

新大纲新标准

郑家顺考试捷径系列 (英语专业四级考试命题研究组 编)

Reading Comprehension

英语专业 四级阅读理解 120篇精讲

郑家顺◎主编

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英语专业四级阅读理解

1200

篇精讲

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前言

为了帮助广大考生在新大纲出台之后能够轻松获得英语专业四级高分,我们组织编写了《英语专业四级阅读理解 120 篇精讲》。

一、题目:根据新版教学大纲编写,按专业四级考试的形式,将 120 篇阅读理解汇编成 30 个 Test(分为入门分析篇、技能实战篇、学习提高篇、巩固强化篇和考前冲刺篇五章),每个 Test 均含 20 道题(4 篇文章)。

二、文章难易度编排:由易到难,循序渐进,便于考生有效突破阅读难关。

三、解释为该书最显著的特点:

1. 为便于考生理解原文、提高翻译水平以及实际英语运用的能力,每篇均给出中文内容大意,主题或主题句均用黑体字注出。

2. 选择项均用波浪线给出答题依据,附以简练精讲,帮助考生养成良好的解题思维。

通过做题,每天一个 Test,举一反三,一个月有效突破英语阅读难关,轻轻松松提高英语专业水平。

本书所选的例题、译句和解释都经过反复推敲、实践,但不当之处在所难免,敬请广大读者、同行专家不吝指正,以便改进。

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入门分析篇

Test 1

TEXT A

The rise of multinational corporations (跨国公司), global marketing, new communications technologies, and shrinking cultural differences have led to an unparalleled increase in global public relations or PR.

Surprisingly, since modern PR was largely an American invention, the U. S. leadership in public relations is being threatened by PR efforts in other countries. Ten years ago, for example, the world's top five public relations agencies were American-owned. In 1991, only one was. The British in particular are becoming more sophisticated and creative. A recent survey found that more than half of all British companies include PR as part of their corporate (公司的) planning activities, compared to about one-third of U. S. companies. It may not be long before London replaces New York as the capital of PR.

Why is America lagging behind in the global PR race? First, Americans as a whole tend to be fairly provincial and take more of an interest in local affairs. Knowledge of world geography, for example, has never been strong in this country. Secondly, Americans lag behind their European and Asian counterparts (同行) in knowing a second language. Less than 5 percent of Burson-Marshall's U. S. employees know two languages. Ogilvy and Mather has about the same percentage. Conversely, some European firms have half or more of their employees fluent in a second language. Finally, people involved in PR abroad tend to keep a closer eye on international affairs. In the financial PR area, for instance, most Americans read the *Wall Street Journal*. Overseas, their counterparts read the *Journal* as well as the *Financial Times* of London and *The Economist*, publications not often read in this country.

Perhaps the PR industry might take a lesson from Ted Turner of CNN (Cable News Network). Turner recently announced that the word "foreign" would no longer be used on CNN news broadcasts. According to Turner, global communications have made the nations of the world so interdependent that there is no longer any such thing as foreign.

1. According to the passage, U. S. leadership in public relations is being threatened because of _____.

- A. an unparalleled increase in the number of public relations companies
- B. shrinking cultural differences and new communications technologies
- C. the decreasing number of multinational corporations in the U. S.
- D. increased efforts of other countries in public relations

2. London could soon replace New York as the center of PR because _____.
 - A. British companies are more ambitious than U. S. companies
 - B. British companies place more importance on PR than U. S. companies
 - C. British companies are heavily involved in planning activities
 - D. four of the world's top public relations agencies are British-owned
3. The word "provincial" (Line 2, Para. 3) most probably means _____.
 - A. limited in outlook
 - B. like people from the provinces
 - C. rigid in thinking
 - D. interested in world financial affairs
4. We learn from the third paragraph that employees in the American PR industry _____.
 - A. speak at least one foreign language fluently
 - B. are ignorant about world geography
 - C. are not as sophisticated as their European counterparts
 - D. enjoy reading a great variety of English business publications
5. What lesson might the PR industry take from Ted Turner of CNN?
 - A. American PR companies should be more internationally-minded.
 - B. The American PR industry should develop global communications technologies.
 - C. People working in PR should be more fluent in foreign languages.
 - D. People involved in PR should avoid using the word "foreign".

TEXT B

Believe it or not, optical illusion (错觉) can cut highway crashes.

Japan is a case in point. It has reduced automobile crashes on some roads by nearly 75 percent using a simple optical illusion. Bent stripes, called chevrons (人字形), painted on the roads make drivers think that they are driving faster than they really are, and thus drivers slow down.

Now the American Automobile Association Foundation for Traffic Safety in Washington D. C. is planning to repeat Japan's success. Starting next year, the foundation will paint chevrons and other patterns of stripes on selected roads around the country to test how well the patterns reduce highway crashes.

Excessive speed plays a major role in as much as one fifth of all fatal traffic accidents, according to the foundation. To help reduce those accidents, the Foundation will conduct its tests in areas where speed-related hazards are the greatest—curves, exit slopes, traffic circles, and bridges.

Some studies suggest that straight, horizontal bars painted across roads can initially cut the average speed of drivers in half. However, traffic often returns to full speed within months as drivers become used to seeing the painted bars.

Chevrons, scientists say, not only give drivers the impression that they are driving faster than they really are but also make a lane appear to be narrower. The result is a longer lasting reduction in highway speed and the number of traffic accidents.

6. The passage mainly discusses _____.
 - A. a new way of highway speed control
 - B. a new pattern for painting highways
 - C. a new approach to training drivers
 - D. a new type of optical illusion

7. On roads painted with chevrons, drivers tend to feel that _____.
 - A. they should avoid speed-related hazards
 - B. they are driving in the wrong lane
 - C. they should slow down their speed
 - D. they are approaching the speed limit
8. The advantage of chevrons over straight, horizontal bars is that the former _____.
 - A. can keep drivers awake
 - B. can cut road accidents in half
 - C. will have a longer effect on drivers
 - D. will look more attractive
9. The American Automobile Association Foundation for Traffic Safety plans to _____.
 - A. try out the Japanese method in certain areas
 - B. change the road signs across the country
 - C. replace straight, horizontal bars with chevrons
 - D. repeat the Japanese road patterns
10. What does the author say about straight, horizontal bars painted across roads?
 - A. They are falling out of use in the United States.
 - B. They tend to be ignored by drivers in a short period of time.
 - C. They are applicable only on broad roads.
 - D. They cannot be applied successfully to traffic circles.

TEXT C

Beauty has always been regarded as something praiseworthy. Almost everyone thinks attractive people are happier and healthier, have better marriages and have more respectable occupations. Personal consultants give them better advice for finding jobs. Even judges are softer on attractive defendants (被告). But in the executive circle, beauty can become a liability.

While attractiveness is a positive factor for a man on his way up the executive ladder, it is harmful to a woman.

Handsome male executives were perceived as having more integrity than plainer men; effort and ability were thought to account for their success.

Attractive female executives were considered to have less integrity than unattractive ones; their success was attributed not to ability but to factors such as luck.

All unattractive women executives were thought to have more integrity and to be more capable than the attractive female executives. Interestingly, though, the rise of the unattractive overnight successes was attributed more to personal relationships and less to ability than was that of attractive overnight successes.

Why are attractive women not thought to be able? An attractive woman is perceived to be more feminine and an attractive man more masculine than the less attractive ones. Thus, an attractive woman has an advantage in traditionally female jobs, but an attractive woman in a traditionally masculine position appears to lack the "masculine" qualities required.

This is true even in politics. "When the only clue is how he or she looks, people treat men and women differently," says Anne Bowman, who recently published a study on the effects of

attractiveness on political candidates. She asked 125 undergraduate students to rank two groups of photographs, one of men and one of women, in the order of attractiveness. The students were then told the photographs were of candidates for political offices. They were asked to rank them again, in the order they would vote for them.

The results showed that attractive males utterly defeated unattractive men, but the women who had been ranked most attractive invariably received the fewest votes.

11. The word "liability" (Line 4, Para. 1) most probably means "_____".
A. misfortune B. instability C. disadvantage D. burden
12. In traditionally female jobs, attractiveness _____.
A. reinforces the feminine qualities required
B. makes women look more honest and capable
C. is of primary importance to women
D. often enables women to succeed quickly
13. Bowman's experiment reveals that when it comes to politics, attractiveness _____.
A. turns out to be an obstacle to men
B. affects men and women alike
C. has as little effect on men as on women
D. is more of an obstacle than a benefit to women
14. It can be inferred from the passage that people's views on beauty are often _____.
A. practical B. prejudiced C. old-fashioned D. radical
15. The author writes this passage to _____.
A. discuss the negative aspects of being attractive
B. give advice to job-seekers who are attractive
C. demand equal rights for women
D. emphasize the importance of appearance

TEXT D

If you want to stay young, sit down and have a good think. This is the research finding of a team of Japanese doctors, who say that most of our brains are not getting enough exercise—and as a result, we are ageing unnecessarily soon.

Professor Taiju Matsuzawa wanted to find out why otherwise healthy farmers in northern Japan appeared to be losing their ability to think and reason at a relatively early age, and how the process of ageing could be slowed down.

With a team of colleagues at Tokyo National University, he set about measuring brain volumes of a thousand people of different ages and varying occupations.

Computer technology enabled the researchers to obtain precise measurements of the volume of the front and side sections of the brain, which relate to intellect (智能) and emotion, and determine the human character. (The rear section of the brain, which controls functions like eating and breathing, does not contract with age, and one can continue living without intellectual or emotional faculties.)

Contraction of front and side parts—as cells die off—was observed in some subjects in their thirties, but it was still not evident in some sixty- and seventy-year-olds.

Matsuzawa concluded from his tests that there is a simple remedy to the contraction normally associated with age—using the head.

The findings show in general terms that contraction of the brain begins sooner in people in the country than in the town. Those least at risk, says Matsuzawa, are lawyers, followed by university professors and doctors. White collar workers doing routine work in government offices are, however, as likely to have shrinking brains as the farm workers, bus drivers and shop assistants.

Matsuzawa's findings show that thinking can prevent the brain from shrinking. Blood must circulate properly in the head to supply the fresh oxygen the brain cells need. "The best way to maintain good blood circulation is using the brain," he says, "Think hard and engage in conversation. Don't rely on pocket calculators."

16. The team of doctors wanted to find out _____.
 A. why certain people age sooner than others
 B. how to make people live longer
 C. the size of certain people's brains
 D. which people are most intelligent
17. On what are their research findings based?
 A. A survey of farmers in northern Japan.
 B. Tests performed on a thousand old people.
 C. The study of brain volumes of different people.
 D. The latest development of computer technology.
18. The doctor's tests show that _____.
 A. our brains shrink as we grow older
 B. the front section of the brain does not shrink
 C. sixty-year-olds have better brains than thirty-year-olds
 D. some people's brains have contracted more than other people's
19. The word "subjects" in Paragraph 5 means _____.
 A. something to be considered
 B. branches of knowledge studied
 C. persons chosen to be studied in an experiment
 D. any member of a state except the supreme ruler
20. According to the passage, which people seem to age slower than the others?
 A. Lawyers. B. Farmers. C. Shop assistants. D. Clerks.

Keys

1—5 DBACA

6—10 ACCAB

11—15 CADBA

16—20 ACDCA

Notes

TEXT A

本文是一篇论述美国公关公司为何落后的论说文。

文章一开始就指出,跨国公司的兴起、全球性的营销活动、新的通讯技术的出现和文化差异的日趋缩小,都使公共关系活动在全球范围内得到前所未有的发展。

(1) 现代的公关原本是美国人发明的,然而现在美国在这一领域的领先地位已开始受到其他国家公关事业迅速发展的威胁。例如,10年前世界上排名前5位的公关公司都是些美国公司,然而到了1991年只有一家是美国公司。英国人在这方面不仅经验丰富,而且颇有创造性。(2) 不久前进行的一次调查表明一半以上的英国公司把公关列入他们公司的计划里。而相比之下,只有大约三分之一的美国公司这样做。这样下去,可能用不了多久伦敦就会代替纽约成为世界公关事业的中心。

(4) 美国在全球性的公关竞赛中为什么会落伍呢?原因有三个。(3) 第一个原因是美国人总体说来较为偏狭,只关心本国、本地区的事情。例如,关于世界地理的知识从来不是美国人的强项。第二个原因是美国人在掌握外语方面要远比他们的欧洲和亚洲同行落后。Burson-Marshall公司的美国雇员中只有不到5%的人掌握了一门外语。另一家大公司,即Ogilvy and Mather,情况也大体相同。与此相反,在一些欧洲公司中至少有一半或更多的雇员懂一门外语。第三个原因则是那些外国公关公司的雇员比较注意关注国际事务。例如,在金融界公关领域里工作的大多数美国人通常只读《华尔街日报》,而他们的海外同行不仅读《华尔街日报》,而且还看在美国很少有人问津的伦敦《金融时报》和《经济学家》杂志。

文章最后一段指出,美国的公关界应从CNN的老板Ted Turner说的一句话中得到启示。(5) Ted Turner不久前宣布说,在CNN的新闻广播中将不再使用“外国”这个词,因为全球性的通讯已使世界各国相互依存,不再存在有什么可称之为外国的东西。

- D** 细节题。(Lines 1-2, Para. 2) Surprisingly, since modern PR was largely an American invention, the U. S. leadership in public relations is being **threatened by PR efforts in other countries**. 尽管现代的公关事业是美国人的发明,然而其他国家在这方面所做的努力使其领先地位受到威胁。
- B** 细节题。(Lines 4-7, Para. 2) ...**more than half of all British companies** include PR as part of their corporate planning activities, **compared to about one-third of U. S. companies**.一半以上的英国公司把公关列入他们的计划里,而只有约三分之一的美国公司这样做。因此,很显然英国公司比美国公司更为重视公关。伦敦取代纽约成为世界公关事业的中心也只是时间问题。
- A** 词义题。(Lines 1-2, Para. 3) ...Americans as a whole tend to be fairly **provincial** and take more of an interest in **local affairs**. 要准确推出 provincial 一词在本句中的词义,就必须读懂该词前后部分的意思。前一句问及美国在全球性的公关竞赛中为什么会落伍,回答是,因为美国人 tend to be provincial. provincial 以后的部分则进一步说美国人只关心本国、本地区的事情(take more of an interest in local affairs),而且对世界地理了解不多,又很少有人掌握外语。由此可见,美国人对本国以外的事情了解甚少,观点和见解肯定有局限性。
- C** 推理题。Para. 3 列举了美国在全球性的公关竞赛中落伍的三个主要原因,即美国人总的来说比较偏狭,懂外语的人极少,并且很少阅读其他国家的各种有关报刊。因此,和他们的海外同行相比,当然就会是 less sophisticated。
- A** 推理题。(Lines 2-4, Para. 4) Turner recently announced that the word “foreign” would no longer be used on CNN news broadcasts. According to Turner, global communications have made **the nations of the world so interdependent that there is no longer any such thing as foreign**. 由于全球性的通讯设施极为发达,世界各国之间的关系非常密切,已形成相互依存之势,因此不再存在有什么可称之为“外国”的东西。言下之意是美国的公关公司应加强对国际事务的关注。

TEXT B

(6) 本文谈论的是减少交通事故的一种新举措(视错觉),即在公路的事故多发区段路面上画人字形线的办法。

这种办法首先是在日本采用的。日本的实验证明:(7) 在路面上画人字形线使人产生光学错觉,使驾驶人员感到他们的驾驶速度高于实际驾驶速度,从而减速。这种办法的采用可将汽车交通事故的发生率降低约 75%。

(9) 美国华盛顿地区的汽车协会交通安全基金会计划像日本已经取得的那样的成功,从下一个年度开始将人字形线和其他图形的线条画在全国各地被选定的公路路面上,以测试各种线条在减少公路交通事故中能起的作用。

根据基金会以往的调查,造成人员死亡的交通事故中多达五分之一是由超速行驶引起的。为了减少此类交通事故,基金会将在超速行驶事故多发区进行试验,诸如弯道、公路出口的坡道、环岛地段及桥梁等等。

某些研究表明,(10) 在路面上画水平直线时,最初阶段可使驾驶速度减半,但一旦驾驶人员对那些横线习以为常,过不了几个月,路面交通便会恢复到原来的速度。

科学家说,(8) 人字形线不仅能使驾驶人员感到驾驶速度高于实际速度,还能使汽车通道显得比实际宽度窄,结果能达到较为长效地降低公路上的汽车驾驶速度的目的,从而减少交通事故。

6. **A** 主旨题。(Para. 1) Believe it or not, **optical illusion can cut highway crashes**. 信不信由你,视错觉可以减少交通事故。

7. **C** 细节题。(Lines 2-4, Para. 2) Bent stripes, called chevrons, painted on the roads make **drivers think that they are driving faster than they really are, and thus drivers slow down**. 人字形线使驾驶员产生错觉:车速太快,于是他们觉得应该减速。

8. **C** 细节题。文章最后一段的最后一句: Chevrons... The result is a **longer lasting reduction in highway speed and the number of traffic accidents**. 人字形线的优势在于它能在较长的时间内对驾驶人员起作用。比较可参见 10 题。

9. **A** 细节题。(Para. 3) Now the American... **is planning to repeat Japan's success**. 计划取得日本已经取得的那样的成功。从下一年度开始将人字形线和其他图形的线条画在全国各地选定的公路路面上,以测试各种线条在减少公路交通事故中能起的作用。

10. **B** 细节题。倒数第二段: Some studies suggest that straight, horizontal bars painted across roads **can initially cut the average speed of drivers in half. However, traffic often returns to full speed within months as drivers become used to seeing the painted bars**. 在路面上画水平直线时,最初阶段可使速度减半,但一旦驾驶人员对那些横线习以为常,过不了几个月,路面交通便恢复到原来速度。

TEXT C

这篇文章对美貌展开讨论。

人们总以为美貌一定是好事,长相好便会事事如愿,会在许多方面占便宜,即便打起官司来,法官对长相好的被告也会网开一面。(11, 15) 但是,在行政管理领域,美貌有可能成为一个不利因素。

美貌给男士和女士带来的影响是不一样的。人们普遍认为在男士中间,相貌出众的职员要比长相平平的更诚实可靠,他们如若获得成功必定是能力强且付出了努力。女人则不一样了。(14) 人们认为,漂亮的女职员不如不漂亮的女职员那么诚实可靠,她们若有成就,不是她们有能耐,而是她们走运。

在第五段中作者写到然而有趣的是,长相平平的女士突然获得成功、得到提升,是因为她们的人际关系比长相漂亮的女士好,而不是因为她们有能力比漂亮的女人强。社会对男士和女士的看法来源于传统观念。人们认为美貌的女人比较女性化,英俊的男士比较男性化。(12) 因此,女性化的女人在于传统上属于女性的工作时具有优势,若去干男性的工作,则会被认为是不称职的。作者继而谈到政治领域的现象:(13) 漂亮的女人自然赢得不了多少选票,因为政治似乎是男人的领域。作者虽然没有结论性的意见,但他的潜台词是十分清楚的。

11. **C** 词义题。Para. 1 说貌美的人比一般人生活得好,事事都会占便宜,言外之意,美貌是个有利条件。而本段最后一句用了表示转折的连接词 but,说明本句中的 liability 是有利条件的反面,即不利条件。也可参见第二段。
12. **A** 细节题。(Line 3, Para. 6) Thus, **an attractive woman has an advantage in traditionally female jobs.** 因此,美貌的女性在从事传统上属于女性的工作时,具有有利条件。
13. **D** 细节题。最后一段最后一句: but the women who had been ranked most attractive invariably **received the fewest votes.** 而漂亮的女人在政界赢得的选票却总是最少。
14. **B** 推理题。作者没有结论性的意见,但潜台词十分清楚。(Para. 5) **All unattractive women executives were thought to have more integrity and to be more capable than the attractive female executives. Interestingly, though,** the rise of the unattractive overnight successes was attributed more to personal relationships and less to ability than was that of attractive overnight successes. 人们往往认为漂亮女性不如不漂亮的女性诚实可靠、有能耐。然而有趣的是,长相平平的女性突然获得成功、得到提升,总是被归功于她们的人际关系比长相漂亮的女士好,而不是因为她们的能力比漂亮的女人强。
15. **A** 主旨题。(Para. 2) **While attractiveness is a positive factor for a man on his way up the executive ladder, it is harmful to a woman.** 作者通篇都在讨论美貌对行政管理领域的漂亮女性的负面影响。

TEXT D

本文探讨人们应怎样保持青春活力。

文章一开头就指出,若要保持青春的活力,就应该多动脑筋思考问题。这个结论是一组日本医生的研究结果。他们指出,正是人们大脑的大部分未得到充分使用,才致使人们提前老化。

(16) 国立东京大学的 M 教授和他的同事们,为了弄清日本北部的一些其他方面很健康的农民在还未衰老之前就开始失去思维和推理能力的原因以及如何才能延缓老化过程,(17) 测量了一千名不同年龄和职业的人的大脑容量。

大脑的前部和两侧与智能和情感相关联,并决定人们的性格,而控制吃和呼吸功能的大脑的后部则不随年龄的增长而萎缩,故人们在丧失智能和情感功能后依然可以存活。

因此,国立东京大学的 M 教授和他的同事运用了计算机技术对大脑的上述部位进行精确的测量,(18, 19) 并发现参加这一调查的一些三十几岁的人的大脑前部和两侧都有萎缩现象,而一些六七十岁的人的大脑则未出现萎缩现象。

于是 M 教授从上述试验得出的结论是,要延缓由于年龄的增长而出现的大脑萎缩,最简单的办法就是多动脑筋。

(18) M 教授的上述研究结果表明,大脑萎缩现象在乡下人身上比城里人身上更早发生。(20) 律师、大学教授和医生受此影响最小。然而,在政府部门只作日常公务的白领工作人员和农场工人、大客车司机以及店员一样,都有可能患大脑萎缩症。

M 教授的研究结果还表明,动脑筋进行思考能防止大脑萎缩。这是因为血液必须在头部进行正常的循环,以提供大脑细胞所需的新鲜氧气,而使用大脑是保证血液进行良性循环的最好方法。因此,M 教授告诫人们,要多动脑筋,多与别人交谈,不要依赖计算器。因此得出结论,要延缓由于年龄的增长而出现的大脑萎缩的最简单办法就是多动脑筋。

16. **A** 细节题。(Lines 1-2, Para. 2) Professor Taiju Matsuzawa wanted to find out why otherwise **healthy farmers in northern Japan appeared to be losing their ability to think and reason** at a relatively early age... M 教授想弄清日本北部的一些其他方面很健康的农民在还未衰老之前就开始失去思维和推理能力的原因。
17. **C** 细节题。...(Lines 1-2, Para. 3) ...he set about **measuring brain volumes of a thousand people of different ages and varying occupations.** 他着手测量了一千名不同年龄和职业的人的大脑的体积。

18. **D** 日本医生的实验证明了什么? (Lines 1-2, Para. 7) The findings show in general terms that **contraction of the brain begins sooner in people in the country than in the town**. M 教授的上述研究结果表明, 大脑萎缩现象在乡下人身上比在城里人身上更早发生。或 (Lines 1-2, Para. 5) **Contraction of front and side parts—as cells die off—was observed in some subjects in their thirties, but it was still not evident in some sixty- and seventy-year-olds**. 有些三十几岁的人, 其大脑的前部和两侧会随着细胞的消亡而萎缩, 然而一些六七十岁的人的大脑却未出现萎缩现象。
19. **C** 词义题。 (Line 1, Para. 5) subjects 一词的前面有 “Contraction of front and side parts (of the brains) —as cells die off — was observed”, 后面有 in their thirties。也就是说在一些三十几岁的 subjects 身上发现了大脑的前部和两侧都有萎缩现象。因此 subjects 应该指人。
20. **A** 细节题。 (Line 2, Para. 7) **Those least at risk, says Matsuzawa, are lawyers**. 律师受此影响最小。

Test 2

TEXT A

If you intend using humor in your talk to make people smile, you must know how to identify shared experiences and problems. Your humor must be relevant to the audience and should help to show them that you are one of them or that you understand their situation and are in sympathy with their point of view. Depending on whom you are addressing, the problems will be different. If you are talking to a group of managers, you may refer to the disorganized methods of their secretaries; alternatively if you are addressing secretaries, you may want to comment on their disorganized bosses.

Here is an example, which I heard at a nurses' convention, of a story which works well because the audience all shared the same view of doctors. A man arrives in heaven and is being shown around by St. Peter. He sees wonderful accommodations, beautiful gardens, sunny weather, and so on. Everyone is very peaceful, polite and friendly until, waiting in a line for lunch, the new arrival is suddenly pushed aside by a man in a white coat, who rushes to the head of the line, grabs his food and stomps over to a table by himself. “Who is that?” the new arrival asks St. Peter, “Oh, that's God,” comes the reply, “but sometimes he thinks he's a doctor.”

If you are part of the group which you are addressing, you will be in a position to know the experiences and problems which are common to all of you and it'll be appropriate for you to make a passing remark about the inedible canteen food or the chairman's notorious bad taste in ties. With other audiences you mustn't attempt to cut in with humor as they will resent an outsider making disparaging remarks about their canteen or their chairman. You will be on safer ground if you stick to scapegoats like the Post Office or the telephone system.

If you feel awkward being humorous, you must practice so that it becomes more natural. Include a few casual and apparently off-the-cuff remarks which you can deliver in a relaxed and unforced manner. Often it's the delivery that causes the audience to smile, so speak slowly and remember that a raised eyebrow or an unbelieving look may help to show that you are making a light-hearted remark.

Look for the humor. It often comes from the unexpected. A twist on a familiar quote “If at first you don’t succeed, give up” or a play on words or on a situation. Search for exaggeration and understatements. Look at your talk and pick out a few words or sentences which you can turn about and inject with humor.

1. To make your humor work, you should _____.
 A. take advantage of different kinds of audience
 B. make fun of the disorganized people
 C. address different problems to different people
 D. show sympathy for your listeners
2. The joke about doctors implies that, in the eyes of nurses, they are _____.
 A. impolite to new arrivals
 B. very conscious of their godlike role
 C. entitled to some privileges
 D. very busy even during lunch hours
3. It can be inferred from the text that public services _____.
 A. have benefited many people
 B. are the focus of public attention
 C. are an inappropriate subject for humor
 D. have often been the laughing stock
4. To achieve the desired result, humorous stories should be delivered _____.
 A. in well-worded language
 B. as awkwardly as possible
 C. in exaggerated statements
 D. as casually as possible
5. The best title for the text may be _____.
 A. Use Humor Effectively
 B. Various Kinds of Humor
 C. Add Humor to Speech
 D. Different Humor Strategies

TEXT B

Unless we spend money to spot and prevent asteroids (小行星) now, one might crash into Earth and destroy life as we know it, say some scientists.

Asteroids are bigger versions of the meteoroids (流星) that race across the night sky. Most orbit the sun far from Earth and don’t threaten us. But there are also thousands of asteroids whose orbits put them on a collision course with Earth.

Buy \$50 million worth of new telescopes right now. Then spend \$10 million a year for the next 25 years to locate most of the space rocks. By the time we spot a fatal one, the scientists say, we’ll have a way to change its course.

Some scientists favor pushing asteroids off course with nuclear weapons. But the cost wouldn’t be cheap.

Is it worth it? Two things experts consider when judging any risk are: 1) How likely the event is; and 2) How bad the consequences if the event occurs. Experts think an asteroid big enough to destroy lots of life might strike Earth once every 500,000 years. Sounds pretty rare—but if one did fall, it would be the end of the world. “If we don’t take care of these big asteroids, they’ll take care of us,” says one scientist. “It’s that simple.”

The cure, though, might be worse than the disease. Do we really want fleets of nuclear weapons sitting around on Earth? “The world has less to fear from doomsday (毁灭性的) rocks

than from a great nuclear fleet set against them," said a *New York Times* article.

6. What does the passage say about asteroids and meteoroids?

- A. They are heavenly bodies different in composition.
- B. They are heavenly bodies similar in nature.
- C. There are more asteroids than meteoroids.
- D. Asteroids are more mysterious than meteoroids.

7. What do scientists say about the collision of an asteroid with Earth?

- A. It is very unlikely but the danger exists.
- B. Such a collision might occur once every 25 years.
- C. Collisions of smaller asteroids with Earth occur more often than expected.
- D. It's still too early to say whether such a collision might occur.

8. What do people think of the suggestion of using nuclear weapons to alter the course of asteroids?

- A. It sounds practical but it may not solve the problem.
- B. It may create more problems than it might solve.
- C. It is a waste of money because a collision of asteroids with Earth is very unlikely.
- D. Further research should be done before it is proved applicable.

9. We can conclude from the passage that _____.

- A. while pushing asteroids off course nuclear weapons would destroy the world
- B. asteroids racing across the night sky are likely to hit Earth in the near future
- C. the worry about asteroids can be left to future generations since it is unlikely to happen in our lifetime
- D. workable solutions still have to be found to prevent a collision of asteroids with Earth

10. Which of the following best describes the author's tone in this passage?

- A. Optimistic. B. Critical. C. Objective. D. Arbitrary.

TEXT C

The long years of food shortage in this country have suddenly given way to apparent abundance. Stores and shops are choked with food. Rationing (定量供应) is virtually suspended, and overseas suppliers have been asked to hold back deliveries. Yet, instead of joy, there is widespread uneasiness and confusion. Why do food prices keep on rising, when there seems to be so much more food? Is the abundance only temporary, or has it come to stay? Does it mean that we need to think less now about producing more food at home? No one knows what to expect.

The recent growth of export surpluses on the world food market has certainly been unexpectedly great, partly because a strange sequence of two successful grain harvests in North America is now being followed by a third. Most of Britain's overseas suppliers of meat, too, are offering more this year and home production has also risen.

But the effect of all this on the food situation in this country has been made worse by a simultaneous rise in food prices, due chiefly to the gradual cutting down of government support for