



清华大学
Tsinghua University

名师指导

大学英语

四

级考试

例析

阅读理解

COLLEGE ENGLISH TEST BAND 4

150篇

清华大学

蒋隆国 主编
李相崇 主审

蒋隆国
英语



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清华大学名师指导

大学英语四级考试

例析阅读理解 150 篇

主 编: 蒋隆国

主 审: 李相崇

副主编: 邓文生 张 可

编 委: (按姓氏拼音排序)

侯玥明 罗 赞 王卫红 张巍然

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电话:(010)82551166 (010)62283578

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侵权必究



英语是目前中国高校最热门的课程,英语等级考试因此而成为广大学生以及社会上英语爱好者们关注的焦点。当前对大学生来说,四、六级考试至关重要,通过考试既达到了学校的课程要求,也对自己的英语水平有一个较为准确的判断。

为了帮助广大考生迅速提高应试能力和考试成绩,顺利通过全国大学英语四、六级考试,我们根据最新的《大学英语教学大纲》和《大学英语四、六级考试大纲》,由清华大学蒋隆国教授组织多所高等学校具有多年四、六级考试辅导经验的教师,编写了大学英语四、六级考试《无障碍听力理解》、《阅读理解例析 150 篇》、《完型填空、简答、翻译》、《构思四级写作》和《历年实考题集》等专项突破类丛书。本系列丛书围绕考试大纲,选材广泛,内容新颖,每个题目都经过精心设计,每篇短文都由名师把关点评,力求做到有的放矢,并从中提炼出四、六级考试之设题手段与命题规律,进而针对各种题型提出最为简便、最为实用的解题方法与应试技巧。

众所周知,阅读理解在四、六级英语考试中的比重是非常大的,分值高达四十分;如果我们把完形填空或者简单回答问题也归之于阅读理解,则分值达到五十分,占据四、六级卷面分数的一半,因此我们编写了本图书,主要针对大学英语四级考试中的一种题型——阅读理解(分值占 40%)。本书是一种专项题型突破类图书,通 150 篇模拟练习题讲解了如何更加准确地理解考试文章中的细节、内涵等,从这些练习中总结出一些考试技巧和答题方法,使学生达到熟能生巧。

与同类书相比,本书有如下几个特点:

一、紧扣考纲、难易适中

本书编者多年讲授大学英语,谙熟《大学英语教学大纲》和《大学英语四、六级考试大纲》,因此本书文章的选材、试题难度、体裁、题材、题型、题量及文章长短等各方面都紧扣四级考纲,与四级考试阅读达到了高度一致,十分有利于备考学生的考前训练。

二、讲解透彻、分析精辟

本书对难点、重点的分析准确而精辟,把考点锁定到位。每单元设有答案速查表和试题解析,答案速查的目的是方便学生查看,达到自我检测的目的,而试题解析的目的则是更方便学生理解,使学生不仅知其然,还知其所以然。每篇文章设有生词短语和疑难杂句两个项目,这两个项目主要是从每篇文章中挑出生僻的词、短语、句子,更加具体详细地讲解,使学生突破知识的难点。

三、结构清晰、层次分明

本书根据四级考试大纲所要求的文章题材把文章按题材分类,分为(1)历史地理篇、(2)科普知识篇、(3)时事新闻篇、(4)政治经济篇、(5)人物传记篇,每篇有五个单元,每个单元有六篇精选文章,共150篇。通过对这150篇文章系统深入透彻的剖析,可以把你阅读的知识从点到面的结合起来。

四、内容新颖、覆盖面广

本丛书在编写过程中参考了国内外有关最新资料,包括报纸、杂志、书刊等,选材广泛,内容新颖,而且还把当今社会上的一些热门话题、时事政治等相关事件收罗其中,这无疑对提高考生的英语水平大有裨益。

本书在编写的过程中,由于时间仓促,再者囿于编者水平有限,书中疏漏和错误之处在所难免,敬请广大考生和英语界同仁不吝批评指正。同时,我们在编写过程中参阅了大量国内外相关资料,借鉴了一些很有价值的文章,在此我们向有关机构、作者和资料提供者一并致以诚挚的谢意。

编委会

2004年7月

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第一篇

阅读理解全面介绍



阅读理解介绍

阅读的目的是获取知识信息,了解他人对有关问题的态度和看法,所以阅读时应培养对新知识信息的自觉敏锐感,对作者的观点和态度进行批判性的分析;跟上作者的写作思路,从已读的部分可以预知作者下面要讲的内容;辨别文章中哪些是作者的论点,哪些是事实和论据。只要我们平时能养成这样的阅读习惯,就不会迷失在作者所呈现的各种事实和材料中,考试时就能应付各种类型的问题,也就能更加有意识地略过那些自己不甚明了但不影响基础阅读任务的部分。

第一章 阅读理解考纲透析



一、考纲要求

大学英语四级考试中阅读理解占总分的 40%，要求在 35 分钟内完成。其形式是阅读数篇短文（一般为四篇），每篇阅读量为 250 ~ 300 词左右。共计 20 个选择题，每篇 5 题，要求考生读懂短文后从每道题的四个被选项选择一个惟一正确的答案。短文的体裁以叙述文、议论文和说明文为主。叙述文描述人或事的发生和发展过程，或者描述人或事及相关情景。说明文是对事物现象的说明或解释。议论文论证某一观点是否正确，由论点、论据与结论构成。短文的题材广泛，包括社会生活、科普知识、历史、地理、政治、经济、文学等。



二、考查范围

1. 正确理解英文原文；
2. 掌握所读材料的主旨和大意；
3. 了解用于阐述主旨和大意的事实和有关细节；
4. 根据上下文判断词汇和短语的具体含义；
5. 既能理解单句的意思，也能理解上下文之间的逻辑关系；
6. 根据所读材料进行一定的判断和推理；
7. 领会作者的观点和态度。

这种能力要求反映在单项选择题中，具体可分为：认定事实，理解主题，理解支撑细节，综合概括，推理判断，联想猜测，辨别语气，理解人物性格，识别图形等等。如果把这些试题的考察内容概括起来，基本上可分为六类题型：

- ①主旨概括题型；
- ②是非判断题型；
- ③逻辑推理题型；
- ④单句释义题型；
- ⑤单词释义题型；
- ⑥事实细节题型。



三、试题特点

历年来，阅读理解试题始终是最重要的考试内容，所占分数比重最大，是英语试题的主体。阅读理解既是英语学习和英语测试的重要手段，又是英语学习最终目的的体现，是英语的直接使用。现代外语教学理论认为：阅读不是被动的、机械的接受型语言活动，而是一种智力活动，是一种创造性的思维劳动。它不仅涉及语音、语法、词语这些最基本的语言要素，而且还包括许多非语言因素，诸如文化背景知识，思维的习惯等等。

1. 阅读材料的选取遵循三个原则

- ①每次篇数为 4 篇。
- ②题材多样化，包括科普、社会生活、文化、政治、经济等。
- ③体裁避免单一化，包括记叙文、说明文、应用文等。

2. 阅读理解能力的测试重点

- ①掌握所读材料的主旨大意，以及用以说明主旨大意的事实和细节。
- ②既理解具体的事实，也理解抽象的概念。
- ③既理解字面意思，也理解深层含义，包括作者的态度、意图等。

④能理解某句、某段的意义,并能把握全篇的脉络,即句与句、段与段之间的关系,并能据此进行推理和判断。

⑤能根据材料所提供的信息、结合大学生应具有常识正确判断生词和短语的含义。

3. 阅读理解的命题依据及趋势

阅读理解题主要是考查考生获取准确信息的能力。考查包括两大类:一类为客观理解题,即理解文章中的叙述的具体事实和抽象的概念;另一类为主观理解题,即通过阅读文章,对文章的主旨和深一层的含义、作者的意图、态度以及整篇文章的逻辑关系有更深入的理解,并据此进行推理和判断。

根据近几年阅读理解试卷分析,推测未来该题型仍会保持其命题的基本原则,在选择文章方面会更多涉及交际功能强,适应性强的应用文、说明文等,包括人文、社会、历史、科学、政治等多领域的文化题材,阅读材料为4篇,题干设计会进一步向较深层次发展,需要考生有足够的词汇量和丰富的相关知识积累,利用所获信息解决问题,综合归纳,推理判断以及细节转换等能力。

第二章 阅读理解题型介绍



一、主旨题

任何一篇文章都有主旨(中心思想),它是通过文章中各部分内容及其内在联系体现出来的。主旨型题主要考察考生能否通过理解、分析全文,区分主要信息和次要信息,进而总结归纳文章的大意。主旨是作者在文章中要表达的主要内容,是贯穿全文的核心。作者在文章中努力通过各种 supporting details 来阐明中心议题。因此,把握主要思想对于全文理解具有重要意义。主旨题类常被列为5题之首,其他类型的问题有的通过某句话或某段话就能找出答案,而把握文章的主旨往往需要通读全文后才能做出判断。

根据问题内容的不同,这类问题可分主题型、标题型和目的型。主题型就是找中心(Main Idea);标题型是为文章选择标题(Title);目的型就是推断作者的写作意图(Purpose)。

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◎ 命题方式

- What is the main idea (subject) of this passage ?
- What does this passage mainly (primarily) concern ?
- The main theme of this passage is ____.
- The main point of the passage is ____.
- Which of the following is the best title for the passage ?
- The title that best expresses the theme of the passage is ____.
- On which of the following subjects would the passage most likely be found in a textbook ?
- Which of the following best describes the passage as a whole ?
- The purpose of the writer in writing this passage ____.
- The author writes this passage to ____.

针对主旨型的问题,应首先快速阅读全文,理解文章大意。阅读时要注意文章的开头、结尾及段落的段首句和段尾句,因为它们往往包含文章的中心议题。在具体解题的过程中,可以首先找出主题句。主题句大多数情况下出现在比较重要的位置,如文章的开头或结尾,如果一篇文章包括多个段落,一般而言,每个自然段的首句也是主题句。文章主题句之外的其他内容一般都是对主题句加以解释、补充说明或列举事实等。而有的文章是没有主题句的,这是由于体裁原因,或是由于短文是节选的。这时就要靠应试者自己进行概括或归纳隐含的主题思想。概括主题可以从归纳每段的要点开始,最后将各段要点集中概括并归纳出全文的主题思想。下面以四篇真题为例,来具体说明一下主旨题的解题方法。

◎ 例题1 (2002年6月阅读部分第二篇)

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 your 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.

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: 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.

30. 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 of encoding and recalling.

解题说明

本文是主题型例文。略加浏览一下各段的第一句话(不用都读完),即可看出这是一篇科普性的说明文,文章的话题是 absent-mindedness。

本文开头第一句话即点明了文章的主题。第二段说明了 absent-mindedness 的原因之一——failure to encode properly。第三段说明了它的另一个原因——lack of interest。第四段是关于如何"prevent absent-mindedness",最后一段说了 absent-mindedness 的另一种形式、其原因以及发生了这种情况该怎么办。所以综合起来,文章的主题是 absent-mindedness 的原因,故 B) 是正确答案。

◎ 例题2 (2002年6月阅读部分第3篇)

It is hard to track the blue whale, the ocean's largest creature, which has almost been killed off by commercial whaling and is now listed as an endangered species. Attaching radio devices to it is difficult, and visual sightings are too unreliable to give real insight into its behavior.

So biologists were delighted early this year when, with the help of the Navy, they were able to track a particular blue whale for 43 days, monitoring its sounds. This was possible because of the Navy's formerly top-secret system of underwater listening devices spanning the oceans.

Tracking whales is but one example of an exciting new world just opening to civilian scientists after the cold war as the Navy starts to share and partly uncover its global network of underwater listening system built over the decades to track the ships of potential enemies.

Earth scientists announced at a news conference recently that they had used the system for closely monitoring a deep-sea volcanic eruption (爆发) for the first time and that they plan similar studies.

Other scientists have proposed to use the network for tracking ocean currents and measuring changes in ocean and global temperatures.

The speed of sound in water is roughly one mile a second—slower than through land but faster than through air. What is most important, different layers of ocean water can act as channels for sounds, focusing them in the same way a stethoscope (听诊器) does when it carries faint noises from a patient's chest to a doctor's ear. This focusing is the main reason that even relatively weak sounds in the ocean, especially low-frequency ones, can often travel thousands of miles.

31. The passage is chiefly about _____.

- A) an effort to protect an endangered marine species
B) the civilian use of a military detection system

- C) the exposure of a U. S. Navy top - secret weapon
D) a new way to look into the behavior of blue whales

本文是主题型例文。这是一篇科普类说明文。第一、二段以追踪蓝鲸引出话题,即军事技术(水下监听)在非军事领域的应用。第三段进一步加以明确,说明 tracking whales 仅仅是这一技术应用的一个例子。第四段说的是水下监听技术在 monitoring deep - sea volcanic eruption 方面的应用。第四段说的是水下监听技术在 tracking ocean currents and measuring changes in ocean and global temperatures 方面的应用。最后一段是作了原理性的说明。综上所述,本文的话题是水下监听技术,主题则是这一技术的非军事领域的广泛应用。因此 31 题的正确答案应为 B)。

◎ (2000 年 6 月阅读部分第三篇)

Americans are proud of their variety and individuality, yet they love and respect few things more than a uniform, whether it is the uniform of an elevator operator or the uniform of a five - star general. Why are uniforms so popular in the United States?

Among the arguments for uniforms, one of the first is that in the eyes of most people they look more professional than civilian (百姓的) clothes. People have become conditioned to expect superior quality from a man who wears a uniform. The television repairman who wears a uniform tends to inspire more trust than one who appears in civilian clothes. Faith in the skill of a garage mechanic is increased by a uniform. What easier way is there for a nurse, a policeman, a barber, or a waiter to lose professional identity(身份) than to step out of uniform?

Uniforms also have many practical benefits. They save on other clothes. They save on laundry bills. They are tax - deductible(可减税的). They are often more comfortable and more durable than civilian clothes.

Primary among the arguments against uniforms is their lack of variety and the consequent loss of individuality experienced by people who must wear them. Though there are many types of uniforms, the wearer of any particular type is generally stuck with it, without change, until retirement. When people look alike, they tend to think, speak, and act similarly, on the job at least.

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Uniforms also give rise to some practical problems. Though they are long - lasting, often their initial expense is greater than the cost of civilian clothes. Some uniforms are also expensive to maintain, requiring professional dry cleaning rather than the home laundering possible with many types of civilian clothes.

65. The best title for this passage would be _____.

- A) Uniforms and Society
B) The Importance of Wearing a Uniform
C) Practical Benefits of Wearing a Uniform
D) Advantages and Disadvantages of Uniforms

解 题 说 明

本文是标题型例文。文章可分为三个部分。第一段提出话题:uniform。以下的四段中,每段的第一句话都是该段的主题句。第二、三两段说明了制服的好处,第三、四两段说的是制服的不利方面。因此,这篇文章的主题是:制服的利与弊,故标题应为 D)。

◎ (2000 年 6 月阅读部分第三篇)

Sport is not only physically challenging, but it can also be mentally challenging. Criticism from coaches, parents, and other teammates, as well as pressure to win can create an excessive amount of anxiety or stress for young athletes(运动员). Stress can be physical, emotional, or psychological and research has indicated that it can lead to burnout. Burnout has been described as dropping or quitting of an activity that was at one time enjoyable.

The early years of development are critical years for learning about oneself. The sport setting is one where valuable experiences can take place. Young athletes can, for example, learn how to cooperate with others, make friends, and gain other social skills that will be used throughout their lives. Coaches and parents should be aware, at all times, that their feedback to youngsters can greatly affect their children. Youngsters may take their parents' and coaches' criticisms to heart and find a flaw(缺陷) in themselves.

Coaches and parents should also be cautious that youth sport participation does not become work for children. The outcome of the game should not be more important than the process of learning the sport and other life lessons.

In today's youth sport setting, young athletes may be worrying more about who will win instead of enjoying themselves and the sport. Following a game, many parents and coaches focus on the outcome and find fault with youngsters' performances. Positive reinforcement should be provided regardless of the outcome. Research indicates that positive reinforcement motivates and has a greater effect on learning than criticism. Again, criticism can create high levels of stress, which can lead to burnout.

65. The author's purpose in writing the passage is ____.

- A) to teach young athletes how to avoid burnout
- B) to persuade young children not to worry about criticism
- C) to stress the importance of positive reinforcement to children
- D) to discuss the skill of combining criticism with encouragement

解题说明

本文是目的型例文。本文第一段论述了 sports are mentally challenging(第一句话后半句)。指出教练和家长的批评和急于获胜的压力可能会带来负面的影响。第二段指出在早期发展阶段教练和家长要意识到他们的反应会极大地影响孩子(their feedback to youngsters can greatly affect their children)。第三段的第一句话是这一段的主题句。本段告诫教练和家长不要使运动成为孩子的负担。注意此处的标志词"also"。

综上所述,本文的主题是劝告教练和家长不要对孩子的运动成绩过于批评,而应该像倒数第三、第二句话暗示的那样,多加以鼓励。所以本文的写作目的应选择 D)。



二、推理题

阅读的目的不仅在于只读懂原文,还要求考生在理解原文直接陈述观点的基础上,"读出"隐藏在字里行间的深层含义,捕捉作者提供的暗示,追踪作者写作时的发展思路,从而悟出作者虽未说明但意欲表达的言外之意。阅读测试中,最难把握的就是推理题。这种题的答案一般不能直接在短文中找到。阅读时要理解字里行间的含义,分析文章的大意和细节,注意作者的措词。根据提问中的关键字眼和短文中相应的有关内容进行分析、归纳和逻辑推理,从而得出作者未说明却已在字里行间所暗含的意思和观点。需要特别指出的是,做这类题时必须把握住问题的关键,紧紧围绕原文,确定已知前提,严格按照短文陈述的观点和描述的事实做出合乎逻辑的推理。千万不能脱离原文,凭主观臆断进行无依据的推论。一般的解题思路是由表及里、由此及彼。

推理型问题主要包括以下几大类:对作者态度、语气、倾向的推理,对作者意图、主题思想的推理,对数字的推理,对文中细节的推断等。

◎ 命题方式

- a. The author implies that _____.
- b. It can be easily guessed that _____.
- c. The author seems to be in favor of (against) _____.
- d. We can infer (assume) that _____.
- e. We can learn from the passage that _____.
- f. It can be concluded from the passage that _____.
- g. Which of the following can (not) be inferred from the passage?
- h. What does the article (passage) say about _____?
- i. The passage suggests that _____.
- j. The author may probably agree with (support) _____.
- k. An inference which may (not) be made from the passage is _____.
- l. From the last sentence we guess that _____.
- m. It can be concluded that _____.

(1) 针对作者态度、语气、风格、倾向的推理

作者写文章时,经常持有某种态度或倾向。作者的语气和态度往往并不直接在文章中写出来。有时通过全文的叙述,考生可以从文章中领悟作者的观点;有时可以通过对作者使用的词汇(多为形容词和副词)

的分析,来推断作者的态度和感情,例如作者对某一观点是赞成还是反对,是批评还是客观陈述。考生应熟悉的有关态度的特征词有: optimistic(乐观的), pessimistic(悲观的), cautious(审慎的), enthusiastic(热情的), objective(客观的), subjective(主观的), arbitrary(武断的), neutral(中立的), positive(肯定的), critical(批评的), compromising(折衷的), indifference(漠不关心的), etc.

◎ (2002年1月阅读部分第一篇)

Some pessimistic experts feel that the automobile is bound to fall into disuse. They see a day in the not-too-distant future when all autos will be abandoned and allowed to rust. Other authorities, however, think the auto is here to stay. They hold that the car will remain a leading means of urban travel in the foreseeable future.

The motorcar will undoubtedly change significantly over the next 30 years. It should become smaller, safer, and more economical, and should not be powered by the gasoline engine. The car of the future should be far more pollution-free than present types.

Regardless of its power source, the auto in the future will still be the main problem in urban traffic congestion (拥挤). One proposed solution to this problem is the automated highway system.

When the auto enters the highway system, a retractable (可伸缩的) arm will drop from the auto and make contact with a rail, which is similar to those powering subway trains electrically. Once attached to the rail, the car will become electrically powered from the system, and control of the vehicle will pass to a central computer. The computer will then monitor all of the car's movements.

The driver will use a telephone to dial instructions about his destination into the system. The computer will calculate the best route, and reserve space for the car all the way to the correct exit from the highway. The driver will then be free to relax and wait for the buzzer (蜂鸣器) that will warn him of his coming exit. It is estimated that an automated highway will be able to handle 10,000 vehicles per hour, compared with the 1,500 to 2,000 vehicles that can be carried by a present-day highway.

25. What is the author's attitude toward the future of autos?

A) Enthusiastic

B) Pessimistic

C) Optimistic

D) Cautious

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正确答案是C)。本文是一篇科普型文章,主要讲的是关于汽车前景的不同看法。悲观的专家认为汽车将绝迹,但另外一些(持乐观态度的)权威人士则认为汽车在未来的30年内毫无疑问的发生变化,变的更小,更安全,更经济。作者实际上是支持后一种观点。原文在最后做了预测,两组数字比较可见前途一片光明。A) "热心",原文只是客观的介绍交通的未来,没有太多的主观因素;B) "悲观的",与原文相反;D) "小心的,谨慎的",在原文中没有根据。所以选C)。

(2) 对作者意图、主题思想的推理

考生可以利用确定中心思想(主旨)的方法先确定短文的主题和大意,然后分析句子之间的关系,在全面理解原文的基础上,推测出作者的写作意图和目的,是报道(report)(某方面的新发展)、劝说(persuasion)、警告(warning)、阐述(expose)(概念、原理等),还是辩论(argument)。请看下面的例子:

◎ (1997年1月阅读部分第一篇)

Many a young person tells me he wants to be a writer. I always encourage such people, but I also explain that there's a big difference between "being a writer" and writing. In most cases these individuals are dreaming of wealth and fame, not the long hours alone at a typewriter. "You've got to want to write," I say to them, "not want to be a writer". The reality is that writing is a lonely, private and poor-paying affair. For every writer kissed by fortune there are thousands more whose longing is never rewarded. When I left a 20-year career in the U. S. Coast Guard to become a freelance writer, I had no prospects at all. What I did have was a friend who found me my room in a New York apartment building. It didn't even matter that it was cold and had no bathroom. I immediately bought a used manual typewriter and felt like a genuine writer. After a year or so, however, I still hadn't gotten a break and began to doubt myself. It was so hard to sell a story that barely made enough to eat. But I knew I wanted to write, I had dreamed about it for years. I wasn't going to be one of those people who die wondering, What if? I would keep putting my dream to the test—even though it meant living with uncertainty and fear of failure. This is