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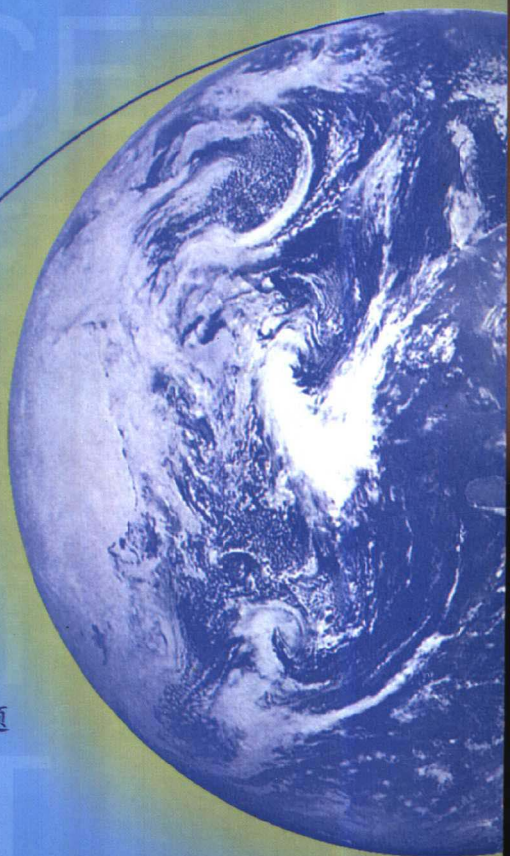
大学英语

四级统考快速训练

● 蔡基刚 编著

阅读理解

- 阅读方法
- 多项选择题
- 简答题



CET-4

大学英语

四级统考快速训练

阅读理解

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蔡基刚 编著

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内 容 简 介

本书根据 1999 年 9 月全国大学英语四级统考的最新要求,结合对历年实际考题的分析,介绍了阅读理解选择题和简答题的解题方法。全书精选了模拟实际考试的 20 套 100 篇短文 500 道选择题和简答题,供考生进行快速的训练,并附上了答案。

本书可供广大考生用作辅导听课的教材和备考自学的资料。

出版者的话

1999年9月,《大学英语教学大纲》经过修订,对21世纪的大学英语教学提出了新的更高的要求。为了帮助广大考生适应新大纲的要求,更好地准备和通过大学英语四级统考,我们组织了复旦大学、苏州大学等校富于大学英语教学和四、六级统考辅导经验的教师,精心编写了一套“大学英语四级统考快速训练”的教材,供四级统考辅导班教学和考生自学备考之用。这套丛书包括以下五种:

《听力测试》(附音带)

《语言知识》

《阅读理解》

《短文写作》

《口语测试》

我们相信,这套丛书将会有助于广大考生复习迎考,对提高英语水平、实用能力和统考成绩起到促进的作用。

引 言

大学英语四级统考的阅读理解通常采用两种题型：多项选择题和简答题。

多项选择题的阅读理解一般有 4 篇 250~350 词的短文。要求是：

Directions: There are four passages in this part. Each passage is followed by some questions or unfinished statements. For each of them there are choices marked A), B), C) and D). You should decide on the best choice.

可见多项选择题的阅读理解和平时的阅读理解完全是两回事。限定时间(平均每篇 9 分钟), 选择答案。传统的阅读方法并不一定有效。读懂文章不一定能做对题目, 而不读文章也有可能做对题目。多项选择题的阅读理解在某种意义上是一种“游戏”, 解题应注意技巧, 这也是对心理的挑战。

1. 阅读理解不仅是对语言的要求, 而且也是看考生的知识结构。实验表明: 考生对某篇的内容越熟悉, 做题的正确率就越高。考生如对文章材料所涉及的内容和背景很熟悉, 即使不读文章, 也可能正确回答问题。

2. 要做对题目, 有时文章可以似懂非懂。但问题一定要看懂。要明确问的是什么。现在的四个选项不一定是一对三错, 在许多情况下, 四个选项可能都是文章中有的。要仔细看懂问的是观点还是细节, 是原因还是结果。

3. 一篇文章一般问五个问题。而五个问题不可能覆盖文章

中每一个细节或每一个句子。通读一遍在不少情况下是浪费时间。有时只需读文章或段落的第一句或最后一句,掌握文章的主旨和中心思想后,按照问题去检索信息,即可找到答案。

4. 寻找信息的阅读要快速进行。实验表明,时间和理解未必成正比。并不是读得越慢,理解越深。逐词读,注意的是词和句,是在分析句子的结构,这样得到的文章意思有可能是支离破碎的。而读得快,逼得你去抓文章的意思。

5. 利用问题中的线索,如醒目的人名、地名、时间、形容词等,到文章中找相应词。找到后仔细分析。从同义结构、反义结构、逻辑推理看出选项中哪一个和文章意思一样。要有证据,不能凭印象,想当然。

6. 由于问题的顺序和文章开展的顺序往往是一致的,因此答题可按自然顺序进行。但涉及到主题思想、作者语气等全局性问题时,若先做完细节题,利用做细节题得到的信息再做,效率和正确率都高。

简答题的阅读理解要求在 15 分钟完成一篇 200~300 词的短文的理解。要求是:

Directions: In this part there is a short passage with five questions or incomplete statements. Read the passage carefully: Then answer the questions or complete the statements in the fewest possible words (not exceeding 10 words).

可见,简答题的阅读理解,既避免了多项选择题阅读理解的文字游戏,又避免了猜测成分,因此难度较大。

1. 和解多项选择的阅读解题一样,在解这种类型的阅读解题时,首先应把五个问题通读一下,不仅知道问什么,而且从中了解文章的主旨。

2. 根据问题提供的线索到文章中找答案。细节题一般都用

这个办法。找到答案所在句子后不要照搬照抄,而是根据问题作相应的调整。问什么答什么,不问的不要答。

3. 对于主题大意等全局性题,放在最后解答。通过归纳和推理,用自己的话把意思写出。尽可能借用原文的结构和词语,以避免语言上表达的错误。

4. 语言要简洁,尽可能用单个词、词语、从句来表达。如问 Why...? 就用 Because... 回答,甚至 Because 也可省去。回答不要超过 10 个词。

5. 注意表达语言上的正确。如答案开头的词一律大写、时态、主谓一致等。

本书提供了 20 套阅读理解题。每套中包括 4 篇多项选择题的阅读理解,1 篇简答题的阅读理解。材料全都来自于各种权威的英语考试机构,因此在质量上和真实性等方面都能得到保证。

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Unit 1

(1)

You are watching a film in which two men are having a fight. They hit one another hard. At the start they merely fight with their fists. But soon they begin hitting one another over the heads with chairs. And so it goes on until one of the men crashes through a window—and falls thirty feet to the ground below. He is dead!

Of course he isn't really dead. With any luck he isn't even hurt. Why? Because the men who fall out of high windows or jump from fast-moving trains, who crash cars or even catch fire, are professionals. They do this for a living. These men are called stuntmen. That is to say, they perform tricks.

There are two sides to their work. They actually do most of the things you see on the screen. For example, they fall from a high building. However, they do not fall on to hard ground but on to empty cardboard boxes covered with a mattress (床垫). Again, when they hit one another with chairs, the chairs are made of soft wood and when they crash through windows, the glass is made of sugar!

But although their work depends on tricks of this sort, it also requires a high degree of skill and training. Often a stuntman's success depends on precise timing. For example, when he is "blown up" in a battle scene, he has to jump out of the way of the explosion

just at the right moment.

Naturally stuntmen are well paid for their work, but they lead dangerous lives. They often get seriously injured—and sometimes killed. A Norwegian stuntman, for example, skied over the edge of a cliff a thousand feet high. His parachute failed to open—and he was killed.

In spite of all the risks, this is no longer a profession for men only. Men no longer dress up as women when actresses have to perform some dangerous action. For nowadays there are stuntgirls too!

1. Stuntmen are those who _____.
 - A) often dress up as actors
 - B) prefer to lead dangerous lives
 - C) often perform seemingly dangerous actions
 - D) often fight each other for their lives
2. Stuntmen earn their living by _____.
 - A) playing their dirty tricks
 - B) selling their special skills
 - C) jumping out of high windows
 - D) jumping from fast moving trains
3. When a stuntman falls from a high building, _____.
 - A) he needs little protection
 - B) he will be covered with a mattress
 - C) his life is endangered
 - D) his safety is generally guaranteed
4. Which of the following is the main factor of a successful performance?
 - A) Strength.
 - B) Accuracy.

- C) Speed. D) Carefulness.
5. What can be inferred from the author's example of the Norwegian stuntman?
- A) Sometimes an accident can occur to a stuntman.
B) The incidence of fatal accidents is high.
C) Parachutes must be of good quality.
D) The cliff is too high.

(2)

How men first learnt to invent words is unknown; in other words, the origin of language is a mystery. All we really know is that men, unlike animals, somehow invented certain sounds to express thoughts and feelings, actions and things, so that they could communicate with each other; and that later they agreed upon certain signs, called letters, which could be combined to represent those sounds, and which could be written down. Those sounds, whether spoken or written in letters, we call words.

The power of words, then, lies in their associations—the things they bring up before our minds. Words become filled with meaning for us by experience; and the longer we live, the more certain words recall to us the glad and sad events of our past; and the more we read and learn, the more the number of words that mean something to us increases.

Great writers are those who not only have great thoughts but also express these thoughts in words which appeal powerfully to our minds and emotions. This charming use of words is what we call

literary style. Above all, the real poet is a master of words. He can convey his meaning in words which sing like music, and which by their position and association can move men to tears. We should therefore learn to choose our words carefully and use them accurately, or they will make our speech silly and dull.

6. The origin of language is _____.
 - A) a legend handed down from the past
 - B) a matter that is hidden secretly
 - C) a question difficult to answer
 - D) a problem not yet solved
7. One of the reasons why men invented certain sounds to express thoughts and actions was that _____.
 - A) they could agree upon certain signs
 - B) they could write them down
 - C) they could communicate with each other
 - D) they could combine them
8. What is true about the words?
 - A) They are used to express feelings only.
 - B) They can not be written down.
 - C) They are simply sounds.
 - D) They are mysterious.
9. In expressing their thoughts, great writers are able _____.
 - A) to confuse the readers
 - B) to move men to tears
 - C) to move our actions
 - D) to puzzle our feelings
10. Which of the following statements about the real poet is NOT true?
 - A) He is no more a master of words than an ordinary person.
 - B) He can convey his ideas in words which sing like music.

- C) He can move men to tears.
- D) His style is always charming.

(3)

A new technology is **brewing**, one that could transform our daily lives, help to form new industries, even unseat world economic powers. Unlike the wave of industrialisation that began in the West and spread later to the rest of the world, the new developments are taking place in research labs all over the globe—and Asians are in the forefront. Physicists are grinding out a new class of materials that display an amazing property unanticipated even two years ago—superconductivity.

Used today only in specialized equipment, superconductors have the potential to radically alter most of the electrical and electronic appliances found in the home, making them smaller, more powerful and efficient. They could free our cities of pollution by replacing petrol and diesel vehicles with electric cars, and cut the cost of electricity. The new materials do something that even the best of conductors such as copper and silver cannot—they eliminate all electrical resistance. The implications for energy storage—even on the scale of the needs of an entire city—are immense.

The technology is in its infancy, still accessible to countries that decide to invest brains and money. For 75 years it had remained little more than a scientific curiosity with limited practical use. Reason: the phenomenon occurred only at extremely low temperatures. It was first observed in 1911 by a Dutch scientist

the world

- D) the West was astonished at the new technology developed by the Asians
15. Which of the following would be the best title for the passage?
- A) The Prospect of a New Technology
- B) Superconductivity: A New Technology
- C) A New Technology: The Key to Changing the Way of Our Lives
- D) A New Technology: A Joint Effort of Many Countries

(4)

Everything seemed set for a remarkably trouble-free flight one Sunday morning last August as I prepared to leave Gatwick for a holiday in Greece.

The check-in process had been unusually smooth and queue-free, and the display screens showed no delays for our flight. Then, just as we thought we were all ready for take-off, the captain announced that we would be delayed because six passengers who had checked in had not reported at the gate.

The missing passengers—who presumably had gone into a trance in the duty-free shop—finally appeared rather sheepishly and took their seats, but by that time we had lost our departure slot and we eventually left 40 minutes late.

That experience will have a familiar ring for frequent travellers. But that four-letter word “slot” is one which we never used to hear when airports were less congested than they are today—and when

airlines were able, within limits, to land or take off more or less when they pleased. But as our airports have become busier, so the allocation of arrival and departure slots has become a major concern for airline planners.

Airport congestion is no longer a problem which crops up only at weekends in July and August. Gatwick, for example, is now operating at 90 per cent of capacity in terms of aircraft movements for the whole of the June to September period. And even during the “off-peak” months of May and October the airport is still operating at 83 per cent of capacity. Heathrow’s traffic is more evenly spread but nevertheless operates at between 80 and 86 per cent of capacity right through from April to November.

Other big European airports at, or near, their capacity limits include Frankfurt, Milan, Munich and Palma, while others such as Paris (Orly), Geneva and Madrid will reach saturation point by 1995.

Given this picture of congested airports, the allocation of limited slots between all the competing airlines is clearly a complicated process. A simple round trip between, say, Heathrow and Rome involves the negotiation of four slots for arrival and departure at each end of the route. For there is no point in agreeing on a departure time from Heathrow if the aircraft then has to sit on the ground at Rome for three hours to await an arrival slot back at Heathrow.

16. A departure slot is _____ .
- A) a missing passenger
 - B) a duty-free shop
 - C) a time when the plane can take off