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COLLEGE ENGLISH BAND SIX

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大学英语六级考试

阅读·翻译·简答

(修订版)

高分突破

编写 大学英语六级考试命题研究组

主编 北京大学英语系 陈黎晖 蔡晖

总策划 胡东华



科学技术文献出版社

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我们的所有努力,都是为了使您增长知识和才干。

前 言

为了迎接 21 世纪的挑战,争取到 2000 年使大学英语教学上一个新台阶,国家教育部高教司于 1999 年推出了新《大学英语教学大纲》,本大纲在继承原大纲优点的基础上,对原大纲作了较多的修改。在新旧大纲交替之际,为了帮助和指导应试者顺利通过大学英语四、六级考试,大学英语四、六级考试命题研究组根据最新《大学英语教学大纲》编写了本系列丛书。

本系列丛书含有全面的英语知识和学习技巧。

本系列丛书包括下列两部分:

1. 大学英语四级考试高分突破(5 个分册)

(1) 听力训练(含 3 盒磁带)

(2) 词汇·语法

(3) 阅读、简答、翻译

(4) 写作与范文

(5) 模拟题库(含 2 盒磁带)

2. 大学英语六级考试高分突破(6 个分册)

(1) 听力训练(含 3 盒磁带)

(2) 词汇、语法

(3) 阅读、简答、翻译

(4) 写作与范文

(5) 语法、改错、综合技巧

(6) 模拟题库(含 2 盒磁带)

本书包括阅读、翻译以及简答三部分,在六级考试中均占有较大分数值。因此,其宗旨是对高分段进行集中地、重点地、专项地训练,复习英语知识,掌握应试技巧,顺利通过六级考试,并取得突破高分的良好效果,同时大幅度提高英语水平。

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UNIT 1

Section A: Reading Comprehension

Passage One

Nature doesn't negotiate. This axiom is worth remembering as we enter the second year of the International Decade for Natural Disaster Reduction, declared by the UN. Among the non-negotiable events to be expected during the decade are earthquakes. As an engineer in California observed in the aftermath of the state's 1989 quake: "Earthquakes don't kill people. Buildings do."

Nobody wants to spend extra money preparing for something that may never happen and earthquake engineering has long been neglected. Now that attitude is changing, most obviously on the West Coast, which has more money than other earthquake zones to experiment with new designs and materials. The value of well-built buildings is not lost on Californians. The earthquake of October 17 1989 in San Francisco reached a magnitude of 7.1 on the Richter scale and killed 62 people; the 1988 quake in Armenia, with a magnitude of 6.7, killed about 25,000.

Earthquake engineers may not have needed to be reminded that building design can make all the difference between life and death, but the Californian quake has increased public interest in earthquake-resistant designs. These range from the mundane, such as reinforcing masonry walls with steel beams to strengthen them, to the exotic, such as supporting an entire building on rubber so that the structure "floats" in isolation.

To understand how engineers are preparing for earthquakes, one needs to know a little about how buildings behave when shaken. Place several dishes of jelly on a table and rhythmically shake the edge. The jellies will shake too, but some more than others. Each jelly will sway back and forth in a characteristic time, or period, that depends predominantly on its height and consistency. Those jellies whose natural frequency matches the frequency of the shakes will oscillate with the greatest amplitude—the two frequencies are said to be "in reso-

nance”.

1. Which of the following statements can best explain the specified sentence “Earthquakes don’t kill people. Buildings do”?
 - A. Earthquake is harmless, and it has never caused disasters.
 - B. People are killed by buildings which can not resist earthquakes.
 - C. Building is a kind of natural phenomenon, which causes disasters.
 - D. When earthquake comes, buildings can not protect people at all.
2. From the comparison between San Francisco and Armenia, what can you get?
 - A. Nobody wants to spend extra money to prepare for something that may never happen.
 - B. Earthquake engineering has long been neglected.
 - C. West Coast spends more money in experimenting with new designs and materials.
 - D. The value of well-built buildings is not lost on Californians.
3. Why some jellies shake more than others?
 - A. Engineers place several dishes of jelly on a table and rhythmically shake the edge.
 - B. Each jelly will sway back and forth in a characteristic time.
 - C. Each jelly shakes in a style decided predominantly by its height and consistency.
 - D. Those jellies whose natural frequency matches the frequency of the shakes will oscillate with the greatest amplitude.
4. Which of the following statements is the main idea of the passage?
 - A. Building design can make all the difference between life and death, so people should pay more attention to it.
 - B. Nature doesn’t negotiate.
 - C. Each jelly will sway back and forth in a characteristic time, or period, that depends predominantly on its height and consistency.
 - D. The 1988 quake in Armenia, with a magnitude of 6.7, killed about 25000.
5. How do buildings behave when quaked?
 - A. Each building will sway back and forth in a characteristic time, or period, and some more than others.
 - B. Each building will shake rhythmically the same with others.
 - C. Each building will break down immediately.

D. Buildings will be in resonance with the earthquake.

Attachment: Glossary

negotiate	<i>v.</i>	谈判; 讲条件; 通过谈判达成(或解决)
axiom	<i>n.</i>	公理; 原则; 格言
earthquake	<i>n.</i>	地震
to neglect	<i>v.</i>	忽略; 疏忽; 不顾
zone	<i>n.</i>	地区; 区域
magnitude	<i>n.</i>	大小; 数量; 值; 等级; 震级
Richter	<i>n.</i>	里氏震级
Armenia		亚美尼亚
earthquake-resistant	<i>adj.</i>	抗震的
mundane	<i>adj.</i>	世界的; 世俗的; 平凡的
reinforce	<i>v.</i>	加强; 增援; 补充, 增加数量; 修补; 加固
masonry	<i>n.</i>	石工(工程), 水泥砖石结构
beam	<i>n.</i>	梁; 桁条
exotic	<i>adj.</i>	外来的; 异国情调的
rubber	<i>n.</i>	橡胶; 合成橡胶
jelly	<i>n.</i>	果(子)冻; 肉冻
rhythmically	<i>adv.</i>	有节奏地; 有韵律地
predominantly	<i>adv.</i>	占优势地; 主要地, 突出地
consistency	<i>n.</i>	粘稠度
frequency	<i>n.</i>	频率
oscillate	<i>v.</i>	摆动; 上下波动; 振荡; 振动
amplitude	<i>n.</i>	幅度; 振幅
resonance	<i>n.</i>	共振, 谐振; 共鸣

Passage Two

Aside from perpetuating itself, the sole purpose of the American Academy and Institute of Arts and Letters is to "foster, assist and sustain an interest" in literature, music, and art. This it does by enthusiastically handing out money. Annual cash awards are given to deserving artists in various categories of creati-

ty: architecture, musical composition, theater, novels, serious poetry, light verse, painting, sculpture. One award subsidizes a promising American writer's visit to Rome. There is even an award for a very good work of fiction that failed commercially -- once won by the young John Updike for *The Poorhouse Fair* and, more recently, by Alice Walker for *In Love and Trouble*.

The awards and prizes total about \$ 750, 000 a year, but most of them range in size from \$ 5, 000 to \$ 12, 500, a welcome sum to many young practitioners whose work may not bring in that much money in a year. One of the advantages of the awards is that many go to the struggling artists, rather than to those who are already successful. Members of the Academy and Institute are not eligible for any cash prizes. Another advantage is that, unlike the National Endowment for the Arts or similar institutions throughout the world, there is no government money involved.

Awards are made by committee. Each of the three departments -- Literature (120 members), Art (83), Music (47) -- has a committee dealing with its own field. Committee membership rotates every year. So that new voices and opinions are constantly heard.

The most financially rewarding of all the Academy - Institute awards are the Mildred and Harold Strauss Livings. Harold Strauss, a devoted editor at Alfred A. Knopf, the New York publishing house, and Mildred Strauss, his wife, were wealthy and childless. They left the Academy - Institute a unique bequest: for five consecutive years, two distinguished (and financially needy) writers would receive enough money so they could devote themselves entirely to "prose literature" (no plays, no poetry, and no paying job that might distract). In 1983, the first Strauss Livings of \$ 35, 000 a year went to short - story writer Raymond Carver and novelist - essayist Cynthia Ozick. By 1988, the fund had grown enough so that two winners, novelists Diane Johnson and Robert Stone, each got \$ 50, 000 a year for five years.

6. What does the passage mainly discuss?

- A. Award - winning works of literature
- B. An organization that supports the arts
- C. The life of an artist
- D. Individual patrons of the arts

7. The word "subsidizes" in the sentence "One award subsidizes a promising

American writer's visit to Rome" is closest in meaning to _____.

- A. assures
 - B. finances
 - C. schedules
 - D. publishes
8. Which of the following **can be inferred** about Alice Walker's book *In Love and Trouble*?
- A. It sold more copies than *The Poorhouse Fair*.
 - B. It described the author's visit to Rome.
 - C. It was a commercial success.
 - D. It was published after *The Poorhouse Fair*.
9. Each year the awards and prizes offered by the Academy - Institute total approximately _____.
- A. \$ 12, 500
 - B. \$ 35, 000
 - C. \$ 50, 000
 - D. \$ 75, 000
10. What is one of the advantages of the Academy - Institute awards mentioned in the passage?
- A. They are subsidized by the government.
 - B. They are often given to unknown artists.
 - C. They are also given to Academy - Institute members.
 - D. They influence how the National Endowment for the Arts makes its award decisions.

Attachment: Glossary

perpetuate	v.	使永存, 使不朽
sole	adj.	唯一的
foster	v.	培养, 养育, 抚育
sustain	v.	维持, 使……持续
hand out		分发, 施舍
subsidize	v.	津贴, 资助
practitioner	n.	从业者
eligible	adj.	符合条件的, 合格的

rotate	<i>v.</i>	旋转, 轮换
bequest	<i>n.</i>	遗产, 遗赠
consecutive	<i>adj.</i>	连续的
needy	<i>adj.</i>	穷困的
distract	<i>v.</i>	转移, 分散……的精力

Passage Three

Most reproduction of plants is accomplished through germination of seeds, but sometimes this is not possible or the process is too lengthy for commercial purposes. In these cases, man steps in and uses vegetative propagation. There are three main forms: cutting, grafting, and layering.

The most common means of vegetative propagation is through use of a stem cutting — that is, taking a leaf and stem from a plant such as an African violet and putting it in water or a soil mixture until roots appear. When roots emerge, the cutting is ready to be planted. Tubers, such as potatoes, can also be reproduced in this fashion. A potato is cut into several pieces, thereby allowing many new plants to be produced from each piece.

Grafting is another very common means of vegetative propagation, especially with fruit trees such as apples and oranges and ornamental shrubs and trees, notably roses. Grafting involves removing a branch or twig from one tree and attaching it to a growing branch or twig from another tree; the first branch or twig is called the scion and the second is called the stock. The scion and stock are cut in a special way to insure a close fit, and special waxes are applied around the cut so that the grafting will “take”.

Layering, the third means of vegetative propagation, can occur in the wild without the help of man. Layering happens when the stems of a plant bend down to the ground and then root to produce a thick growth of new plants. When one uses layering purposefully, he will cut a new plant off when roots appear and plant it elsewhere.

These three means of plant propagation are really a form of plant “cloning” in that the new plant is the same as the original. Even in grafting, the scion will have only the characteristics of the original plant unless the graft dies and is taken over by the stock.

Germination of seeds and vegetative propagation can only be used to produce

new plants which are identical to their "parents". New and different types of plants occur through entirely different processes, such as cross - pollination or mutation.

11. You might use vegetative propagation when _____.
A. you want to cure a certain plant's disease
B. seed germination would take too much time
C. you want to reproduce corn
D. you want a new and different plant
12. A tuber can be reproduced _____.
A. by using cutting, layering or grafting methods
B. in the same manner as rose bushes and other ornamental shrubs
C. by taking a leaf and stem from a plant and inserting it in water
D. none of the above
13. Which form of vegetative propagation can occur without man's help?
A. cutting
B. grafting
C. layering
D. cloning
14. Most natural reproduction of plants occurs through _____.
A. layering
B. cutting
C. grafting
D. germination of seeds
15. Which of the following statements is TRUE?
A. It would probably be easier to use vegetative propagation when a plant has a short growing cycle.
B. A scion transplanted to another twig, if alive, will resemble the plant from which it was taken.
C. Grafting is more commonly used with rose trees than with fruit trees.
D. Cross - pollination or mutation can also be used to produce new plants which are identical to their "parents".

Attachment: Glossary

reproduction

n.

繁殖

accomplish	<i>v.</i>	完成
<u>germination</u>	<i>n.</i>	萌芽, 发生
step in		插手帮助
vegetative	<i>adj.</i>	有关植物生长的
propagation	<i>n.</i>	(动植物)繁殖
graft	<i>v.</i>	嫁接
stem	<i>n.</i>	茎
violet	<i>n.</i>	紫罗兰
tuber	<i>n.</i>	块茎
ornamental	<i>adj.</i>	装饰性的
notably	<i>adv.</i>	显著地, 特别地
twig	<i>n.</i>	树枝
scion <i>saɪən</i>	<i>n.</i>	幼芽
insure	<i>v.</i>	保证
cloning	<i>n.</i>	无性繁殖, 克隆
identical	<i>adj.</i>	一模一样的
pollination	<i>n.</i>	授粉
mutation	<i>n.</i>	(生物物种的)突变

Passage Four

The evolution of sex ratios has produced, in most plants and animals with separate sexes, approximately equal numbers of males and females. Why should this be so? Two main kinds of answers have been offered. One is couched in terms of advantage to population. It is argued that the sex ratio will evolve so as to maximize the number of meetings between individuals of the opposite sex. This is essentially a "group selection" argument. The other, and in my view correct, type of answer was first put forward by Fisher in 1930. This "genetic" argument starts from the assumption that genes can influence the relative numbers of male and female offspring produced by an individual carrying the genes. That sex ratio will be favored which maximizes the number of descendants an individual will have and hence the number of gene copies transmitted. Suppose that the population consisted mostly of females; then an individual who produced sons only would have more grandchildren. In contrast, if the population consisted mostly of males, it would pay to have daughters. If, however, the population consisted of

equal numbers of males and females, sons and daughters would be equally valuable. Thus a one - to - one sex ratio is the only stable ratio; it is an "evolutionarily stable strategy." Although Fisher wrote before the mathematical theory of games had been developed, his theory incorporates the essential feature of a game - - that the best strategy to adapt depends on what others are doing.

Since Fisher's time, it has been realized that genes can sometimes influence the chromosome or gamete in which they find themselves so that the gamete will be more likely to participate in fertilization. If such a gene occurs on a sex - determining (X or Y) chromosome, then highly aberrant sex ratios can occur.

But more immediately relevant to game theory are the sex ratios in certain parasitic wasp species that have a large excess of females. In these species, fertilized eggs develop into females and unfertilized eggs into males. A female stores sperm and can determine the sex of each egg she lays by fertilizing it or leaving it unfertilized. By Fisher's argument, it should still pay a female to produce equal numbers of sons and daughters. Hamilton, noting that the eggs develop within their host - - the larva of another insect - - and that the newly emerged adult wasps mate immediately and disperse, offered a remarkably cogent analysis. Since only one female usually lays eggs in a given larva, it would pay her to produce one male only, because this one male could fertilize all his sisters on emergence. Like Fisher, Hamilton looked for an evolutionarily stable strategy, but he went a step further in recognizing that he was looking for a strategy.

16. The author suggests that the work of Fisher and Hamilton was similar in that both scientists _____.
- A. conducted their research at approximately the same time
 - B. sought to manipulate the sex ratios of some of the animals they studied
 - C. sought to explain why certain sex ratios exist and remain stable
 - D. studied game theory, thereby providing important groundwork for the later development of strategy theory
17. It can be inferred from the passage that the author considers Fisher's work to be _____.
- A. fallacious and unprofessional
 - B. definitive and thorough
 - C. inaccurate but popular, compared with Hamilton's work
 - D. admirable, but not as up - to - date as Hamilton's work

18. It can be inferred that the author discusses the genetic theory in greater detail than the group selection theory primarily because he believes that the genetic theory is more _____.
- A. complicated
B. accurate
C. popular
D. comprehensive
19. According to the passage, successful game strategy depends on _____.
- A. the ability to adjust one's behavior in light of the behavior of others
B. one's awareness that there is safety in numbers
C. the degree of stability one can create in one's immediate environment
D. the accuracy with which one can predict future events
20. Which of the following is NOT true of the species of parasitic wasps discussed in the passage?
- A. Adult female wasps are capable of storing sperm.
B. Female wasps lay their eggs in the larvae of other insects.
C. The adult female wasp can be fertilized by a male that was hatched in the same larva as herself.
D. So few male wasps are produced that extinction is almost inevitable.

Attachment: Glossary

ratio	<i>n.</i>	比率
couch	<i>v.</i>	用语言表达
maximize	<i>v.</i>	使最大化
genetic	<i>adj.</i>	遗传的, 起源的
gene	<i>n.</i>	基因
offspring	<i>n.</i>	后代
descendant	<i>n.</i>	后代
stable	<i>adj.</i>	稳定的
strategy	<i>n.</i>	策略
incorporate	<i>v.</i>	合并
chromosome	<i>n.</i>	染色体
gamete	<i>n.</i>	(生物)接合体
fertilization	<i>n.</i>	受精