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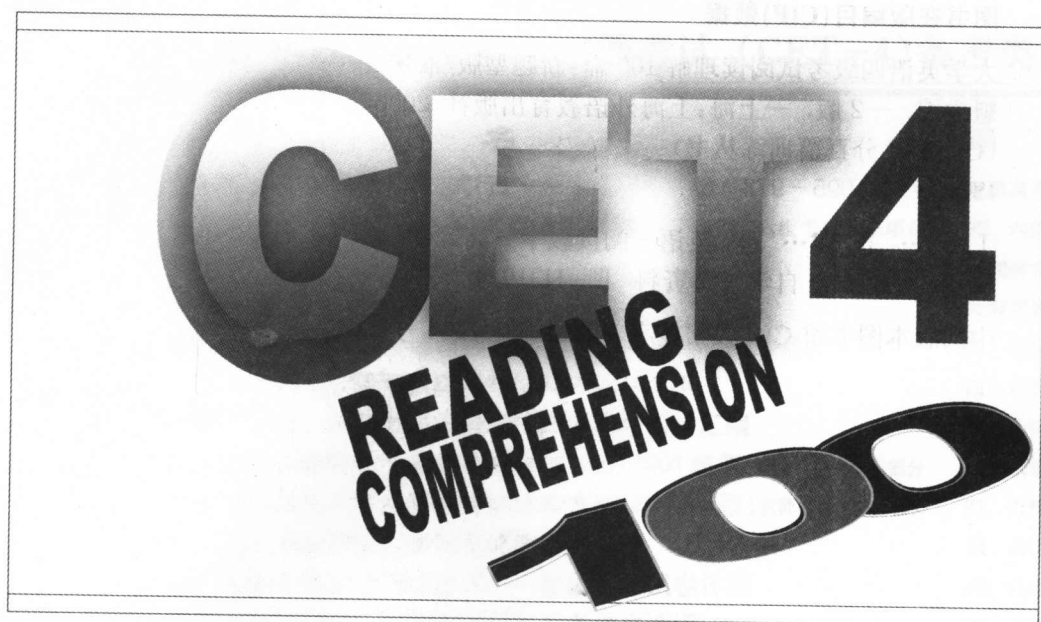
(新题型版)

大学英语四级考试 阅读理解100篇

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上海外语教育出版社


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大学英语四级考试 阅读理解100篇

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前言

《大学英语四级考试阅读理解 100 篇》是专为学习大学英语的学生编写的辅导性读物。

《大学英语教学大纲》把阅读能力的培养放在最重要的位置,提出要“培养学生具有较强的阅读能力”。阅读理解在考试中占的比重最大。我们知道,要提高学生阅读英语的能力,单纯地通过教科书的课文教学是远远不够的。因此,我们根据《大纲》所规定的英语四级考试学生应掌握的词汇量,精选了阅读理解 100 篇,旨在帮助学生迅速提高阅读英语的能力。

这 100 篇文章均选自国外较新的书籍、报刊、杂志,英语地道,题材广泛,并侧重于社会生活和科普类文章,重视语言知识和社会文化知识的有机结合、学习与训练的结合。每篇短文后面均有理解性选择题供读者练习,并附有答案供参考。为了适应最近改变的新题型,编者在每篇阅读文章中挑选出一句典型句子进行英译汉练习。读者可在自行翻译的基础上再看附在后面的参考译文,进行比较,以利提高。编者希望本书能使大学生在达到《大纲》的阅读要求上有所收益,在英语四级统考中提高应试能力。

教育部最近颁布了最新的《大学英语课程要求》,对大学生英语学习提出了新的标准。它将大学英语教学分为一般要求、较高要求和更高要求。推荐词汇比以前有明显增加:一般要求为掌握单词 4 500 个,词组 700 个;较高要求为掌握单词 5 500 个,词组 1 200 个;更高要求为掌握单词 6 500 个,词组 1 700 个。

为了适应新的形势,我们在原书的基础上适当进行了增删,增加了一些最新的语言材料。文章体裁以议论文和说明文为主,尽量选择生动有趣、学生喜闻乐见的材料,使学生在阅读中受益。

参加本书编写的人员有王坚、朱士英、祁玲、刘姝、任瑞、余祖英、杨通美、周晓蕾、周常明、傅莲霞、濮宏魁等。参加本书修订的人员有濮宏魁、余祖英、刘姝、海蕾等。

本书的编写出版得到了上海外语教育出版社编辑同志的具体指导和大力帮助,我们在此表示衷心感谢。

由于时间仓促,编者水平有限,本书一定存在着许多不尽如人意之处,敬请广大读者批评指正。

编者
2005 年 11 月



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PASSAGE 1

When the Saudi government announced that it was going to invest several million dollars in communication technology, an American businessman went to Riyadh to “get something going”. He was charged \$ 3,700 for a week’s stay. He arrived on Monday, checked into his hotel and began making phone calls to the obvious points of contact. To his surprise he could not track down anyone to see regarding his business. By Wednesday he discovered that most offices would be closed on Thursday afternoon and on Friday, the Islamic day of prayer. There was nothing he could do but extend his stay and hope for better luck next week.

Eventually he made several appointments, but in each case he was frustrated by hour-or-more waits, interrupted meetings, endless cups of coffee, and instructions to “come back another day”. He felt uneasy doing business with Arabs. After a month he ran into an old friend who introduced him to the basic rules of how to do business with Arabs. He was horrified to discover that he had repeatedly insulted his contacts by his undisguised impatience, refusal to take coffee, rush to talk business, and even when he conversationally asked an Arab official about his wife. By now his trip had cost well over \$13,000 and he had only established himself a rude and unworthy American. He learned too late the secrets to successful business in Saudi Arabia.

I. Comprehension questions

1. On arrival the man failed to find anyone for his business probably because _____.
 - A. Arabs did not rush to do business
 - B. that day was Islamic day of prayer
 - C. his telephone was out of order
 - D. no one was interested in his business
2. Which of the following is NOT accepted when doing business with Arabs?
 - A. Many coffee breaks.
 - B. Interrupted meetings.



- C. Undisguised impatience.
D. Delayed appointments.
3. The main idea of the passage is _____.
A. American culture is superior to Arabs' culture
B. how difficult it is to do business with Arabs
C. different cultures have different ways of doing business
D. how inefficient Arabs are in doing business
4. Before he met his old friend, _____.
A. the man was horrified by Arabs' culture
B. the man insulted many contacts accidentally
C. the man regretted his staying in Saudi
D. the man recognized how unworthy he was
5. We can infer that the most important rule to successful business in Saudi is _____.
A. patience and respect
B. efficiency and hard working
C. confidence and determination
D. openness and honesty

II. Translate the underlined sentence into Chinese.



PASSAGE 2

It's easy to achieve a goal. The toughest thing is to set realistic goals that you believe in and are inspired by, and then to monitor and update those goals frequently enough to keep them continuously powerful in your life.

It's amazing how many people drift away from a goal-setting technique after achieving some wonderful early results. Their first successes make them so busy that they stop growing. When that happens, they turn their backs on the most far-reaching technique for expanding their horizons and lifting their capabilities that humankind has ever designed.

To have goals that inspire you in the beginning, define them clearly. To have goals that are still inspiring in the middle of your drive for them, refine each one by adding exciting details as you learn more about them. To have goals that are inspiring all the way to the hour that you achieve them, take a moment every morning and night to vividly see yourself enjoying them.

Uninspiring goals are goals that you'll never stretch yourself to achieve. In other words, uninspiring goals are not strictly goals at all. Make your efforts to pay back their full potential, keep your goals closely aligned with your latest thinking. That is, update your goals whenever you realize that you've taken another step towards a greater understanding of yourself.

You'll achieve many of your goals. Others you'll partially achieve. Still others you'll realize aren't worth paying the price for. Never hesitate to throw out a goal when you realize it isn't what you really want.

I. Comprehension questions

1. The author believes that _____.
 - A. it is easy to achieve one's goal
 - B. it is uneasy to keep goals continuously powerful
 - C. people are willing to update their goals
 - D. people's goals are often not realistic



2. The phrase "turn backs on" in the second paragraph means _____.
 - A. give up
 - B. tend to
 - C. become interested in
 - D. become reluctant to
3. Which of the following is NOT true?
 - A. People's goals must be dependent on the understanding of themselves.
 - B. People can enjoy their goals day and night.
 - C. People cannot achieve all their goals.
 - D. People should update their goals every day.
4. People often refine their goals in order to _____.
 - A. throw out their unrealistic goals
 - B. make their goals more realistic
 - C. keep their goals inspiring all the time
 - D. make their goals more vivid
5. The passage is mainly about _____.
 - A. how to achieve a goal
 - B. how to make goals real
 - C. how to find valuable goals
 - D. how to update one's goals

II. Translate the underlined sentence into Chinese.



PASSAGE 3

Information that is necessary but would interrupt the flow of the text may be added as a footnote. Footnotes either comment on or further explain the text, or name the specific source of material, especially quoted material.

Several examples of footnotes that comment on the text appear in this book. Examples of footnotes that cite sources appear on the following pages. Most source material comes from books, periodicals, newspapers, or other reports. The purpose of a source citation is to enable a reader to find the original source, wherever it is, whether in the library, or in an agency or company file.

The name of the author is the most direct path to the source and the first of the four elements of a reference listing. The other three elements are: the title of the original book, periodical, newspaper, or report in which the author's work appears; the publishing history of the work; and the volume and page number of the cited material. Where books are concerned, the edition, if there is more than one, must also be listed. All these elements are considered in order below.

I. Comprehension questions

1. Which of the following is NOT mentioned as a purpose of a footnote?
 - A. To make comments on the text.
 - B. To explain the text.
 - C. To tell the source of the material.
 - D. To give variety to the writing.
2. What footnotes appear on the following pages?
 - A. Comment footnotes.
 - B. Footnotes indicating the origin of the material.
 - C. explanatory footnotes.
 - D. Footnotes for further information.
3. What is the purpose of a source citation?
 - A. To let the reader have the information through the original source.



- B. The reader is shown how an argument is fully supported.
- C. So that the context and the question will not be confused.
- D. To show the reader where the information comes from.

4. What are the first and the third elements of a reference listing?

- A. The title of the original book and the volume number of the material.
- B. The name of the author and the publishing history of the book.
- C. The original source and the page number.
- D. The author's name and the edition of the book.

5. What is most likely to be discussed in the next part?

- A. The four elements, one by one.
- B. The way of listing the book's edition.
- C. Footnotes commenting on the text.
- D. Common practice in technical papers.

II. Translate the underlined sentence into Chinese.



PASSAGE 4

Between ten and midnight the United States is politically leaderless — there is no center of information anywhere in the nation except in the New York headquarters of the great broadcasting companies and the two great wire services. No candidate and no party can afford the investment on election night to match the news-gathering resources of the mass media; and so, as every citizen sits in his home watching his TV set or listening to his radio, he is the equal of any other in knowledge. There is nothing that can be done in these hours, for no one can any longer direct the great strike for America's power; the polls have closed. Good or bad, whatever the decision, America will accept the decision — and cut down any man who goes against it, even though for millions the decision runs contrary to their own votes. The general vote is an expression of national will, the only substitute for violence and blood. Its verdict is to be defended as one defends civilization itself.

There is nothing like this American expression of will in England or France, India or Russia. Only one other major nation in modern history has ever tried to elect its leader directly by mass, free, popular vote. This was the Weimar Republic of Germany (魏玛共和国), which modeled its unitary vote for national leaders on the American practice. Out of its experiment with the system it got Hitler, Americans have had Lincoln, Wilson, two Roosevelts. Nothing can be done when the voting returns are flooding in; the White House and its power will move to one or another of the two candidates, and all will know about it in the morning. But for these hours history stops.

J. Comprehension questions

1. Between 10 p.m. and midnight the United States has no leader because _____.
 - A. the president has resigned
 - B. the strike for power has ended
 - C. the results of the election are not in
 - D. the networks have shut down



2. The phrase "the great strike for America's power" in the first paragraph implies _____.
 - A. the strike of the mass media
 - B. striking while the iron is hot
 - C. the election campaign
 - D. the strike after the election
3. According to the author only one other major modern nation ever tried to elect its leader by mass, free, popular vote. That nation was _____.
 - A. India
 - B. Germany
 - C. Russia
 - D. England
4. The author believes the decision at the polls will _____.
 - A. lead to anarchy
 - B. result in men being cut down
 - C. cause violence and blood
 - D. be defended by all Americans
5. The passage implies that the expression of the public will is best realized in _____.
 - A. England
 - B. France
 - C. Germany
 - D. the United States

II. Translate the underlined sentence into Chinese.



PASSAGE 5

In the dark night of the desert a group of U.S. Air Force scientists is testing a new device for guiding a missile to its target. Designed to seek out the heat of an enemy aircraft engine, it is now going through its paces (接受性能方面的检验) by tracing the movement of a flashlight waving thirty feet away in the darkness.

A hundred yards away, unseen by the men, an equally deadly missile is searching out its prey. Sliding between the stones of the desert, a rattlesnake senses a patch (一股) of warmth. Without a sound the snake closes in and strikes for the kill.

Those two incidents dramatize one of the newest and most fascinating investigations of modern science, for the simple fact that the missile's heat seeker, with its few thousand pounds of electronic gadgets (配件), is huge and clumsy compared to the snake's. Although the snake's mechanism is small enough to be packed into a head the size of a walnut, it can detect a change in temperature of one-thousandth of a degree. The men working on the missile finder would dearly love to know how, for no man-made device can equal this.

It is for the purpose of learning from nature that a new science has grown up. It is called bionics. Its aim is, with the help of biology and electronics, to find out how animals' apparatus work so that man can copy them for his own use.

I. Comprehension questions

1. The best title for the passage is _____.
 - A. The Scientist and the Sensitive Snake
 - B. The Man-made Missile Finder
 - C. How to Learn From Nature
 - D. The Advantage of a New Science
2. According to the passage, what are the scientists doing in the dark night?
 - A. Seeking out traces of the enemy.
 - B. Moving along the flashlight.
 - C. Conducting a trial experiment.



D. Making a device.

3. In the second paragraph, the phrase "strikes for the kill" can be best replaced by _____.

A. goes on a strike for the dead

B. beats the killer

C. strikes the killing snake

D. kills the prey

4. What result does this most fascinating investigation show?

A. The snake's mechanism is small, but more sensitive.

B. The men working on the missile finder would deeply love the snake.

C. The man-made device can equal the sensitivity of the snake.

D. The investigation can be dramatized into a play.

5. It can be inferred from the passage that the new science "bionics" is the marriage between _____.

A. physics and mathematics

B. biology and electronics

C. modern science and biology

D. botany and zoology

II. Translate the underlined sentence into Chinese.



PASSAGE 6

The natives of La Gomera can carry on long-distance conversations by whistling. For ordinary conversation they speak Spanish. But when they need to speak over a distance and ordinary speech is impossible, they use the silbo. This is the name of a whistled form of speech.

La Gomera is one of the smaller Ganary Islands. It is very mountainous, for it was once a volcano. The island is almost circular in shape, with a high peak in the center. From this peak, deep, narrow gorges, separated by rocky ridges, run down to the coast like the spokes of a wheel. So in spite of the island's small size, walking from one place to another may be a slow and difficult job. That is why the silbo is so useful to the natives. A message can easily be whistled over a couple of miles, while to travel that same distance on foot might take an hour.

A good whistler, or silbador, can be heard and understood five miles away. His whistling can be heard even farther away when conditions are favorable — when there is little or no wind. It was said that the record is about nine miles. Anyone who has heard a first-class silbador will agree that this figure is quite possible.

Not only does a whistle carry farther than a shout, but it is easier to understand. When a person shouts, he cannot pronounce his words well. But in whistling, this problem does not exist. If a whistle is heard at all, it will be heard clearly.

The silbo can be used to say everything — anything that is speakable in Spanish is also “whistlable”. This is true partly because the Spanish language has such a simple sound system. The silbo would not work nearly so well with English.

I. Comprehension questions

1. The title that best expresses the idea of this passage is _____.
 - A. The Whistle Language of La Gomera
 - B. The Whistle Skill of the Natives of La Gomera
 - C. The Relationship Between the Whistle Language and Spanish
 - D. Messages Carried by Whistling



2. What is the native language of La Gomera?
 - A. Whistle.
 - B. English.
 - C. Silbo.
 - D. Spanish.
3. Why is the whistle language so useful to the natives?
 - A. Because they have to talk in that language.
 - B. Because their island used to be a volcano.
 - C. Because close talk is an uneasy job on the island.
 - D. Because the natives like to talk over a distance.
4. What can we infer from the passage?
 - A. Only the natives understand the silbo.
 - B. Whistle language will replace spoken language.
 - C. It is likely that people will learn whistle language.
 - D. A first-class silbador can be heard nine miles away.
5. What language is whistled by silbo?
 - A. Any languages in the world.
 - B. Those with a simple sound system.
 - C. The language the natives of La Gomera speak.
 - D. The English language only.

II. Translate the underlined sentence into Chinese.