

大学英语四级考试过关系列 总主编 马永红

4级 CET4



阅读强化测试

Intensified Reading for CET (Band 4)

何立芳 主编



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济大学出版社

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Intensified Reading for CET (Band 4)

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内 容 提 要

国家教委《大学英语教学大纲》、《大学英语四级考试大纲》都将阅读能力置于核心位置,“阅读理解”的得分率已经成为四级考试能否顺利过关之关键。为了帮助学生在有限的时间内大量阅读,在临考前对阅读理解进行重点突击,编者从大纲出发,参照国家教委公布的样题和暴光题,广取博纳,精心选编了这本《阅读强化测试》。全书分五个部分,每个部分 10 个单元,共 50 个单元,每个单元 4 篇文章,20 个问题,要求在 35 分钟内完成,平均难度略高于大纲要求,细心的读者一定会发现该书对大学英语四级应考大有裨益。

鉴于英语四级考试大纲会有变化,本书充分考虑了这一趋向,并对有关内容作了有针对性的安排。

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前 言

全国大学英语四级考试已推行了十余年之久。为了更好地评估教学质量,更客观地检查大纲落实情况,进一步指导大学英语教学,国家教委从 1995 年起就先后推出了“听写填空”、“英译汉”及“简答题”等新题型。今后,随着教学改革的不断深化,测试手段将日臻完善,新的题型还可能出现。但从近几年的试题结构来看,不论新题型如何变化,“阅读理解”始终处于绝对突出的位置;每小题 2 分,相当于“词汇结构”或“完形填空”4 道题;阅读材料还将在“英译汉”或“简答题”中加以测试。因此,“阅读理解”的得分率已经成为四级考试能否顺利过关之关键。

国家教委《大学英语教学大纲》、《大学英语四级考试大纲》都将阅读能力置于核心位置,但目前学生能接触到的阅读材料大多淹没于名目繁多的成套成册的模拟题和样题之中,真正单打一的、针对性强的阅读材料并不多见。为了帮助学生在有限的时间内大量阅读,在临考前对阅读理解进行重点突击,编者从大纲出发,参照国家教委公布的样题和曝光题,广取博纳,精心选编了这本《阅读强化测试》,细心的读者一定会发现本书对大学英语四级应考大有裨益。

全书分五个部分,每个部分 10 个单元,共 50 个单元,每个单元 4 篇文章,20 个问题,要求在 35 分钟内完成。取材涉及面广,信息量大,平均难度略高于大纲要求。常用词复现率高,词汇基本上取自《大学英语四级考试通用词汇表》,个别不易猜测的超纲词予以注释。问题设置侧重于分析推理和归纳总结两个方面,书末附有参考答案。

在编辑过程中,有许多专家、学者对我的工作给予了大力支持。李靖、李茂秀、高增安、刘桦、谢关平、刘虹、高增良、刘磊、陈月梅、曹俊、湛蓝、罗功龙等同志,在本书的编辑和校对过程中做了大量细致的工作。在此,谨向他们表示由衷的谢意。

限于编者学识水平,疏漏错误之处难免,恳请读者同仁批评指正。

马永红

2004 年 2 月

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Part I

Unit 1

Passage 1

It is difficult to imagine what life would be like without memory. The meanings of thousands of everyday perceptions, the bases for the decisions we make, and the roots of our habits and skills are to be found in our past experiences, which are brought into the present by memory.

Memory can be defined as the capacity to keep information available for later use. It includes not only “remembering” things like arithmetic or historical facts, but also involves any change in the way an animal typically behaves. Memory is involved when a rat gives up eating grain because he has sniffed something suspicious in the grain pile. Memory is also involved when a six-year-old child learns to swing a baseball bat.

Memory exists not only in humans and animals but also in some physical objects and machines. Computers, for example, contain devices for storing data for later use. It is interesting to compare the memory-storage capacity of a computer with that of a human being. The instant-access memory of a large computer may hold up to 100 000 “words”— ready for instant use. An average U. S. teenager probably recognizes the meaning of about 100 000 words of English. However, this is but a fraction of the total amount of information which the teenager has stored. Consider, for example, the number of faces and places that the teenager can recognize on sight.

The use of words is the basis of the advanced problem-solving intelligence of human beings. A large part of a person's memory is in terms of words and combinations of words.

1. According to the passage, memory is considered to be _____.
 - A) the basis for decision making and problem solving
 - B) an ability to store experiences of future use
 - C) an intelligence typically possessed by human beings
 - D) the data mainly consisting of words and combinations of words
2. The comparison made between the memory capacity of a large computer and that of a human being shows that _____.
 - A) the computer's memory has a little bigger capacity than a teenager's
 - B) the computer's memory capacity is much smaller than an adult human being's
 - C) the computer's memory capacity is much smaller even than a teenager's
 - D) both A and B
3. The whole passage implies that _____.
 - A) only human beings have problem-solving intelligence
 - B) a person's memory is different from a computer's in every respect

- C) animals are able to solve only very simple problems
- D) animals solve problems by instincts rather than intelligence
- 4. The phrase "in terms of" in the last sentence can best be replaced by _____.
 - A) in connection with
 - B) expressed by
 - C) consisting
 - D) by means of
- 5. The topic of the passage is _____.
 - A) What would life be like without memory?
 - B) Memory is of vital importance to life.
 - C) How is a person's memory different from an animal's or a computer's?
 - D) What is contained in memory?

Passage 2

A subject which seems to have been insufficiently studied by doctors and psychologists is the influence of geography and climate on the psychological and physical health of mankind. There seems no doubt that the general character of the landscape, the relative length of day and night, and the climate must all play a big part in determining what kind of people are.

It is true that a few studies have been made. Where all the inhabitants of particular area enjoy exceptionally good or bad health, scientists have identified contributory factors such as the presence or absence of substances like iodine, fluoride, calcium, or iron in the water supply, or perhaps types of land that provide breeding places for pests like mosquitoes or rats.

Moreover, we can all generalize about types of people we have met. Those living in countries with long dark winters are apt to be less talkative and less vivacious (活泼的) than inhabitants of countries where the climate is more equable (稳定的). And where the olive and the orange grow, there the inhabitants are cheerful, talkative, and spontaneous.

But these commonplace generalizations are inadequate; the influence of climate and geography should be studied in depth. Do all mountain dwellers live to a ripe old age? Does the drinking of wine, rather than beer, result in a sunny and open temperament? Is the strength and height of one of the Keyan tribes due to their habitual drinking of the blood of cows?

We are not yet sure of the answers to such questions, but let us hope that something of benefit to mankind may eventually result from such studies.

- 6. _____ might serve as a suitable title for this selection.
 - A) The Importance of Geographical Environment
 - B) The Influence of Geographical Environment on Man
 - C) Generalization of Types of People
 - D) Geographical Environment: a Mysterious Subject
- 7. Using context clues we may infer that "iodine, fluoride and calcium" are _____.
 - A) substances which act positively or negatively on man's health
 - B) harmful substances in the water supply
 - C) substance which help provide breeding places for pests
 - D) substance contributory to good health
- 8. We may infer from the third paragraph that geography and climate play an important role

- in determining the inhabitants' ____.
- A) health condition
 - B) personality
 - C) life-span
 - D) all of the above
9. According to the author, research into the influence of geography and climate should ____.
- A) focus on some unknown aspects
 - B) be pursued on a larger scale
 - C) be carried out within a larger scope
 - D) go much deeper
10. The author hopes that studies on the influence of geographical environment will enable us to ____.
- A) generalize better about types of people
 - B) find better water supplies
 - C) gain an insight into its influence on mankind
 - D) live to a ripe old age

Passage 3

People tend to be more impressed by evidence that seems to confirm some relationship. Thus many are convinced their dreams are prophetic (预言的) because a few have come true; they neglect or fail to notice the many that have not.

Consider also the belief that "the phone always rings when I'm in the shower." If it does ring while you are in the shower, the event will stand out and be remembered. If it doesn't ring, that nonevent probably won't even register (留下印象).

People want to see order, pattern and meaning in the world. Consider, for example, the common belief that things like personal misfortunes, plane crashes, and deaths "happen in threes." Such beliefs stem from the tendency of people to allow the third event to define the time period. If three plane crashes occur in a month, then the period of time that counts as their "happening together" is one month; if three crashes occur in a year, the period of time is stretched. Flexible end points reinforce such beliefs.

We also tend to believe what we want to believe. A majority of people think they are more intelligent, more fair-minded and more skilled behind the wheel of an automobile than the average person. Part of the reason we view ourselves so favorably is that we use criteria that work to our advantage. As economist Thomas Schelling explains, "Everybody ranks himself high in qualities he values; careful drivers give weight to care, skilled drivers give weight to skill, and those who are polite give weight to courtesy." This way everyone ranks high on his own scale.

Perhaps the most important mental habit we can learn is to be cautious (谨慎的) in drawing conclusions. The "evidence" of everyday life is sometimes misleading.

11. In the first paragraph the author states that ____.
- A) dreams cannot be said to be prophetic even though a few have come true

- B) dreams are prophetic because some of them did come true
 C) dreams may come true if clearly remembered
 D) dreams and reality are closely related
12. By "things like ..." "happen in threes" (Line 2, Para. 3), the author indicates that people believe _____.
 A) personal misfortunes tend to happen every now and then
 B) personal misfortunes, plane crashes, and deaths usually happen together
 C) misfortunes tend to occur according to certain patterns
 D) misfortunes will never occur more than three times to a person in his lifetimeA)
13. The word "courtesy" (Para. 4, Line 6) probably means _____.
 A) good manners B) appropriate speech
 C) friendly relations D) satisfactory service
14. What can be inferred from the passage?
 A) Happenings that go unnoticed deserve more attention.
 B) In a series of misfortunes the third one is usually the most serious.
 C) People tend to make use of evidence that supports their own beliefs.
 D) Believers of misfortunes happening in threes are cautious in interpreting events.
15. It can be concluded from the passage that _____.
 A) there is some truth even in the wildest dreams
 B) one should take notice of other people's merits
 C) there is no order or pattern in world events
 D) we should not base our conclusions on accidental evidence

Passage 4

It is not often realized that women held a high place in southern European societies in the 10th and 11th centuries. As a wife, the woman was protected by the setting up of a dowry(嫁妆) or decimum. Admittedly, the purpose of this was to protect her against the risk of desertion, but in reality its function in the social and family life of the time was much more important. The decimum was the wife's right to receive a tenth of all her husband's property. The wife had the right to withhold consent, in all transactions the husband would make, and more than just a right; the documents show that she enjoyed a real power of decision, equal to that of her husband. In no case do the documents indicate any degree of difference in the legal status of husband and wife.

The wife shared in the management of her husband's personal property, but the opposite was not always true. Women seemed perfectly prepared to defend their own inheritance against husbands who tried to exceed their rights, and on occasion they showed a fine fighting spirit. A case in point is that of Maria Vitas, a Catalan woman of Barcelona. Having agreed with her husband Miro to sell a field she had inherited, for the needs of the household, she insisted on compensation. None being offered, she succeeded in dragging her husband to the scribe(文书) to have a contract duly drawn up assigning her a piece of land from Miro's personal inheritance. The unfortunate husband was obliged to agree, as the contract says, "for the sake of peace." Either through the dowry or through being hot-tempered, the Catalan wife knew how to win herself,

with the context of the family, a powerful economic position.

16. A decimum was _____.
A) the wife's inheritance from her father
B) a gift of money to the new husband
C) a written contract
D) the wife's right to receive one-tenth of her husband's property
17. In the society described in the passage, the legal standing of the wife in marriage was _____.
A) higher than that of her husband
B) lower than that of her husband
C) the same as that of her husband
D) higher than that of a single woman
18. What compensation did Maria Vivas get for the field?
A) Some of the land Miro had inherited.
B) A tenth of Miro's land.
C) Money for household expenses.
D) Money from Miro's inheritance.
19. Could a husband sell his wife's inheritance?
A) No, under no circumstances.
B) Yes, whenever he wished to.
C) Yes, if she agreed.
D) Yes, if his father-in-law agreed.
20. Which of the following is NOT mentioned as an effect of the dowry system?
A) The husband had to share the power of decision in marriage.
B) The wife was protected from desertion.
C) The wife gained a powerful economic position.
D) The husband was given control over his wife's property.

Unit 2

Passage 1

What do we think with? Only the brain? Hardly. The brain is like a telephone exchange. It is the switchboard, but not the whole system. Its function is to receive incoming signals, make proper connections, and send the messages through to their destination. For efficient service, the body must function as a whole.

But where is the "mind"? Is it in the brain? Or perhaps in the nervous system? After all, can we say that the mind is in any particular place? It is not a thing like a leg or even the brain. It is a function, an activity. Aristotle, twenty-three hundred years ago, observed that the mind was to the body what cutting was to the ax. When the ax is not in use, there is no cutting. So with the mind. "Mind" said Charles H. Woolbert, "is what the body is doing."

If this activity is necessary for thinking, it is also necessary for carrying thought from one person to another. Observe how people go about the business of ordinary conversation. If you have never done this painstakingly (费力的), you have a surprise in store, for good conversationalists are almost constantly in motion. Their heads are continually nodding and shaking sometimes so vigorously that you wonder how their necks can stand the strain.

Even the legs and feet are active. As for the hands and arms, they are seldom still for more than a few seconds at a time.

These people, remember, are not making speeches. They are merely common folk trying to make others understand what they have in mind. They are not conscious of movement. Their speech is not studied. They are just human creatures in a human environment, trying to adapt themselves to a social situation. Yet they converse, not only with oral language but with visible actions that involve practically every muscle in the body.

In short, because people really think all over, a speaker must talk all over if he succeeds in making people think.

1. Which of the following is the best title for the passage?
 - A) Bodily Communication.
 - B) Bodily Actions.
 - C) Spoken Language.
 - D) Conversations.
2. Which of the following statements would the author agree with?
 - A) Thinking is a social phenomenon.
 - B) Thinking is solely a brain function.
 - C) Thinking is a function of the nervous system.
 - D) Thinking is the sum total of bodily activity.
3. In communication, it is essential not only to employ speech, but also _____.
 - A) to speak directly to the other person
 - B) to employ a variety of bodily movements

- C) to be certain that the other person is listening
 - D) to pay great attention to the other person's behaviour
4. It can be inferred from the passage that the basic function of bodily activity in speech is to _____.
- A) make the listener feel emotional
 - B) make the speaker understood
 - C) amplify or intensify the speaker's spoken words
 - D) convey the speaker's implied meaning to the listener
5. Which of the following is TRUE?
- A) The brain is compared to a telephone exchange.
 - B) The mind is an activity of the nervous system.
 - C) Some people remain still while talking to others.
 - D) Many people move their bodies on purpose while talking.

Passage 2

As a boy, Sanders was much influenced by books about the sea, but in fact by the age of fifteen he had decided to become a doctor rather than a sailor. His father was a dentist and as a result Sanders had the opportunity of meeting doctors socially. When he was fourteen he was already hanging around the dispensary(药房) of the local doctor where he was supposed to be helping to wrap up medicine bottles, but was actually trying to listen to the conversations with patients taking place in the next room.

During the war Sanders served in the Navy as a surgeon. "That was the happiest time of my life, doing major surgery. I was dealing with very real suffering and on the whole making a success of it." In Rhodes he taught the country people simple facts about medicine. He saw himself as a life-saver. He had proved his skill to himself and his ability to take decisions. With this proof came the firm belief that those who lived simply, those who were dependent upon him, possessed qualities and a secret of living which he lacked. Thus, while in a position to tell them what to do, he could feel he was serving them.

After the war, he married and chose a practice deep in the English countryside, working under an old doctor who was much liked in the district, but who hated the sight of blood and believed that the secret of medicine was faith. This gave the younger man plenty of opportunity to go on working as a life-saver.

6. As Sanders grew up _____.
- A) the doctors he met were very friendly
 - B) he met doctors with strong political opinions
 - C) the doctors he met ran social services
 - D) he was often in the company of doctors
7. He helped in the dispensary because he wanted to _____.
- A) find out more about the doctor's work
 - B) wrap up bottles of medicine
 - C) find out the secrets of the patients

- D) learn more about the medicine in the bottles
8. His experience in the Navy taught him that _____.
A) surgeons had the happiest lives
B) he was good at relieving those in pain
C) surgeons on ships could be very successful
D) he was successful at making people suffer
9. When Sanders was working in Rhodes during the war, he _____.
A) discovered the virtues of a simple life
B) wanted to live like a countryman
C) wanted to be able to take decisions
D) taught life-saving to his patients
10. After the war, he _____.
A) married an older doctor working in a country town
B) chose a junior partner who was very popular
C) decided to marry someone living deep in the country
D) joined an old country doctor who needed someone to help him

Passage 3

Basic to any understanding of Canada in the 20 years after the Second World War is the country's impressive population growth. For every three Canadians in 1945, there were over five in 1966. In September 1966 Canada's population passed the 20 million mark. Most of this *surging growth* came from natural increase. The depression of the 1930's and the war had held back marriages, and the catching-up process began after 1945. The baby boom continued through the decade of the 1950's, producing a population increase of nearly fifteen percent in the five years from 1951 to 1956. This rate of increase had been exceeded only once before in Canada's history, in the decade before 1911, when the prairies(大草原) were being settled. Undoubtedly, the good economic conditions of the 1950's supported a growth in the population, but the expansion also derived from a trend toward earlier marriages and an increase in the average size of families. In 1957 the Canadian birth rate stood at 28 per thousand, one of the highest in the world.

After the peak year of 1957, the birth rate in Canada began to decline. It continued falling until in 1966 it stood at the lowest level in 25 years. Partly this decline reflected the low level of births during the depression and the war, but it was also caused by changes in Canadian society. Young people were staying at school longer; more women were working; young married couples were buying automobiles or houses before starting families; rising living standards were cutting down the size of families. It appeared that Canada was once more falling in step with trend toward smaller families that had occurred all through the Western world since the time of the Industrial Revolution.

Although the growth in Canada's population had slowed down by 1966 (the increase in the first half of the 1960's was only nine percent), another large population wave was coming over the horizon. It would be composed of the children who were born during the period of the high birth rate prior to 1957.

11. The word “surging” in Line 4 is closest in meaning to _____.
A) accelerating
B) extra
C) surprising
D) new
12. The author suggests that in Canada during the 1950’s _____.
A) the birth rate was very high
B) economic conditions were poor
C) the urban population decreased rapidly
D) fewer people married
13. The author mentions all of the following as causes of declines in population growth after 1957 EXCEPT _____.
A) people being better educated
B) better standards of living
C) people getting married earlier
D) couples buying houses
14. It can be inferred from the passage that before the Industrial Revolution _____.
A) the population grew steadily
B) economic conditions were bad
C) population statistics was unreliable
D) families were larger
15. What does the passage mainly discuss? _____.
A) Educational changes in Canadian society
B) Standards of living in Canada
C) Canada during the Second World War
D) Population trends in postwar Canada

Passage 4

The advantages and disadvantages of large population have long been a subject of discussion among economists. It has been argued that the supply of good land is limited. To feed a large population, inferior land must be cultivated and the good land worked intensively. Thus, each person produces less and this means a lower average income than could be obtained with a smaller population. Other economists have argued that a large population gives more scope for specialization and the development of facilities such as ports, roads and railways, which are not likely to be built unless there is big demand to justify them.

One of the difficulties in carrying out a world-wide birth control program lies in the fact that official attitudes to population growth vary from country depending on the level of industrial development and the availability of food and raw materials. In the developing country where a vastly expanded population is pressing hard upon the limits of food, space and natural resources, it will be the first concern of government to place a limit on the birthrate, whatever the consequences may be. In a highly industrialized society the problem may be more complex. A decreasing birthrate may lead to unemployment because it results in a declining market for manufactured goods. When the pressure of population on housing declines, prices also decline and building industry is weakened. Faced with considerations such as these, the government of a developed country may well prefer to see a slowly increasing population, rather than one which is stable or in decline.

16. A small population may mean _____.

- A) higher productivity, but a lower average income
B) lower productivity, but a higher average income
C) lower productivity and a lower average income
D) higher productivity and a higher average income
17. According to the passage, a large population will provide a chance for developing _____.
A) agriculture B) transport system
C) industry D) national economy
18. In a developed country, people will perhaps go to work if the birthrate _____.
A) goes up B) goes down
C) remains stable D) is out of control
19. According to the passage, slowly rising birthrate perhaps is good for _____.
A) a developing nation
B) a developed nation
C) every nation with a big population
D) every nation with a small population
20. It is no easy job to carry out a general plan for birth control throughout the world because _____.
A) there are too many underdeveloped countries in the world
B) underdeveloped countries have low level of industrial development
C) different governments have different views of the questions
D) even developed countries may have complex problems

Unit 3

Passage 1

Flying over a desert area in an airplane, two scientists looked down with trained eyes at trees and bushes. After an hour's flight one of the scientists wrote in his book, "Look here for probable metal." Scientists in another airplane, flying over a mountain region, sent a message to other scientists on the ground, "Gold Possible." Walking across hilly ground, four scientists reported. "This ground should be searched for metals." From an airplane over a hilly wasteland a scientist sent back by radio one word, "Uranium".

None of the scientists had X-ray eyes; they had no magic powers for looking down below the earth's surface. They were merely putting to use one of the newest methods of locating minerals in the ground — using trees and plants as signs that certain minerals may lie beneath the ground on which the trees and plants are growing.

This newest method of searching for minerals is based on the fact that minerals deep in the earth may affect the kind of bushes and trees that grow on the surface.

At Watson Bar Creek, a brook six thousand feet high in the mountains of British Columbia, Canada, however, one tends to believe fully in the reality of the dream world. A mineral search group gathered bags of tree seeds. Boxes were filled with small branches from the trees. Roots were dug and put into boxes. Each bag and box was carefully marked. In a scientific laboratory the parts of the forest trees were burned to ashes and tested. Each small part was examined to learn whether there were minerals in it.

Study of the roots, branches, and seeds showed no silver. But there were small amounts of gold in the roots and a little less gold in the branches and seeds. The seeds growing nearest to the tree trunk had more gold than those growing on the ends of the branches.

If the trees had not indicated that there was gold in the ground, the scientists would not have spent money to pay for digging into the ground. They did dig and found more gold below. They dug deeper. They found large quantities of gold.

1. Scientists were flying over a desert or a hilly wasteland or a mountain region in order to search for _____.
A) gold
B) silver
C) metals
D) minerals
2. The study of trees, branches and roots indicates that _____.
A) there were larger amounts of gold in the branches than in the seeds
B) there were smaller amounts of gold in the roots than in the branches
C) there were larger amounts of gold in the seeds growing nearest to the tree trunk than seeds growing on the ends of branches
D) there were more gold in the branches than in the roots
3. Which is the best title suggested below?
A) Scientists Searching for Metals with Special Power