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Advanced Reading Test Preparation

高级英语应试阅读系列

Reading For NETEM

考 研 阅 读

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内 容 提 要

本书从 100% 的原文资料中精选了 79 篇文章, 由易到难编成 59 篇阅读理解题和 4 份测试题。练习题的设计兼顾到各种阅读技能, 给读者提供了充分的练习和测试机会。阅读理解题配有问题解答和语言注释, 帮助读者全面理解文章的内容和语言结构。

与本书配套使用的录音磁带和 CD-ROM 光盘请另外购买。

读者对象: 准备参加全国硕士研究生入学考试、全国公共英语五级考试 (PETS5) 以及托福考试的读者。

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前 言

《高级英语应试阅读系列——考研阅读》是继《高级英语应试阅读系列——四级阅读》和《高级英语应试阅读系列——六级阅读》之后为研究生英语考试编写的一本阅读教材。

阅读理解是研究生英语考试的“重头戏”。首先，该部分在整个试卷中分值最高；另外，试卷的其他部分也与阅读理解有关：英译汉部分虽然是对文章中的单句进行翻译，但正确的翻译离不开对整篇文章的理解；在英语知识运用部分，文章也作为理解词汇、语法和结构的载体；完形填空则从词汇的角度来测试考生理解文章的能力。因此，把阅读理解作为考研的切入点可以达到事半功倍的效果。

本书紧扣国家教育部制定的《全国硕士研究生入学考试英语考试大纲》（以下简称《大纲》），在选材和问题设计上下了很大功夫。具体说来本书有以下特点：

1. 每篇文章都经过精心挑选，大都为议论文和说明文，有完整的框架，也就是说，每篇文章由论点和论据构成，符合《大纲》对文章体裁的要求。

2. 每篇文章的阅读理解问题都经过精心设计。这些问题不仅注重对词和句的理解，还注重对篇章的把握，注重培养考生对文章的内容进行归纳和推断的能力，符合《大纲》对阅读技能所提出的要求。

3. 本书材料大都是近期发表的文字资料，读者可以从中获得最新的信息，接触到最新的语言材料。所选文章涉及社会、文化、经济和科技各个方面，符合《大纲》对文章题材的要求。

4. 本书采用的都是原文，因此对文章中出现的《大学英语教学

大纲》词汇表以外的词和词组进行了注释。同时也对文章中出现的
一些语言现象进行了解释。另外,为了帮助读者真正读懂每篇文章,
本书对阅读理解问题作了详细的注解,使读者不仅知其然,还知其
所以然。

5. 本书的语言材料有相当部分在难度和量方面略高于考试中
使用的阅读材料,这使读者能够在以后的考试中驾轻就熟。

本书共有 79 篇文章,其中 20 篇用于测试。文章按难度梯度排
列。每隔 15 篇文章进行一次测试,每次 5 篇文章。为了取得最佳阅
读效果,我们认为在阅读时应注意以下几个方面:

1. 要熟悉注释中所列出的生词。由于是原文,词汇量比较大,
所以一定要在了解文章中生词的大概意思后再进行阅读。

2. 阅读方法因人而异。但一般的阅读方法是,首先快速浏览全
文,接着回答问题,然后再有针对性地读第二遍或第三遍。

3. 查阅问题解答,如果有错,应该知道错在哪里。在完成阅读
理解任务以后,可以仔细阅读全文和后面的注释,做到基本掌握文
章中出现的单词、词组和句法结构。

4. 阅读和答题要在规定的时间内完成,每篇文章限制在 9 分钟
以内。由于阅读不仅要有正确的理解,还要有一定的速度。因此,
在规定的时间内完成阅读任务是十分重要的。

在本书的编写过程中,得到亚非、朱研、承路明、鲁曙明、
陈丕楠、吴飒、史丹吉、孙新宇、李惠等同志的支持和帮助,谨此
致谢。

书中难免有疏漏之处,敬请广大读者批评指正。

编者

2001 年 6 月

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* 目录中的标题是编者加的，目的是便于读者检索。正文里的各 Passage 没有标题，这与正式考试题一致。

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阅读理解题型分析

根据研究生入学考试英语考试大纲，阅读理解部分主要测试考生的下述能力：

1. 掌握所读材料的主旨和大意；
2. 了解用以阐述主旨的事实和有关细节；
3. 根据上下文判断大纲附表以外的某些词汇和短语的意义；
4. 既理解单句的意义，也理解上下句之间的逻辑关系；
5. 根据所读材料进行一定的判断、推理和引申；
6. 领会作者的观点和态度；

根据以上要求，考研英语阅读理解部分共有以下几种题型：

一、理解主旨和中心大意题

主旨和中心大意题是十分常见的题类，它要求考生不仅理解文章中的句子，还要把阅读理解提升到语篇的水平上，对所读材料进行整体上的把握。主旨和中心大意题既要求学生理解文章的主题，也要求学生理解文章的中心思想。前者指的是文章所讨论的话题，它常常可以用一个词或短语来表述。例如，1998年考题第五篇文章有这样一个问题：

The passage is mainly about _____.

- [A] the features of volcanic activities
- [B] the importance of the theory about drifting plates
- [C] the significance of hot spots in geophysical studies
- [D] the process of the formation of volcanoes

该题是一主旨题，要求理解文章所讨论的主要内容，选项中的

短语则对文章的主旨进行概括。而中心大意是对主旨进行的充实，它常常是一个命题，纳入了作者的观点和立场，因此必须要有一个完整的句子才能将它表达清楚。例如，2000年考题第三篇文章的一个问题是：

The author believes that Futurist poetry is _____.

[A] based on reasonable principles

[B] new and acceptable to ordinary people

[C] indicative of basic change in human nature

[D] more of a transient phenomenon than literature

这篇文章所讨论的主题是未来派诗歌，但作者所表达主要意思是：未来派诗歌还算不上是文学。可见，该题的中心思想是用一个句子来表达的。

回答文章主题或中心大意的问题有两种方法。一种是在文章中寻找表述文章整体大意的主旨句 (thesis sentence) 或各段落的主题句 (topic sentence)。例如，2001年考题第三篇文章：

Why do so many Americans distrust what they read in their newspapers? The American Society of Newspaper Editors is trying to answer this painful question. The organization is deep into a long self-analysis known as the journalism credibility project.

Sad to say, this project has turned out to be mostly low-level findings about factual errors and spelling and grammar mistakes, combined with lots of head-scratching puzzlement about what in the world those readers really want.

But the sources of distrust go way deeper. Most journalists learn to see the world through a set of standard templates (patterns) into which they plug each day's events. In other words, there is a conventional story line in the newsroom culture that provides a backbone and a ready-made narrative structure for otherwise confusing news.

There exists a social and cultural disconnect between journalists

and their readers, which helps explain why the “standard templates” of the newsroom seem alien to many readers. In a recent survey, questionnaires were sent to reporters in five middle-size cities around the country, plus one large metropolitan area. Then residents in these communities were phoned at random and asked the same questions.

Replies show that compared with other Americans, journalists are more likely to live in upscale neighborhoods, have maids, own Mercedeses, and trade stocks, and they're less likely to go to church, do volunteer work, or put down roots in a community.

Reporters tend to be part of a broadly defined social and cultural elite, so their work tends to reflect the conventional values of this elite. The astonishing distrust of the news media isn't rooted in inaccuracy or poor reportorial skills but in the daily clash of world views between reporters and their readers.

This is an explosive situation for any industry, particularly a declining one. Here is a troubled business that keeps hiring employees whose attitudes vastly annoy the customers. Then it sponsors lots of symposiums and a credibility project dedicated to wondering why customers are annoyed and fleeing in large numbers. **But it never seems to get around to noticing the cultural and class biases that so many former buyers are complaining about.** If it did, it would open up its diversity program, now focused narrowly on race and gender, and look for reporters who differ broadly by outlook, values, education, and class.

What is the passage mainly about?

- [A] needs of the readers all over the world
- [B] causes of the public disappointment about newspapers
- [C] origins of the declining newspaper industry
- [D] aims of a journalism credibility project

这篇文章既有主旨句（第一段第一句），又有主题句（三、

四、六、七段中的黑体部分），这给理解文章的主旨和大意带来了方便。即使没有主旨句，通过综合各段落的主题句也容易把握文章的主旨和大意。但在许多情况下，文章既没有主旨句，也没有主题句，文章的中心大意要首先理解文章的细节内容和各段落的意思，然后把所有的内容进行综合后才可获得。例如，1997年考题第四篇文章：

When an invention is made, the inventor has three possible courses of action open to him: he can give the invention to the world by publishing it, keep the idea secret, or patent it.

A granted patent is the result of a bargain struck between an inventor and the state, by which the inventor gets a limited period of monopoly (垄断) and publishes full details of his invention to the public after that period terminates. Only in the most exceptional circumstances is the lifespan of a patent extended to alter this normal process of events.

The longest extension ever granted was to Georges Valensi; his 1939 patent for color TV receiver circuitry was extended until 1971 because for most of the patent's normal life there was no colour TV to receive and thus no hope of reward for the invention.

Because a patent remains permanently public after it has terminated, the shelves of the library attached to the patent office contain details of literally millions of ideas that are free for anyone to use and, if older than half a century, sometimes even re-patent. Indeed, patent experts often advise anyone wishing to avoid the high cost of conducting a search through live patents that the one sure way of avoiding violation of any other inventor's right is to plagiarize a dead patent. Likewise, because publication of an idea in any other form permanently invalidates further patents on that idea, it is traditionally safe to take ideas from other areas of print. Much modern technological advance is based on these presumptions of legal security.

Anyone closely involved in patents and inventions soon learns that most “new” ideas are, in fact, as old as the hills. It is their reduction to commercial practice, either through necessity or dedication, or through the availability of new technology, that makes news and money. The basic patent for the theory of magnetic recording dates back to 1886. Many of the original ideas behind television originate from the late 19th and early 20th century. Even the Volkswagen rear engine car was anticipated by a 1904 patent for a cart with the horse at the rear.

The passage is mainly about

- [A] an approach to patents
- [B] the application for patents
- [C] the use of patents
- [D] the access to patents

这篇文章没有主旨句，也没有明显的主题句，所以对文章各段内容进行综合是理解文章主旨的关键。根据第二段，专利期满后可以对公众开放；根据第四段，人们可以免费获得专利局里过期的专利；根据第五段，许多所谓新的想法是老的专利的翻版。通过对以上的内容进行综合归纳，就不难看出该文主要讨论了获取专利的一些问题。故选项[D]为正确答案。

二、重新表述文章内容题

这类问题出现的次数最多。大多数问题的设计是基于文章中的某一句或某一段话。回答这样的问题就是要在文章中找出相应的句子并读懂它。文章中相同的内容在答案项中通常用不同的词重新表述出来。例如，2001年考题第一篇文章有这样一个问题：

The direct reason for specialization is _____.

- [A] the development in communication
- [B] the growth of professionalisation

[C] the expansion of scientific knowledge

[D] the splitting up of academic societies

回答这个问题关键就是看懂文章第一段第一句话：Specialization can be seen as a response to the problem of an increasing accumulation of scientific knowledge（专业化是为了解决科技知识日益膨胀这一问题），而上述问题的题干加选项[C]是这句话的重新表述。有时，理解难句是回答问题的关键。例如 2000 年考题第五篇文章的一个问题是：

Some people do not openly admit they have ambition because_____.

[A] they think of it as immoral

[B] their pursuits are not fame or wealth

[C] ambition is not closely related to material benefits

[D] they do not want to appear greedy and contemptible

回答该问题要首先理解第二段中的一句话：What has happened is that people cannot confess fully to their dreams, as easily and openly as once they could, lest they be thought pushing, acquisitive and vulgar（事实上人们不像以前那样坦言自己的梦想，以免被别人觉得他们有野心、贪婪和庸俗）。该句在结构上较为复杂，是个主从复合句，而主句中还镶嵌着名词从句（What has happened）和表语从句（that people cannot confess fully to their dreams），且从句采用虚拟结构。

三、事实和细节题

这类问题除了要求理解文章明确表达的意思，还要能够辨别文章中的事实和细节。例如 2000 年考题第一篇文章中有这样一段话：

It was inevitable that this primacy should have narrowed as other countries grew richer. Just as inevitably, the retreat from predominance proved painful. By the mid-1980s Americans had found themselves at a loss over their fading industrial competitiveness. Some huge American

industries, such as consumer electronics, had shrunk or vanished in the face of foreign competition. By 1987 there was only one American television maker left, Zenith. (Now there is none: Zenith was bought by South Korea's LG Electronics in July.) Foreign-made cars and textiles were sweeping into the domestic market America's machine-tool industry was on the ropes. For a while it looked as though the making of semiconductors, which America had which sat at the heart of the new computer age, was going to be the next casualty.

The loss of U.S. predominance in the world economy in the 1980s is manifested in the fact that the American _____.

[A] TV industry had withdrawn to its domestic market

[B] semiconductor industry had been taken over by foreign enterprises

[C] machine-tool industry had collapsed after suicidal actions

[D] auto industry had lost part of its domestic market

这一段的论点是：美国在世界经济中失去了统治地位。支撑该论点的是一系列的事实，而问题中的四个选项都涉及到这些事实，但要正确地回答该问题有待于对事实的辨认。选项[A]错，因为今天美国已没有电视机的生产商；选项[B]错，因为美国的半导体业还没有被外国企业替代，只是它将是另外一个牺牲品；选项[C]错，因为文中没有提到美国的机械制造业有自杀行为；选项[D]对，因为文中提到国外的汽车和纺织品正在大规模进入美国市场。所以通过排除法就知道答案应选[D]。

四、判断和推论题

对文章的内容进行判断和推论是阅读理解的一个重要技能，也是较难掌握的一种技能。它要求读者根据文章的内容进行推断、归纳和揣测。这一类问题可分成三个方面：

(一) 推测言下之意

它要求通过文章的表层意义，借助常识或上下文逻辑关系来推断无法直接得到的、具有深层含义的某种结论。要推断的内容可以隐含在一个单句中。例如 2001 年考题第四篇文章有这样一个问题：

From paragraph 4 we can infer that _____.

[A] the increasing concentration is certain to hurt consumers

[B] WorldCom serves as a good example of both benefits and costs

[C] the costs of the globalization process are enormous

[D] the Standard Oil trust might have threatened competition

该问题的答案在下列这句话中：...it is hard to imagine that the merger of a few oil firms today could re-create the same threats to competition that were feared nearly a century ago in the U.S., when the Standard Oil trust was broken up（难以想象今天石油公司的合并会像一个世纪前标准石油托拉斯分解时人们所担心那样对竞争构成威胁）。可见，选项[D]的意思是隐含在该句中。有时要推断的内容是隐含在一个段落或整篇文章里面。例如 2000 年考题第一篇文章：

A history of long and effortless success can be a dreadful handicap, but, if properly handled, it may become a driving force. When the United States entered just such a glowing period after the end of the Second World War, it had a market eight times larger than any competitor, giving its industries unparalleled economies of scale. Its scientists were the world's best, its workers the most skilled. America and Americans were prosperous beyond the dreams of the Europeans and Asians whose economies the war had destroyed.

It was inevitable that this primacy should have narrowed as other countries grew richer. Just as inevitably, the retreat from predominance proved painful. By the mid-1980s Americans had found themselves at a loss over their fading industrial competitiveness. Some huge American industries, such as consumer electronics, had shrunk or vanished in the