

大学英语四级考前测评

快速阅读卷

主 编 陶文好

副主编 郑曦临

孙 怡

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内 容 简 介

《快速阅读卷》由10部分组成,共200篇短文。所选短文的体裁、题型及难度与大学英语四级考试阅读部分保持一致。短文归类缜密,内容涉及面广,练习形式多样化,一切以便于学生自测为目的。

短文编写参考了大学英语四级考试,以及英语考试辅导网站所关心的话题。短文素材均选自近年来国内外出版的英文报刊杂志,内容具有时代性、启发性与趣味性。大部分短文经过试用都收到良好的效果,而且证明能够为学生提供四级考试必备的文化背景知识及语言知识,有利于学生扩大四级考试的词汇量,提高阅读速度。

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前 言

我国的英语教学发展迅速,科研成果层出不穷。高校的扩招热潮和学子的就业压力,使大学英语教师的教学任务日趋繁重,教学压力与日俱增。扩招后大学生的英语水平参差不齐,面对英语学习和考试的压力,他们深感无所适从,力不从心。因此,四、六级考试成为广大师生的“紧箍咒”、“永远的痛”,以至于面对茫茫题海他们不知所措,往往事倍功半。即使是有幸通过了四级的学生,也多是擅长英语应试技巧,而在英语语言知识、综合应用技能、学习策略、异国文化素养、跨文化交际等方面不尽如人意。

学习在于方法,应试存在技巧!

随着四级考试的不断深化和改革,四级备考丛书比比皆是,专家点评更是屡见不鲜。但总体来说都有题海战术的感觉。本套丛书的编写目标就是要为大学生介绍英语学习的策略和方法,指明重点、解决难点、阐释疑点、扫除盲点,并集知识传授和方法点拨于一体,既授之以“鱼”,又授之以“渔”,可谓是英语学习和过级考试的全面解决方案,可使学生少走弯路,达到事半功倍的效果。

为了突破英语学习和应试的瓶颈,我们组织了一批具有丰富的教学和应试经验、并具有深厚的语言学和测试学理论功底教师,以先进的语言学理论为先导,策划和编写了这套具有科学性、系统性、个性化、多样化的大学英语考前测评系列丛书,旨在树立品牌,打造精品,服务于大学英语教学,帮助考生顺利通过大学英语四级考试。

本丛书为参加四级考试的读者提供全面的考前训练和测评,同时也可作为广大读者巩固课堂知识的一套课外自学用书,可与目前高校普遍使用的《新视野大学英语》、《当代大学英语》、《21世纪大学英语》、《全新版大学英语》、《大学核心英语》和《新编大学英语》等教材配套使用。

《大学英语四级考前测评》系列丛书包括以下卷本:

- 《听力卷》
- 《阅读翻译卷》
- 《词汇语法卷》
- 《写作卷》
- 《快速阅读卷》

编者的话

《快速阅读卷》由 10 部分组成，共 200 篇短文。所选短文的体裁、题型及难度与大学英语四级考试阅读部分保持高度一致。编者根据主题将短文进行归类，内容涉及环境、娱乐、健康、习俗、文学、经济、政治、教育、社会、科技等方面。练习多样，有选择题型，也有简答题型，便于学生自测。

编写短文时，我们参考了大学英语四级考试以及英语考试辅导网站所关心的话题。短文素材均选自近年来国内外出版的英文报刊杂志，内容具有时代性、启发性与趣味性。大部分短文经过试用，收到良好的效果，并且证明能够为学生提供四级考试必备的文化背景知识及语言知识，有利于学生扩大四级考试的词汇量、提高阅读速度。另外，各篇短文的标题指明了文章所涉题材的范围，使读者清楚相关内容。

本卷由郑曦临、孙怡任副主编。郑曦临负责编写第 1 章、第 3 章、第 4 章、第 8 章及第 9 章；孙怡负责编写第 2 章、第 5 章、第 6 章、第 7 章及第 10 章。

由于编者水平和时间所限，纰漏之处在所难免，敬请广大读者批评指正。

陶文好

2005 年 1 月

Contents

Chapter 1	Environment	1
Passage 1	Orangutans	2
Passage 2	Dolphin	3
Passage 3	Migration	4
Passage 4	Termite	6
Passage 5	Acid Rain	7
Passage 6	The Nile	9
Passage 7	Bermuda	10
Passage 8	The Suez Canal	12
Passage 9	Air Pollution	14
Passage 10	El Nino	15
Passage 11	Drought	17
Passage 12	Earthquake	18
Passage 13	Volcano	20
Passage 14	Noise Pollution	21
Passage 15	Insecticide	23
Passage 16	Skyscrapers	24
Passage 17	Water Resource	26
Passage 18	Heavy Metal	27
Passage 19	Nuclear Energy	29
Passage 20	Eskimos	30

Chapter 2 Entertainment.....33

Passage 1	Antarctica	34
Passage 2	Autumn Drive	35
Passage 3	Blues	36
Passage 4	Movies of Wars	38
Passage 5	Michael Flatley	39
Passage 6	Danes	40
Passage 7	Foreign-language Oscar	41
Passage 8	Piracy	43
Passage 9	Irish Tap Dance	44
Passage 10	Michael Jackson	46
Passage 11	Thrilling Movies	47
Passage 12	Internet and Stars	49
Passage 13	Internet Piracy	50
Passage 14	Tango	52
Passage 15	Olympian Game	53
Passage 16	The Seven Year Itch	54
Passage 17	Online Games	55
Passage 18	Cartoons	56
Passage 19	Fashion	57
Passage 20	Hanson Brothers	59

Chapter 3 Health.....61

Passage 1	Mosquito and Disease	62
Passage 2	Starvation	63
Passage 3	Scurvy	65
Passage 4	Plants	66
Passage 5	Fear & Pain	68
Passage 6	Stress	69

Passage 7	Surgical Operation	71
Passage 8	Insomnia	73
Passage 9	Jet Lag	74
Passage 10	Energy Cycle	76
Passage 11	Breast Cancer	77
Passage 12	Aging	79
Passage 13	Exercises	81
Passage 14	The Red Cross	82
Passage 15	Meaning of Health	84
Passage 16	Food	85
Passage 17	Patients	87
Passage 18	Habit	88
Passage 19	Drink	90
Passage 20	Depression	92
Chapter 4	Customs	95
Passage 1	Thanksgiving Day	96
Passage 2	Father's Day	97
Passage 3	United Nations Day	98
Passage 4	Easter	100
Passage 5	Boxing Day	101
Passage 6	Halloween	103
Passage 7	Scottish Kilts	104
Passage 8	Nonverbal Communication	106
Passage 9	Earring	107
Passage 10	Salt	108
Passage 11	Mother's Day	110
Passage 12	Dutch Treat	112
Passage 13	Impression of American	113

Passage 14	Japanese	115
Passage 15	Saudi Arabs	116
Passage 16	Guest	117
Passage 17	Tipping	119
Passage 18	Salad	120
Passage 19	Phone Call	122
Passage 20	Punctuality	123

Chapter 5 Literature 127

Passage 1	An Excerpt from <i>Alice's Adventures in Wonderland</i>	128
Passage 2	An Excerpt from <i>Agnes Grey</i> by Anne Bronte	129
Passage 3	An Excerpt from <i>The Black Cat</i> by Edgar Allan Poe	130
Passage 4	Exuberance	131
Passage 5	An Excerpt from <i>Ghost Story</i> by Mark Twain	132
Passage 6	An Excerpt from <i>The Call of the Wild</i> by Jack London	133
Passage 7	An Excerpt from <i>Lady Chatterley's Lover</i> by D. H. Lawrence	134
Passage 8	An Excerpt from <i>The Adventures of Huckleberry Finn</i> by Mark Twain	135
Passage 9	An Excerpt from <i>Human Wisdom</i> by Voltaire	136
Passage 10	An Excerpt from <i>On Revenge</i> by Francis Bacon	137
Passage 11	An Excerpt from <i>Robinson Crusoe</i> by Daniel Defoe	139
Passage 12	An Excerpt from <i>Candide</i> by Voltaire	140
Passage 13	Socrates	141
Passage 14	An Excerpt from <i>The Tell-tale Heart</i> by Edgar Allan Poe	143
Passage 15	Art of Speaking	144
Passage 16	Philosophers	145
Passage 17	An Excerpt from <i>Who Murdered Reynard?</i> By Sydney Fowler ...	147
Passage 18	An Excerpt from <i>Wuthering Heights</i> by Emily Bronte	148
Passage 19	Watching the Sunrise	149

Passage 20	An Excerpt from <i>The Art of War</i> by Niccolo Machiavelli	150
Chapter 6	Economy	153
Passage 1	Inferior Milk Powder	154
Passage 2	Business and Sports	155
Passage 3	Dispute	156
Passage 4	E-commerce	158
Passage 5	Microsoft	160
Passage 6	English Food	161
Passage 7	Fake Money	163
Passage 8	Business and Culture	164
Passage 9	Intranets	166
Passage 10	Partnership	167
Passage 11	Forestry	169
Passage 12	Alternative Fuel	170
Passage 13	The Great Depression	172
Passage 14	The Interest Rate	173
Passage 15	Bio-piracy	175
Passage 16	Foreign Retailers	176
Passage 17	Ma Bell	177
Passage 18	Yahoo	179
Passage 19	Google	180
Passage 20	Government	182
Chapter 7	Politics	185
Passage 1	Two Parties in the U.S.	186
Passage 2	Arafat	187
Passage 3	Osama Bin Laden	188
Passage 4	Bush	189

Passage 5	SCO	191
Passage 6	Japan's Military Mission	192
Passage 7	DPRK	194
Passage 8	NATO	196
Passage 9	Nixon	197
Passage 10	The Peace Corps	198
Passage 11	Plane Crash	200
Passage 12	Saddam Hussein	201
Passage 13	Japan's Defense	203
Passage 14	ABM	204
Passage 15	Afghanistan	206
Passage 16	Russian-US Summit	207
Passage 17	Hackers	209
Passage 18	Presidential Race	211
Passage 19	Terrorist Attacks	212
Passage 20	Iraq	214

Chapter 8 Education 217

Passage 1	Andrew Mellon Foundation	218
Passage 2	Cambridge University	219
Passage 3	Pearl S. Buck	220
Passage 4	Helen Keller	222
Passage 5	Mark Twain	223
Passage 6	William Shakespeare	225
Passage 7	Socrates	226
Passage 8	Hospital Education	228
Passage 9	Special Education	229
Passage 10	Anthropology	231
Passage 11	The Lord of Rings	233

Passage 12	Gerontology	234
Passage 13	Botany	236
Passage 14	Thinking	238
Passage 15	Streaming	239
Passage 16	Mixed Teaching	241
Passage 17	Dyslexia	242
Passage 18	Asian American Education	244
Passage 19	Learning Shop	246
Passage 20	Literacy	247
Chapter 9	Society	249
Passage 1	Juvenile Delinquency	250
Passage 2	Domestic Violence	251
Passage 3	Racism	253
Passage 4	Law	254
Passage 5	The Bastille	256
Passage 6	Population	257
Passage 7	Unemployment	259
Passage 8	Social Change	260
Passage 9	Economic Misfortune	262
Passage 10	Family	264
Passage 11	Man's Role	265
Passage 12	Women's Status	267
Passage 13	Woman's Role	268
Passage 14	Society Without Authority	270
Passage 15	Friendship	272
Passage 16	Beggars	273
Passage 17	Contact	275
Passage 18	War	276

Passage 19	Work	278
Passage 20	Ireland	279

Chapter 10 Science & Technology 283

Passage 1	Artificial Intelligence	284
Passage 2	Brain	285
Passage 3	Measure of Time	286
Passage 4	Technology and Media	287
Passage 5	Dead Sea	289
Passage 6	Dead Sea Scrolls	290
Passage 7	Robots	291
Passage 8	Dinosaurs	292
Passage 9	Desert	294
Passage 10	Drugs	295
Passage 11	History	296
Passage 12	Moon	297
Passage 13	Earth	298
Passage 14	Psychology	300
Passage 15	The Age of Metals	301
Passage 16	Mummy	303
Passage 17	Hurricane	304
Passage 18	Scholasticism	305
Passage 19	Time Zones	307
Passage 20	Life in Antarctica	308

Keys to the Exercises of Reading Passages 311



Chapter 1

Environment



Passage 1 Orangutans

Orangutans (红毛猿) are found in Indonesia and Malaysia on the islands of Borneo and Sumatra. Orangutan means "person of the forest". It comes from the Malay words "orang", meaning "people", and "hutan", meaning "forest".

Recent fires have destroyed much of Indonesian forests and pose the latest threat to the survival of the endangered orangutans. Thirty orangutans fleeing their burning forest home have been killed by villagers, who see the animals as crop raiders. Orangutan mothers have been killed so that their young can be captured and sold into the illegal wildlife pet trade. Orangutan experts continue to receive orangutan infants whose mothers have been killed while searching for food in plantations and fields.

The fires, caused by drought and coupled with fire-setting methods to clear forests, have destroyed more than two million acres. When fire gets into the rainforests' layer of dry peat (partly decayed plant material which covers the soil), it can burn slowly off and on for months or years after the original fire. These fires continue until heavy rainfall soaks the peat through and through. Orangutans once numbered in the hundreds of thousands, but their population has dropped to roughly 25 000 due to fire, the destruction of forests from felling trees for timber and agriculture, and losses linked to the live-animal trade. Before the fires, only 40 percent of the orangutans' original habitat remained, and now, their habitat has become even smaller.

1. Which of the following is not a reason for the decreasing of orangutans in Indonesia?
- A. The forests have been burned to get land for agriculture.
 - B. Most of orangutans' forests have been destroyed.
 - C. Mother orangutans have been sold into the live-animal business.
 - ☒ D. Trees have been cut down for human profits.
2. According to this passage, fires in Indonesia _____.
 A. will not end until it starts to rain
 B. will be eventually put out by human effort
 C. will die out in a few days when the winds stop blowing
☒ D. will only stop when the peat is totally wet
3. What is the best title for this passage?
☒ A. Fires Drive Orangutans to Danger

- B. Fires in Indonesia Keep on Flaming
- C. Orangutans Are Precious Animals
- D. Orangutans Endanger the Crops of Indonesia

4. Many people buy orangutans because _____.
 A. they want to save orangutans
 B. they want to keep orangutans as pets
 C. they want to build new homes for orangutans
 D. they want to take care of orangutans infants
5. Which of the following is true about villagers?
 A. They searched for food in fields.
 B. They are so interested in wildlife pets trade.
 C. They regarded orangutans as crop raiders.
 D. They continue to receive orangutans infants.

1. ABCD 2. ABCD 3. ABCD 4. ABCD 5. ABCD

Length: 239 words

Started at: _____ Finished at: _____ Comprehension score: _____%

Passage 2 Dolphin

Dolphins, the air breathing mammal, have colonized all oceans and seas of the planet, from polar to tropical regions. Presence or non-presence of dolphins is a good indication of the state of the seas in many parts of the world.

There are more than 30 species of dolphins. Some species are very shy, while others will approach humans with great curiosity. If dolphins have spent time in captivity, they can become very used to people touching them, riding alongside of them, etc., but they can also become mildly aggressive; nipping, pushing, etc.

Remember dolphins are conscious breathers. They sleep only with one half of their brain at a time. Sleeping dolphins can be seen as resting, floating at the surface, with one eye open. After a time, they will close one eye and open the other one. They alternate like this throughout their entire nap.

Although dolphins live in water, getting sufficient water is a problem for them. The surrounding sea water is too salty for them to drink. Their main prey (fish and squid) contains large amounts of water and so dolphins obtain water from their food.

In addition, dolphins don't actually need to take in very much fluid because, unlike us, their skin is impermeable and they don't lose water by sweating.

- B 1. Non-presence of dolphins may indicate that _____.
 A. The sea water is salty
 B. The sea water is polluted
 C. The dolphin is taking a nap
 D. The sea is located in the tropical region
- A 2. The word "impermeable" (Para.4) most probably means _____.
 A. impervious B. insufficient C. inadequate D. interfere
- C 3. Some dolphins approach humans because of their _____.
 A. superiority B. captivity C. curiosity D. inferiority
- D 4. Where are dolphins located?
 A. In Pacific Ocean. B. In Atlantic Ocean.
 C. In tropical regions. D. In all oceans.
- A 5. Which is not mentioned in this passage?
 A. The lifespan of dolphins. B. The species of dolphins.
 C. The food of dolphins. D. The sleeping way of dolphins.

1. ABCD 2. ABCD 3. ABCD 4. ABCD 5. ABCD

Length: 216 words

Started at: _____ Finished at: _____ Comprehension score: _____%

Passage 3 Migration

No one knows for sure why birds migrate. One theory of migration says that ancient birds of the northern part of the earth were forced southward during the ice age, when ice covered large parts of Europe, Asia and North America. As the ice melted, the birds came back to their homelands, spent the summer, and then went south again in winter. Gradually, these comings and goings became habits, and birds now migrate though much of the ice has gone.

Another theory proposes that the ancient home of all modern birds was the tropic areas. There they lived so well that the region became overcrowded. Many species