smoking habit
 - (B) he has made great efforts in his work
 - (C) he is keen on learning anything new
 - (D) he has tried to determine where he is on his journey
2. In the author's eyes, one who views personal growth as a process would _____.
 - (A) succeed in climbing up the social ladder
 - (B) judge his ability to grow from his own achievements
 - (C) face difficulties and take up challenges
 - (D) aim high and reach his goal each time
3. When the author says "a new way of being" (Line 4, Para. 3), he is referring to _____.
 - (A) a new approach to experiencing the world
 - (B) a new way of thinking risks
 - (C) a new method of perceiving ourselves
 - (D) a new system of adapting to change
4. For personal growth, the author advocates all of the following