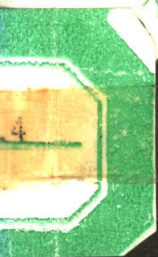


# 大学英语 阅读理解

大学英语统考应试指南



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大学英语统考应试指南丛书

# 大学英语阅读理解

主 编 吕世森

副主编 冉庆云 王裕生

天津科学技术出版社

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主 编 吕世森

副主编 冉庆云 王裕生

责任编辑: 胡振泰

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## 内 容 简 介

本书是为帮助高等院校非英语专业学生提高英语阅读理解能力,顺利通过大学英语三、四级统考而编写的。全书所编入 24 个单元的 96 篇文章曾在不同高校使用,取得明显效果。应学生要求,本书还收入了国家教委考试设计组大学英语四级考试样题、1990 年 1 月和 1991 年 6 月大学英语四级统考试题中的阅读理解部分,书末附有全部答案。本书内容新颖,针对性强,覆盖面全。

本书是高等院校本科生的良师益友,对于准备参加出国 EPT 考试、研究生入学考试的人员也有参考价值。

# 前 言

《大学英语阅读理解》是为帮助高等院校非英语专业的文理科本科生提高英语阅读理解能力,顺利通过全国大学英语三、四级统考而专门设计的。

本书编写力求内容新、精、实用性强。全书共编有 24 个单元,每单元 4 篇短文、20 个选择题。此外,还收入了国家教委考试设计组大学英语四级考试样题、1990 年 1 月大学英语四级统考试题、1991 年 6 月大学英语四级统考试题中的阅读理解部分。

成书前,一些院校使用了本材料,反应极好。某院本科生两次参加天津市大学英语三级统考,两次参加全国大学英语四级统考,均取得优异成绩,连续四次获得天津市高校第一名。

在本书编写过程中,美籍语言学家 Hodyes 给予了热心帮助和指导,并提供了部分资料,使本书质量得以保证。

在本书编写过程中,我们曾参考并吸取了一些同类书的优点和内容,在此一并表示感谢。

本书对于准备参加出国 EPT 考试、研究生入学考试的人员以及大、中学英语教师都具有参考价值。

**编 者**

1991 年 7 月

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# 一、国家教委考试设计组大学英语 四级考试样题阅读理解部分

## Part II Reading Comprehension (35 minutes)

Directions: There are 4 reading passages in this part. Each passage is followed by some questions. For each question there are four suggested answers marked A), B), C) and D). You should choose the ONE best answer and blacken the corresponding letter on the Answer Sheet with a pencil.

**Questions 21 to 25 are based on the following passage:**

The advantages and disadvantages of a large population have long been a subject of discussion among economists. It has been argued that the supply of good land is limited. To feed a large population, inferior land must be cultivated and the good land worked intensively. Thus, each person produces less and this means a lower average income than could be obtained with a smaller population. Other economists have argued that a large population gives more scope for specialization and the development of facilities such as ports, roads and railways, which are not likely to be built unless there is a big demand to justify them.

One of the difficulties in carrying out a world-wide birth control program lies in the fact that official attitudes to population growth vary from country to country depending on the level of industrial development and the availability of food and raw materi-



als. In the developing country where a vastly expanded population is pressing hard upon the limits of food, space and natural resources, it will be the first concern of government to place a limit on the birthrate, whatever the consequences may be. In a highly industrialized society the problem may be more complex. A decreasing birthrate may lead to unemployment because it results in a declining market for manufactured goods. When the pressure of population on housing declines, prices also decline and the building industry is weakened. Faced with considerations such as these, the government of a developed country may well prefer to see a slowly increasing population, rather than one which is stable or in decline.

21. A small population may mean \_\_\_\_\_.  
A) higher productivity, but a lower average income  
B) lower productivity, but a higher average income  
C) lower productivity and a lower average income  
D) higher productivity and a higher average income
22. According to the passage, a large population will provide a chance for developing \_\_\_\_\_.  
A) agriculture  
B) transport system  
C) industry  
D) national economy
23. In a developed country, people will perhaps go out of work if the birthrate \_\_\_\_\_.  
A) goes up  
B) goes down  
C) remains stable  
D) is out of control
24. According to the passage, slowly rising birthrate perhaps is good for \_\_\_\_\_.

- A) a developing nation
- B) a developed nation
- C) every nation with a big population
- D) every nation with a small population

25. It is no easy job to carry out a general plan for birth control throughout the world because \_\_\_\_\_.

- A) there are too many underdeveloped countries in the world
- B) underdeveloped countries have low level of industrial development
- C) different governments have different views of the question
- D) even developed countries may have complex problems

**Questions 26 to 30 are based on the following passage:**

"It hurts me more than you," and "This is for your own good." These are the statements my mother used to make years ago when I had to learn Latin, clean my room, stay home and do homework.

That was before we entered the permissive period in education in which we decided it was all right not to push our children to achieve their best in school. The schools and the educators made it easy on us. They taught that it was all right to be parents who take a let-alone policy. We stopped making our children do homework. We gave them calculators, tuned on the television, left the teaching to the teachers and went on vacation.

Now teachers, faced with children who have been developing at their own pace for the past 15 years, are realizing we've made a terrible mistake. One such teacher is Sharon Klompus who says of her students — "so passive" — and wonders what happened. Nothing was demanded of them, she believes. Television, says Klompus, contributes to children's passivity. "We're not training

kids to work any more," says Klompus. "We're talking about a generation of kids who've never been hurt or hungry. They have learned somebody will always do it for them. Instead of saying 'go look it up', you tell them the answer. It takes greater energy to say no to a kid."

Yes, it does. It takes energy and it takes work. It's time for parents to end their vacation and come back to work. It's time to take the car away, to turn the TV off, to tell them it hurts you more than them but it's for their own good. It's time to start telling them no again.

26. Children are becoming more inactive in study because \_\_\_\_\_.

- A) they watch TV too often
- B) they have done too much homework
- C) they have to fulfil too many duties
- D) teachers are too strict with them

27. To such children as described in the passage \_\_\_\_\_.

- A) it is easier to say no than to say yes
- B) neither is easy – to say yes or to say no
- C) it is easier to say yes than to say no
- D) neither is difficult – to say yes or to say no

28. We learn from the passage that the author's mother used to lay emphasis on \_\_\_\_\_.

- A) learning Latin
- B) natural development
- C) discipline
- D) education at school

29. By "permissive period in education" the author means a time \_\_\_\_\_.

- A) when children are allowed to do what they wish to
  - B) when everything can be taught at school
  - C) when every child can be educated
  - D) when children are permitted to receive education
30. The main idea of the passage is that \_\_\_\_\_.
- A) parents should leave their children alone
  - B) kids should have more activities at school
  - C) it's time to be more strict with our kids
  - D) parents should always set a good example to their kids

**Questions 31 to 36 are based on the following passage:**

They are among the 250,000 people under the age of 25 who are out of work in the Netherlands, a group that accounts for 40 percent of the nation's unemployed. A storm of anger boils up at the government-sponsored (政府资助的) youth center, even among those who are continuing their studies.

"We study for jobs that don't exist," Nicollete Steggerda, 23, said.

After three decades of prosperity, unemployment among 10 member nations of the European Community has exceeded 11 percent, affecting a total of 12.3 million people, and the number is climbing.

The bitter disappointment long expressed by British youths is spreading across the Continent. The title of a rock song "No Future" can now be seen written on the brick walls of closed factories in Belgium and France.

Recent surveys have found that the increasing argument in the last few years over the deployment (部署) in Europe of North Atlantic Treaty Organization missiles and the possibility of nuclear war have clouded European youths' confidence in the future.

One form of protest tends to put the responsibility for a country's economic troubles on the large numbers of "guest workers" from Third World nations, people welcomed in Western Europe in the years of prosperity.

Young Europeans, brought up in an extended period of economic success and general stability, seem to resemble Americans more than they do their own parents. Material enjoyment has given them a sense of expectation, even the right, to a standard of living that they see around them.

"And so we pass the days at the discos, or meet people at the cafe, and sit and stare," said Isabella Gault. "There is usually not much conversation. You look for happiness. Sometimes you even find it."

31. Unemployment in the Netherlands has affected \_\_\_\_\_.
- A) one million people
  - B) roughly 0.6 million people
  - C) 250,000 people
  - D) less than half of the population
32. What Nicollete Steggerda said (paragraph 2) means that \_\_\_\_\_.
- A) school education is not sufficient
  - B) what the students learn is more than necessary
  - C) the students cannot get work after graduation
  - D) the students' aim in study is not clear
33. The word "prosperity" (line 4, paragraph 6) most probably means \_\_\_\_\_.
- A) achievements in economy
  - B) advance in politics
  - C) economic troubles

- D) political crisis
34. Which of the following statements is NOT TRUE?
- A) The rock song "No Future" is an expression of the disappointment of European youth.
  - B) 40% of the guest workers are out of work in Western Europe now.
  - C) European youths are worried about a new world war in the future.
  - D) Widespread unemployment is beyond European youths' expectation.
35. British youths \_\_\_\_\_.
- A) are trying to find work on the Continent
  - B) are sympathetic with the unemployed on the Continent
  - C) have been the first to show their disappointment over joblessness
  - D) show their concern for unemployment in France and Belgium
36. It seems that young Europeans \_\_\_\_\_.
- A) look upon life as their elders do
  - B) are more like Americans than their elders in their way of thinking
  - C) look more like Americans than their elders do
  - D) expect more from Americans than from their elders

**Questions 37 to 40 are based on the following passage:**

The news of the escape first got around on Sunday night. It threw the oldest son into anxiety, almost panic, possibly because he was old enough to know what it meant. The youngest didn't seem to care; he was too young. Mrs. Birnam – an unimaginative mother, easy going, busy with family matters – seemed to take

the attitude that if danger was involved, it was danger to somebody else besides themselves. Don's reaction, the middle son, was romantic: what a pity that it had happened forty miles away, and thus the consequent exciting danger or threat would never reach as far as their town of Arcadia. He was twelve at the time.

There had been a break at the state prison in Auburn. Six dangerous criminals had shot their way out and were even now – so everybody said – terrorizing the countryside, though no one had seen them since their rush to freedom after a wounded guard, at gun point, had raised the outer gate for their escape. They might equally have vanished off the face of the earth or hidden in somebody's abandoned barn, too frightened to stir from their hiding places for weeks to come.

The news came to the Birnams inevitably (必然) from one of their neighbors over the telephone. There was no radio in those days but Mrs. Kirtle was just as good. By some mysterious gift she always managed to hear things before anybody else and immediately got on the phone or rushed across the back yards, ducking under clotheslines and knocking at kitchen door. "Pauline Revere," the boys called her, and their mother suppressed (抑制) a smile and scolded them for disrespect.

37. How far was the prison from Arcadia?

- A) Forty miles.
- B) Six miles.
- C) Twelve miles.
- D) The selection doesn't tell us.

38. Mrs. Birnam's family learned of the news of the escape

- 
- A) through Mrs. Kirtle

- B) over the radio
- C) from the wounded guard
- D) by some mysterious gift

39. The boys' attitude toward Mrs. Kirtle was that of

- 
- A) tolerance
  - B) impoliteness
  - C) doubt
  - D) kindness

40. Which of the following statements is NOT TRUE?

- A) The six criminals succeeded in escaping with much violence.
- B) Mrs. Kirtle always kept herself informed about daily happenings in their neighborhood.
- C) Mrs. Birnam thought that the news had nothing to do with her family.
- D) Every member of the Birnams was thrown into a panic by the news.



## 二、1990年1月大学英语四级统考 试题阅读理解部分

### Part II Reading Comprehension (35 minutes)

Directions: There are 4 passages in this part. Each passage is followed by some questions or unfinished statements. For each of them there are four choices marked A), B), C) and D). You should decide on the best choice and mark the corresponding letter on the Answer Sheet with a single line through the centre.

**Questions 21 to 25 are based on the following passage:**

Oceanography has been defined as 'The application of all sciences to the study of the sea'.

Before the nineteenth century, scientists with an interest in the sea were few and far between. Certainly Newton considered some theoretical aspects of it in his writings, but he was reluctant (不愿意) to go to sea to further his work.

For most people the sea was remote, and with the exception of early intercontinental travellers or others who earned a living from the sea, there was little reason to ask many questions about it, let alone to ask what lay beneath the surface. The first time that the question 'What is at the bottom of the oceans?' had to be answered with any commercial consequence was when the laying of a telegraph cable from Europe to America was proposed. The