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双博士系列

大学英语六级考试教程

阅读理解

总策划
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级



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大学英语六级考试教程

(阅读理解)

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前 言

为了帮助和指导应试者顺利通过大学英语四、六级考试,大学英语四、六级考试命题研究组根据国家教育部高教司推出的最新《大学英语教学大纲》编写了本教程。

本教程包括下列系列丛书:

大学英语六级考试教程. 听力训练

大学英语六级考试教程. 词汇突破

大学英语六级考试教程. 阅读理解

大学英语六级考试教程. 改错、完型填空、简短回答

大学英语六级考试教程. 最新模拟试题及解析

大学英语四级考试教程. 听力训练

大学英语四级考试教程. 词汇、语法、完型填空

大学英语四级考试教程. 阅读、翻译、简答

大学英语四级考试教程. 写作与范文

大学英语四级考试教程. 最新模拟试题及解析

本分册包括二个部分,对六级考试中分量最重的题型——阅读理解作了较为细致的分析和归纳,以帮助考生全面了解和顺利掌握这类题型的解题思路与解题方法。

第一部分为阅读题型分析与解题方法,对考题的常见题材、实用解题方法、长难句分析等复习备考的重要方面作出了归纳与概括,从全新的角度指出了解题思路与技巧,使考生能从总体上增加

对此类题型的了解与把握。

第二部分为 17 个单元的阅读理解练习及答案解析。练习涵盖了常见的阅读题型,极具实战性,读者可以自己限定时间(35 分钟/单元),以检查对此类题型的掌握程度,并在此基础上加以进一步的提高。

第二部分还附有长难句翻译练习 5 套及参考答案。练习与前面 17 个单元的文章紧密结合,与现阶段六级考试的真题完全一致,考生可以结合第二部分进行同步练习。

本书编写者均为北京大学英语系专业人员,对大学英语四级和六级测试很有研究。

在编写过程中,本书策划胡东华同志做了大量组织联络及体例策划工作,特此致谢。

编者

2002 年 9 月于北京

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第一部分

命题特点与解题技巧

一、阅读理解题的特点、能力要求及命题趋势

阅读理解题在六级考试中所占分数比重最大,值得好好准备。它既是英语学习和英语测试的手段,又是英语学习的最终目的之一,是英语的直接使用,它不仅涉及语音、语法、词法等基本语言要素,还包括许多非语言要素,诸如文化背景知识、思维习惯等,阅读理解材料题材广泛,包括一般科技、社会、文化、政治、经济、史地、人物介绍等,体裁则可以是说明文、记叙文、议论文等。

阅读理解能力测试要求学生具备较强语言学习能力,它要求掌握所读材料的主旨大意以及用以说明主旨的事实和细节;要求理解字面的含义,也理解深层的含义,包括作者的态度、意图等;要求理解某句某段的意义,并能把握文章的脉络,即句与句之间、段与段之间的关系,并能据此进行判断、推理和预测;要求学生根据材料所提供的信息结合常识正确判断生词和短语的含义。

从历年命题来看,阅读理解题的选材多为议论文和说明文,内容偏向社会 and 人文科学(包括心理学、社会学、语言学、经济学、政治学等)方面,考题提问的焦点也集中在考生的判断推理能力以及把握主旨的能力。从题干设计来看,综合归纳、判断推理以及细节转换理解题会更加突出。





二、解題步驟、應試技巧和方法

一般而言,許多同學習慣上先閱讀文章,再閱讀文章后面的題目,然後一一對照。這種步驟及方法對於那些議論性較強的文章比較適合,因為這類文章混淆選項的可能性較大,採用這種順讀順解法不易出錯。但是,順讀順解法中有一個弊端,即人的記憶可能遺忘,所以有時要回過頭來再讀一遍材料內容,費時費勁,尤其是解一些細節題,採用先看問題,再讀材料的方法也許更為適宜。帶著問題看材料,針對性大大提高,從而縮短應試時間。誠然,各個考生都有適合於自己的學習方法,不宜生搬硬套,考生應根據自己的實際情況選擇適合於自己的方法,並在平時多進行一些適應性練習。下面舉例說明解答閱讀理解題的方法與技巧。

例 1

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 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 a 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 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 women 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 husband's life, but at any rate, after his death. The very fact that their husband hands them over his earnings for purposes of house-keeping strengthens them in this belief.

However many disadvantages all this may involve, there is at least this to be said in its favor: 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.

1. According to the author, the major difference between a man's and a woman intellect is that _____.
 - A. men mature much later than women
 - B. men have a broader view of things
 - C. women are more cheerful than men
 - D. a man's intellect is nobler than that of a 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

C. happily married man

B. gossip columnist

D. biologist

第一个问题实际上是考查对第一段的主要思想的概括,题目问的是男女智力上的主要区别在什么地方,问的是实质上的东西。选项 A、C、显然停留在表面上,作者强调的是女人只活在现在,而男人考虑的不仅仅是现在,还有过去和将来,即选项 B 所概括的“男人看问题更全面”。需要注意的是,对于这类论说性质较明显的文章,在对文章的主旨进行提问时,只对某个事实进行复述的选项往往不是正确答案。

第二个问题考细节,考查的是第三段中第二句话“This is the source of that cheerfulness which is peculiar to women”中的代词“this”指代的内容。上句中提到“the woman lives more in the present than the man”, this 指代的即是这句话包含的内容,由此可知 C 是正确选项。

第三个问题考查的是对整篇文章内容及行文风格的理解。比较容易排除的是选项 D,因为文章的内容与科技意识形态等没有关系。选项 B 中的“gossip”一词过于严重,因为从作者的观点及论证过程来看,他是非常严肃和严密的。对于选项 C,文中谈的泛泛的男人与女人的特点,至于作者是否是已婚男女在文中并没有体现,正确答案为 A。

例 2

One hundred and thirteen million Americans have at least one bank-issued credit card. They give their owners automatic credit in stores, restaurants, and hotels, at home, across the country, and even abroad, and they make many banking services available as well. More and more of these credit cards can be read automatically, making it possible to withdraw or deposit money in scattered locations, whether or



not the local branch bank is open. For many of us the “cashless society” is not on the horizon—it’s already here.

While computers offer these conveniences to consumers, they have many advantages for sellers too. Electronic cash registers can do much more than simply ring up sales. They can keep a wide range of records, including who sold what, when, and to whom. This information allows businessmen to keep track of their list of goods by showing which items are being sold and how fast they are moving. Decisions to reorder or return goods to suppliers can then be made. At the same time these computers record which hours are busiest and which employees are the most efficient, allowing personnel and staffing assignments to be made accordingly. And they also identify preferred customers for promotional campaigns. Computers are relied on by manufacturers for similar reasons. Computer-analyzed marketing reports can help to decide which products to emphasize now, which to develop for the future, and which to drop. Computers keep track of goods in stock, of raw materials on hand, and even of the production process itself.

Numerous other commercial enterprises, from theaters to magazine publishers, from gas and electric utilities to milk processors, bring better and more efficient services to consumers through the use of computers.

1. According to the passage, the credit card enables its owner to

- A. withdraw as much money from the bank as he wishes
- B. obtain more convenient services than other people do
- C. enjoy greater trust from the storekeeper
- D. cash money where he wishes to

2. From the last sentence of the first paragraph we learn that





- A. in the future all the Americans will use credit cards
 - B. credit cards are mainly used in the United States today
 - C. nowadays many Americans do not pay in cash
 - D. it is now more convenient to use credit cards than before
3. The phrase "ring up sales" most probably means "_____"
- A. make an order of goods
 - B. record sales on a cash register
 - C. call the sales manager
 - D. keep track of the goods in stock
4. What is this passage mainly about?
- A. Approaches to the commercial use of computers
 - B. Conveniences brought about by computers in business
 - C. Significance of automation in commercial enterprises
 - D. Advantages of credit cards in business

第一个问题测试考生对段落(第一段)内容的理解能力。第一段中作者首先讲了信用卡在美国的普及程度及使用面,由此而给信用卡的持有者所带来的方便。可见,所给的4个选择中B. obtain more convenient services than other people do 最为切题。

第二个问题测试考生对段落中的某个句子的理解能力。第一段最后一句的意思是:对于我们中的许多人来说不用现金付款的社会“不是在遥远的将来——这个社会已经来到了。可见,C. nowadays many Americans do not pay in cash (如今许多美国人不用现金付款)表达了第一段最后一句的含义。A. 意为“将来所有美国人都将使用信用卡”,说得太绝对,与所指句子的句意不符。B. 意为“今天信用卡主要在美国使用”与所指句子的意思相悖。D. 意为“现在使用信用卡比以前更方便”,也不合所指句子的句意。故A、B、D、均不能入选。

第三个问题测试考生根据上下文判断短语含义的能力。ring up sales 意为“把销售金额记入现金记录机”。作者认为,这



是用于现金记录机的最基本功能。接着作者列举了这种机器的各种其他的功能。故应选 B。

第四个问题测试考生对文章大意的辨析能力。本文共三段:第一段主要讲信用卡已在美国得到广泛使用并给使用者带来莫大方便;第二段叙述信用卡是以计算机技术为依托的,计算机在现代商业中广泛使用,完成各种各样的任务;第三段讲述无数其他的商业企业受益于计算机的使用。所以,全文的中心思想是讲计算机在各种商业行业中给人们带来的便利。由此可见, B. Conveniences brought about by computers in business 最合题意。

例 3

Policymakers must, of course, respond to changes in society that reflect the needs and wishes of their constituents. In the United States, one vehicle which brings about important changes in domestic policies is the constitutional amendment. One of the greatest strengths of the U. S. Constitution has been its flexibility; it was written to accommodate change. But owing to the basic soundness of the original document and constant clarifications by the judiciary, relatively few amendments have been added to the Constitution since it was adopted almost 200 years ago.

The framers of the Constitution made the amendment process a long and difficult one. Those amendments which do survive the procedure usually involve hard-fought issues that have been debated extensively in the U. S. Congress and in the state legislatures. Before an amendment becomes law, legislators must have expressed strong arguments supporting its passage. Usually the amendment which does become a law has a great impact on the American citizen.

The Constitution provides two methods of proposing an amendment. One is by vote of two-thirds of the members present in both hous-





es of Congress; the other is by a convention summoned by Congress at the request of the legislatures of two-thirds of the states. Only the first of these methods has ever been used.

One striking feature of the amendments that have been ratified, is that the majority—18 out of 26—are devoted to protecting or extending the rights of citizens. Most of the remaining amendments deal with the mechanics of government, either correcting flaws that became evident after the Constitution went into effect or changing some aspect of government to respond to changing perceptions of government's role.

Thomas Jefferson, writing in 1816 about a proposed change in the constitution of the State of Virginia, epitomized the value of the amending process. His statement applies equally to the Constitution of the United States: "I am certainly not an advocate for frequent and untried changes in laws and constitutions. I think moderate imperfections had better be borne with... But I know also, that laws and constitutions must go hand in hand with the progress of the human mind."

1. It can be inferred from the passage about the constitutional amendments that _____.

- A. the amendments usually express the urgent needs and strong wishes of the general public at the time when they become laws
- B. it is fairly easy to amend the Constitution
- C. every year there are amendments proposed
- D. the Constitution was intentionally made with flaws and imperfections for future amendments

2. The author cited the remark of Thomas Jefferson in order to _____.

- A. strengthen his idea of this passage
- B. demonstrate the importance of amending the Constitution
- C. show that laws and Constitutions can not be perfect



D. show that Jefferson was so conservative that he opposed the constitutional amendments

第一题问的是“What can you infer from the passage...”(你能从文中推断出什么),属推理型题。答案 A 将本文头两句并成一句:“Policy makers must, of course, respond to changes in society that reflect the needs and wishes of their constituents. In the United States, one vehicle which brings about important changes in domestic policies is the constitutional amendment.”(制定政策的人必须对社会变化做出反应。这些变化反映了他们的选民的要求和愿望。在美国,使国内政策发生重大改变的一个重要途径就是宪法修正案。)

第二题:注意一般引文都是作者要用它来说明自己的观点,通常与说这话的人无关。D 显然是离题了。另外,看引文的时候,一定要注意看它的上下文,即它的语境。这句话紧承前两句:第一句话说的是 Thomas Jefferson 很好地概括了修改的重要性;第二句话说 Jefferson 的话同样适用于美国宪法。那么接下来就应该是修改美国宪法也是很重要的 B,只是作者没有明说,而是用 Jefferson 的原话作总结。

例 4

In a popular TV show of the late 1970s, a human-looking visitor from another planet was sent to observe earth culture. This visitor, called Mork, made countless blunders in his interactions with earthlings. In one episode, Mork was told that because Americans value assertiveness he should stop complying with every request made of him. When a Girl Scout selling cookies came to the house shortly thereafter, Mork screamed “No!” and abruptly slammed the door in her face. In another episode, Mork violated social conventions by describing out loud the nonverbal reactions expected of him. When someone described a serious personal problem Mork replied, “Choke! Gasp! Look of sin-





were empathy!" Needless to say, the listener was very put off.

When Mork practiced assertiveness by refusing to buy Girl Scout cookies, he was working at adopting one of many American values. A *value* is a general idea that people share about what is good or bad, desirable or undesirable. Values go beyond any one particular situation. If you value assertiveness, for example, you think it is appropriate in many different social contexts. Mork's problem was that he generalized values to absurd extremes. No value applies in every situation. There are always exceptions. Nevertheless, the values people hold tend to color their overall way of life.

Values are reflected even in seemingly trivial day-to-day behaviors. Consider the games people play. The Tangu of New Guinea, for example, play a game called *taketak*. It involves two groups of coconut stakes that look like bowling pins and a toplike object made from a dried fruit. The players divide into two teams, and the members of the first team take turns throwing the top at their group of stakes. Every stake they hit is removed. Then the members of the second team toss the top at their stakes. The object of the game, surprisingly, is not to knock over as many stakes as possible. Rather, the game continues until both teams have removed the same number of stakes. To Americans, who value competition so highly, such a game seems senseless. But to the Tangu, this game makes perfect sense. The Tangu value equivalence, not competition. They are bothered by the idea of one group winning and another losing, for they believe this situation causes ill will.

Question: By showing the example that Mork slammed the door in the face of a Girl Scout, the author tries to say _____.

- A. Mork was quick in learning American value
- B. it was foolish of Mork to show assertiveness in any situation
- C. no value can be applied to any situation