

无障碍大学英语阅读理解系列

大学英语全真阅读理解 (六级)

100 篇

大学英语六级考试命题研究组 组编

新华出版社

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(六级)

100 篇

主 编 马德高 杜 静
副主编 刘桂英 赵新红

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前言

今年6月六级考试结束后,我们对全国10余所高校的数百名考生做了访谈和交流。交谈中,我们听到最多的话题就是“阅读难”、“阅读做题慢”、“阅读练得少”……

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历年真题阅读材料都是命题专家精心选出的优秀文章,无论从题材、语言,还是行文上都堪称典范,通过详细精读和学习,可以使考生在语言技能、知识回顾、短文写作等方面有一个快速的提高。

一位六级辅导专家曾说过,把历年的阅读真题做上20遍,考过没有一点问题,可见真题在复习备考中的价值。

Preface

为了帮助广大考生在六级阅读复习中全面分析、研究历年真题,我们推出了这套《无障碍大学英语全真阅读 100 篇》。

本书特点——

收录全面,系统详研

书中尽收 1989~2002 年 100 篇全真阅读,有利于考生系统演习历年真题,领会谙熟命题特点。

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对每篇文章的词汇障碍、难句障碍、当年考生失分点都在文章中重点标出,在当页下端给出了详细解释和点拨,方便读者阅读和研习,利于综合提高。

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索玉柱 北京大学 英语语言测试学博士,教授,归国学者,极受考生欢迎的全国各地四六级、考研辅导班巡回主讲人
郭崇兴 中国人民大学 教授,极受考生欢迎的全国各地四六级、考研辅导班巡回主讲人
刘启升 中国人民大学 副教授,极受考生欢迎的全国各地四六级、考研辅导班巡回主讲人

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连环





目 录

2002 年 6 月全真阅读及答案详解	(1)
2002 年 1 月全真阅读及答案详解	(12)
2001 年 6 月全真阅读及答案详解	(23)
2000 年 12 月全真阅读及答案详解	(33)
2000 年 6 月全真阅读及答案详解	(44)
2000 年 1 月全真阅读及答案详解	(55)
1999 年 6 月全真阅读及答案详解	(66)
1999 年 1 月全真阅读及答案详解	(78)
1998 年 6 月全真阅读及答案详解	(90)
1998 年 1 月全真阅读及答案详解	(102)
1997 年 6 月全真阅读及答案详解	(114)
1997 年 1 月全真阅读及答案详解	(126)
1996 年 6 月全真阅读及答案详解	(137)
1996 年 1 月全真阅读及答案详解	(149)
1995 年 6 月全真阅读及答案详解	(161)
1995 年 1 月全真阅读及答案详解	(173)
1994 年 1 月全真阅读及答案详解	(184)
1993 年 6 月全真阅读及答案详解	(195)
1993 年 1 月全真阅读及答案详解	(206)
1992 年 1 月全真阅读及答案详解	(216)

1991 年 6 月全真阅读及答案详解	(225)
1991 年 1 月全真阅读及答案详解	(237)
1990 年 6 月全真阅读及答案详解	(246)
1990 年 1 月全真阅读及答案详解	(256)
1989 年 1 月全真阅读及答案详解	(268)

无障碍全真阅读

2002-10

Passage one

Questions 21 to 25 are based on the following passage:

When global warming finally came, it stuck *with a vengeance* (异乎寻常地). In some regions, temperatures rose several degrees in less than a century. Sea levels shot up nearly 400 feet, flooding coastal settlements and forcing people to migrate inland. Deserts spread throughout the world as vegetation^① shifted drastically in North America, Europe and Asia. After driving many of the animals around them to near extinction^②, people were forced to abandon their old way of life for a radically new survival strategy that resulted in widespread starvation and disease. The adaptation^③ was farming; the global-warming crisis that gave rise to it happened more than 10 000 years ago.

[As environmentalists convene in Rio de Janeiro this week to ponder the global climate of the future, earth scientists are in the midst of a revolution in understanding how climate has changed in the past—and how those changes have transformed human existence.]^④ Researchers have begun to piece together an illuminating picture of the powerful geological and astronomical forces that have combined to change the planet's environment from hot to cold, wet to dry and back again over a time period stretching back hundreds of millions of years.

Most important, scientists are beginning to realize that the climatic changes have had a major impact^⑤ on the evolution of the human species. New research now suggests that climate shifts have played a key role in nearly every significant turning point in human evolution; from the dawn of

① n. 植被。

② n. 消失, 消灭。

③ n. 适应。

④ 句意: 正当环境保护论者汇集在里约热内卢思考未来的全球气候时, 地球科学家们则正在进行一场革命, 即推定在过去气候发生了怎样的变化, 以及那些变化是怎样改造人类的生存的。

⑤ n. 冲击, 影响。

primates (灵长目动物) some 65 million years ago to human ancestors rising up to walk on two legs, from the huge expansion of the human brain to the rise of agriculture. Indeed, the human history has not been merely touched by global climate change, some scientists argue, it has in some instances been driven by it.

The new research has profound implications for the environmental summit in Rio. Among other things, the findings demonstrate that dramatic climate change is nothing new for planet Earth. The *benign* (宜人的) global environment that has existed over the past 10 000 years—during which agriculture, writing, cities and most other features of civilization appeared—is a mere bright spot in a much larger pattern of widely varying climate over the ages. In fact, the pattern of climate change in the past reveals that Earth's climate will almost certainly go through dramatic changes in the future—even without the influence of human activity.

21. **Farming emerged as a survival strategy because man had been obliged _____.**
A) to give up his former way of life
B) to leave the coastal areas
C) to follow the ever-shifting vegetation
D) to abandon his original settlement
22. **Earth scientists have come to understand that climate _____.**
A) is going through a fundamental change
B) has been getting warmer for 10 000 years
C) will eventually change from hot to cold
D) has gone through periodical changes
23. **Scientists believe that human evolution _____.**
A) has seldom been accompanied by climatic changes
B) has exerted little influence on climatic changes
C) has largely been effected by climatic changes
D) has had a major impact on climatic changes
24. **Evidence of past climatic changes indicates that _____.**
A) human activities have accelerated changes of Earth's environment
B) Earth's environment will remain mild despite human interference
C) Earth's climate is bound to change significantly in the future
D) Earth's climate is unlikely to undergo substantial changes in the future
25. **The message the author wishes to convey in the passage is that _____.**
A) human civilization remains glorious though it is affected by climatic

changes

- B) mankind is virtually helpless in the face of the dramatic changes of climate
- C) man has to limit his activities to slow down the global warming process
- D) human civilization will continue to develop in spite of the changes of nature

Passage two

Questions 26 to 30 are based on the following passage:

No woman can be too rich or too thin. This saying often attributed to^① the late *Duchess* (公爵夫人) of Windsor embodies much of the odd spirit of our times. Being thin is deemed as such a virtue.

The problem with such a view is that some people actually attempt to live by it. I myself have fantasies of slipping into narrow designer clothes. Consequently, I have been on a diet for the better—or worse—part of my life. Being rich wouldn't be bad either, but that won't happen unless an unknown relative dies suddenly in some distant land, leaving me millions of dollars.

Where did we go off the track? When did eating butter become a sin, and a little bit of extra flesh unappealing, if not repellent^②? All religions have certain days when people refrain from eating, and excessive eating is one of Christianity's seven deadly sins. However, until quite recently, most people had a problem getting enough to eat. In some religious groups, wealth was a symbol of probable salvation and high morals, and fatness a sign of wealth and well-being.

Today the opposite is true. We have shifted to thinness as our new mark of virtue. The result is that being fat—or even only somewhat overweight—is bad because it implies a lack of moral strength.

Our *obsession* (迷恋) with thinness is also fueled by health concerns. It is true that in this country we have more overweight people than ever before, and that, in many cases, being overweight correlates with an increased risk of heart and blood vessel disease. These diseases, however, may have as much to do with our way of life and our high-fat diets as with excess

① n. 归因于。

② adj. 排斥的。

weight. And the associated risk of cancer in the digestive system may be more of a dietary problem—too much fat and a lack of fiber—than a weight problem.

The real concern, then, is not that we weigh too much, but that we neither exercise enough nor eat well. Exercise is necessary for strong bones and both heart and lung health. A balanced diet without a lot of fat can also help the body avoid many diseases. We should surely stop paying so much attention to weight. Simply being thin is not enough. It is actually hazardous if those who get (or already are) thin think they are automatically healthy and thus free from paying attention to their overall life-style. Thinness can be pure *vainglory* (虚荣).

26. In the eyes of the author, an odd phenomenon nowadays is that _____.
 - A) the Duchess of Windsor is regarded as a woman of virtue
 - B) looking slim is a symbol of having a large fortune
 - C) being thin is viewed as a much desired quality
 - D) religious people are not necessarily virtuous
27. Swept by the prevailing trend, the author _____.
 - A) had to go on a diet for the greater part of her life
 - B) could still prevent herself from going off the track
 - C) had to seek help from rich distant relatives
 - D) had to wear highly fashionable clothes
28. In human history, people's views on body weight _____.
 - A) were closely related to their religious beliefs
 - B) changed from time to time
 - C) varied between the poor and the rich
 - D) led to different moral standards
29. The author criticizes women's obsession with thinness _____.
 - A) from an economic and educational perspective
 - B) from sociological and medical points of view
 - C) from a historical and religious standpoint
 - D) in the light of moral principles
30. What's the author's advice to women who are absorbed in the idea of thinness?
 - A) They should be more concerned with their overall lifestyle.
 - B) They should be more watchful for fatal diseases.
 - C) They should gain weight to look healthy.
 - D) They should rid themselves of fantasies about designer clothes.

Passage three

Questions 31 to 35 are based on the following passage:

War may be a natural expression of biological instincts^① and drives toward aggression in the human species. Natural impulses of anger, hostility, and *territoriality* (守卫地盘的天性) are expressed through acts of violence. These are all qualities that humans share with animals. Aggression is a kind of *innate* (天生的) survival mechanism, an instinct for self-preservation, that allows animals to defend themselves from threats to their existence. But, on the other hand, human violence shows evidence of being a learned behavior. In the case of human aggression, violence cannot be simply reduced to an instinct. The many expressions of human violence are always conditioned by social conventions that give shape to^② aggressive behavior. In human societies violence has a social function: It is a strategy for creating or destroying forms of social order. Religious traditions have taken a leading role in directing the powers of violence. We will look at the ritual and *ethical* (道德上的) patterns within which human violence has been directed.

The violence within a society is controlled through institutions of law. The more developed a legal system becomes, the more society takes responsibility for the discovery, control, and punishment of violent acts. In most tribal societies the only means to deal with an act of violence is revenge. Each family group may have the responsibility for personally carrying out judgment and punishment upon the person who committed the offense. But in legal systems, the responsibility for revenge becomes depersonalized and diffused. The society assumes the responsibility for protecting individuals from violence. In cases where they cannot be protected, the society is responsible for imposing punishment. In a state controlled legal system, individuals are removed from the cycle of revenge motivated by acts of violence, and the state assumes responsibility for their protection.

The other side of a state legal apparatus^③ is a state military apparatus. While the one protects the individual from violence, the other sacrifices the individual to violence in the interests of the state. In war the state affirms its supreme power over the individuals within its own borders. War is not simply a trial by combat to settle disputes between states; it is the moment when the state makes its most powerful demands upon its people for their

① n. 本能。

② give shape to 使成形。

③ n. 器械, 设备, 仪器。

commitment, allegiance, and supreme sacrifice. Times of war test a community's deepest religious and ethical commitments. J ①

31. Human violence shows evidence of being a learned behavior in that

- _____.
A) it threatens the existing social systems
B) it is influenced by society
C) it has roots in religious conflicts
D) it is directed against institutions of law

32. The function of legal systems, according to the passage, is _____.

- A) to control violence within a society
B) to protect the world from chaos
C) to free society from the idea of revenge
D) to give the government absolute power

33. What does the author mean by saying "... in legal systems, the responsibility for revenge becomes depersonalized and diffused" (Lines 7 ~ 8, Para. 2)?

- A) Legal systems greatly reduce the possibilities of physical violence.
B) Offenses against individuals are no longer judged on a personal basis.
C) Victims of violence find it more difficult to take revenge.
D) Punishment is not carried out directly by the individuals involved.

34. The word "allegiance" (Line 5, Para. 3) is closest in meaning to _____.

- A) loyalty B) objective C) survival D) motive

35. What can we learn from the last paragraph?

- A) Governments tend to abuse their supreme power in times of war.
B) In times of war governments may extend their power across national borders.
C) In times of war governments impose high religious and ethical standards on their people.
D) Governments may sacrifice individuals in the interests of the state in times of war.

Passage four

Questions 36 to 40 are based on the following passage:

Researchers who are unfamiliar with the cultural and ethnic groups they are studying must take extra precautions to shed any biases they bring

① 句意:战争不只是通过战斗来解决国家间分歧的试验,也是国家把其巨大的需求诉诸于子民,要求他们信守承诺,效忠国家并做出最高牺牲的时刻。

with them from their own culture. J①For example, they must make sure they construct measures that are meaningful for each of the cultural or ethnic minority groups being studied.

In conducting research on cultural and ethnic minority issues, investigators distinguish between the emic approach and the etic approach. In the emic approach, the goal is to describe behavior in one culture or ethnic group in terms that are meaningful and important to the people in that culture or ethnic group, without regard to other cultures or ethnic groups. In the etic approach, the goal is to describe behavior so that generalizations can be made across cultures. If researchers construct a questionnaire in an emic fashion, their concern is only that the questions are meaningful to the particular culture or ethnic group being studied. If, however, the researchers construct a questionnaire in an etic fashion, they want to include questions that reflect concepts familiar to all cultures involved.

How might the emic and etic approaches be reflected in the study of family processes? In the emic approach, the researchers might choose to focus only on middle-class White families, without regard for whether the information obtained in the study can be generalized or is appropriate for ethnic minority groups. In a subsequent study, the researchers may decide to adopt an etic approach by studying not only middle-class White families, but also lower-income White families, Black American families, Spanish American families, and Asian American families. In studying ethnic minority families, the researchers would likely discover that the extended family is more frequently a support system in ethnic minority families than in White American families. If so, the emic approach would reveal a different pattern of family interaction than would the etic approach, documenting that research with middle-class White families cannot always be generalized to all ethnic groups.

36. According to the first paragraph, researchers unfamiliar with the target cultures are inclined to _____.
- A) be overcautious in constructing meaningful measures
 - B) view them from their own cultural perspective
 - C) guard against interference from their own culture
 - D) accept readily what is alien to their own culture
37. What does the author say about the emic approach and the etic approach?

① *adj.* 种族的。 *n.* 信息。句意：不熟悉自己研究对象的文化和民族的研究者一定要预防流露出从自身文化角度出发的偏见。

- A) They have different research focuses in the study of ethnic issues.
 B) The former is biased while the latter is objective.
 C) The former concentrates on the study of culture while the latter on family issues.
 D) They are both heavily dependent on questionnaires in conducting surveys.
38. Compared with the etic approach, the emic approach is apparently more _____.
 A) culturally interactive B) culture-oriented
 C) culturally biased D) culture-specific
39. The etic approach is concerned with _____.
 A) the general characteristics of minority families
 B) culture-related concepts of individual ethnic groups
 C) features shared by various cultures or ethnic groups
 D) the economic conditions of different types of families
40. Which of the following is true of the ethnic minority families in the U. S. according to the passage?
 A) Their cultural patterns are usually more adaptable.
 B) Their cultural concepts are difficult to comprehend.
 C) They don't interact with each other so much as White families.
 D) They have closer family ties than White families.

答案与题解

Passage one

这是一篇说明文。全球变暖一直是环境工作者和科学家关注的问题，因为它给地球带来很多灾难(第一段)。然而与普遍认为的“人类活动导致地球变暖”这一观点不同，科学家认为全球变暖是地球的气候周期性变化的一部分，而不是人类活动的必然结果(第四段结论)。

21. A) 细节推理题。该题考查第一段最后两句的逻辑关系。第四句中的“old way of life”指人类最初以狩猎为生，后因气候变暖及猎物濒临灭绝，人类才不得不放弃它而以耕作为生。由此可见农业的出现是由于人类放弃传统生活方式的结果。B)、C)、D)的描述与本题无关。
22. D) 细节推理题。该题针对第二段主旨：科学家通过研究过去的气候变化对人类生存的影响得出结论——地质因素和气象因素的共同作