阅读时代业书

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# 大学英语四级考试

## 阅读时代

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#### 内 容 提 要

本书以《大学英语教学大纲》阅读理解大纲为基础、分为 30 个单元。每单元围绕一个话题选材、涵盖人文科学、自然科学、科学技术以及当代国际和社会问题等。读者在阅读此书的过程中,不仅可以熟悉四级阅读常见的题材,了解人们在这些问题上的各种见解,而且可以系统积累相关词汇,从知识层面和技术层面为四级考试做好准备。每单元分为 3 个部分。第一部分为 5 篇阅读文章,前 4 篇文章阅读完毕后各有 5 道选择题,与 CET-4 阅读理解题型一致;第 5 篇文章阅读完毕后需对文章中的五段划线句子进行翻译。第二部分为注释与详解。除了对每篇文章中出现的长、难句作出语法和词汇注释外,对每道题目首先给出正确答案,然后进行详细的解释。第三部分对 5 篇阅读文章给出统一的标准答案。

本书适合参加大学英语四级考试的学生阅读,还可作为英语爱好者的学习用书。

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## 前言

全国大学英语四级考试 (College English Test 4, 简称 CET-4),是根据理工科本科和文科本科用的两个《大学英语教学大纲》,由教育部 (原国家教育委员会)高等教育司组织的全国统一的单科性标准化教学考试。

大学英语四级考试从测试学的角度来说,是一种设定的及格线和教师对学生是否及格的判断,尺度相关—常模参照性考试,相关高达 0.82。在各种语言技能测试中阅读能力的测试位居首位,在 120 分钟的测试时间中,阅读占了 35 分钟,阅读的得分占整个总分的 40%,而且单项试题每题 2分,是除作文外最高的。阅读部分的阅读总量为 1000~1200 词,是整个试卷中文字材料最多、测试分量最重的项目。学生在阅读理解中的表现基本上可以反映出其掌握语言、运用语言的能力。阅读成绩在某种程度上决定了考试的总成绩,因此,阅读能力的培养至关重要。

本书选择阅读作为突破口,冲刺 CET-4, 主要原因是无论从考分所占的比例还是从花费的时间看,阅读理解在 CET-4 考试中都算得上是一出"重头戏", 历来受到学习者的重视。但是光重视未必就能保证结果理想, 事倍功半的现象并不少见, 原因在于对阅读的实质认识不足, 学习和理解的方法不当。阅读理解题主要考查考生对英语词汇、短语、句型等习惯表达及出现在文中的语言知识和语言技能的掌握情况, 从另一方面说, 它也包含了对英语国家和世界其他国家政治、经济、文化、历史和社会等背景及科技发展动态、热门话题乃至西方人思维、交流方式等非语言性知识和学习能力方面的考查。可以说, 阅读理解题是综合性很强的能力测试题。

CET-4 命题要求中对阅读理解部分的要求如下:阅读理解的目的是测试学生通过阅读获取信息的能力,包括掌握所读材料的主旨和大意;了解说明主旨和大意的事实和细节;既理解字面的意思,也能根据所读材料进行一定的判断和推论;既理解个别句子的意思,也理解上下文的逻辑关系,理解文章的深层含义。阅读理解不但要求准确,而且要有一定的速度。

阅读材料的选材原则是:题材广泛,可以包括人物传记、社会、文化、日常知识、科普常识等;体裁多样,可以包括记叙文、说明文、议论文等,

应体现学术英语(English for Academic Purposes)的特点;语言难度及词汇量符合教学大纲的范围,阅读理解包括3个层次:句子层次、语篇层次以及理解判断层次。命题时应考虑到各个层次的阅读能力占有一定的比例。

纵观历年的试题可以看出,CET-4 的阅读理解短文均取材于英国、美国为主的原版报纸、杂志或书籍,其内容包罗万象,有人文科学的,有普及性质的自然科学和科技方面的,也有反映当代国际和社会问题的……绝大多数短文为议论评论性的、报道性的、分析论证性的文章,很少有纯抒发情感、描写风景等的文学篇章。考生如果平时知识面广又能注意积累,在阅读时就理解得快,所用的时间就会缩短,考试成功的可能性就会大大提高。

本书以《大学英语教学大纲》阅读理解大纲为基础,分为30个单元。每单元围绕一个话题选材,涵盖人文科学、自然科学、科学技术以及当代国际和社会问题等。读者在阅读此书的过程中,不仅可以熟悉四级阅读常见的题材,了解人们在这些问题上的各种见解,而且可以系统积累相关词汇,从知识层面和技术层面为四级考试做好准备。每单元分为3个部分。第一部分为5篇阅读文章,前4篇文章阅读完毕后各有5道选择题,与CET-4阅读理解题型一致;第5篇文章阅读完毕后需对文章中的5段划线句子进行翻译。第二部分为注释与详解。除了对每篇文章中出现的长、难句作出语法和词汇注释外,对每道题目首先给出正确答案,然后进行详细的解释。第三部分对5篇阅读文章给出统一的标准答案。

本书的作者具有丰富的大学英语教学经验,参加了多年全国 CET-4 考试的阅卷工作,除具有扎实的理论基础之外,还能够深刻地了解考生的所思及所需。所以本书可以算是考生考前的必备复习指南。

编者

2007年8月

## 目 录

Part I	大学英语四级考试阅读理解的方法和解题技巧	1
一、阅记	卖理解的测试形式和题材	3
二、阅记	卖理解技巧	3
三、阅记	卖理解的篇章、句子和词汇······	4
四、阅读	卖理解答题技巧	6
Part I	大学英语四级考试阅读理解分类专项训练	11
Unit 1	教育与知识	13
Notes	to Unit 1 ·····	18
Keys	to Unit 1	22
Unit 2	经济状况与前景	24
Notes	to Unit 2 ·····	30
Keys	to Unit 2 ·····	34
Unit 3	语言与交际	35
Notes	to Unit 3	41
Keys	to Unit 3 ·····	45
Unit 4	科学与社会	46
Notes	to Unit 4 ·····	52
Keys	to Unit 4 ·····	57
Unit 5	科学与知识	58
Notes	to Unit 5 ·····	64
Keys	to Unit 5 ·····	68
Unit 6	传媒与价值观	70
Notes	s to Unit 6 ·····	76
Keys	to Unit 6 ·····	80
Unit 7	计算机与网络	81
Notes	s to Unit 7 ·····	87
Keys	to Unit 7 ·····	91
Unit 8	经济与发展	92

98
01
03
09
13
14
20
23
25
31
35
137
142
146
148
154
157
159
165
170
171
177
181
182
188
192
194
199
204
205
211
215
216
221
225
227
232
236

Unit 21 教育与政府 ············ 2	238
Notes to Unit 21 ····· 2	244
Keys to Unit 21 ····· 2	249
Unit 22 科普知识 ····································	250
Notes to Unit 22 ····· 2	256
Keys to Unit 22 ····· 2	260
Unit 23 人口与种族问题 ····································	261
Notes to Unit 23 ·····	267
Keys to Unit 23 ····· 2	271
Unit 24 体育与娱乐 ····································	273
Notes to Unit 24 ·····	279
Keys to Unit 24 ·····	283
Unit 25 工业与农业 ···································	284
Notes to Unit 25 ·····	289
Keys to Unit 25 ·····	294
Unit 26 失业与就业 ·······	295
Notes to Unit 26 ·····	
Keys to Unit 26 ·····	
Unit 27 通信技术 ·······	306
Notes to Unit 27 ·····	312
Keys to Unit 27 ·····	316
Unit 28 生物工程 ······	317
Notes to Unit 28 ·····	323
Keys to Unit 28 ·····	328
Unit 29 传统与现代文明	329
Notes to Unit 29 ·····	335
Keys to Unit 29 ·····	339
Unit 30 社会文化 ·······	
Notes to Unit 30 ·····	346
Keys to Unit 30 ·····	350

## Part I

大学英语四级考试阅读 理解的方法和解题技巧



#### 一、阅读理解的测试形式和题材

大学英语四级考试阅读理解部分由 4 篇短文组成,篇长约为 300 词左右。每篇后有 5 个单项选择题,满分为 40 分,考试时间 35 分钟。短文题材广泛,包括人物传记、社会文化、日常生活、科普知识等。体裁以说明文、议论文为主。根据考试大纲的规定,四级阅读理解文章应体现题材广泛的特点,但所涉及的背景知识应能为学生所理解。因此尽管涉及面很广,但涉及的深度不会太深、太专,即使是一般科学领域也多涉及社会意义,而不完全是科技方面的探讨。了解这些题材的范围是要让我们知道,在做阅读理解题时,除了要具备语言方面的知识,还应有较广泛的知识面,这样往往能够帮助我们克服文字上的理解障碍。因此平时广泛的了解科技动态,关注社会问题、教育问题,可以提高我们的阅读能力。

四级阅读理解题尽管提问方式多样,但大致可分为主观类题型和客观类题型。主观类 题型侧重考查考生依据已知信息、细节进行推理判断的能力;客观类题型侧重考查考生对 文章细节事实的辨别能力。阅读理解的难度体现在选项设计上,而非内容和词汇上。四级 阅读的测试重点在:

- (1) 把握所读材料的主旨和大意;
- (2) 把握与主旨和大意有关的事实和细节;
- (3) 依据事实和细节做出合理推断;
- (4) 根据上下文推断出词汇、短语、句子的含义;
- (5) 领会作者的观点和态度。

#### 二、阅读理解技巧

#### 1. 浏览或查读技巧

浏览技巧就是快速的通读全文,把握全文的大意。这时细节可以忽略,快速浏览句子中的关键词语,重点看文章的首尾段和每段的首尾句,抓住文章的中心意思。

查读不要求通篇了解中心内容,只需了解特定的内容。在回答文章后所附的 5 个问题时,就需要运用查读的方法,在文章中找到与答案相关的部分,仔细阅读并理解其内容和深层含义,然后在选择项中找到与之相符的答案。

#### 2. 浏览和查读的顺序

做阅读理解题,总体来说有两种方法:

- (1) 先看文章再看题。运用这种方法,一般可采取以下步骤: 首先用 1~2 分钟的时间快速浏览全文,大致了解全文中心思想及每段的段落大意; 然后再用 1~2 分钟的时间将 5 个问题及选项略读一遍,大致了解要回答哪 5 个问题;接下来用大约 5~6 分钟的时间分别细读与 5 个问题相关的段落和句子,并给出答案。这种方法的优点在于视野广阔,主次分明,在把握全文的基础上做题,对全文以及与之相关的细节控制较好,但是这种方法对考生本人的阅读技能要求较高,否则的话会因为反复查找细节信息而耽误时间。
- (2) 先看题再看文章。应用这种方法可采用以下步骤: 先用 1~2 分钟的时间看 5 个问题, 分清楚主旨题和细节题, 先做细节题, 然后再用 4~5 分钟的时间带着问题到原文

#### 大学英语四级考试阅读时代



中快速查读,找到与之相关的句子和段落,作出判断;最后再快速浏览全文,解决需要通过阅读全文才能回答的一两个问题。这种方法的优点是快速、直接,阅读时目的性强,可以减少阅读无关信息的时间,但是做题时全局观念差些,不能借助对中心内容的把握来判断选项的对错。

这两种方法各有利弊,因人而异。但不管用哪种方法,都应清楚了解其特点,还要了解自己的能力和长短处,找出最合适自己的方法,才能取得最佳的效果。

#### 三、阅读理解的篇章、句子和词汇

阅读不仅是一个浏览文字的过程,而且是一个思考、判断、归纳、评价并回答问题的过程。在 35 分钟内完成 1000~1200 词左右的阅读材料不是一件很容易的事,考生必须加快阅读速度,掌握阅读文章的技巧和回答问题的方法。

影响阅读的因素大致有两个方面:一是读者因素,包括读者的词汇水平、理解能力和背景知识的了解程度;二是语篇因素,包括材料的内容与结构、句子的长度与难度以及词汇因素。要提高阅读能力,除了注重读者因素之外,更要提高语篇层面上的综合能力,提高在篇章、句子、词义3方面的分析能力。

#### 1. 篇章分析

大学英语四级考试的阅读材料虽然只有 300 词左右,却仍是一篇结构完整、信息集中的语篇,因此考生应具有语篇意识。在阅读过程中,首先要考虑的是,这篇文章是关于什么的话题,了解这篇文章的主旨和中心思想是什么,也就是从语篇的角度进行全文分析。

抓主题句是概括主旨和中心思想的常用方法。大学英语四级考试阅读的体裁相对稳定,主要以议论文和说明文为主,而这两种文体的结构特征和论证手段非常鲜明:一是以文章主旨句开篇,然后以事例说明,最后得出结论;二是以具体事实开篇,经过分析论证,最后得出文章主旨。考生在阅读的过程中把握了文章的体裁及演绎方法,也就把握了文章的主旨所在,从而为后面的答题确定了正确的思路。

把握段与段之间的关系也非常重要,因为段与段之间存在着并列关系、递进关系、因 果关系、转折关系等。了解段与段之间的关系除了可以让考生把握重点,加快阅读速度, 还可以让考生在答题时迅速找到相关部分,并将相关部分放在上下文中考察。

#### 【例】 2003年9月试题第4篇

"Opinion" is a word that is used carelessly today. It is used to refer to matters of taste, belief, and judgment. This casual use would probably cause little confusion if people didn't attach too much importance to opinion. Unfortunately, most do attach great importance to it. "I have as much right to my opinion as you to yours," and "Everyone's entitled to his opinion," are common expressions. In fact, anyone who would challenge another's opinion is likely to be brashed intolerant.

Is that label accurate? Is it intolerant to challenge another's opinion? It depends on what definition of opinion you have in mind. For example, you may ask a friend "What do you think of the new Ford cars?" And he may reply, "In my opinion, they're ugly." In this case, it would not only be intolerant to challenge his statement, but foolish. For it's



obvious that by opinion he means his personal preference, a matter of taste. And as the old saying goes, "It's pointless to argue about matters of taste."

But consider this very different use of the term. A newspaper reports that the Supreme Court has delivered its opinion in a controversial case. Obviously the justices did not state their personal preferences, their mere likes and dislikes, They stated their considered judgment, painstakingly arrived at after thorough inquiry and deliberation.

Most of what is referred to as opinion falls somewhere between these two extremes. It is not an expression of taste. Nor is it careful judgment. Yet it may contain elements of both. It is a view or belief more or less casually arrived at, with or without examining the evidence. Is everyone entitled to his opinion? Of course, this is not only permitted, but guaranteed. We are free to act on our opinions only so long as, in doing so, we do not harm others.

分析:这篇文章列举了很多种关于态度的看法,乍一看很令人迷惑,不知作者的观点如何,但是分析一下各段的主题句和各段之间的关系,就可知这是我们刚才说的第二种论证方法:提出事实,然后进行具体分析,最后提出作者的观点。所以作者的观点在最后一段,这也就是作者的主旨。

#### 2. 句子分析

句子的理解是理解全文的基础,准确把握主旨句和各段的主题句尤为重要,关系到对 文章的总体结构与局部重点的把握。其中较难、较复杂的句子的分析是阅读的关键之一。

首先,要找出句子的主干。学会透过复杂的句式、纷繁的词汇分析句子的逻辑关系, 弄清句子的主干结构。结构清楚了,句子的意思也就理解了。

#### 【例】 2004年6月试题第1篇

Stokoe — now devoting his time to writing and editing books and journals and to producing video materials on ASL and the deaf culture — is having lunch at a cafe near the Gallaudet campus and explaining how he started a revolution.

分析:尽管这个句子很长,但是主干部分很简单,做出标记,意思就可以理解了。

其次,要把握句与句之间的关系,避免片面理解句子。当遇到难句时,很多考生会停下来反复阅读,其实只要继续往下读,往往能找到理解该句的线索。这个线索就是句与句之间的关系。句与句之间的关系有很多种:并列关系、解释关系、转折关系、因果关系等。根据句子之间的关系就可以把握句子的意思了。

#### 【例】 2003年12月试题第1篇

I'm usually fairly skeptical about any research that concludes that people are either happier on unhappier or more or less certain of themselves than they were 50 years ago. While any of these statements might be true, they are practically impossible to prove scientifically.

The author	thinks	that	the	conclusions	of	any	research	about	people's	state	of	mind



#### 大学英语四级考试阅读时代

A. surprising

B. confusing

C. illogical

D. questionable

分析:考生在做题时有可能不懂 skeptical 的意思,那么根据下一句"这两种说法也许是正确的,但都无法得到科学的证实。"句子用了虚拟语气来说明作者不认为这两种说法是正确的。所以答案应选 D,是质疑这两种说法的。

#### 3. 词汇分析

阅读理解的很多细节类、推理类试题实际考的就是考生对词汇在上下文中含义的把握。考生应学会根据与之相关的上下文来判断词汇的含义。

#### 【例】 2000年1月试题第4篇

When the situation is reversed, the bacteria are locked away in compartments buried deeply in the sea of fat. Trapped in this way, individual colonies cannot spread and rapidly run out of nutrients. They also slowly poison themselves with their waste porducts.

The word "colonies" refers to \_\_\_\_\_.

A. tiny globules

B. watery regions

C. bacteria communities

D. little compartments

分析:与 colonies 有关的上下文意思为:"现在形势逆转,细菌深陷于脂肪所构成的密封舱中。这些孤立的殖民地不能扩张,很快就耗尽养分而死亡了。"由上下文我们可知,不能扩张的是细菌。所以答案应选 C。

#### 四、阅读理解答题技巧

#### 1. 把握所读材料的主旨和大意

我们刚才在语篇阅读的关键中谈到,阅读一篇文章首先要把握文章的基本体裁和论证 方法,以此把握文章的主旨和中心思想。

#### 【例】 2002年6月试题第2篇

Most episodes of absent-mindedness — forgetting where you left something or wondering why you just entered a room — are caused by a simple lack of attention, says Schacter. "You're supposed to remember something, but you haven't encoded it deeply."

Encoding, Schacter explains, is a special way of paying attention to an event that has a major impact on recalling it later. Failure to encode properly can create annoying situations. If you put your mobile phone in a pocket, for example, and don't pay attention to what you did because you're involved in a conversation, you'll probably forget that the phone is in the jacket now hanging in you wardrobe (衣柜). "Your memory itself isn't failing you," says Schacter. "Rather, you didn't give your memory system the information it needed."

Lack of interest can also lead to absent-mindedness. "A man who can recite sports statistics from 30 years ago," says Zelinski, "may not remember to drop a letter in the mailbox." Women have slightly better memories than men, possibly because they pay more attention to their environment, and memory relies on just that.

#### Part 1 大学英语四级考试阅读理解的方法和解题技巧



Visual cues can help prevent absent-mindedness, says Schacter. "But be sure the cue is clear and available," he cautions. If you want to remember to take a medication (药物) with lunch, put the pill bottle on the kitchen table — don't leave it in the medicine chest and write yourself a note that you keep in a pocket.

Another common episode of absent-mindedness is: walking into a room and wondering why you're there. Most likely, you were thinking about something else. "Everyone does this from time to time," says Zelinski. The best thing to do is to return to where you were before entering the room, and you'll likely remember.

What is the passage mainly about?

- A. The process of gradual memory loss.

  B. The causes of absent-mindedness.
- C. The impact of the environment on memory. D. A way if encoding and recalling.
- 分析:从选择项来看,好像文中都有提到,但是当我们把各段的主题句列出来后,文章的中心思想就很明了了。
  - 第一段: Most episodes of absent-mindedness are caused by a simple lack of attention.
  - 第二段: Encoding is a special way of paying attention to an event.
  - 第三段: Lack of interest can also lead to absent-mindedness.
  - 第四段: Visual cues can help prevent absent-mindedness.
  - 第五段: You are thinking about other things and you forget the thing you are to do. 我们可以知道,文章主要是分析健忘的原因以及改正方法。所以答案应选 B。
  - 2. 把握说明主旨大意的事实和细节
- 这一题型是最基本的题型,主要考查考生对文章主旨相关内容的掌握。这类题虽说难度不大,但对考生而言,困难在于找不到文章的出处,这是因为文章的细节量大,位置不好把握,另外很多细节很相似,考生要花时间才能找到和题干相符的细节和事实。为了解决这一问题,考生在浏览全文的时候,一定要做标记,将标志主要事实和细节的语言做记号,以便在回查的时候迅速地找到与之相符的原文,节省时间。

需要做标记的语言标志有:

- 1) 与主旨有关的列举、比喻、文章或杂志引用、人物论断以及调查、试验、报告的结果等。
- 2) 表明段与段之间或句与句之间,特别是主题句和发展句之间关系的词语,如 because, and, although, since, therefore, while, but, firstly, second 等以及冒号、破折号、引号等特殊标点符号等。
  - 3. 根据所读的材料进行一定的推理和判断

推理和判断题主要考查对细节的推断和综合性的推理判断。这类题的题干中都有类似 imply, infer, conclude, learn from 等词汇。做这类题的原则是必须把握好"言在其外意在其中",不能脱离上下文进行想象、推理。

#### 【例】 2003年12月试题第2篇

I did not get what I wanted when I did not ask for it. We had cubicle (小隔间) offices and window offices. I sat in the cubicles with several male colleagues. One by one they

#### 大学英语四级考试阅读时代



were moved into window offices, while I remained in the cubicles. Several males who were hired after me also went to offices. One in particular told me he was next in line for an office and that it had been part of his negotiations for the job. I guess they thought me content to stay in the cubicles since I did not voice my opinion any way.

What can be inferred from Beth's story?

- A. Prejudice against women still exists in some organizations.
- B. If people want what they deserve, they have to ask for it.
- C. People should not be content with what they have got.
- D. People should be careful when negotiating for a job.

分析:这一段的开头就说明了讲这个例子的主题是:"因为我没有提出要求,我没有得到我想要的。"选项中只有 B 在意义上相符。

4. 根据上下文判断某些词汇和短语的意思

这类题主要考查考生在语篇水平上正确理解词、短语的能力。一般考两类词汇:一是常用词,考的是多义词在特定的语境中的意思;二是生解词,考学生根据上下文推断词义的能力。回答这两类问题都必须以上下文的逻辑关系为依据,所以句子的分析是很重要的,不能因为对句子逻辑关系的错误理解而导致对词或短语的错误理解。

#### 【例】 1999年6月试题第2篇

Why is American lagging behind in the global PR race? First, Americans as a whole tend to be fairly provincial and take more of an interest in local affairs. Knowledge of world geography, for example, has never been strong in this country.

The word '	"provincial"	(Line 2,	Paragraph 3)	most probably means	
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A. limited in outlook

B. like people from the province

C. rigid in thinking

D. interested in world financial affairs

分析:结合上下文,可知美国人总体来说眼光狭小,只对本国事务感兴趣。由 and 这个表并列关系的词可以判断出 provincial 和 take more of an interest in local affairs 是意义相近的,答案应是 A。而一部分考生因为只记得 provincial 有"省的,乡下的"选择了 B选项。

#### 【例】 1999年1月试题第4篇

Learning to read involves all that each individual does to make senses of the word of printed language. Almost all of it is private, for learning is an occupation of the mind, and that process is not open to public scrutiny.

The word "scrutiny" (Line 3, Paragraph 3) most probably means \_\_\_\_\_.

A. inquiry

B. observation

C. control

D. suspicion

分析:由上下文可知,学习是一个很私人的过程,因为学习是大脑的活动,这个过程是不为人所知的, and 这个词表明 not open to public scrutiny 和 private 意义相近, scrutiny 也就是公开的意思,为人所知的意思,选项中只有 B 意义相符。

#### 5. 领会作者的观点和态度

这类问题考查考生是否了解文章作者或文中某人的态度,要求考生能区分不同人的观



点,有时作者的观点和文中谈到的某人的观点不一致。回答这类问题时,考生要细读文章,分清文中的褒义词、贬义词和中性词。只有掌握了这些词,才能判断各种观点的性质。

#### 【例】 2003年9月试题第3篇

About six years ago I was eating lunch in a restaurant in New York City when a woman and a young boy sat down at the next table, I couldn't help overhearing parts of their conversation. At one point the woman asked: "So, how have you been? " And the boy — who could not have been more than seven or eight years old — replied, frankly, "I've been feeling a little depressed lately".

This incident stuck in my mind because it confirmed my growing belief that children are changing. As far as I can remember, my friends and I didn't find out we were "depressed" until we were in high school.

The evidence of a change in children has increased steadily in recent years. Children don't seem childlike anymore. Children speak more like adults, dress more like adults and behave more like adults than they used to.

Whether this is good or bad is difficult to say, but it certainly is different. Childhood as it once was no longer exists, Why?

Human development is based not only on innate (天生的) biological states, but also on patterns of access to social knowledge. Movement from one social role to another usually involves learning the secrets of the new status. Children have always been taught adult secrets, but slowly and in stages: traditionally, we tell sixth graders things we keep hidden from fifth graders.

In the last 30 years, however, a secret-revelation (揭示) machine has been installed in 98 percent of American homes. It is called television. Television passes information, indiscriminately (不加区分地), to all viewers alike, be they children or adults. Unable to resist the temptation, many children turn their attention from printed texts to the less challenging, more vivid moving pictures.

Communication through prints, as a matter of fact, allows for a great deal of control over the social information to which children have access. Reading and writing involve a complex code of symbols that must be memorized and practices. Children must read simple books before they can read complex materials.

What does the author think of the change in today's children?

- A. He feels amused by children's premature behavior.
- B. He thinks it is a phenomenon worthy of note.
- C. He considers it a positive development.
- D. He seems to be upset about it.

分析:在做这道题时必须迅速浏览全文找到能够表达作者态度的词汇,并确定它的性质。这篇文章谈到儿童成人化的现象、原因以及自己的观点,但并没有直接的表态度的