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COLLEGE ENGLISH TEST

英语六级 考试专家

阅读理解

主 编 吴耀武

A quiz kid is a kid who is able to make a very good performance, especially during exams.

He/she is always active and energetic.

He/she always gets the highest marks.

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Quiz Kids

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前言

阅读理解是各种英语测试、考试的必考题型,不仅是对考生英语综合能力的考查,也是对他们知识面、分析推理能力的检测,是重点,又是难点。目前大多数的阅读培训只是一味强调技巧,而忽略了一个基本的事实,即阅读水平要有实质性的提高,必须要有阅读量的支持。新大纲对考生的阅读能力提出了更高的要求,增加了快速阅读项目的测试。有鉴于此,我们推出了这本《英语六级考试专家——阅读理解》。本书严格参照最新《大学英语教学大纲》和全国英语四、六级考试委员会最新公布的《关于全国大学英语六级考试采用新题型的通知》编写而成。本书具有以下特色:

1. 多数文章选自最新英文原版报刊、文献及教科书,有助于考生学习、接触当代社会生活及科学技术领域中新的词汇、表达方式及文化背景知识。

2. 对阅读理解和快速阅读的命题内容、题型设计进行了详细归类,介绍了提问的句型、答题技巧。

3. 每个单元的阅读短文和试题完全按照最新大学英语六级考试标准和要求的难易程度编排。

4. 所有短文阅读理解题均配有答题考点详解、参考答案,部分难点、易混淆点配有参考译文。

5. 便于考生自主学习,无须老师指导。本书精选阅读理解短文 60 篇及快速阅读 10 篇,题材广泛、题型多样、信息量大、内容新颖、难易适度。

吴老师特别提示:归根到底,阅读理解重在理解,也就是通过阅读作者的书面作品来揣摩作者试图表达的观点、态度、情感等等。作

者的意图与读者的理解之间的沟壑是造成误解、误读的根本原因。此种问题如何才能得到有效的解决？坚实的英语功底首当其冲。再者，熟悉文化、时代背景、时事政治、科技发展、生化进步的新动向也必不可少。我们精心策划编写了《英语六级考试专家——阅读理解》，以帮助学生提高综合外语能力为出发点，以培养学生扎实的语言功底、流畅的语感为指导，同时兼顾对文化、文学、政治、社会、经济知识的学习。有理由相信，在我们的共同努力下，读者一定能取得满意的学习效果，那也是我们最大的欣慰。在学习过程中如有任何疑问，欢迎登陆吴耀武英语教学网 <http://www.515english.net> 与我们交流。

吴耀武

目 录

第一章 快速阅读(Skimming and Scanning) / 1

Ch.1

- 第一节 综述/1
- 第二节 模拟训练/2
- 第三节 模拟训练答案/54

第二章 仔细阅读(Reading in Depth) / 58

Ch.2

- 第一节 命题类型及解题技巧/58
- 第二节 模拟训练/69
- 第三节 模拟训练答案及详解/196

第三章 短句问答(Short Answer Questions) / 271

Ch.3


- 第一节 综述/271
- 第二节 模拟训练/272
- 第三节 模拟训练答案/290

Ch.4

第一节 综述/294

第二节 模拟训练/296

第三节 模拟训练答案/311



第一章 快速阅读 (Skimming and Scanning)

第一节 综 述

在大学英语六级考试新题型中,阅读理解部分所占分值比例为35%,其中仔细阅读部分(Reading in Depth)占25%,快速阅读部分(Skimming and Scanning)占10%。仔细阅读部分的测试分为:选择题型的篇章阅读理解、篇章层次的词汇理解或短句问答。快速阅读部分测试的是浏览阅读和查读的能力。在旧的六级考题中,快速阅读只是作为阅读技巧的一部分来考查,而在改革后的新题型中,快速阅读则成为考题的一部分。在大学英语教学中虽然有快速阅读的内容,但由于课堂时间的限制以及以往的考试中并未直接考查的原因,快速阅读在大部分的英语教学中没有受到特别的重视,因此,快速阅读将是广大考生的一大难题,这也正是我们将快速阅读放在第一部分的原因,希望能够引起考生足够的重视。测试要求:在15分钟内完成一篇1200个词文章的快速阅读,并确定4个正误问题,补充6个未完成的句子。快速阅读的关键是阅读速度,为了解决这一问题,考生要灵活掌握和运用“略读”和“寻读”的方法。

一、略读

略读又被称为“浏览”,其主要目的就是把握全文的大意,包括文章的中心思想以及文章从几个方面来说明和论述这一中心思想。在略读的过程中,考生应把重点放在文章的首段、尾段,对文章的中间



几段,只须读首句,可以忽略文章的细节。略读 1 200 个词的文章不要超过 3~4 分钟。

二、寻读

寻读的重点在于寻找重要的信息、细节等,在寻找的过程中应当关注:数字、人物、原因、年代、方式等,可根据问题中关键字来确定信息所在。

三、解题的先后顺序

在处理快速阅读题时,正确的顺序是:先阅读 10 个问题,再分辨细节题和主旨题。先用寻读解决细节题,然后用略读解决主旨题。细节题的解答对把握主旨会有很大的帮助。

第二节 模拟训练

Passage 1

Directions: In this part, you will have 15 minutes to go over the passage quickly and answer the questions on **Answer Sheet 1**.

For questions 1 - 4, mark;

Y (for YES) if the statement agrees with the information given in the passage;

N (for NO) if the statement contradicts the information given in the passage;

NG (for NOT GIVEN) if the information is not given in the passage.

For questions 5 - 10, complete the sentences with the information given in the passage.





Shaping the Next Industrial Revolution

Introduction

The need to achieve an environmentally sustainable world is shaping the evolution of the global economy. It would seem that ecological pressures increasingly influence economic decisions, making some industries obsolete while opening up a host of new investment opportunities. It's apparent that companies and nations that fail to invest strategically in the new technologies, products, and processes will fall behind economically and miss out on the jobs these new industries provide.

The size of the world economy has quintupled since 1950, bringing unprecedented, though unevenly distributed, prosperity to many nations, but much of the affluence has been borrowed from future generations. Destruction and degradation of natural assets — air, land, water, forests, and plant and animal species have subsidized the profits of many businesses in the late 20th century. For industries around the globe, the debts are coming due.

Sulphur dioxide, hydrocarbons, and other pollutants flow in immense quantity from smokestacks, fouling the air and shortening lives. Heavy metals and thousands of chemicals find their way into the rivers, lakes, and seas, while chlorofluorocarbons have damaged the protective layer of ozone in the upper atmosphere. The relentless search for new sources of timber, fuels and minerals is bringing destructive development to the far corners of the planet, disturbing the remaining storehouses of biological and cultural diversity.

Laws enacted by some countries to address these environmental



threats have yielded many gains, from lower sulphur emissions in reduced water pollution levels. However, the challenge ahead is more fundamental — going beyond pollution controls and better management to reshape industries in order to make them environmentally sustainable. Responding to problems such as air and water pollution and the loss of biological diversity will require the revamping of today's enterprises, such as chemicals and paper, and the creation of entirely new industries.

Examples from Industry

Once seen as a distraction to the real business of business, ecological awareness is becoming an engine of the next Industrial Revolution. It is now pervasive in traditional "dirty" industries, such as chemical manufacturing and metals processing, as well as high-tech and service industries, such as computer manufacturing and food companies. Businesses are likely to prosper in the future not by selling massive quantities of identical products — the traditional route to economic success — but by meeting consumer needs in the most efficient way possible. They will have to supply energy "services," rather than electricity; "information," rather than a newspaper; and crop protection, rather than pesticides. The challenge of the coming environmental revolution is likely to include alterations in manufacturing processes, the adoption of new agricultural techniques, and the development of alternatives to fossil fuels. Hardly an industry will go untouched.

Environmental protection already is a major industry. The Organization for Economic Co-operation and Development estimates that the world-wide market of environment goods and services was around \$200,000,000,000 in 1990, and projects it will grow 50% by 2000.



These figures are defined narrowly, however, only including such items as the market for sewage treatment equipment, and the cost of cleaning up toxic wastes. The much larger demands of redesigning major manufacturing equipment or creating new industries likely will be measured in trillions of dollars. The biggest areas of potential business growth lie in the most fundamental areas: finding alternatives to the internal combustion engine, substituting lightweight synthetics for steel, making solar electricity competitive with coal-fired power, substituting aquaculture for deep-sea fishing etc.

The far-reaching economic consequences of ecological issues are apparent in many areas of industry. The chemical industry is among those most affected by environmental concerns, having grown at a staggering pace in recent decades. Complex organic compounds, many of them toxic, find their way into virtually every product and production process. Government figures show that more than 700,000 tons of toxic pollutants are released each year by the US chemical industry. Many of these are long-lived and contaminate lakes, groundwater, and the air people breathe. It has become clear that end-of-pipe pollution controls are not the most cost-effective way to deal with these toxic chemicals. In the US 3m pioneered a different approach. Its "Pollution Prevention Pays" program encourages employees to find ways to reduce or eliminate use of dangerous chemicals through redesign of products and manufacturing processes. The corporation estimates it has prevented more than, 1,000,000,000 pounds of emissions since then and saved over \$ 500,000,000.

Another example of an industry slated for rapid change in the paper industry. Logging is among the most ecologically destructive human activities, playing important roles in the rapid loss of old-growth forests

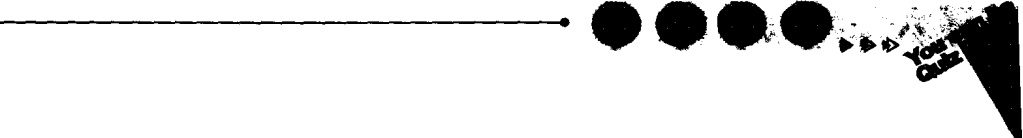
and wetlands. Such losses of often-irreplaceable habitats and diminishing the Earth's storehouse of biological diversity. Scientists estimate that the planet is losing approximately 50,000 species annually, or about 140 each day. The logging industry is under heavy pressure to clean up its act. Government regulations have pushed foresters in the north western US to develop techniques known as new forestry, intended to cut valuable tress selectively while maintaining the integrity and diversity of the forest eco-system. Improved management can cut the environmental impacts of logging but even greater benefits will be gained through basic changes in other industries that reduce needs for timber. The efficient use of recycled materials is likely to reduce the size of the logging industry substantially.

Whose Responsibility?

Primary responsibility for creating an environmentally sustainable economic system lies with elected governments, which represent the interests of society as a whole. Governments set the rules for environmental improvement, while consumers and local communities create the pressure for change. The challenge is to adopt policies that make economic and ecological imperatives converge, redirecting market forces to achieve the environmental goals. Since private businesses focused on earning profits, it is up to governments to ensure that the most profitable investments are the ones that are environmentally sustainable. The solution is policies ranging from well-crafted regulations to taxes.

Inside Changes

The environmental revolution began with grassroots activism in the



1960s and was joined by active government policymaking in the 1970s and 1980s. Now industry itself is being swept up in the process. During the past few years, business policies and practices have begun to undergo changes that in the end may yield not only a cleaner environment but a different kind of company. Employees deliver better environmental results when they know their company will reward them for doing so. Today's most successful corporate pollution prevention programs share several principles, among them formal recognition of employee environmental achievements, high-level responsibility for ecological issues, and a strong commitment from top management.

A Healthy Future

The transition to an environmentally sound economy is a great challenge. While the costs may be high, most companies will face greater risks if they ignore the need for change. Those that do not learn how to earn profits in an ecologically sound way may find they have no profits to worry about. In the end, the health of the global economy will depend on the health of the global environment base on which it stands.

Word count=1,158

1. The world economy has grown by 5 times since 1950.
2. The dirty industries such as chemical manufacturing and metals processing will go untouched.
3. Environmental protection itself has become a new major industry.
4. Reducing our need for timber, for example by recycling, probably will reduce the size of the logging industry.
5. The writers of the this article believe that the economy is being shaped by _____ concerns.
6. The fundamental challenge ahead is to make the industries _____.



7. _____ is already a major industry.
8. _____ is responsible for creating an environmentally sustainable economic system.
9. During the past few years, business policies and practice have begun to undergo _____.
10. Those that do not learn how to earn profits in an ecologically sound way may find they have no _____ to worry about.

Passage 2

China and UK Turn to Alternative Energy Sources

In developed and developing countries around the world, individuals are turning to solar and wind power as an inexpensive, environmentally friendly alternative to traditional polluting fossil fuels such as oil and coal. "The impact on individual lives is extraordinary," says Mark Fitzgerald, executive director of the Institute for Sustainable Power in Colorado, "The potential is outstanding." So far, China leads the world in the number of solar installations, but other countries such as the UK, the US and Japan are catching up, and have plans for large future installations as a way of limiting the pollution of fossil fuels and the potential dangers of nuclear energy.

China

In the case of China, the use of solar energy has originated because of cost efficiency rather than environmental concerns, and has resulted in quite significant lifestyle changes. Many people in China live without electricity in the remote northern and western



provinces of Inner Mongolia, Xinjiang, Tibet, Gansu and Qinghai. There are also 300 islands off the Chinese coasts which remain without electricity, because of the huge costs of building power plants and installing electrical lines. Conventional energy grid systems just don't reach these areas. Photovoltaics or PV, the technology that turns sunlight into electricity, provides a small-scale answer. Solar home systems made from photovoltaic cells can run a few light bulbs and a black-and-white TV for about four hours a day. For rural people who have lived their lives by the light of butter-oil lamps, it appears to be a great improvement. The locals also use the systems to drive water pumps, refrigerate medicines for farm animals, and power the radios and televisions that help to connect them to the rest of China and the world.

Cottage industries in these remote areas of China are also benefiting from the introduction of alternative energy. Seamstresses working in their homes can work longer hours by the light of fluorescent bulbs in the evenings, and thus incomes are boosted. It does take an initial outlay of capital, however, which of course most families do not have. A 20-watt system that provides four hours of electricity a day costs about \$200, which is roughly 14 times the annual cost of traditional energy expenses for kerosene lamps, matches, and butter oil. But if the extra time given by evening light is spent in working, the costs can be made up in about a year.

For China, this kind of technology may mean an answer to worrying energy trends. China's energy requirements are vast and the forecasted need is alarming. In 1995, it consumed about 748 billion kilowatt-hours of electricity, and by 2015, that number is



predicted to reach 2,457 billion kilowatt-hours — an annual growth rate of about 6%, compared with 2.6% world-wide. The use of coal, which provides 80% of the country's electricity needs is expected to increase five-fold by 2020. So along with the lifestyle benefits for these rural Chinese folk, renewable energies like solar power can help China diversify away from the polluting fossil fuels. By 1998, about 40,000 families in China owned these systems, and numbers are steadily increasing.

United Kingdom

Over the next 20 years, architect Susan Roafe estimates she will spend \$10,000 on heating and lighting her energy-efficient six-bedroom house in Oxford, southern England. But her neighbour, living in a similar Victorian house, will, she calculates, spend \$120,000. She predicts that mainstream energy costs will double in the next 10 years as reserves of natural gas are depleted.

Roafe, a lecturer at Oxford Brookes University, owns one of just five residential houses in the UK equipped to generate their own electricity using solar panels. But if European Commission proposals approved two weeks ago are fulfilled, another 70,000 homes will have solar rooftops by 2010.

Although the numbers are small, more people in Britain are becoming interested in the idea of generating their own electricity. The Ecology Building Society says the main green themes from its loan applicants are water conservation and electricity generation.

Some people in remote areas have found it cheaper to generate their own electricity than to pay for a connection to the National Grid, which supplies most houses and businesses and can cost more

than \$30,000. Anthropologist and writer Felix Padel would have had to pay about \$10,000 five years ago to connect his house near Fishguard, Pembrokeshire, to the grid. He decided instead to install a 9-meter windmill, at a cost of about \$6,000. He cannot run a washing machine on the electricity generated by the windmill but everything else in the home is powered by it, and there are high-powered batteries to store electricity for use when the wind is not blowing.

But for people living in urban areas, installing a windmill is not a practical possibility. The environmental group Greenpeace is encouraging what it sees as the only feasible option for city dwellers: solar power. For \$12,000 a house, it installed solar panels in June on three terraced properties in Pirie Street, West Silvertown, in London's Docklands. The group estimates that each house will cut its annual electricity bill by about a third, or \$120.

Greenpeace is still negotiating with London Electricity on one issue that could affect thousands of other tenants and homeowners in years to come. Excess electricity generated when the sun is shining will be sold to the company-but it will pay much less than it charges for electricity. Greenpeace would like to see these prices evened up.

Solar panels and other green equipment are still expensive to produce, but BP Solar estimates that mass production will dramatically reduce costs. The company's chief operating officer, John Browne, said in September, "I'm convinced that we can make solar energy competitive in supplying peak electricity demand within the next 10 years."

Other countries are well ahead of the UK in plans for solar energy. US President Bill Clinton announced this year that