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Reading Comprehension

英语阅读时代 ——初中篇

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前 言

作为现代人,熟练掌握至少一门外语,是时代发展的需要。在 21 世纪,英语作为一门世界通行的语言,它在我们日常生活中的重要性也越来越明显。然而,学好英语并不是一件容易的事。许多中学生反映,如何学好英语一直是让他们感到困惑的问题。特别是在激烈的升学竞争中,有不少同学由于英语成绩不佳而影响了考试总分,未能进入理想的高中或大学,这不能不说是相当遗憾的。学习英语的目的在于应用,但在现行的教学体制下,考试的成绩也是相当重要的,这一点任何人都无法否认。从另一个角度来说,考试也是检验同学们学习效果的一个手段,也是英语学习必不可少的一部分。

不少面临中考的同学总希望找到尽快提高成绩的窍门,其实学习英语没有什么捷径。如果说有捷径,那么我们认为应该是“勤学慎思”。说得通俗一点,就是多练习,多总结。当然,究竟如何练习和总结,还是有很多方法和技巧的。多多练习,是提高成绩的必经之路,但决不能搞题海战术,而是要精练、巧练;多多总结,就是把自己整个初中阶段的知识进行整理,在脑海中形成一个完整的网络。

为此,我们根据最新的大纲精神以及各地区的初三考试说明,以及当前的命题趋势,在总结、精练、提高的基础上,编写了本书,旨在帮助同学们培养阅读技能,尤其是通过强化训练来掌握解题技巧,从而提高考试成绩。

编 者

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Part I

英语阅读的方法和解题技巧

一、初中英语阅读的命题特点和考查要点

1. 命题特点

阅读理解能力的培养是中学英语学习的一项重要任务,也是中考的一项重要内容。中考阅读理解题主要考查学生的语篇阅读能力、分析和判断能力。要求学生能较快地通过阅读理解短文大意,获取其中的主要信息,能做出正确判断,然后根据试题的要求从 A, B, C, D 四个选项中选出最佳答案或作出正误判断。文章的难易程度和初三课文基本相同,要求阅读速度为每分钟 40—50 个单词。

中考阅读理解的阅读材料的选取一般遵循三个原则:

- 阅读文章不少于三篇,阅读量在 1,000 单词左右;
- 题材广泛,包括科普、社会、文化、政治、经济等;
- 体裁多样,包括记叙文、说明文、应用文等。

2. 考查要点

(1) 考查掌握所读材料的主旨和大意的能力。

此类考查主旨和大意的题大多针对段落(或短文)的主题、主题思想、标题或目的,其主要提问方式是:

- ① Which is the best title of the passage?
- ② Which of the following is this passage about?
- ③ In this passage the writer tries to tell us that _____.
- ④ The passage tells us that _____.
- ⑤ This passage mainly talks about _____.

(2) 考查把握文章的事实和细节的能力。

此类考查事实和细节的题目大多是针对文章的细节设计的,其主要提问方式是:

- ① Which of the following is right? .

- ② Which of the following is not mentioned?
- ③ Which of the following is Not True in the passage?
- ④ Choose the right order of this passage.
- ⑤ From this passage we know _____.

(3) 考查根据上下文猜测生词含义的能力。

此类猜测词义的题目要求考生根据上下文确定某一特定的词或短语的准确含义。其主要提问方式是：

- ① The word "... " in the passage probably means _____.
- ② The underlined word "It" in the passage refers to _____.
- ③ In this story the underlined word "... " means _____.
- ④ Here "it" means _____.

(4) 考查对阅读材料全篇的逻辑关系的理解,对文章各段、各句之间的逻辑关系的理解能力。

此类题目主要考查的是句与句之间、段与段之间的逻辑关系,其主要提问方式是:

- ① Many visitors come to the writer's city to _____.
- ② Some shops can be built around the Dongfeng Square so that they may _____.
- ③ Air pollution is the most serious kind of pollution because _____.
- ④ Why did the writer get off the train two stops before Vienna station?

(5) 考查依据短文内容和考生应有的常识进行推理和判断的能力。

此类题目文章中没有明确的答案,需要考生在理解全文的基础上进行推理和判断。其主要提问方式是:

- ① We can guess the writer of the letter may be a _____.
- ② We can infer from the text that _____.
- ③ From the letters we've learned that it's very _____ to know something about American social customs.
- ④ From the story we can guess _____.
- ⑤ What would happen if...?

(6) 考查推断作者意图和态度的能力。

其主要提问方式有:

- ① How did the writer feel at Vienna station?
- ② The writer writes this text to _____.
- ③ The writer believes that _____.
- ④ The writer suggests that _____.

二、初中英语阅读的解题步骤及技巧

1. 解题步骤

(1) 先读问题,通过快速通读问题,弄清考查要点,以便能带着问题看文章,这样会心中有数,有的放矢;同时,可以初步了解文章的大概内容,便于迅速理解文章。

阅读理解的选择題是由題干和备选项组成的。題干要么是一个問句,要么是一个留空白的陈述句。备选项一般是四项,一个正确(最佳)项,三个干扰项。

在这一步中,我们可以只阅读題干部分而不管备选项,集中精力弄清楚命題角度和命題人的意图,从而做到对症下药,这对于准确无误的判断是十分重要的。

(2) 通读全文,理清主线。解答阅读理解,不要一开始就一字一句地仔细阅读所有内容,而要首先通读和浏览全文,了解文章的主旨和大意,理清作者的基本态度和写作思路。

在这一步中,我们可以略去细节部分,跳过难句中的生词,重点阅读开头段、结尾段,以及每段的首句和尾句——这些部分往往概括了文章的写作意图、主题思想和结论。尤其要善于抓主题句。大多数情况下,每段的首句和尾句就是该段的主题句。

如果时间紧,至少要扫视一下起首段和尾段。再把标题和文章内容结合起来想一想,这样全文大意便清楚了。此时,不要忙于答题。

(3) 细读原文,捕捉相关信息词,掌握短文细节内容。这是解题的关键,应特别注意以下几点:

A. 抓住四个“W”和一个“H”,就是边读边用铅笔做些标记,把

What (事件), When (时间), Where (地点), Why (原因), How (经过)划出来。抓住了四个“W”和一个“H”,就抓住了文章的全貌,一些直接性的问题便可解决。

B. 抓住连接词及起关键作用的副词、代词、介词、插入语等。因为这些词具有因果、让步、递进、转折、指代、列举及承上启下等各种连接上下文的特殊功能。这对考生分清文章层次,辨明各种关系,了解人物心理,推断作者意图,进行逻辑推理等手段来分析难点,都具有举足轻重的作用。

C. 注意领会文章的寓意。

D. 根据题意,初选答案。这一步须仔细审题,领会测试要求,确定解题方法。对那些明显的、有把握的题可以断然确定,不必对其余三个选项再做推敲而浪费时间;有些略难的题,应再查阅短文(不是重读一遍),迅速找出依据,予以排除。常用的解题方法有如下几种:

①直接解法。即从原文中直接找出答案。

②归纳解法。对于不能从原文中直接找出答案的可在把握全文中心和线索的前提下进行概括、归纳得出正确答案。

③综合推理法。读者需统观全文,认真分析,综合推理及至计算,最后归纳出正确答案。

题干中有“suggest, infer, intend, conclude, conclusion, probably, likely, reason, because, according to”等字眼时,属于推断概括型,考查内容着眼于全篇,考生应具备一定的分析归纳、推理等逻辑思维能力。

④捕捉关键词。在阅读时应该注意与问题相关的近义词、反义词或同位语等信息词来得出正确答案。

⑤转换解法。即原文这么说,而在问题和所给选项中则用另外的词去转换一种说法,但仍表示同一含义。

⑥排除法。根据句法结构、信息词和常识,在没有把握的选项中用排除法得出正确答案。

(4) 重读原文,仔细斟酌核对答案。在解完最后一道题后,如果时间允许,再将原文读一遍。

认真仔细地推敲一些疑难地方,最后确定答案。

在最后的检查中,要注意以下几点:

A. 把短文的前后意思联系起来,用全文的主题思想梳理各思考题,研究其内在联系和逻辑关系,目的在于对所做答案进一步审查,推出未解答的题,以便减少失误。

B. 有些题目在选择答案时,可能是根据常识或自己想当然的理解,而这样选出的答案并不一定与短文的内容相吻合。因此,要仔细把选定的答案与原文的内容进行比较,一定要以原文的内容为准。

C. 对数字、人名、地名等细节性信息要加倍小心,答案可能不是原文直接给出的,有些情况下需要计算、推理等。

2. 方法和技巧

明确了阅读理解题的考查要点以后,我们结合解题步骤的细节问题,来谈谈解阅读理解题的方法和技巧,在这里,我们主要介绍如何获取段落的主旨和大意、如何根据上下文猜测词义、如何确定细节和事实、如何进行推断四个方面的方法和技巧。

(1) 如何获取段落的主旨和大意?

最有效的办法是找出主题句。一篇文章(或一段文章)通常都是围绕一个中心意思展开的。而这个中心意思往往由一个句子来概括。这个能概括文章或段落中心意思的句子叫做主题句。因此,理解一个段落或一篇文章的中心意思首先要学会寻找主题句。主题句一般具有三个特点:

①表述的意思比较概括,相对其主句来看,这种概括性更为明显。

②句子结构较简单,多数都不采用长、难句的形式。

③段落中其他的句子必定是用来解释、支撑或发展主题句所表述的主题思想。

在一个段落中,大部分主题句的位置有两种:

A. 主题句在段首

主题句在段首的情况相当普遍。一般新闻报道、说明文,议论文大都采用先总述,后分述的叙事方法。例如,某省英语中考试题阅读材料B的第一段:

All living things on the earth need other living things to live. Nothing lives alone. Most animals must live in a group, and even a plant grows close together with others of the same kind. Sometimes one

living thing kills another, one eats and the other is eaten. Each kind of life eats another kind of life in order to live, and together they form a food chain(食物链). Some food chains become broken up if one of the links disappears.

第一句即是主题句。这个句子概括了本段的中心意思,“地球上所有的生物要生存都离不开其他的生物”。后面讲述了大量的事实,“大部分动物必须成群地生活,甚至一种植物也要和其他同类的植物靠在一起生长。有时一种生物杀死另一种生物,一种生物吃另一种生物,而另一种生物被吃”。在列举了大量的事实之后,作者指出:如果这些食物链中的一个链环消失,食物链都会断掉。所有这些事实都是围绕第一个句子展开的。

B. 主题句在段末。

用归纳法写文章时,往往表述细节的句子在前,概述性的句子在后,并以此结尾。这种位于句末的主题句往往是对前面细节的归纳或结论。例如某省中考试题阅读材料 A 的最后一段:

If you buy some well-made clothes, you can save money because they can last longer. They look good even after they have been washed many times. Sometimes some clothes cost more money, but it does not mean that they are always better made, or they always fit better. In other words, some less expensive clothes look and fit better than more expensive clothes.

这段文章前面列举了两件事实:如果你买一些制作优良的衣服,你会省钱,因为这些衣服能穿得时间长一些。即使他们洗了很多次,仍然看起来很好。有时有些衣服花钱更多,但并不意味着这些衣服做得更好。最后一句话是对这两个事实的概括:有些价钱便宜的衣服比价格贵的衣服更好看、更合身。段末这个句子就是主题句。

(2) 如何根据上下文猜测词义?

猜测词义也是一种英语阅读能力。英语阅读理解试题中有不少这样的题目。任何一个实词,只有在一定的上下文中才能表示一个确定的词义。上下文(context)的作用就是帮助确定上下文中的词、短语或句子的意义。据此,我们可以尽可能地利用上下文来猜测词义,即从已知推

求未知,也就是用我们所熟悉的词或短语来猜测我们不熟悉的词的词义。猜测词义时,我们可以从三个方面来考虑:

- 根据上下文已知部分进行逻辑上的推理。
- 运用语法知识进行语法分析。
- 依靠常识和经验做出判断。

根据上下文猜测词义的方法有下列几种:

①根据定义或解释猜测词义。例如,某省中考英语试题阅读材料

B:

A bag is useful and the word "bag" is useful. It gives us some interesting phrases(短语). One is "to let the cat out of the bag." It is the same as "to tell a secret"...

Now when someone lets out (泄漏)a secret, he "lets the cat out of the bag."

短文后面有一个理解题目:

John "lets the cat out of the bag" means he _____.

- A. makes everyone know a secret
- B. carries a cat in the bag
- C. buys a cat in the bag
- D. sells the cat in the bag

在这篇文章里,"let the cat out of the bag"虽然是一个新出现的短语,但紧接着后面就给出解释 It is the same as "to tell a secret."根据这一解释,我们就可判断出正确答案应为 A。

②根据并列、同位关系猜测词义。

例如,某市中考英语试题的阅读材料 A:

In the northeast of the United States, summer temperatures are very different from winter temperatures. Summer is usually hot, and winter is usually cold. Spring temperatures are warm, and fall temperatures are cool.

文后有这样一道阅读理解题:

The word "fall" in this passage means _____.

- A. drop B. down C. autumn D. spring

尽管 fall 一词文章里没出现过,但根据文中的并列关系 Summer is

usually hot, and winter is usually cold. Spring temperatures are warm, and fall temperatures are cool. 我们就可猜出 fall 就是 autumn。

除了前面提到的方法以外,还有下面一些方法:

③根据同义、反义、因果关系猜测词义。

(3) 如何确定细节和事实?

在阅读理解题目中,有相当一部分是考查细节和事实的题目。这类题目相对容易一些。这些题目有两个共同特点:

A. 凡属针对特定细节的考题,其正确答案可以在阅读材料中找到对应的文字部分作为验证。这一部分可能是一个词或短语,也可能是一个句子或相关的若干句子,但句式、用词和表达方式不同。

B. 干扰项往往是主题思想与细节混杂,正确答案细节和非正确答案的细节混杂,甚至真假混杂。因此,要做好阅读理解中的确定细节和事实的题目,一要在文章中找出相应的信息点,二要排除干扰项。

请看某省中考英语试题阅读理解题:

What do plants make food from? They make food from _____.

A. sunlight, water and things in the soil and air

B. water, sunlight and things in the soil

C. water and things in the soil and air

D. water, sunlight and things in the soil

这一小题考查的就是文章的细节和事实。这一细节和事实的表述在文章中可以直接找到:Plants are “factories”. They make food from sunlight, water and things in the soil and air.

(4) 如何进行推断?

所谓推断,就是根据阅读材料中所提供的信息,推断出未知的信息。即把有关的文字作为已知部分,从中推断出未知部分。进行推断的有关文字可能是词或句子,也可能是若干句子,甚至是全文。

中考英语试题中的推断题很多,包括的面也很大。其类型主要有以下几种:

①事实推断:这种推断常常针对某一个或几个具体细节,是比较简单的推断。进行这种推断,要首先在文章中找出有关文字,然后加以分

析,尤其要悟出字里行间的意义。

请看某市中考英语试题阅读理解第 14 小题:

According to the passage, which of the following can you most possibly watch on TV?

- A. You often play football with your friends after school.
- B. Your teacher has got a cold.
- C. A tiger in the city zoo has run out and hasn't been caught.
- D. The bike in front of your house is lost.

在阅读材料中,有这样一段文字:

Secondly, a news story has to be interesting and unusual. People don't want to read stories about everyday life. As a result, many stories are about some kind of danger and seem to be "bad" news.

根据这段文字,我们可以推断:电视报道的新闻故事应是有趣的和不平常的。因此,正确答案应为 C。

推断题还包括以下几个方面:

②指代推断:确定指代词的含义和指代对象是阅读理解题常见的题目。要确定指代词所指代的对象,关键在于对所在上下文的正确理解。指代名词的指代词,其单复数形式应与被指代的词一致,因此数的形式可作为识别指代对象第一个辅助标志。

③逻辑推断:这类题目往往是要求根据文章所提供的背景、人物的表情、动作和语言来推断出人物的态度或感觉。

④对作者的意图和态度的推断:

这一类考题要求考生就作者对论述对象持什么样的态度做出推断,如作者对所陈述的观点是赞同、反对,还是犹豫不定,对记述或描写的人、物或事件是赞颂、同情、冷漠,还是厌恶。作者的这种思想倾向和感情色彩不一定直接表述出来,而往往隐含在字里行间。因此,进行这种推断时,我们既要依靠短文的主题思想作为推断的前提,又要注意作者的措辞,尤其是形容词一类的修饰语。

Part II

分类专项训练

Unit 1 教育与知识

Text 1 - 1

Many people go to school for education. They learn languages, history, politics, geography, physics, chemistry and mathematics. Others go to school to learn a skill so that they can make a living. School education is very important and useful. Yet, no one can learn everything from school. A teacher, no matter how much he knows, can not teach his students everything they want to know. The teacher's job is to show his students how to learn. He teaches them how to read and how to think. So, much more is to be learned outside school by the students themselves.

It is always more important to know how to study by oneself than to memorize some facts or a formula (公式). It is actually quite easy to learn a certain fact in history or a formula in mathematics. But it is very difficult to use a formula in working out a math problem. Great scientists before us didn't get everything from school. Their teachers only showed them the way. Edison didn't even finish primary school. But they were all so successful. They invented so many things for mankind. The reason for their success is that they knew how to study. They read books that were not taught at school. They would ask many questions as they read. They did thousands of experiments. They worked hard all their lives, wasting not a single moment. Above all, they knew how to use their brain.

(244 words)

1. People go to school to _____.
A. learn several subjects B. make a living

- C. get an education D. to learn a skill
2. According to the passage, the most important thing a teacher should do is _____.
- A. to teach his students everything he knows
B. to know everything
C. to teach the students how to think
D. to teach the students how to study by themselves
3. To work out a math problem, you need to know _____.
A. only a certain formula
B. how to memorize some facts
C. only some facts
D. the method to solve it
4. Why were many scientists so successful?
A. They received good education.
B. They were very clever.
C. They knew how to learn.
D. They learned lots of facts and formulas.

Text 1 - 2

Lights off at midnight means time to go to bed for most students. However, quite a few students, with school bags on their shoulders, enter the classrooms to begin night-long studies. This is a familiar scene in the Number Three Classroom Building at Peking University, especially during the days before exams. Although the building closes at midnight and lights are cut off, many students still come, bringing emergency lamps with them. Other students who sit up all night choose to go to nearby restaurants that are open 24 hours.

"I felt cold, hungry and sleepy," a twenty-one-year-old girl student said about her night-long study in a restaurant. "So I ordered food several times and took naps during the long, long night." Another student said: "You get excited after the white night, but actually your body is extremely tired. Once you get to bed, you'll sleep all day. It's a very bad habit." Another student said he loves to stay up late: "I find myself simply suited for work late at night. I grow excited and clear headed after midnight, but I always feel drowsy during the day..." Most of the students who stay up late are boys, for their dormitory

buildings are open all night. Girl's dormitories are closed at 11 o'clock. Most are there for academic reasons — studying for exams or writing a paper. A few come because they feel gloomy or suffer from insomnia and want to pass the time in a well-lighted place.

Many students complain about the inefficiency of night-long study and admit it harms their health. Yet every exam season, every term, every year, the “bad” habit continues.

(247 words)

1. In the university, when are the lights cut off in girl's dormitories?
A. At midnight. B. 24 hours.
C. 12 o'clock. D. 10 o'clock.
2. Why do the students go on studying at night? Because _____.
A. the building lights closes very early
B. they feel very cold, hungry and sleepy
C. they're studying for exams or writing a paper
D. they love to stay up late
3. Which one is NOT true?
A. Peking University is in Beijing.
B. Some students are suitable for work late at night.
C. Many students bring an emergency lamp to their dormitories.
D. Some restaurants are open 24 hours near the building.
4. The writer calls for _____.
A. giving more light to the students
B. hard work by the students
C. closing the building at night
D. the all-night studies

Text 1 - 3

School education is very important and useful. The students both learn knowledge and get an education. Yet, no one can learn everything from school. The scientists, such as Edison, Newton, Galileo and Einstein, didn't learn everything from school. They learned a lot of knowledge outside school or in practice by themselves. A teacher, even he knows a lot, can't teach his students everything.

The teacher's job is to show his students how to learn, how to read