

考试阅卷人点评系列

主编 黄锦桥

# 大学英语四级 真题阅读解析

上海交通大学出版社权威出版

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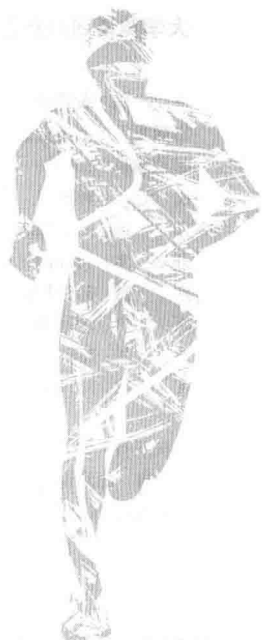
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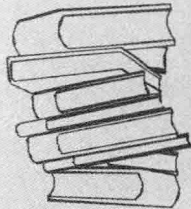
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# 前言



全国大学英语四级考试自 2006 年 6 月实施 710 分制改革以来,经历过几次题型变革,但阅读部分题型相对稳定,仔细阅读题和选词填空题没有变化,快速阅读题由最早的 Yes, No, Not Given 和填空题,改革为多选题和填空题,再到最新的段落匹配题,是变动最大的一部分。阅读部分所占分值为总分的 35%,由于题型自身的特点,阅读部分是整个四级考试中最容易提高成绩的一类题型,也是决定四级能否通过的关键因素。而真题阅读在选材特点、语言难度、出题思路和解题方法等方面最能体现考试的效度,无疑是最好的提高阅读能力的材料。笔者根据多年教学经验,选取从 2012 年 12 月起,全国实行多题多卷考试以来阅读部分的快速阅读 10 篇、选词填空 24 篇、仔细阅读 42 篇,共计 76 篇阅读真题,从解题技巧、真题原文、真题译文、答案解析和必备词汇与短语五个方面,力求精准地分析真题的命题规律,为广大学子备考四级提供最直观、最实用的学习材料。考生若能从以下几个方面入手,学习效果会更好:

(1) 仔细阅读和选词填空部分要作为精读材料,理解句子结构、重点短语和常见单词,特别是高频词汇。

(2) 不要孤立地去背单词,而要根据真题阅读去记忆常见单词,做到把单词放到真题阅读的短语或句子中记忆,同时单词出现什么意思就记什么意思,不要记扩展义项,这样可以有效地节约背单词的时间。

(3) 做题时既要理解正确选项的原因,又要分析错误选项的特点。

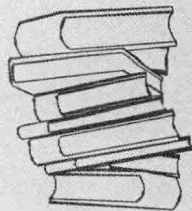
衷心希望广大考生不要相信题海战术,而要精做精读真题,找出规律,迅速提高成绩。另外,本书的编写倾注了笔者在四六级考试培训方面多年的心血,感谢我所在的陕西科技大学镐京学院外语部的各位同仁,是与他们多年的教学交流给了我灵感;同时也感谢西安新东方学校国内部,在新东方工作的几年是我教学能力提高最快的几年,也让我萌生了编写此书的念头。

由于编写时间仓促,本书难免存在错误和不当之处,敬请批评指正,以便再版时修订,更好地服务广大学子。

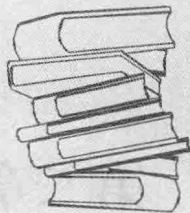
黄锦桥

2016 年 6 月于咸阳

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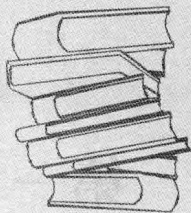
# 第一章

## 全国大学英语四级考试阅读大纲要求

阅读理解部分包括 1 篇长篇阅读和 3 篇仔细阅读,测试学生在不同层面上的阅读理解能力,包括理解篇章或段落的主旨大意和重要细节、综合分析、推测判断以及根据上下文推测词义等能力。该部分所占分值比例为 35%,其中长篇阅读占 10%,仔细阅读占 25%。考试时间 40 分钟。

长篇阅读部分采用 1 篇较长篇幅的文章,总长度四级约 1 000 词。四级考试阅读速度约每分钟 100 词。篇章后附有 10 个句子,每句一题。每句所含的信息出自篇章的某一段落,要求考生找出与每句所含信息相匹配的段落。有的段落可能对应两题,有的段落可能不对应任何一题。

仔细阅读部分要求考生阅读 3 篇短文。2 篇为多项选择题型的短文理解测试,每篇长度为 300~350 词;1 篇为选词填空,篇章长度为 200~250 词。短文理解每篇后有若干个问题,要求考生根据对文章的理解,从每题的四个选项中选择最佳答案。选词填空要求考生阅读 1 篇删去若干词汇的短文,然后从所给的选项中选择正确的词汇填空,使短文复原。



## 第二章

### 仔细阅读

#### 一、选材原则

仔细阅读部分为2篇短文理解测试,每篇阅读材料长度为300~350词,所占分值比例为20%,是四级考试中单题分值所占比重最高的题型。测试题型多为单项选择,每篇文章后有若干个问题,要求考生根据对文章的理解,从每题的四个选项中选择最佳答案。该部分答题时间16分钟左右较为合理。

选材原则:文体多为议论文、说明文;题材涉及文化教育、健康环保、经济生活、人文风俗等;文章选材主要来自《新闻周刊》《卫报》《纽约时报》《华盛顿邮报》《时代周刊》等英美主流报刊,为了符合四级难度,部分内容有改编。

#### 二、解题技巧

解题分成四个步骤进行,分别是:

##### 1. 主题

仔细阅读挑选的都是主题鲜明、结构严谨的文章,大部分的考题也应该能反映全文的主题和重要细节。

题干和选项中反复出现的信息即是全文主题。

当定位找到文中需要的解题信息时,理解定位句子,也要结合全文主题。

##### 2. 定位

按照选项中最具有识别特点的信息(通常为人名、地名、时间等专有名词或其他名词),依次从前到后到文中定位,一般不乱序。

如果某一题没有任何具有识别特点的信息或暂时找不到出处,可通过上下卡位法确定。

几乎所有题目的解答都定位在最多连续两句话内(也可能是一个句子或一个句子的部分内容),很少涉及对较长段落的整段或整篇理解,一般不涉及跨句解答。

每篇第一题和最后一题的定位信息往往在第一段和最后一段,最后一题在最后一段的可能性比第一题在第一段的还要大。第一题一般不超过第三段,文章前半部分一般集中了更多题目的信息。最后一题在最后两段内。

定位的信息一般出现在每段的第一句、第二句、转折处和最后一句,另外,段首转折句、含有两个破折号的句子、给汉语意思的地方、举例的地方等,也容易出现定位信息。

### 3. 解题

快速浏览选项和题干,找出全文主题,正确选项要与主题相关。

通过定位方法精确找到做题所需要的定位信息。

找出每个选项中最不可替代的名词,越少越好。

用模糊匹配法可以得出约 70% 的题目的答案:看选项中的名词和定位信息中的核心名词的匹配关系,匹配度越高,越有可能是正确选项;排除最不可能匹配的选项,再在剩下选项里选择,正确率会高一些。

若通过模糊匹配法得不出答案,则答案可能是原文信息的同义替换或总结概括,需要部分理解文中定位处的信息,这类题目一般不到 30%。

### 4. 分析错误选项

要科学提高做题的成功率,除了要准确得出正确选项以外,还要能分析选项错误的原因。

无关选项(无中生有):如果选项中的关键词在文中定位信息处没有出现,或是出现在了其他题目的定位信息处,也不是文中信息的同义替换,则此选项属于无关选项。

偷换概念:如果选项出现了文中信息的相关概念,但是概念的修饰语、适用范围、所指对象等具体内涵和文中信息不一致,则此选项属于偷换概念项。

以上是错误选项最常见的设置方法,涵盖了 90% 以上的题。

推理过度:正确选项绝大部分是文中信息的原文重现、同义替换或总结概括,不到 10% 的题会涉及推理,若选项部分有推理信息,遵循以下方法解决:不推理的比推理的好,推得近的比推得远的好,直接的推理比间接的好,符合主题的推理比不符合主题的好。

## 三、真题原文

2012 年 12 月

### 第 1 篇

As you are probably aware, the latest job markets news isn't good: Unemployment is still more than 9 percent, and new job growth has fallen close to zero. That's bad for the economy, of course. And it may be especially discouraging if you happen to be looking for a job or hoping to change careers right now. But it actually shouldn't matter to you nearly as much as you think.

That's because job growth numbers don't matter to job hunters as much as job turnover (人员更替) data. After all, existing jobs open up every day due to promotions, resignations, terminations (解雇), and retirements. (Yes, people are retiring even in this economy.) In both good times and bad, turnover creates more openings than economic growth does. Even in June of 2007, when the economy was still moving ahead, job growth was only 132 000, while turnover was 4.7 million!



And as it turns out, even today—with job growth near zero—over 4 million job hunters are being hired every month.

I don't mean to imply that overall job growth doesn't have an impact on one's ability to land a job. It's true that if total employment were higher, it would mean more jobs for all of us to choose from (and compete for). And it's true that there are currently more people applying for each available job opening, regardless of whether it's a new one or not.

But what often distinguishes those who land jobs from those who don't is their ability to stay motivated. They're willing to do the hard work of identifying their valuable skills; be creative about where and how to look; learn how to present themselves to potential employers; and keep going, even after repeated rejections. The Bureau of Labor Statistics data shows that 2.7 million people who wanted and were available for work hadn't looked within the last four weeks and were no longer even classified as unemployed.

So don't let the headlines fool you into giving up. Four million people get hired every month in the US. You can be one of them.

1. The author tends to believe that high unemployment rate \_\_\_\_\_.
  - A. deprives many people of job opportunities
  - B. prevents many people from changing careers
  - C. should not stop people from looking for a job
  - D. does not mean the US economy is worsening
2. Where do most job openings come from?
  - A. Job growth.
  - B. Job turnover.
  - C. Improved economy.
  - D. Business expansion.
3. What does the author say about overall job growth?
  - A. It doesn't have much effect on individual job seekers.
  - B. It increases people's confidence in the economy.
  - C. It gives a ray of hope to the unemployed.
  - D. It doesn't mean greater job security for the employed.
4. What is the key to landing a job according to the author?
  - A. Education.
  - B. Intelligence.
  - C. Persistence.
  - D. Experience.
5. What do we learn from the passage about the unemployment figures in the US?
  - A. They clearly indicate how healthy the economy is.
  - B. They provide the public with the latest information.
  - C. They warn of the structural problems in the economy.
  - D. They exclude those who have stopped looking for a job.

第 2 篇

Our risk of cancer rises dramatically as we age. So it makes sense that the elderly should be routinely screened for new tumors—or doesn't it?

While such vigilant (警觉的) tracking of cancer is a good thing in general, researchers are increasingly questioning whether all of this testing is necessary for the elderly. With the percentage of people over age 65 expected to nearly double by 2050, it's important to weigh the health benefits of screening against the risks and costs of routine testing.

In many cases, screening can lead to surgeries to remove cancer, while the cancers themselves may be slow-growing and may not pose serious health problems in patients' remaining years. But the message that everyone must screen for cancer has become so deep-rooted that when health care experts recommended that women under 50 and over 74 stop screening for breast cancer, it caused a riotous reaction among doctors, patients and advocacy groups.

It's hard to uproot deeply held beliefs about cancer screening with scientific data. Certainly, there are people over age 75 who have had cancers detected by routine screening and gained several extra years of life because of treatment. And clearly, people over age 75 who have other risk factors for cancer, such as a family history or prior personal experience with the disease, should continue to get screened regularly. But for the remainder, the risk of cancer, while increased at the end of life, must be balanced with other factors like remaining life expectancy (预期寿命).

A recent study suggests that doctors start to make more objective decisions about who will truly benefit from screening—especially considering the explosion of the elderly that will soon swell our population.

It's not an easy calculation to make, but one that makes sense for all patients. Dr. Otis Brawley said, "Many doctors are ordering screening tests purely to cover themselves. We need to think about the rational use of health care."

That means making some difficult decisions with elderly patients, and going against the misguided belief that when it comes to health care, more is always better.

6. Why do doctors recommend routine cancer screening for elderly people?
  - A. It is believed to contribute to long life.
  - B. It is part of their health care package.
  - C. The elderly are more sensitive about their health.
  - D. The elderly are in greater danger of tumor growth.
7. How do some researchers now look at routine cancer screening for the elderly?
  - A. It adds too much to their medical bills.
  - B. It helps increase their life expectancy.

- C. They are doubtful about its necessity.  
D. They think it does more harm than good.
8. What is the conventional view about women screening for breast cancer?  
A. It applies to women over 50.                      B. It is a must for adult women.  
C. It is optional for young women.                      D. It doesn't apply to women over 74.
9. Why do many doctors prescribe routine screening for cancer?  
A. They want to protect themselves against medical disputes.  
B. They want to take advantage of the medical care system.  
C. They want data for medical research.  
D. They want their patients to suffer less.
10. What does the author say is the general view about health care?  
A. The more, the better.                      B. Prevention is better than cure.  
C. Better early than late.                      D. Better care, longer life.

### 第 3 篇

I've worked in the factories surrounding my hometown every summer since I graduated from high school. But making the transition (转变) between school and full-time blue-collar work during the break never gets any easier. For a student like me who considers any class before noon to be uncivilized, getting to a factory by 6 o'clock each morning is torture. My friends never seem to understand why I'm so relieved to be back at school or that my summer vacation has been anything but a vacation.

There're few people as self-confident as a college student who has never been out in the real world. People of my age always seem to overestimate the value of their time and knowledge. In fact, all the classes did not prepare me for my battles with the machine I ran in the plant, which would jam whenever I absent-mindedly put in a part backward or upside down.

The most stressful thing about blue-collar life is knowing your job could disappear overnight. Issues like downsizing (裁员) and overseas relocation had always seemed distant to me until my co-workers told me that the unit I was working in would shut down within six months and move to Mexico, where people would work for 60 cents an hour.

After working 12-hour shifts in a factory, the other options have become only too clear. When I'm back at the university, skipping classes and turning in lazy re-writes seems too irresponsible after seeing what I would be doing without school. All the advice and public-service announcements about the value of an education that used to sound stale now ring true.

These lessons I'm learning, however valuable, are always tinged (带有) with a sense

of guilt. Many people pass their lives in the places I briefly work, spending 30 years where I spend only two months at a time. “This job pays well, but it’s hell on the body,” said one co-worker. “Study hard and keep reading,” she added.

My experiences in the factories have inspired me to make the most of my college years before I enter the real world for good.

11. How did the author look back on his summer days while at college?
  - A. They brought him nothing but torture.
  - B. They were no holiday for him at all.
  - C. They were a relief from his hard work at school.
  - D. They offered him a chance to know more people.
12. What does the author say about college students?
  - A. They expect too much from the real world.
  - B. They have little interest in blue-collar life.
  - C. They think too highly of themselves.
  - D. They are confident of their future.
13. What, according to the author, is most frustrating for blue-collar workers?
  - A. They do not get decent pay.
  - B. They do not have job security.
  - C. They have to work 12-hour shifts.
  - D. They have to move from place to place.
14. In what important way has the author’s work experience changed him?
  - A. He learned to be more practical.
  - B. He acquired a sense of urgency.
  - C. He came to respect blue-collar workers.
  - D. He came to appreciate his college education.
15. Why does the author feel somewhat guilty?
  - A. He realizes there is a great divide between his life and that of blue-collar workers.
  - B. He looks down upon the mechanical work at the assembly line.
  - C. He has not done much to help his co-workers at the factory.
  - D. He has stayed at school just for the purpose of escaping from the real world.

#### 第4篇

Are people suffering from gadget (小器具) overload? Are they exhausted by the consumer equivalent of the brain fatigue—information overload that is caused by constant updates of devices and online media?

Underwriters Laboratories issued a report last week that found 48% of consumers

“feel high-tech manufacturers bring new products to market faster than people need them”.

There are two possible explanations. The first, obvious one is that the pace of innovation (创新) is too fast for consumers. The second less obvious one is that, in fact, innovation is too slow. That is, the new offerings companies are pushing out the door every six months or so are me-too products or ones with just a couple of new features. Marketing schedules, not product innovation, are driving the corporate (公司的) train. Manufacturers in America valued “speed to market” more than in other countries, the report found.

Sara Greenstein, Underwriters Laboratories’ chief strategy officer, offered her interpretation of the survey results. “Innovation is too fast only if corners are cut.”

For the high-tech sector, there are a few other interesting findings. Consumers are less concerned about safety in high-tech products than categories like fresh and processed food. But their top safety concerns are emissions and wireless radio waves. Many people, it seems, are uneasy living in a thickening cloud of radio waves from mobile phone towers and the gadgets they communicate with.

A finding that was a hit surprising is that to consumers, the inner parts of high-tech devices do apparently matter. Some 55% of consumers, according to the report, said they are “more concerned about where high-tech components come from than where the product was assembled”.

The report doesn’t really say how that information would affect consumer buying decisions. It could be complicated. Manufacturing companies on average rely on more than 35 contract suppliers around the world to create a single product. That number would be higher for a smartphone or laptop.

But maybe some sort of supply-chain labeling showing where parts come from in a product? “We’re working on it,” Ms. Greenstein said.

**16.** What is the finding in Underwriters Laboratories’ report about many consumers?

- A. They are exhausted by the information overload.
- B. They are tired of the constant updating of devices.
- C. They feel products are updated faster than needed.
- D. They have difficulty following high-tech innovations.

**17.** What does the author mean by “me-too products”?

- A. Products with no substantial difference.
- B. Products tailored to individual users.
- C. Products everyone is eager to possess.
- D. Products companies compete to make.

**18.** What do American businesses give priority to when marketing their products?

- A. The constant updating of their technology.



become fat, most of us, despite our best efforts, will probably stay fat.”

Of course this revelation (揭示), if proven true by further study, is not good news for the weight-loss industry. But chances are it won't have much impact on the human tendency to resolve to get to the gym more and avoid chocolate cake when the clock strikes midnight on December 31.

21. What do we learn from the first paragraph about new year resolutions?
  - A. They are hard to sustain.
  - B. They test one's strength.
  - C. They help shed bad habits.
  - D. They promise a good year.
22. Who do new year resolutions eventually benefit?
  - A. Society in general.
  - B. Business executives.
  - C. Health club members.
  - D. Health industries.
23. What is special about the Biggest Loser Resort's weight management program?
  - A. It gives top priority to emotional health.
  - B. It does not resort to any quick fixes.
  - C. It focuses on one's behavior change.
  - D. It is not cheap but extremely effective.
24. What happens when people stop dieting?
  - A. They regain their appetite.
  - B. They usually stay in shape.
  - C. Their weight bounces back.
  - D. Their health is likely to fail.
25. What do people tend to do about new year resolutions?
  - A. They keep making them year after year.
  - B. They abandon them once progress is made.
  - C. They keep trying until they finally succeed.
  - D. They make them for the sake of making them.

## 第6篇

When University of California-Berkeley released a study this month showing alarmingly high teacher turnover (人员流动) rates at Los Angeles charter schools, I wasn't surprised.

That's not a slam at local charter schools. It's just that the study echoed something I'd observed many times, starting with my niece.

Bright and cheerful, my niece longed to teach high-needs children. She started out in the San Francisco public schools, where she was assigned to the district's toughest elementary school. Fifth-graders threw chairs across the room and at her. Parents refused to show up for conferences.

She wasn't willing to deal with this level of indifference and teacher abuse, so she

switched to a highly regarded charter elementary school in the Bay Area where she poured her energy into her job and it showed. Her students' test scores were as high as those in a nearby wealthy school district, despite the obstacles these children faced.

Yet by her fourth year, my niece was worn out, depleted (耗尽) of the energy it took to work with a classroom of sweet but deeply needy children who pleaded to stay in her classroom when it was time to leave. The principal's offer of a \$10 000 raise couldn't stop her from giving notice. She went to work at that wealthy school district next door for less money.

Over the years, I've met many impassioned (充满激情的) teachers at charter schools, only to call them the next year and find they've left. The authors of the Berkeley study theorize that the teachers leave because of the extraordinary demands; long hours, intense involvement in students' complicated lives, continual searches for new ways to raise scores. Even the strongest supporters of the reform movement concede that the task of raising achievement among disadvantaged students is hard work.

It's unlikely that we can build large-scale school reform on a platform of continual new demands on teachers—more time, more energy, more devotion, more responsibility—even if schools find ways to pay them better. This is the bigger challenge facing schools. We need a more useful answer to the Berkeley study than “Yeah, it's really hard work.”

26. Why wasn't the author surprised at the high teacher turnover rates at Los Angeles charter schools?
- She had participated in the Berkeley study.
  - She had noticed the phenomenon repeatedly.
  - She had been involved in the local school reform.
  - She had been informed of the problem by her niece.
27. What do we learn about the students in the public school the author's niece taught?
- They were undisciplined.
  - They were tough and strong.
  - Many of them enjoyed less parental care.
  - Many of them dropped out of school halfway.
28. What does the author say about her niece's work in the charter elementary school?
- It won high praise from her school and colleagues.
  - It was cited by the Berkeley study as an example.
  - It contributed to the success of the school reform.
  - It was well received by the disadvantaged children.
29. Why were the teacher turnover rates so high according to the Berkeley study?
- The students were indifferent to learning.
  - Teachers' salary was not high enough.



- C. Teachers' work was too demanding.  
D. Jobs elsewhere were more meaningful.
30. What is the author's comment on the current school reform movement?
- A. It will give rise to more problems.  
B. It is not likely to be successful.  
C. It will have a positive impact on education.  
D. It demands the local authorities' support.

2013年6月

第1篇

The Gaitais used to frown when they received power bills that routinely topped \$200. Last September the couple moved into a 1 500-square-foot home in Premier Gardens, a subdivision of 95 “zero-energy homes” (ZEH) just outside town. Now they're actually eager to see their electricity bills. The grand total over the 10 months they've lived in the three-bedroom house: \$75. For the past two months they haven't paid a cent.

ZEH communities are the leading edge of technologies that might someday create houses that produce as much energy as they consume. Premier Gardens is one of a half-dozen subdivisions in California where every home cuts power consumption by 50%, mostly by using low-power appliances and solar panels.

Aside from the panels on the roof, Premier Gardens looks like a community of conventional homes. But inside, special windows cut power bills by blocking solar heat in summer and retaining indoor warmth in winter.

The rest of the energy savings comes from the solar units. They don't just feed the home they serve. If they generate more power than the home is using, the excess flows into the utility's power grid (电网). The residents are billed by “net metering”: they pay for the amount of power they tap off the grid, less the kilowatts (千瓦) they feed into it. If a home generates more power than it uses, the bill is zero.

That sounds like a bad deal for the power company, but it's not. Solar homes produce the most power on the hot sunny afternoons when everyone rushes home to turn up the air conditioner. “It helps us lower usage at peak power times,” says solar expert Mike Keese. “That lets us avoid building costly plants or buying expensive power at peak usage time.”

What's not to like? Mostly the costs. The special features can add \$25 000 or more to the purchase price of a house. Tax breaks bring the cost down, especially in California, but in many states ZEHs can be prohibitively expensive. For the consumer, it's a matter of paying now for the hardware to save later on the utilities.