

大学英语四、六级考试直通车

Reading and Translation

刘著妍 徐江 主编

阅读理解与翻译

天津科技翻译出版公司

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大学英语四、六级考试直通车

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Reading and Translation

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前言

《大学英语四级和六级考试大纲》规定,学生应掌握基本的阅读技能,阅读速度达 50~80 词/分钟,平均为 70 词/分钟,阅读理解准确性为 70% 以上。因此项所占分数为 40 分,超过整个试卷分数的 1/3,因此阅读部分是能否通过四、六级考试的关键部分。阅读理解部分通常由四篇文章组成,四级总阅读量在 1000~1200 词,六级阅读量在 1200~1400 词,要求考生在 35 分钟之内读完全部文章,并正确回答 20 个与短文内容有关的选择题。

大家英语考试中的阅读理解部分主要测试以下能力:掌握所读材料的主旨和大意;了解说明主旨和大意的事实和细节;既理解字面意思,也能根据所读材料进行一定的判断和推论;既理解个别词语、句子的意义,也能够理解上下文的逻辑关系。阅读理解是四、六级考试的重点部分,它不仅能够考察考生的综合英语知识与能力,更重要的是考察考生的思维能力。阅读理解的内容涉及科技、教育、经济、人类情感与文化、社会生活、战争、新闻行业、环保、商业广告等方方面面。作者将从以上几方面入手,分类收集编写四、六级阅读理解试题,按照题材的内容进行归类,将成为本书的一大特色。

阅读理解的部分将结合历年四、六级的真题,从词、句、段、语篇等方面的解析全真四、六级阅读篇,使学生准确、高效地把握全真试题的命题原则、题材内容、题型特征、出题思路、应试策略。因为全真四、六级阅读短篇经过精心筛选,最能体现《教学大纲》的精神,在题材、体裁选取、材料的语言难度、题型设置、选项设计等方面可谓下了很大功夫,篇篇为上乘精品,是一般阅读篇所难以匹敌的。

仅仅知道方法与技巧是远远不够的,读者只能在大量的实践中去体会、感觉和琢磨。出于这一目的,书中还给出了大量阅读文章和翻译练习供考生模拟训练。作者在编写阅读理解短文时力求在长度、难度、题型等方面贴近四、六级真题,这样不仅有助于考生的总结、归纳,而且起到事半功倍的效果。以分类方式进行阅读理解训练,不仅可以使学生从不同角度悉熟阅读内容,而且在一个主题(topic)下可以使词汇的复现率(recycling)提高,使考生在相同题材的文章中积累词汇,提高预测能力。翻译技巧讲解简洁、通俗、实用性强,并注意与大纲的难度吻合。

本书的编写思路新颖、独特,符合英语教学规律,是长期教学实践的整理与体现。本书中选取的四、六级阅读的真题部分,全部标注星号(*),并已注明年、月、等级,保留其原有题号,以备考生查阅。

编者

2002 年 6 月

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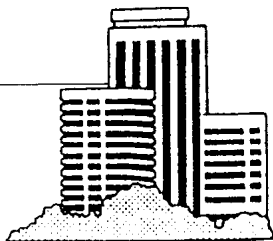
PART 1

第 1 部分 阅读理解



第1章

四、六级全真题型透视



I、题材分布广泛

根据考试大纲的规定,四、六级阅读篇章应当体现题材广泛的特点,但所涉及的背景知识应能为学生所理解。纵观 1997~2001 年 10 套全真阅读试题,涉及的内容充分体现了大纲的要求,具体表现为题材广泛,涉及人物传记、社会文化、教育、科普等诸多方面的知识。因此归类整理、讲解有助于考生在备考的时候能够有针对性地准备,提高预测能力。

II、体裁多样化

一篇好的文章应当自成一体,其中的观点和论据都应与主题中心思想密切相关,即达到形式上的衔接与内容上的连贯。大纲规定阅读短文体裁应多样化,根据目前的全真试题体裁分析,文章涉及议论文、说明文和叙述文。

1. 议论文

目的:说服读者同意并支持其观点,或驳斥某一观点。

结构特点:观点清楚、论据充分、逻辑性强。

类型:演绎法(deduction);归纳法(induction)。

演绎法——主题句,论点(topic sentence/s)→实例、论据(example /s)→结论(conclusion)

归纳法——example(s)→conclusion (examples or topic sentence)

☎ 演绎法实例:99-1-4

The appeal of advertising to buying motives can have both negative and positive effects. Consumers may be convinced to buy a product of poor quality or high price because of an advertisement. For example, some advertisers have appealed to people's desire for better fuel economy for their cars by advertising automotive products that improve gasoline mileage. Some of the products work. Others are worthless and a waste of consumer's money.

Sometimes advertising is intentionally misleading. A few years ago a brand of bread

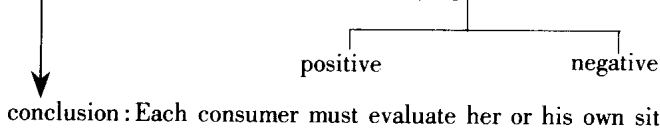
was offered to dieters (节食者) with the message that there were fewer calories (热量单位, 卡) in every slice. It turned out that the bread was not dietetic (适于节食的), but just regular bread. There were fewer calories because it was sliced very thin, but there were the same number of calories in every loaf.

On the positive side, emotional appeals may respond to a consumer's real concerns. Consider fire insurance, fire insurance may be sold by appealing to fear of loss. But fear of loss is the real reason for fire insurance. The security of knowing that property is protected by insurance makes the purchase of fire insurance a worthwhile investment for most people. If consumers consider the quality of the insurance of the insurance plans as well as the message in the ads, they will benefit from the advertising.

Each consumer must evaluate her or his own situation. Are the benefits of the product important enough to justify buying it? Advertising is intended to appeal to consumers, but it does not force them to buy the product. Consumers still control the final buying decision.

此篇是较为典型的议论文,论点或主题已在第一段中的主题句(第1段的黑体部分)中提出,第2、3段以反正两方面的典型事例进行论证,篇尾做出结论(For example, some advertisers have appealed to people's desire for better fuel economy for their cars by advertising automotive products that improve gasoline mileage)。整篇文章采取“总一分一总”的演绎推理法,结构清晰,逻辑性强。

Topic: the appeal of advertising to buying motives can have both effects



在演绎类文章中,全篇主题句和段落主题句一般位于篇章或段落的开头部分,开头就明确主题,然后展开讨论。如果将文章四段的段首句(黑体部分)单独提出,则构成相对完整的语意。

- The appeal of advertising to buying motives can have both negative and positive effects.
- Sometimes advertising is intentionally misleading.
- On the positive side, emotional appeals may respond to a consumer's real concerns.
- Each consumer must evaluate her or his own situation.

如果考生能够把握以上内容,回答主旨类问题时就不会犯主观臆断,以偏概全,只见树不见林的错误了。

35. The passage is mainly about _____.

- A) how to make a wise buying decision
- B) ways to protect the interests of the consumer
- C) the positive and negative aspects of advertising
- D) the function of advertisements in promoting sales

答案:C)

📌 归纳法实例:95 - 1 - 4

For any given task in Britain there are more men than are needed. Strong unions keep them there. In Fleet Street, home of some London's biggest dailies, it is understood that when two unions quarrel over three jobs, the argument is settled by giving each union two. That means 33 per cent overmanning, 33 percent less productivity than could be obtained.

A reporter who has visited plants throughout Europe has an impression that the pace of work is much slower here. Nobody tries too hard. Tea breaks do matter and are frequent. It is hard to measure intensity of work, but Britons give a distinct impression of going at their tasks in a more leisurely way.

But is all this so terrible? It certainly does not improve the gross national product or output per worker. Those observant visitors, however, have noticed something else about Britain. It is a pleasant place.

Street crowds in Stockholm. Pairs and New York move quickly and silently heads down, all in a hurry. London crowds tend to walk at an easy pace (except in the profitable, efficient City, the financial district).

Every stranger is struck by the patient and orderly way in which Britons queue for a bus; if the saleswoman is slow and out of stock she will likely say, "oh dear, what a pity"; the rubbish collectors stop to chat and call the house wives "Luv". Crime rises here as in every city but there still remains a gentle tone and temper that is unmatched in Berlin, Milan or Detroit.

In short, what is wrong with Britain may also be what is right. Having reached a tolerable standard, Britons appear to be choosing leisure over goods.

本文通过几个不同的事例(overmanning, pace of work, tea breaks, easy pace ...)客观介绍了英国人对工作和生活的态度,他们更喜爱悠闲舒适而不太看中物质享受(choosing leisure over goods)。文章结尾(黑体部分)表明作者的自己的倾向:在快节奏的社会生活中,英国人的生活态度还是令人欣赏的。此处也是对全文的归纳和总结。

Overmanning and less productivity	
Pace of work is much slower	
Walk at an easy pace	in short, what is wrong
Patiently orderly queue for a bus	conclusions → with Britons may also
Saleswoman is slow & rubbish	be what is right.
collectors stop to chat...	

在归纳类文章中,主题句多出现在段末或篇末。作者由具体事实引出一般性结论,即英国不好的地方也就是它的好处所在。这句话正是全篇的主题。据此分析,明确了文章的结构,该短文阅读理解第 40 题对文章结论的提问,就会迎刃而解。

40. By “what is wrong with Britain may also be what is right” (Para. 6, Lines 1 ~ 2) the author means to say that _____.

- A) quarrels between unions will help create jobs
- B) a leisurely way of life helps Britons increase productivity
- C) the gentle tone and temper of the people in Britain makes it a pleasant place
- D) Britons will not sacrifice their leisure to further increase productivity

答案: D)

通过分析 1995 ~ 2000 年全真阅读短文中的议论文,采用演绎推理法的议论文占了很大比例,因此了解其论证结构有助于考生有意识地加强这方面的识别和分析能力,使自己在解题过程中注意把握主线,理清作者的论证思路,从而克服忙乱和盲目心理,增强做题的理性和逻辑性。

2. 说明文

目的:对某事加以解释,使读者了解。

特点:客观、真实、重细节描述,抽象评论少。多采用客观性词语,较少使用主观判断词语,如表示个人喜恶的形容词、副词。

方法:归纳法(induction),演绎法(deduction)。

☎ 例:98 - 1 - 4

American society is not nap-friendly. In fact, says David Dinges, a sleep specialist at the University of Pennsylvania School of Medicine. “There’s even a prohibition against admitting we need sleep”. Nobody wants to be caught napping or found asleep at work. To quote a proverb: “Some sleep five hours, nature requires seven, laziness nine and wickedness eleven.”

Wrong. The way not to fall asleep at work is to take naps when you need them. "We have to totally change our attitude toward napping", says Dr. William Dement of Stanford University, the godfather of sleep research.

Last year a national commission led by Dement identified an "American sleep debt" which one member said was as important as the national debt. The commission was concerned about the dangers of sleepiness: people causing industrial accidents or falling asleep while driving. This may be why we have a new sleep policy in the White House. According to recent reports, president Clinton is trying to take a half-hour snooze(打瞌睡) every afternoon.

About 60 percent of American adults nap when given the opportunity. We seem to have "a midafternoon quite phase" also called "a secondary sleep gate." Sleeping 15 minutes to two hours in the early afternoon can reduce stress and make us refreshed. Clearly, we were born to nap.

We Superstars of Snooze don't nap to replace lost shut-eye or to prepare for a night shift. *Rather, we "snack" on sleep, whenever and at whatever time we fell like it.* I myself have napped in buses, cars, planes and on boats; on floors and beds; and in libraries, offices and museums.

此篇属于说明文(objective description),语言简练、用词客观。在说明方法上,本文采用了“分述—总述”的归纳法,引导考生从具体事实归纳出一般结论。美国人认为午睡(nap)是懒惰的表现,甚至是大逆不道(wickedness)。然而大量事实证明:午睡不仅能够消除紧张(reduce stress),还可恢复精力(make us refreshed)。一般而言,描述性说明文考细节问题更多些,所以,考生应在细节方面多加注意。

21. It is commonly accepted in American society that too much sleep is _____.

- A) unreasonable B) criminal C) harmful D) costly

答案:A)

此题为细节判断题,第1段指出,“American society is not nap friendly,”此处的not nap friendly与答案中的“unreasonably”最接近。

22. The research done by the Dement commission shows that Americans _____.

- A) don't like to take naps
B) are terribly worried about their national debts
C) sleep less than is good for them
D) have caused many industrial and traffic accidents

答案:C)

细节判断题。根据第3段,该委员会发现美国人存在“sleep debt”,即美国人

睡眠普遍少于身体所需。

25. The second sentence of the last paragraph tells us that it is _____.

- A) preferable to have a sound sleep before a night shift
- B) good practice to eat something light before we go to bed
- C) essential to make up for cost sleep
- D) natural to take a nap whenever we feel the need for it

答案:D)

通过作者在最后的总结(黑体部分),很容易得出答案。

III、题型配置合理、均衡

四、六级阅读理解尽管提问方式变化多样,但大致可以分为两种:主观类题型与客观类题型。

主观类题型:侧重考察考生依据已知信息、细节进行推理判断的能力。

客观类题型:侧重考察考生对文章细节、事实的辨别能力。

通过分析可以看出,四、六级阅读理解题型大体可以分为:主旨题、细节题、推理题、语义题。细节题和推理题在每套题中占了较大比例,而主旨题和语义题占的比例较小。但此部分正是很多学生的难点和重点。因为有些考生对文章的理解常常支离破碎,往往以部分取代整体。

1. 主题、主旨类选择题

主旨类试题的目的在于考察考生对文章的主题、标题、中心思想的理解程度和区别主要信息与次要信息的能力。因而这种类型的问题主要考察的是考生对于全文的理解、分析、把握和归纳能力。学生易犯的错误:主观臆断;以偏概全;只见树不见林等。其主要出题方式如下:

- What is main idea/point/subject of the passage ?
- What is the author's purpose in writing the passage?
- What is the passage mainly about?
- Which of the following statements best expresses the main idea of the passage?
- Which of the following can be the best title of the passage?
- The best title for the passage is . . .
- The best summary of this passage is . . .
- The passage mainly discussed . . .

• In the passage the author primarily concerned with . . .

那么,如何辨别主旨题呢?此类问题中常常含有的主要词汇:main, key, primary, central, principal, idea, point, title, topic等。回答此类文题的关键是识别文章的主题句。主题句是一篇文章或一个段落的核心,是作者意图的体现,其表现形式因体裁和论证方式的不同而处于文章或段落的位置也不同。在上文中可以看到,演绎类的文章中,主题句一般位于篇章或段落的开头部分,开头就明确主题,然后围绕这个中心进行详细阐述。在归纳类文章中,作者一般采用“引题-论述-总结”的写作手法,主旨句经常出现在文章或段落的末尾,作为由具体事实引出的一般结论。

(1) 演绎类文章中的主题句识别

☎ 例:90-1-4

*** We find that bright children are rarely held back by mixed - ability teaching . On the contrary , both their knowledge and experience are enriched .** We feel that there are many disadvantages in streaming pupils . It does not take into account the fact that children develop at different rates , It can have a bad effect on both the bright and the not - so - bright child . After all , it can be quite discouraging to be at the bottom of the top grade .

Besides , it is rather unreal to grade people just according to their intellectual ability . This is only one aspect of their total personality . We are concerned to develop the abilities of all our pupils to the full , not just their academic ability . We also value personal qualities and social skills , and find that mixed - ability teaching contributes to all these aspects of learning .

In our classrooms , we work in various ways . The pupils often work in groups . This gives them the opportunity to learn to cooperate , to share , and to develop leadership skills . They also learn how to cope with personal problems as well as learning how to think , to make decisions , to analyze and evaluate , and to communicate effectively . The pupils learn from each other as well as from the teacher .

Sometimes the pupils work in pairs , sometimes they work on individual tasks and assignments , and they can do this at their own speed . They also have some formal class teaching when this is appropriate . We encourage our pupils to use the library , and we teach them the skills they need in order to do this efficiently . An advanced pupil can do advanced work ; it does not matter what age the child is . We expect our pupils to do their best , not their least , and give them every encouragement to attain this goal .

本文是典型的开宗明义的主题思想类题型。全文第1段开头(黑体部分)就点

明全文的主题,即要让聪明的孩子与不聪明的孩子在同样的班里接受教育,这样聪明的孩子不但很少会被拖后,相反他们在知识和经验方面都有长进。本文的第 40 题中就是一道典型的主旨题,要求考生整体把握全文来识别作者的意图。而此题的错误率极高,很多学生以 B) 项作为正解,偏离了主题。因为 B) 只在文章的最后一段提出,综观全文,其并不是作者要谈论的内容。

40. The author's purpose of writing this passage is to ____.

- A) argue for teaching bright and not-so bright pupils in the same class
- B) recommend pair work and group work for classroom activities
- C) offer advice on the proper use of the library
- D) emphasize the importance of appropriate formal classroom teaching

答案:A)

(2) 归纳类文章中的主题句识别

☎ 例:95-1-4

Most people would agree that, although our age exceeds all previous ages in knowledge, there has been no corresponding increase in wisdom. But agreement ceases as soon as we attempt to define "wisdom" and consider means of promoting it.

There are several factors that contribute to wisdom. Of these I should put first a sense of promotion: the capacity to take account of all the important factors in a problem and to attach each its due weight. This has become more difficult than it used to be owing to the extent and complexity of the special knowledge required of various kinds of technicians. Suppose, for example, that you are engaged in research in scientific medicine. The work is difficult and is likely to absorb the whole of your mind. You have no time to consider the effect that your discoveries or inventions may have outside the field of medicine. You succeed (let us say) as modern medicine has succeeded, in enormously lowering the infant death rate, not only in Europe and America, but also in Asia and Africa. This has the entirely unintended result of making the food supply inadequate and lowering the standard of life in the parts of the world that have greatest population. To take an even more dramatic example, which is in everybody's mind at the present time: you study the make-up of the atom from a disinterested (无利害关系的) desire for knowledge, and by chance place in hands of a powerful mad man the means of destroying the human race.

Therefore, with every increase of knowledge and skill, wisdom becomes more necessary, for every increase augments (增强) our capacity for realizing our purposes, and therefore augments our capacity of evil, if our purposes are unwise.