大学英语

四级综合技能 专项训练

罗德芬 王永东



大学英语四级

综合技能专项训练

罗德芬 王永东 编

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编写说明

为了适应我国高等教育发展的新形势,深化教学改革,提高教学质量,满足新 时期国家对人才培养的需要,2006年6月教育部高教司颁布了《大学英语课程教 学要求(试行)》(简称《教学要求》)。

《教学要求》设定的教学目标是:培养学生的英语综合应用能力,特别是听说 能力,使他们在今后的工作和社会交往中能用英语有效地进行口头和书面信息交 流。为了检测我国在校大学生英语能力是否达到《教学要求》,大学英语四、六级 考试也进行了配套改革,从考试内容、题型设计、计分体制到成绩报道方式均作出 了较大调整。

改革后的四级考试各部分测试内容、题型和分值比例

比例

卷构成		测试内容	测试题型	
	ar 11 yr	短对话	多项选择	
L +107 A77	听力对话	长对话	多项选择	

试卷构成		测试内容	测试趣型	R	191)	
	at talit	短对话	多项选择	8%		
er L eta ka	听力对话	长对话	多项选择	7%	35%	
听力理解	五十八二 短	短文理解	多项选择	10%]33%	
	听力短文	短文听写	复合式听写	10%		
	/7 /一 / 一 / 一 / 一 / 四 / 四 / 四	篇章阅读理解	多项选择	20%		
阅读理解	· 仔细阅读理解 读理解	篇章词汇理解或短句问答	选词填空或短句回答	5%	35%	
	快速阅读理解		是非判断+句子填空或其他	10%		
完型填空或改错		型填空或改错	多项选择或错误辨认并改正	10%	10%	
11	写作 翻译		短文写作	15%	20%	
写作和翻译			中译英	5%		

改革后的四级考试采用 710 分的计分体制,不设及格线,各单项的满分分别 为:听力 249 分,阅读 249 分,完形填空或改错 70 分,作文和翻译 142 分,各单项分 数之和为710分。成绩报道分为四个部分:听力(35%)、阅读(35%)、完形填空或 改错(10%)、作文和翻译(20%)。

四级考试答题时间共125分钟。答题顺序是:第一部分写作测试(30分钟完 成),第二部分快速阅读理解(15分钟完成),其余四个部分分别是:听力理解、仔细 阅读理解、完形填空和翻译(共80分钟完成)。但大学英语四、六级考试委员会也指 出:在实际考试中,可根据上述表中的柜架结构,采用与样卷不完全相同的题型。

试卷结构、各部分答题时间和所用答题卡

样卷结构	试题内容	答题时间	答题卡	
Part I	Writing	30 minutes	Answer Sheet 1	
Part II	Reading Comprehension (Skimming and Scanning)	15 minutes	Answer Sneet 1	
Part III	Listening Comprehension	35 minutes		
Part IV	Reading Comprehension (Reading in Depth)	25 minutes	Answer Sheet 2	
Part V	Cloze	15 minutes	Allswer Sheet 2	
Part VI	Translation	5 minutes		

为了全面落实《教学要求》,帮助和指导学生达到《教学要求》,顺利通过大学 英语四级考试,并以此为基点全面提高大学生的英语综合应用能力,我们编写了 本书。

本书编写的特点:

- 1. 指导方向明确。按照《教学要求》和四级考试内容和题型,对学生进行分项训练,检查是否达到《教学要求》所要求掌握的语言基础和综合技能,并通过反复练习,达到熟练程度。
- 2. 实用性、针对性强。除紧扣考试题型的训练外,本书还增加了语法结构训练。旨在通过对语法现象的系统训练,为提高学生的语言应用能力打下坚实基础。本书着重技能提高的方法,强调实践。所精选的材料,不仅立足于培养学生的综合语言素养,还可帮助学生开阔视野,扩大知识面,加深对外部世界的了解,借鉴和吸收外国文化的精华,提高自身的文化素质。
- 3. 最新全真模拟。训练例题的题型和题量均按四级考试的模式设定,紧密联系当前考试动向,既注意知识的系统性、条理性,又有对重点、难点的把握和突破, 为容丰富,以便学生举一反三。

本书共分快速阅读、仔细阅读、语法、翻译、写作、完形填空六个部分,各部分均按概述、技能、训练三个层次编写,其中罗德芬编写仔细阅读、语法和翻译部分, 王永东编写快速阅读、写作、完形填空部分。

本书如有疏漏之处,望使用者不吝赐教。

编 者 2007年3月

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第一部分 快速阅读理解

I. 概试

快速阅读理解部分主要考查考生的略读和查读(skimming and scanning)两种能力。具体说来,也就是考查考生掌握所读材料的主旨和大意的能力;把握事实细节、领会抽象概念的能力;以及根据上下文内容判断词汇、短语和句子含义的能力。

这一部分要求考生在 15 分钟内阅读一篇 1000 字左右的文章,并完成其后的 10 道题。在 10 道题中,前 7 道为是非判断题,要求考生对所给的陈述进行判断。如果所陈述内容与原文相符,就回答 Y(Yes);如果所陈述内容与原文不符,就回答 N(No);如果所陈述内容在原文内没有提到,就回答 NG(Not Given)。后 3 道题为填空题,要求考生根据原文内容对所给句子进行补全,使之句、意完整。这些句子主要对原文内容进行转述,所填答案基本是原文中出现的原词,或对原词的词形做些变动,长度为 2 一 4 个词。要顺利完成这一部分,考生的阅读速度应达到每分钟 100 词。

快速阅读部分的题材很广,包括日常和社会生活、人物传记、科普等各方面,出现个别生僻词或短语的话,一般会用中文加以注释。

Ⅱ.解题技能

为了能快速、准确地完成这一部分,考生首先应该利用略读法(skimming),快速阅读全文,以了解全文大意、主旨和细节分布情况,以及作者的写作风格、语气等。

快读时,注意力要高度集中,遇到少量生词或难懂的语法现象应忽略,重点放在对全文概貌的理解和中心思想的掌握上。为此,要特别留意开始段、结尾段和各中间段的主题句,以及文中反复出现的词语和具体的例子、时间、人名、地名等。然后,根据题句中的陈述进行查读(scanning),以寻找获取所需信息。进行判断时,考生应正确理解题目所陈述内容,并将之与原文中相应的句子进行比较,仔细阅读并理解答案所在句子、甚至上下文的真正含义,据此做出正确判断。

在补全、完成句子时,考生应首先仔细阅读题目中所给的不完整句子,然后在原文中找到给出部分所在位置,迅速确定题中缺失的内容,然后用正确的形式对句子进行补全,使之完整。这部分题目往往是事实细节题,主要考查考生的查读能力,同时,也要求考生根据原文内容,确保所填内容与题句在时态、语态、人称、单复数及非谓语动词等方面保持一致。从这个意义上来说,也考查了考生的语言能力。因此,考生在答题时,不但要准确查找原文内容,而且还需要注意所填部分在必要时要作相应的变动,确保英文的准确、流畅。

Landfills

You have just finished your meal at a fast food restaurant and you throw your uneaten food, food wrappers, drink cups, utensils and napkins into the trash can. You don't think about that waste again. On trash pickup day in your neighborhood, you push your can out to the curb, and workers dump the contents into a big truck and haul it away. You don't have to think about that waste again, either. But maybe you have wondered, as you watch the trash truck pull away, just where that garbage ends up.

Americans generate trash at an astonishing rate of four pounds per day per person, which translates to 600,000 tons per day or 210 million tons per year! This is almost twice as much trash per person as most other major countries. What happens to this trash? Some gets recycled or recovered and some is burned, but the majority is buried in landfills.

How Much Trash Is Generated?

Of the 210 million tons of trash, or solid waste, generated in the United States annually, about 56 million tons, or 27 percent, is either recycled (glass, paper products, plastic, metals) or composted (yard waste). The remaining trash, which is mostly un-recyclable, is discarded.

How Is Trash Disposed of?

The trash production in the United States has almost tripled since 1960. This trash is handled in various ways. About 27 percent of the trash is recycled or composted, 16 percent is burned and 57 percent is buried in the landfills. The amount of trash buried in landfills has doubled since 1960. The United States ranks somewhere in the middle of the major countries (United Kingdom, Canada, Germany, France and Japan) in landfill disposal. The United Kingdom ranks highest, burying about 90 percent of its solid waste in landfills.

What Is a Landfill?

There are two ways to bury trash:

- Dump an open hole in the ground where trash is buried and that is full of various animals (rats, mice, birds). (This is most people's idea of a landfill!)
- Landfill carefully designed structure built into or on top of the ground in which trash is isolated from the surrounding environment (groundwater, air, rain). This isolation is accomplished with a bottom liner and daily covering of soil.
- O Sanitary landfill landfill that uses a clay liner to isolate the trash from the environment
- O Municipal solid waste (MSW) landfill landfill that uses a synthetic (plastic) liner to isolate the trash from the environment

The purpose of a landfill is to bury the trash in such a way that it will be isolated from groundwater, will be kept dry and will not be in contact with air. Under these conditions, trash will not decompose (腐烂) much. A landfill is not like a compost pile, where the purpose is to bury trash in such a way that it will decompose quickly.

Proposing the Landfill

For a landfill to be built, the operators have to make sure that they follow certain steps. In most parts of the world, there are regulations that govern where a landfill can be placed and how it can operate. The whole process begins with someone proposing the landfill.

In the United States, taking care of trash and building landfills are local government responsibilities. Before a city or other authority can build a landfill, an environmental impact study must be done on the proposed site to determine:

- The area of land necessary for the landfill
- The composition of the underlying soil and bedrock
- The flow of surface water over the site
- The impact of the proposed landfill on the local environment and wildlife
- The historical value of the proposed site

Building the Landfill

Once the environmental impact study is complete, the permits are granted and the funds have been raised, then construction begins. First, access roads to the landfill site must be built if they do not already exist. These roads will be used by construction equipment, sanitation services and the general public. After roads have been built, digging can begin. In the North Wake Country Landfill, the landfill began 10 feet below the road surface.

What Happens to Trash in a Landfill?

Trash put in a landfill will stay there for a very long time. Inside a landfill, there is little oxygen and little moisture. Under these conditions, trash does not break down very rapidly. In fact, when old landfills have been dug up or sampled, 40-year-old newspapers have been found with easily readable print. Landfills are not designed to break down trash, merely to bury it. When a landfill closes, the site, especially the groundwater, must be monitored and maintained for up to 30 years!

How Is a Landfill Operated?

A landfill, such as the North Wake County Landfill, must be open and available every day. Customers are typically municipalities and construction companies, although residents may also use the landfill.

Near the entrance of the landfill is a recycling center where residents can drop off recyclable materials (aluminum cans, glass bottles, newspapers and paper products). This helps to reduce the amount of material in the landfill. Some of these materials are banned from landfills by law because they can be recycled.

As customers enter the site, their trucks are weighed at the scale house. Customers are charged tipping fees for using the site. The tipping fees vary from \$10 to \$40 per ton. These fees are used to pay for operation costs. The North Wake County Landfill has an operating budget of approximately \$4.5 million, and part of that comes from tipping fees.

Along the site, there are drop-off stations for materials that are not wanted or legally banned by the landfill. A multi-material drop-off station is used for tiers, motor oil, lead-acid batteries. Some of these materials can be recycled.

In addition, there is a household hazardous waste drop-off station for chemicals (paints, pesticides, other chemicals) that are banned from the landfill. These chemicals are disposed of by private companies. Some paints can be recycled and some organic chemicals can be burned in furnaces or power plants.

Other structures alongside the landfill are the borrowed area that supplies the soil for the landfill, the runoff collection pond and methane(甲烷) station.

Landfills are complicated structures that, when properly designed and managed, serve an important purpose. In the future, new technologies called bioreactors will be used to speed the breakdown of trash in landfills and produce more methane.

- 1. The passage gives a general description of the structure and use of a landfill.
- 2. Most of the trash that Americans generate ends up in landfills.
- 3. Compared with other major industrialized countries, America buries a much higher percentage of its solid waste in landfills.
- 4. Landfills are like compost piles in that they speed up decomposition of the buried trash.
- 5. In most countries the selection of a landfill site is governed by rules and regulations.
- 6. In the United States the building of landfills is the job of both federal and local governments.
- 7. Hazardous wastes have to be treated before being dumped into landfills.
- 8. Typical customers of a landfill are _____.
- 9. To dispose of a ton of trash in a landfill, customers have to pay a tipping fee of _____.
- 10. Materials that are not permitted to be buried in landfills should be dumped at _____.

解析:

第一题:答案 Y。由各个小标题总结而来。

第二题:答案 Y。由第二段最后一句得出。

第三题:答案 N。由小标题 How is Trash Disposed of 下第二段最后两句得出。

第四题:答案 N。由小标题 What is a Landfill 下最后一句得出。

第五题:答案 Y。由小标题 Proposing the Landfill 下第一段第二句得出。

第六题:答案 N。由小标题 Proposing the Landfill 下第二段第二句得出。

第七题:答案 NG。由倒数第三段推断得出。

第八题:在最后一个小标题 How Is a Landfill Operated 下第一段: Customers are typically municipalities and construction companies, although residents may also use the landfill. 因而答案 应为: municipalities and construction companies。

第九题:在最后一个小标题 How Is a Landfill Operated 下第三段: Customers are charged tipping fees for using the site. The tipping fees vary from \$10 to \$40 per ton. 因而得出答案: \$10 to \$40。

第十题:倒数第四段第一句: Along the site, there are drop-off stations for materials that are not wanted or legally banned by the landfill. 因而得出答案: drop-off stations。

Ⅲ. 题型训练

Fast Reading Exercises

1. The Internet and the World Wide Web

History of Communications, Information Age

Before we touch the Internet, let's first review the history of communications. The invention of the telegraph increased the speed at which information could be sent. Satellites in space greatly increased the speed of communications. The development of the computer and the linking of computers bring about major systems called networks.

Vannevar Bush's Idea

In July, 1945, the Atlantic Monthly Magazine printed a long report written by an important scientist. His name was Vannevar Bush. Mr. Bush explained that researchers around the world were producing new ideas and useful information every day. He said the information was being produced faster than anyone could read it, remember it, or even know where to find it.

He explained that the technology of 1945 permitted information to be kept only in books or pictures. He said some new device must be invented that would make it possible to search for, find and use new information much more quickly.

Mr. Bush explained that research information is most valuable when it is new. One small piece of information could help a researcher finish an extremely important project.

Mr. Bush wrote that he hoped a device would be invented that could store information. He said people should be able to easily link with this device to search for and gather useful information. Such a device would greatly speed gathering information and would greatly aid research.

The Internet and the World Wide Web

The device that Mr. Bush dreamed about in 1945 is now very real. It is the modern computer, linked with other computers. The link is through the Internet and the World Wide Web communications system.

The computer and the Internet now make it possible to find and gather information about any subject within a few minutes.

Here is a good example. Oncology(肿瘤学) is the study of the disease cancer. There are many hundreds of medical research centers that are working to cure cancer.

The Japanese Journal of Clinical Oncology is one of many publications that print important cancer research information. The research papers tell about the results of treatment for many different kinds of cancer. The information in this journal is written for medical experts.

The editors of this cancer research journal place valuable cancer research information on the

World Wide Web. This makes it possible for health care professionals and researchers all over the world to use the information for educational or research purposes. By using the Internet, a researcher anywhere in the world is able to find information from the Japanese Journal of Clinical Oncology and print a copy in just a few minutes.

To find the journal, a researcher would only have to type three words into an Internet search system on a computer. The three words are oncology, research and journal. Within seconds, the World Wide Web provides a list of several possible research papers from several countries. The study in the Japanese Journal of Clinical Oncology is only one of many valuable research papers that are on the World Wide Web.

Not every search is easy. Sometimes it can take a while before the right combination of words produces the needed result. However, the World Wide Web and the Internet will almost always provide the research with a way to find the needed information. The computer provides a quick link to the new information that scientists like Vannaver Bush said were badly needed.

Eric Benhamou is the head of a computer company called 3Com Corporation. Mr. Benhamou says people are using the computer and the Internet to communicate for work and to exchange information with their families and friends. He says people also use the Internet to learn new things and visit different places.

Today almost 150 million people use the Internet in the United States. A recent study showed they use the Internet for communication for research. The study also showed that much of the research that is done leads to buying products with the aid of a computer and the Internet. The study also showed that more people than ever are now using the computer to buy products.

In the United States, many businesses expect their workers to know how to use computers. Children now begin learning to use computers in their first years of school. Many universities in the United States now require all new students to have their own computers. Most colleges provide special rooms that have computers for the use of all students.

Criticism

Governments, private groups and individuals have criticized the Internet. Some governments do not trust the Internet because they say it is extremely difficult to control the information that is placed there.

Some government officials say extremist groups place harmful information on the Internet. They say dangerous political information should be banned. Other groups say it is difficult to protect children from sexual information and pictures placed on the Internet. They say this kind of information should be banned.

Other critics say that it is becoming extremely difficult to know if you can trust the information that is found on the Internet. They wonder if the information is true. Did the person who placed it on the Internet make any mistakes? Still other critics say the Internet is no longer a free exchange of information and ideas. They say it has become a big business that sells products, services and information. They want the Internet to be used only for research and education.

The Future of Communications and the Internet

What is the future of communications and the Internet? Experts do not really know. Computers

continue to grow smaller and more powerful with each passing year. Computers that were thought to be very powerful 10 years ago are now considered extremely weak and slow.

It is now possible to connect a computer with a wireless telephone that can link with communications satellites.

A person with a small computer that can be easily carried can now link with other computers from anywhere in the world. A person can use a computer that receives its electric power from batteries and is linked with a satellite telephone. This person can communicate from anywhere in the world.

Some experts say that in the future people will not use large computers on their desks. They will use only small computer devices that link to the Internet. These devices will be easily carried from place to place.

All the information people use of business or for fun will be on their own area of the World Wide Web. This has already happened. Many people already have their own private area on the World Wide Web.

Businesses have their own special areas. A husband and a wife with a new baby place photographs of the baby in a special area so relatives can see the new addition to the family.

- This passage mainly talks about the Internet system and the future of communications via Internet.
- 2. The telegraph, satellites and networks are three milestones in the history of communications.
- 3. Vannevar Bush said that the technology of his time could work at his time but would not meet the speed of the future information production.
- 4. Vannevar Bush predicted some new device like a computer should be invented to make information easier to find, use and store.
- 5. Vannevar Bush's dream comes true because modern computer networks perform the work he wanted and provide even much more.
- 6. People use the Internet and the World Wide Web to exchange ideas and share information for academic purposes.
- 7. The Internet is receiving much criticism because it is difficult to control and discern the information put on the Internet.
- 8. With the fast development of computers, a person can communicate from anywhere in the world if his computer is linked with a ______.
- 9. In the future, people will work with portable computer devices, which can get connected to the

10. People could have their own private area to store information on the	10.	People could	have their	own private are	ea to store	information on	the
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2. Preventing Student Suicides

A cluster of sudden deaths over a few months last winter and spring, including two suicides, prompted a George Washington University commission to ask some tough questions in an internal report that has already changed life on campus.

The university doubled the student health service psychiatry hours to 20 a week. It launched a peer education program, in which students can earn credits for talking about warning signs. It pushed harder to promote counseling, with ads and online links, and encouraged faculty and staff to watch for signs of trouble.

The commission also asked the university for more funding for the counseling center, and the university is seeking money from private sources for other projects. The university does not provide long-term psychiatric care on campus, and some have complained that there are not enough counseling staff members for the 20,000 or so students.

Then in September, another student killed herself.

At many campuses, there is a growing urgency to find ways large and small to prevent suicide to help students long before they slip into psychiatric hospitalization or worse. That means more emphasis in dorms and classrooms on watching for warning signs, and everything from hiring more counselors to bringing dogs onto campus during exam week, as the College of William and Mary has done, for stressed-out students to pat.

There's a wave of interest now, said James Welsh, assistant vice president of student health services at Georgetown University who has been talking with staff about improving training for faculty. A Georgetown student committed suicide last spring, and a student died the previous winter; before that, years had gone by without a suicide there.

Suicides are rare on campus in the past five years, GW had just one other suicide and college students are far less likely to kill themselves than other people their age. But a cluster of deaths at New York University recently reminded administrators across the country that suicide is still the second most common cause of death for college students. Suicides have led to lawsuits against schools by angry parents, pushed questions about privacy and responsibility to the forefront, and showed just how overwhelming academic life can be.

Increasing numbers of students are seeking counseling, with increasingly serious problems, at colleges across the country.

There are lots of reasons for that, said Michael Mond, director of the Johns Hopkins University Counseling Center, including students who wouldn't have been able to handle college years ago who have gotten medication and treatment in high school. Now there's less stigma(污名) to getting counseling, more efforts by colleges to promote services and, he said, higher stress.

And more money could become available to help. Sen. Gordon Smith (R-Ore) sponsored legislation, signed into law this fall, which he said will provide \$11.5 million this year for youth suicide prevention.

"We just watched our son really deteriorate physically and emotionally," Smith said. "It's a very helpless and hopeless feeling that a parent has when you see a child suffer that way." Garrett Lee Smith killed himself in fall 2003 at a college in Utah.

"Many of my colleagues (in Congress) came forward for the first time to talk about suicide in their own families," Smith said. "We touched a raw nerve."

And more research is under way. The parents of a 20-year-old college student who killed himself formed a national non-profit group, the Jed Foundation, in 2000. Jed has helped fund studies on prevention at universities and gotten an anonymous online screening form onto hundreds of college Websites.

Across the region, schools have been emphasizing prevention in different ways. Johns Hopkins tracks students who have indicated suicidal risk on a questionnaire — last year, 39 of about 7,000 students were considered at serious risk — and a group meets every week to talk about students they're most worried about.

Catholic University prefers to treat the most serious cases on campus, seeing the potential for coordination among housing, faculty and counseling as a powerful safety net.

At the university of Maryland, efforts include a crisis hotline with students trained to take the calls, so that getting help is less intimidating.

"Most of these kids don't want to end their lives," said David Jobes of Catholic University, a clinical psychologist and past president of the American Association of Suicidology. They are feeling overwhelmed, he said, but by and large they're smart, motivated young people who do very well with treatment. "The vast majority of kids can be helped."

But experts don't agree yet on exactly how to provide that help. An Air Force program had become a national model — a study found it had reduced the risk of suicide by a third over six years — but last year the rate climbed back up with more deaths.

"It's exasperating." Said Jobes, who is a consultant to the Air Force program. He hopes that 10 years from now, counselors will have solid data on the most effective means of prevention for college students.

Meanwhile, at GW, things are changing.

Cahan, a senior, started a student group in 2003 that has offered yoga, or a movie, along with information about counseling. Students will be more aware of the help that's out there, Cahan said. And online resources will help, Cahan said, since many students steer clear of the counseling center because they're worried about confidentiality and what their friends, parents or future employers might think.

Cahan said one of the most important things she and others in her group do is just watch for problems — if someone's not sleeping, or freaking out about classes.

"We all have our own friends, and we look out for them," she said.

- Susan Kinzie, The Washington Post, Jan. 15, 2005

- 1. George Washington University has taken a series of measures to prevent suicides.
- 2. Those who commit suicide often make trouble on campus before they attempt it.
- Students and teachers at many campuses are encouraged to watch for and help those who are likely to have psychiatric problems.
- 4. College life may be too overwhelming for some students to handle.
- 5. In New York University, more students are seeking counseling than any other colleges and universities.
- Every week worried teachers at Johns Hopkins University talk to those students who are at suicidal risk.

- Most experts agree that most of these young people can be helped by talking with trained students on the hotline.
 By saying "we touched a raw nerve", Smith means that the problem causes ______.
 At present, solid data on the most effective means of prevention are ______.
 Worries about confidentiality and what their friends, parents or future employers might think
 - 3. Airplane

Airplane Instruments

keep many students

Modern airplanes are complicated machines. Pilots need many gauges (量表) and electronic aids to help fly them. The flight deck of a large passenger plane contains many indicator dials and warning lights. One of the most important instruments is the altimeter, which tells the pilot how high the plane is off the ground. The air speed indicator measures the plane's speed. The artificial horizon shows the position of the plane relative to the horizon. The turn-and-back indicator shows how much, if at all, the plane is turning and tilting. In dense clouds and fog, a pilot would not always know which way the plane is heading if it weren't for this instrument. A gyrocompass (旋转罗盘) and various radio devices are necessary for navigation.

Most large planes also have an automatic pilot. This is a device operated by a computer. It will fly the plane without the pilot's touching the controls. These autopilots can even control takeoffs and landings. The flight deck also contains many gauges and meters that tell the pilot whether the many pieces of equipment on the plane are operating properly. They measure fuel level, temperatures, cabin pressure, electric current, etc. Indicators show whether the landing gear is up or down. The radio equipment allows the pilot to talk to ground controllers and to receive navigation.

Airplane Construction

Early airplanes were made of wood frames covered by fabric and held in shape by wire. After World War I, airplane designers started to use lightweight metals like aluminum, titanium, and magnesium alloys. A thin skin of metal was fixed into place over metal ribs. Strong epoxy(环氧的) glues are now used for some joints, instead of rivets. As planes grew in size, they became heavier. More powerful engines were developed in order to fly the heavier planes.

The use of metals brings with it a problem called metal fatigue. Stress and vibration in flight can cause metal parts eventually to break up. Airplanes must be constantly checked for signs of this trouble. Defective parts must be renewed by aircraft maintenance people.

Designers test scale models in wind tunnels before the full-sized planes are built. Reactions of the models to high-speed air streams give good indications how full-sized planes will react in flight. This approach helps save a lot of money. It also helps to make airplanes safe.

Airport

An airport is a place where airplanes arrive and depart. Passengers leave and arrive on the airports and cargo is loaded and unloaded. Large, jet-powered airplanes require long runways for take-offs and landings. Big terminal buildings are necessary to handle thousands of passengers and their 10