大学英语六级考试

高分突破

(阅读•翻译•简答)

编写 大学英语六级考试命题研究组主 编 北京大学英语系 吕珺 修立梅编 委 北京大学英语系 蔡晖 陈黎辉总策划 胡东华



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内容简介

本教程是严格依据最新《大学英语教学大纲》、《大学英语四级考试大纲》和《大学英语六级考试大纲》推出的系列丛书。它不仅能够直接帮助和指导应试,通过大学英语四、六级考试,也可作为TOEFL、GRE、EPT和研究生人学考试等应试参考书。

修改后的《教学大纲》提高了对六级的阅读速度,听力速度,英译汉、汉译英的译速 及短文写作的速度的要求。本教程将帮助考生在最短的时间内达到标准。

本教程包括的阅读、翻译.简答及完形填空四部分,在四级考试中均占有较大分数值。因此,对高分段进行集中地、重点地、专项地训练,其宗旨是复习英语知识,掌握应试技巧,顺利通过四级考试,并取得突破高分的良好效果.同时大幅度提高英语水平。

在编写过程中,北京大学英语系吕玵、修立梅等同志及本书策划胡东华同志做了大量的组织联络及策划工作,特此致谢!

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我们的所有努力,都是为了使您增长知识和才干。

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UNIT 1

Section A: Reading Comprehension

Passage One

Nature doesn't negotiate. This axiom is worth remembering as we enter the second year of the International Decade for Natural Disaster Reduction, declared by the UN. Among the non-negotiable events to be expected during the decade are earthquakes. As an engineer in California observed in the aftermath of the state's 1989 quake: "Earthquakes don't kill people. Buildings do.

Nobody wants to spend extra money preparing for something that may never happen and earthquake engineering has long been neglected. Now that attitude is changing, most obviously on the West Coast, which has more money than other earthquake zones to experiment with new designs and materials. The value of well-built buildings is not lost on Californians. The earthquake of 17 October 1989 in San Francisco reached a magnitude of 7.1 on the Richter scale and killed 62 people; the 1988 quake in Armenia, with a magnitude of 6.7, killed about 25000.

Earthquake engineers may not have needed to be reminded that building design can make all the difference between life and death, but the Californian quake has increased public interest in earthquake resistant designs. These range from the mundane, such as reinforcing masonry walls with steel beams to strengthen them, to the exotic, such as supporting an entire building on rubber so that the structure floats in isolation.

To understand how engineers are preparing for earthquakes, one needs to know a little about how buildings behave when shaken. Place several dishes of jelly on a table and rhythmically shake the edge. The jellies will shake too, but some more than others. Each jelly will sway back and forth in a characteristic time, or period, that depends predominantly on its height and consistency. Those jellies whose natural frequency matches the frequency of the shakes will oscillate with the greatest amplitude—the two frequencies are said to be "in resonance".

1. Which of the following statements can best explain the specified sentence

- "Earthquakes don't kill people. Buildings do"?
- A. Earthquake is harmless, and it has never caused disasters.
- B. People are killed by buildings which can not resist earthquakes.
- C. Building is a kind of natural phenomenon, which it causes disasters.
- D. When earthquake comes, buildings can not protect people at all.
- 2. From the comparison between San Francisco and Armenia, what you can get?
 - A. Nobody wants to spend extra money to prepare for something that may never happen.
 - B. Earthquake engineering has long been neglected.
 - C. West Coast spends more money in experimenting with new designs and materials.
 - D. The value of well-built buildings is not lost on Californians.
- 3. Why some jellies shake more than others?
 - A. Engineers place several dishes of jelly on a table and rhythmically shake the edge.
 - B. Each jelly will sway back and forth in a characteristic time.
 - C. Each jelly shakes in a style decided predominantly by its height and consistency.
 - D. Those jellies whose natural frequency matches the frequency of the shakes will oscillate with the greatest amplitude.
- 4. Which of the following statements is the main idea of the passage?
 - A. Building design can make all the difference between life and death; so people should pay more attention to it.
 - B. Nature doesn't negotiate.
 - C. Each jelly will sway back and forth in a characteristic time, or period, that depends predominantly on its height and consistency.
 - D. The 1988 quake in Armenia, with a magnitude of 6.7, killed about 25000.
- 5. How do buildings behave when quaked?
 - A. Each building will sway back and forth in a characteristic time, or period, and some more than others.
 - B. Each building will shake rhythmically the same withathers.
 - C. Each building will break down immediately.
 - D. Buildings will be in resonance with the earthquake.

negotiate v. 谈判;讲条件;通过谈判达成(或解决)

axiom n. 公理;原则;格言

earthquake n. 地震

to neglect v. 忽略;疏忽;不顾

zone n. 地区;区域

magnitude n. 大小;数量;值;等级;震级

Richter n. 里氏震级 Armenia 亚美尼亚 earthquake-resistant adj. 抗震的

mundane adj. 世界的;世俗的;平凡的

reinforce v. 加强;增援;补充,增加数量;修补;加固

masonry n. 石工(工程),水泥砖石结构

beam n. 梁;桁条

exotic adj. 外来的;异国情调的
rubber n. 橡胶;合成橡胶
jelly n. 果(子)冻;肉冻
rhythmically adv. 有节奏地;有韵律地

predominantly adv. 占优势地;主要地,突出地

consistency n. 粘稠度 frequency n. 频率

oscillate v. 摆动;上下波动;振荡;振动

amplitude n. 幅度;振幅 resonance n. 共振,谐振;共鸣

Passage Two

One could well imagine a dictionary entry that reads, "Honda, n. automobile, cf. affordable, reliable, friendly." Or in the words of the prospective car buyers portrayed in its U.S. television commercials, "I'll take it." Buyers all over the world did, pushing sales of Honda cars and Honda motorcycles into the millions.

Behind those definitions, though, there was a flesh-and-blood Honda, a selfmade giant of Japanese industry who hated boardrooms and preferred getting grease on his hands as he tinkered alongside his engineers with the little cars that would zoom across the Pacific and conquer America. When Soichiro Honda, 84, died last week of liver failure, the company he founded in 1948 was ranked fourth in Japan and poised to displace Chrysler as the third largest producer of passenger cars in the U.S.

Honda was fated to build cars. The son of a village black-smith, he was no more than six when, breathless and mesmerized, he ran through the streets of his native town, near Hamamatsu, chasing a Ford Model T. By 18 he had built his first auto, powered by a discarded American airplane engine. The aftermath of the war provided him with priceless opportunities, especially after U. S. occupation forces purged the upper echelons of Japanese industry and government, opening the doors for outsiders, Honda decided to manufacture affordable motorcycles that would allow the Japanese to move cheaply from farms to cities to buy, sell or work.

Honda refused to obey the Ministry of International Trade and Industry when it ordered him to stick to motorcycles. Japan, it said, did not need more than a few car manufacturers. Honda ignored them. He also helped establish the company policy of setting up factories in the U.S. then Japanese competitors such as Toyota saw no wisdom in building abroad.

- 6. Which of the following statements can best explain the specified sentence, "One could well imagine a dictionary entry that reads, 'Honda, n. automobile, cf. affordable, reliable, friendly.'"
 - A. Honda was a well-imagined dictionary entry.
 - B. Honda was a self-made giant automobile.
 - C. Honda, as a famous band of automobile, was very popular in the world. The reason why it was prevailing was its cheapness and reliability.
 - D. Honda was an old who was very reliable and friendly.
- 7. According to the second paragraph, which one of the following best describes Mr. Honda?
 - A.Mr. Honda was an imaginary hero in Japanese Mythology.
 - B. Mr. Honda was a diligent person who always seated himself in his office reading a great number of reports.
 - C. Mr. Honda was a severe person who always wear clean suit and white gloves
 - D. Mr. Honda loved to fiddle with the little cars in the workshop accompanied by engineers.
- 8. The company Honda founded was all set to

- A. become the third largest car producer in U.S.
- B. remove Chrysler from its present position.
- C. put Chrysler out of business.
- D. push sales in the United States.
- 9. Honda was fated to build cars, because ____
 - A. he was The son of a village black-smith.
 - B. Honda decided to manufacture affordable motorcycles that would allow the Japanese to move cheaply from farms to cities to buy, sell or work.
 - C. Ministry of International Trade and Industry of Japan said that Japan did not need more than a few car manufacturers.
 - D. he ran chasing a Ford Model T when he was 6, and by 18 he had built his first auto. By grasping opportunities he began to manufacture motorcycles.
- 10. Which of the following factors contributes to make Honda a giant automaker?
 - A. Education, noble origin and inheritage.
 - B. Tenacity, determination and timing.
 - C. Luck, cunnings and cruelty.
 - D. Poverty, inferiority and pitiablity.

cf., 【拉】(=confer)参看, 试比较 affordable -负担得起的 adi. 预期的:未来的 prospective adi . 描绘,描写,描述 portray υ. motorcycle 摩托车 n. flesh-and-blood adi . 实际存在的;现实的 self-made 靠自己奋斗成功的, 白手起家的 adi . boardroom 22 . 会议室 grease 油脂;油腻状物;润滑油 n. tinker 做白铁匠:很不熟练地修补 υ. tinker with 很不熟练地修补:笨手笨脚地做:胡乱摆弄 alongside 在……旁边:和……在一起 prep. 嗡嗡(或隆隆)地疾行 zoom υ. poise 使平衡;使做好准备;使振作 υ. displace 移动……的位置:取代(某人)的位置:替代 υ. be poised to 做好准备去……

passenger car 小客车

blacksmith n. 铁匠

breathless adj. 气喘吁吁的;呼吸急促的

to mesmerize v. 迷惑;迷住

aftermath n. 后果;结果;(事件等)结束后的一个时期

priceless adj. 无价的,无法估价的 purge v. 使净化;清洗;清除

echelon n. (军)梯队;领导系统中的等级,阶层

competitor n. 竞争者;比赛者

Passage Three

The number of women directors appointed to corporate boards in the United States has increased dramatically, but the ratio of female to male directors remains low. Although pressure to recruit women directors, unlike that to employ women in the general work force, does not derive from legislation, it is nevertheless real.

Although small companies were the first to have women directors, large corporations currently have a higher percentage of women on their boards. When the chairs of these large corporations began recruiting women to serve on boards, they initially sought women who were chief executive officers (CEO's) of large corporations. However, such women CEO's are still rare. In addition, the ideal of six CEO's (female or male) serving on the board of each of the largest corporations is realizable only if every CEO serves on six boards. This raises the specter of director over-commitment and the resultant dilution of contribution. Consequently, the chairs sought women in business who had the equivalent of CEO experience. However, since it is only recently that large numbers of women have begun to rise in management, the chairs began to recruit women of high achievement outside the business world. Many such women are well known for their contributions in government, education, and the nonprofit sector. The fact that the women from these sectors who were appointed were often acquaintances of the boards' chairs seems quite reasonable; chairs have always considered it important for directors to interact comfortably in the boardroom.

Although many successful women from outside the business world are unknown to corporate leaders, these women are particularly qualified to serve on boards because of the changing nature of corporations. Today a company's ability to be responsive to the concerns of the community and the environment can

influence that company's growth and survival. Women are uniquely positioned to be responsive to some of these concerns. Although conditions have changed, it should be remembered that most directors of both sexes are over fifty years old. Women of that generation were often encouraged to direct their attention toward efforts to improve the community. This fact is reflected in the career development of most of the outstandingly successful women of the generation now in their fifties, who currently serve on corporate boards: 25 percent are in education and 22 percent are in government, law, and the nonprofit sector.

One organization of women directors is helping business become more responsive to the changing needs of society by raising the level of corporate awareness about social issues, such as problems with the economy, government regulation, the aging population, and the environment. This organization also serves as a resource center of information on accomplished women who are potential candidates for corporate boards.

- 11. Which one of the following statements is wrong when you are reading the first paragraph?
 - A. The number of women directors appointed to corporate boards in the United States has increased.
 - B. It is compulsory for companies to recruit women directors in American law.
 - C. The ratio of female to male directors remains low in the United States
 - D. Companies are under social pressure to recruit women directors.
- 12. Why did the chairs begin seeking women who had the equivalent of CEO experience? Which one of the following statements is not the reason?
 - A. Large corporations preferred women who were chief executive officers (CEO's) of other large corporations.
 - B. Small companies were the first to have women directors.
 - C. Women CEO's are still rare.
 - D. Recruiting women CEO's raises the specter of director over-commitment and the resultant dilution of contribution.
- 13. The chairs began to recruit women of high achievement outside the business world because:
 - A. Women are good at dealing with anything unrelated to business.
 - B. Nobody is suitable to the job in business world.
 - C. It is only recently that large numbers of women have begun to rise in management.

- D. Many women are well known for their contributions in other field.
- 14. In which of the following sectors could chairs find qualified women who were acquaintances of the boards' chairs?
 - A. Government and Education.
 - B. Education and Sportswoman.
 - C. Government and Army.
 - D. Any nonprofit sectors.
- 15. Why are some successful women particularly qualified to serve on boards?
 - A. Because women are uniquely positioned to be responsive to the concerns of the community and the environment.
 - B. Because most directors of both sexes are over fifty years old.
 - C. Because the recruitment of them raises the ratio of female to male directors.
 - D. A company's ability to be responsive to the concerns of the community and the environment can not influence that company's growth and survival.

appointed v. 任命,指定

corporate adj. 社团的,合伙的,公司的

dramatically adv. 戏剧地;引人注目地:突然地

ratio n. 比率

recruit n. 新兵,新手,新会员;补给品

legislation n. 立法,法律

nevertheless adj. 然而,虽然如此

percentage n. 百分比,比率;部分,可能性

to recruit v. 恢复,补充;征募

adj. 执行的,善于执行的

specter nv 当人的人们

commitment n. 委托,承担义务

dilution n. 本淡,稀释 contribution n. 捐助,贡献

consequently adv. 所以

equivalent adj. 相等的,相当的,同意义的

achievement n. 完成,成就,功业

.nonprofit adj. 非赢利的,无利可图的

acquaintance n. 认识、相识者

interact n. 相互影响,交互作用

responsive adj. 回答的,应答的,易感应的

community n. 社区,公众,共同体

environment n. 环境

survival n. 生存,幸存者

accomplished adj. 完成的, 实现的; 有造诣的, 擅社交的

candidate n. 候选人

Passage Four

In the first decade of this century, E. M. Forster's position lay between the two sides; his first four novels insist discomfortingly on the materialism of British civilization; at the same time, by ironic comedy not found in the English novel since Jane Austen, he analyses the qualities of mind that delude people into accepting this materialism, and discloses the qualities of intelligence that make for release from it. His enlightenment thus gives him the importance of centrality within this period, although his achievement as a novelist (with the possible exception of his last novel, A Passage to India, 1924) is not of the first rank. The freshness of his novels arises from his keen and subtle comedy-his critical force. His limitations are in his 'poetic' power: he has not been able to create a substantial image of what it means to be fully human. D. H. Lawrence's very high reputation is due precisely to his possession of this 'poetic' power. Lawrence is also central in a much more important way than Forster is: he has a wider range of social experience, an equal capacity to face and understand the materialism of 20th-century civilization, and a larger, more radical intelligence, able to see more of the issues, and more deeply into them.

Lawrence's best work is generally considered to comprise three of his novels-Sons and Lovers, The Rainbow, and Women in Love. His starting points were that a society is inseparable from the human beings that compose it, that its quality therefore depends on the quality of the individuals' characteristic, and that the quality of these individuals arises from the relationships with other human beings that they are able to achieve. Sons and Lovers, an autobiographical novel about Lawrence's own childhood and youth, is remarkable for its unprecedented insight into relationships within the family—the nucleus and beginning of all other relationships. The Rainbow concerns the changes in the character of relationships

between the sexes and within the family, over the three generations that preceded the war of 1914-18. Women in Love is the most ambitious of the three; it penetrates the quality of human relationship, and hence of humanity itself, in the kind of society that existed at the outbreak of that war. Lawrence's conception of the novelist's vocation was as high as that of James and Conrad, and he had the genius commensurate with the conception; he understood how to condense very large subjects into the immediacy of personal themes. He also inherited the strong conviction, recurring in English fiction since Bunyan, of the regenerative power of art, and in particular of the novel, which alone he considered capable of presenting man as a whole. He included elements of the human experience which had never been included before, and which shocked the reading public. His conception of experience entailed also the expression of levels out of reach of normal articulacy; this he achieved through a remarkable use of symbolism, drawn from natural surroundings and animal life. His technique in this respect was revolutionary, although on the surface it was closer to Victorian technique than that of many of his contemporaries.

- 16. Which one of the following statements is unacceptable when you reading the sentence, "His enlightenment thus gives him the importance of centrality within this period, although his achievement as a novelist (with the possible exception of his last novel, A Passage to India, 1924) is not of the first rank."
 - A. He gains the importance of centrality by insisting on the materialism of British civilization.
 - B. His achievement as a novelist is not of the first rank, and none of his novels can be considered as the best in his period.
 - C. His last novel, A Passage to India, is his best novel.
 - D. His achievement as a novelist is not of the first rank, and only one of his novels can be considered as the best in his period.
- 17. What is the main aspect that Lawrence as a novelist surpass Forster?
 - A. His attitude towards materialism.
 - B. The value of their last novel.
 - C. Lawrence is younger than Forster.
 - D. The poetic power in their works.
- 18. Which one of the following is not Lawrence's best work?
 - A. Sons and Lovers.

- B. The Rainbow.
- C. A Passage to India . s
- D. Women in Love.
- 19. What is Lawrence's conception of the novelist's vocation? Can you get some idea from this passage?
 - A. To penetrate the quality of human relationship, and even to penetrate the quality of humanity itself.
 - B. To analyze the outbreak of the war of 1914-18.
 - C. To care about the changes in the character of relationships between the sexes and within the family.
 - D. To tell the stories about his childhood and youth.
- 20. Which one of his novels can best reflect Lawrence's conception of the novelist's vocation?
 - A. Sons and Lovers.
 - B. The Rainbow.
 - C. James and Conrad.
 - D. Women in Love.

discomfort 困苦,不适 υ. Materialism 唯物主义 n. Civilization 文明,教化 n. Ironic adj 讽刺的 直風 Comedy n. delude 迷惑. 蛊惑 τυ. · Intelligence 智力:情报:信息 n. disclose 揭露,透露 υ. Enlightenment 启迪.教化 n. Centrality 中心,中央;同心性 Achievement 成就 n. Novelist 小说家 n. Keen adj. 敏锐的,锋利的;强烈的:渴望的 Subtle -敏锐的,精细的;狡猾的;稀薄的;灵巧的,微 adi. 妙的 Substantial 实质上的,有内容的:结实的 adi.