



张鑫友大学英语应试系列

# 大学英语

## 过关阅读 180 篇

主编 张鑫友

READING  
Comprehension

6 级

湖北人民出版社

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## (6 级)

主 编 张鑫友

编 写 四达外研语言研究部

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## 写在前面的话

在大学英语六级试题中,阅读理解部分所占百分值最大,因而此部分解题准确率的高低,是直接决定六级考试能否通过的关键所在。

中国有句古语:“读书破万卷,下笔如有神。”多多阅读的重要性由此可见。在常年的试题及教学研究中我们发现,考生们面临的问题主要有:词汇量不足,缺乏阅读文章的技能,知识面有限,解题思路不明等。同时我们也发现,阅读能力的提高,不是一朝一夕的事,更不是随意翻阅就能解决的问题。提高速度与准确度,扩大视野,显然需要大量泛读。针对这一要求,我们结合多年教学经验和学生中普遍存在的问题编写了此书,以帮助广大考生更有效率地提高自身英语实力。本书的特点如下:

★ 题材新颖、选材广泛、体裁多样。本书所选文章囊括了百余篇来自新近国外报刊书籍的文章,选材涉及到有关政治、文化、社会生活、科技及医学等方面。包括叙事文、说明文、议论文和描写文四种。以说明文和议论文为主,以帮助考生提高其分析和解决问题的能力。

★ 解析详尽。本书中每篇文章均附有详尽解析。由词汇注释、思路及大意、答案及详析等三大部分组成。其中答案及详析更细分为参考答案、题目译文及详析(解题思路)等三栏,旨在使考生在每次阅读及解题后都能得到详细指导和在此基础上的启发和进步。

★ 层次分明。本书共分45个单元,每一单元包括4篇文章,

按其程度由易到难分布,以便于考生循序渐进地进行练习备考。

本书是大学英语六级考试应试者之良师益友,同时也是广大英语爱好者及大专院校学生自学英语的首选参考书目,更是英语教学者进行教学的好帮手。

四达外研语言研究部

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# UNIT 1

(35 minutes)

## Passage One

People have wondered for a long time how their personalities and behaviors are formed. It's not easy to explain why one person is intelligent and another is not, or why one is cooperative and another is competitive.

Social scientists are, of course, extremely interested in these types of questions. They want to explain why we possess certain characteristics and exhibit certain behaviors. There are no clear answers yet, but two distinct schools of thought on the matter have developed. As one might expect, the two approaches are very different from one another, and there is a great deal of debate between proponents(辩护者) of each theory. The controversy is often conveniently referred to as "nature/nurture".

Those who support the "nature" side of the conflict believe that our personalities and behavior patterns are largely determined by biological and genetic factors. That our environment has little, if anything to do with our abilities, characteristics, and behavior is central to this theory. Taken to an extreme, this theory maintains that our behavior is predetermined to such a great degree that we are almost completely governed by our instincts.

Proponents of the "nurture" theory, or, as they are often called, behaviorists, claim that our environment is more important than our biologically based instincts in determining how we will act. A behaviorist, B.F. Skinner, sees humans as beings whose behavior is almost completely shaped by their surroundings. The behaviorists' view of the human being is quite mechanistic; they maintain that, like machines, humans respond to environmental stimuli as the basis of their behavior.

The social and political implications of these two theories are profound. In the United States, for example, blacks often score below whites on standardized intelligent tests. This leads some "nature" proponents to conclude that blacks are genetically inferior to whites. Behaviorists, in contrast, say that the differences in scores are due to the fact that blacks are often deprived of many of the educational and other environmental advantages that whites enjoy, and that, as a result, they do not develop the same responses that whites do.

Neither of these theories can yet fully explain human behavior. In fact, it is quite likely that the key to our behavior lies somewhere between these two extremes. That the



controversy will continue for a long time is certain.

1. Which of the following would be the best title for the passage?
  - A) Nature or Nurture.
  - B) Cooperative or Competitive.
  - C) Intelligence: Product of Experiences.
  - D) Behavior: Product of Instincts.
2. In paragraph 2, what does the author mean by "two distinct schools of thought on the matter have developed"?
  - A) Two different schools have been established to study the matter.
  - B) Two different kinds of ideas have formed.
  - C) The two schools are debating with each other.
  - D) Because of the two schools, there are two approaches and debates.
3. Behaviorists believe that \_\_\_\_\_.
  - A) humans should behave mechanically
  - B) human behavior patterns are based on biological and genetic factors
  - C) human behavior is determined mainly by their surroundings
  - D) factors in the environment have little influence on people's personalities
4. In the United States, blacks score below whites on standardized intelligence tests. We think it probable that \_\_\_\_\_.
  - A) blacks are genetically inferior to whites
  - B) blacks don't have the same opportunity for education as whites do
  - C) blacks and whites develop different responses
  - D) none of the above statements gives a satisfactory answer
5. It can be inferred from the passage that the controversy will continue for a long time, because \_\_\_\_\_.
  - A) there are two schools working on it
  - B) the key to human behavior is difficult to find
  - C) both theories are strong
  - D) each of the theories has gone to an extreme

## Passage Two

German Chancellor(首相) Otto von Bismarck may be most famous for his military and diplomatic talent, but his legacy(遗产) includes many of today's social insurance programs. During the middle of the 19th century, Germany, along with other European nations, experienced ever-increasing occurrences of work place deaths and accidents as a result of growing industrialization. Motivated in part by Christian compassion for the helpless as well as an impulse to weaken the support of the socialist labor movement, Chancellor Bismarck created the world's first workers compensation law in 1884.

By 1908, the United States was the only industrial nation in the world that lacked workers' compensation insurance. America's injured workers could demand a claim for

damages in a court of law, but they still faced a number of tough legal barriers. For example, employees had to prove that their injuries directly resulted from employer negligence and that they themselves were ignorant about potential hazards in the workplace. The first state workers' compensation law in this country passed in 1911, and the program soon spread throughout the nation.

After World War II, benefit payments to American workers did not keep up with the cost of living. In fact, real benefit levels were lower in the 1970s than they were in the 1940s, and in most states the maximum benefit was below the poverty level for a family of four. In 1970, President Richard Nixon set up a national commission to study the problems of workers' compensation. Two years later, the commission issued 19 key recommendations, including one that called for increasing compensation benefit levels to 100 percent of the states' average weekly wages.

In fact, the average compensation benefit in America has climbed from 55 percent of the states' average weekly wages in 1972 to 97 percent today. But, as most studies show, every 10 percent increase in compensation benefits results in a 5 percent increase in the numbers of workers who file for claims. And with so much more money floating in the workers' compensation system, it's not surprising that doctors and lawyers have helped themselves to a large slice of the growing pie.

1. What made Bismarck introduce the world's first workers' compensation law?

- A) Intention to make the industrial production safer.
- B) Intention to punish irresponsible employers.
- C) Fear for losing the support of workers.
- D) Fear for the growing socialist labor movement.

2. The passage implies, but does not directly state, \_\_\_\_\_.

- A) that different states in the United States may have different workers' compensation programs
- B) that America was the last country in the world to introduce any workers' compensation law
- C) that America's average compensation benefit has decreased greatly in the last few decades
- D) that workplace accidents in America have kept increasing in the last few decades

3. The word "negligence" in paragraph two is closest in meaning to \_\_\_\_\_.

- A) chase for profit at all costs
- B) offence of not taking necessary care
- C) heavy working load
- D) dangerous working conditions

4. The word "motivated" in paragraph one is closest in meaning to \_\_\_\_\_.

- A) induced
- B) inspired
- C) initiated
- D) originated

5. The last paragraph of the passage implies, but doesn't directly state, \_\_\_\_\_.

- A) that because of the increase in compensation benefit more American workers can benefit from the nation's compensation system
- B) that the American workers compensation system has become a great burden to the nation's economy
- C) that despite the increase in compensation benefit America's injured workers are not the only main beneficiaries(收益人)
- D) that as the compensation benefit increase the procedures to apply for the benefit are getting simpler, too

### Passage Three

So you want to fight your own case in court? Then take heart: Litigants in Person, as the official term has it, are not to be looked down upon any more. This is not to say that all civil disputes are suitable for personal treatment. Those involving abstruse points of law are usually best left to lawyers and in some cases baffle even legal minds.

The obviously suitable case is that of the aggrieved consumer who is involved in a claim arising out of the sale or hire-purchases of goods, or the provision of services. But straightforward debt cases, some landlord and tenant matters, road traffic cases involving damage to vehicles only, claims for willful damage to property or for minor assaults and claims for wages and salaries owing in lieu of notice may all present feasible scope for the layman. Whether a case lies within the confines of simplicity is not always clear but no solicitor should mind being consulted on the question of whether given circumstances might admit of personal action. County court work is notoriously unremunerative and he is unlikely to feel aggrieved or think that you want to do him out of business.

Saving a bill from your own solicitor is, of course, the first but not the only financial aspect to consider before taking solo action. The general rule in county court litigation is that the loser pays the legal costs of the winner, or at least so much of those costs as are approved by the court. The latter are rarely as much as the total bill presented by the solicitor to his client but will be large none the less.

It is almost always impossible to guess how much the costs will be in a contested case—the total depends on so many variable factors. But it is probably no exaggeration to say that even when suing in person for £ 200 you could put almost the same sum at risk in respect of the other side's legal costs and your own expenses. In smaller claims, however, a special rule applies. Where the sum in dispute does not exceed £ 100 the legal costs recoverable by the winner are normally limited to those of starting proceedings; no costs are usually recoverable for representation at the trial or arbitration of the matter. The loser will thus rarely pay more than a few pounds for the winner's expenses. It is, therefore, sensible when considering self-help in the county court to keep that figure of £ 100 well in mind: below it the risks as to costs are much reduced.

Litigants in Person who win have had until now a frequent grievance. Their bills for costs payable by the other side have not been allowed to include any recompense for the time and energy expended in the preparation of their case. The recent Litigants in Person(Costs) Act has, however, ensured that this situation will be rectified; new rules are to be brought into force.

A further financial consideration is whether it is worth bringing even a cast iron case against someone who may be without the means to meet the judgement. Admittedly it is often difficult to know the extent of a defendant's resources, but if he is patently a man of straw there is little point in adding irrecoverable expenses to the sum of your original grievance.

Finally, a personal judgement. While your case may not require the stamina necessary to struggle on to the end of a long protracted battle, time, patience and perseverance are required of all litigants, and of the inexperienced in double measure. Read *How to sue in the County Court*, published by the Consumers' Association, and get hold of the official guide from your local court. If you are not put off altogether, you will need them.

1. The author suggests that people conducting their own lawsuits \_\_\_\_\_.
  - A) can expect to be treated with suspicion
  - B) should always leave legal matters to lawyers
  - C) should not be too nervous of taking action
  - D) may be deliberately confused by legal experts
2. The most usual do-it-yourself cases are those concerning \_\_\_\_\_.
  - A) debts involving landlords
  - B) damage to property
  - C) damage resulting from road accidents
  - D) unsatisfactory sales and service
3. In county court litigation, approved costs are normally \_\_\_\_\_.
  - A) greater than the fee the solicitor requires
  - B) smaller than the fee the solicitor requires
  - C) less than the solicitor anticipates
  - D) more than the client anticipates
4. In a case involving a claim for up to £ 100, the loser has to pay \_\_\_\_\_.
  - A) the cost of arbitration
  - B) the cost of bringing the case
  - C) the total of the winner's expenses
  - D) anything up to that figure
5. The author claims that as regards personal qualities a litigant needs to \_\_\_\_\_.
  - A) have quick powers of judgement
  - B) be prepared to fight against time
  - C) be persistent and determined
  - D) have more than the usual amount of experience

## Passage Four

For about three centuries we have been doing science, trying science out, using science for the construction of what we call modern civilization. Every dispensable item of contemporary technology, from canal locks to dial telephones to penicillin, was pieced together from the analysis of data provided by one or another series of scientific experiments. Three hundred years seems a long time for testing a new approach to human interliving, long enough to settle back for critical appraisal of the scientific method, maybe even long enough to vote on whether to go on with it or not. There is an argument.

Voices have been raised in protest since the beginning, rising in pitch and violence in the nineteenth century during the early stages of the industrial revolution, summoning urgent crowds into the streets any day these days on the issue of nuclear energy. Give it back, say some of the voices, it doesn't really work, we've tried it and it doesn't work, go back three hundred years and start again on something else less chancy for the race of man.

The principle discoveries in this century, taking all in all, are the glimpses of the depth of our ignorance about nature. Things that used to seem clear and rational, matters of absolute certainty—Newtonian mechanics, for example—have slipped through our fingers, and we are left with a new set of gigantic puzzles, cosmic uncertainties, ambiguities; some of the laws of physics are amended every few years, some are cancelled outright, some undergo revised versions of legislative intent as if they were acts of Congress.

Just thirty years ago we call it a biological revolution when the fantastic geometry of the DNA molecule was exposed to public view and the linear language of genetics was decoded. For a while, things seemed simple and clear, the cell was a neat little machine, a mechanical device ready for taking to pieces and reassembling, like a tiny watch. But just in the last few years it has become almost unbelievably complex, filled with strange parts whose functions are beyond today's imagining.

It is not just that there is more to do, there is everything to do. What lies ahead, or what can lie ahead if the efforts in basic research are continued, is much more than the conquest of human disease or the improvement of agricultural technology or the cultivation of nutrients in the sea. As we learn more about fundamental processes of living things in general we will learn more about ourselves.

1. The writer's main purpose in writing the passage is to say that \_\_\_\_\_.

- A) science has greatly improved man's life
- B) science has made profound progress
- C) science is just at its beginning
- D) science has done too little to human beings

2. What can't be inferred from the passage?

- A) For three hundred years there have been people holding hostile attitude toward science.  
 B) Modern civilization depends on science so man supports scientific progress unanimously.  
 C) Three hundred years is not long enough to settle back critical appraisal of scientific method.  
 D) Scientific experiments in the past three hundred years have produced many valuable items.
3. The principle discovery in this century shows \_\_\_\_\_.  
 A) man has lost many scientific discoveries  
 B) man has overthrown Newton's laws of physics  
 C) man has solved a new set of gigantic puzzles  
 D) man has given up some of the once accepted theories
4. Now scientists have found in the past few years \_\_\_\_\_.  
 A) man knows nothing about DNA  
 B) the exposure of DNA to the public is unnecessary  
 C) the tiny cell in DNA is a neat little machine  
 D) man has much to learn about DNA
5. The writer's attitude towards science is \_\_\_\_\_.  
 A) regretful                      B) neutral                      C) approving                      D) critical

\*

\*

\*

### Passage One

#### 【词汇注释】

controversy['kɒntɹəvɜːsi] n. 争论, 论战

nurture['nɜːtʃə] n. (总称)环境因素,  
教养

mechanistic[,mekə'nɪstɪk] a. 机械的,

机械论的

stimuli['stimjulai] n. 刺激

profound['prə'faʊnd] a. 意义深远的;  
深刻的; 深深的

#### 【思路及大意】

本文在第一段提出问题:人的性格和行为是如何形成的。然后在接下来的四段里介绍了关于上述问题的回答,主要有两种对立的派别,一种主张我们的个性和行为方式主要取决于先天遗传因素,另一种认为环境因素对我们的行为方式起决定作用,并且举例说明两种理论对社会和政治的影响是深远的。在文章最后一段,作者总结说上述两种较极端的理论都无法清楚解释人类的行为,争论将会持续很长时间。

## 【答案及详析】

## 1.【答案】 A

【题意】 下列哪一项最适合作文章标题？

【详析】 文章主要讨论了两大学派对于“人的性格和行为的形成”所做的不同解释。一种学派认为是天生的，即 *nature*；另一种学派认为是受后天环境影响的，即 *nurture*。由此可见，A 项 *Nature or Nurture* 作本文标题很有概括性。B 项是人的行为的一种表现，是社会学家要讨论的问题；而 C 项和 D 项是两个学派各自的看法，具有片面性，不能概括全文。

## 2.【答案】 B

【题意】 在第二段中，*two distinct schools of thought on the matter have developed*（在这个问题上的两种思潮形成了）指的是什么意思？

【详析】 本句话出现在文章第二段第三句。根据上下文，第二句说“（社会学家）他们想解释我们为什么具有一定的性格，并且表现一定的行为”；第四句说“正如人们所预料的，这两种观点极为不同，而且这两种学说的辩护者之间开展大量的辩论”。由此可知，对于这个问题形成了两种不同的观点。因此 B 为正确答案。A 项意为“已经成立了两种不同的派别来研究这个课题”。C 意为：两个派别正在互相争论。D 意为：因为有两个派别，所以有两种方法，有争论。三者都为干扰项。

## 3.【答案】 C

【题意】 行动主义者相信以下哪种说法？

【详析】 第四段第一句说：“*Nurture* 的支持者，或称为行为主义者声称，在决定我们的行为方面，环境比生物本能重要得多。”由此可见，行为主义者认为人的行为主要是由环境决定的。因此，C 为正确选项。选项 A 实际上是作者对于行为主义者的观点的一种主观的看法，不是行为主义者本身的观点；B 项和 D 项均是 *nature* 派的观点，可从第三段看出，故不选 A、B、D。

## 4.【答案】 D

【题意】 在美国，黑人在标准智力测验中得分比白人低。我们认为这可能是是什么原因？

【详析】 文章最后一段第一句说：“这两种学说都还不能完全解释人类的行为。”由此可知，这两派对于这一社会现象都没有作出令人满意的解释。A 项是 *nature* 学派的观点；B 项是 *nurture* 学派的观点；C 项也是 *nurture* 的观点。这三种“认为”都是片面的，不能完全让人信服。D 项意为“上述论断都不能给出满意答案”，因此，D 正确。

## 5.【答案】 B

【题意】 我们可以推断出：争论要持续很久是因为什么？

【详析】 文章主要讨论了两大学派对于“人的性格和行为形成原因”所存在的不同观点。他们各执一词，各有理由，谁都不能说服对方，但两方的

解释也都不能完全令人满意。文章最后一段说“争论还会持续很久”,由此可以看出,“得出最令人信服的结论是很不容易的”,因此选 B, B 项意为“决定人类行为关键因素很难发现”。A、C、D 都是文中列出的事实。

## Passage Two

### 【词汇注释】

compassion[ˌkəmˈpeɪʃən] n. 同情;怜悯

impulse[ˈɪmpʌls] n. 推动;冲力;冲动

compensation[ˌkɒmpenˈseɪʃən] n. 补偿,赔偿

negligence[ˈneglɪdʒəns] n. 疏忽,粗心

大意

hazard[ˈhæzəd] n. 危险;公害(指工业废气、废水等的危害)

file[faɪl] v. 提出(申请等)

### 【思路及大意】

本文从世界上第一部工人赔偿法说起,主要介绍了美国工人赔偿法从无到有到进一步发展的过程及其现状。

### 【答案及详析】

#### 1. 【答案】 D

【题意】 什么促使俾斯麦制定了世界上第一部工人赔偿法?

【详析】 文章第一段最后一句给出了俾斯麦制定世界上第一部工人赔偿法的理由:一部分是出于基督教对于无助的人的同情;另外则是想削弱社会主义工人运动的力量,因此选 D。A 项意为:打算使工业生产更安全, B 项意为:打算惩罚不负责任的雇主,二者在文中并未提及,故不选; C 项意为:害怕失去工人的支持,属干扰项,排除。

#### 2. 【答案】 A

【题意】 文章暗示过但没有直接说明的是什么?

【详析】 本题可用排除法。B 项意为美国是世界上最后一个制定雇工赔偿法的国家,是第二段第一句的变换说法,两句话同一个意思,应排除。文章第四段第一句说:实际上,美国工人的平均赔偿所得已从 1972 年平均周工资的 55% 涨到如今的 97%, C 项说成大幅度降低,是错误选项; D 项中有关车间事故上升与否文中并未提及,应排除;第二段最后一句说:“1911 年通过了第一部州工人赔偿法,接着这项措施便在全国迅速展开。”由此我们可推知 A 项是正确的。A 项意为:美国不同的州可能有不同的工人赔偿方案。

#### 3. 【答案】 B

【题意】 第二段中的“negligence”(意为疏忽大意)与下列哪个意思最接近?

【详析】 negligence 出现在文章第二段划线句子中,意为“过失,疏忽行



为”，划线句子意为：例如，雇员们必须证明他们受的伤是直接由雇主的疏忽引起的，而且他们对自己工作地点的潜在危险一无所知。A项意为“不顾一切追求利润”；B项意为“因毫不在乎而犯错”；C项意为“沉重的工作负担”；D项意为“危险的工作条件”，因此，B为正确答案。

#### 4. [答案] A

【题意】 第一段中的单词 motivated 与哪项意思最接近？

【详析】 motivated 出现在文章第一段最后一句，意为“驱使”。四个选项的意思分别为：A项 induced 促使；B项 inspired 鼓舞；C项 originated 创始，引起；D项 initiated 发动，创始。很显然，只有 A项 induced 与 motivated 意思贴近。因此 A 为正确答案。

#### 5. [答案] C

【题意】 文章的最后一段暗示但没有直接说明的是什么？

【详析】 本题也可用排除法。文章最后一段第二句直接说明：“但是，正如大多数研究所示，赔偿所得每增加 10%，提出赔偿要求的工人数量就会增加 5%”。A项意为：因为赔偿费的增加，更多的美国工人可以从国家赔偿体系中受益。A项与原文矛盾，故不选。B项意为：美国工人赔偿体系已成为国民经济的一个大负担。D项意为：赔偿费增加的同时，申请赔偿的手续也变简单了。B、D两项在文中并未涉及，故排除。C项意为：尽管赔偿费增加了，但是美国受伤的工人并不是唯一主要受益人。文章最后一句说：医生和律师从不断增长的赔偿费中获得了不少的好处也就不足为奇了。言外之意表明他们也是主要的受益人。所以 C 项应为本题正确答案。

### Passage Three

#### 【词汇注释】

litigant[ˈlɪɡənt] *n.* 诉讼当事人  
abstruse[ˈæbstrʊs] *a.* 难解的，深奥的  
baffle[ˈbæfl] *v.* 使困惑，阻碍  
aggrieved[əˈɡri:vɪd] *a.* 委屈的，愤愤不平的  
solicitor[ˈsɒlɪsɪtə] *n.* (初级)律师；法务

官  
unremunerative[ˌʌnrɪˈmjʊnərətɪv] *a.* 无报酬的；无利可图的  
recompense[ˈrekəmpens] *n.* 报酬，报答，补偿

#### 【思路及大意】

本文首先提出自己作诉讼当事人这一概念，然后列举了一些可以自己处理的案例，最后用大量篇幅来说明作自己的诉讼当事人时必须考虑到的因素。