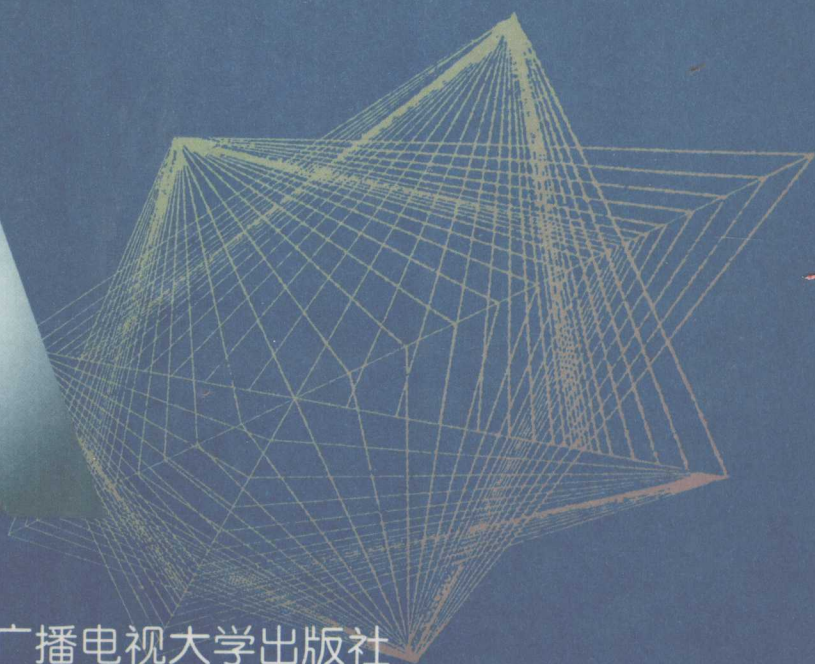
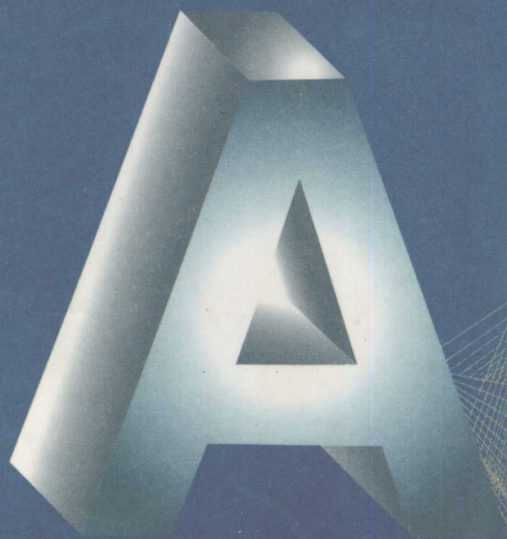


ENGLISH INTENSIVE & EXTENSIVE READINGS

英语精读 与泛读

代显梅 主编



中央广播电视大学出版社

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前 言

《考试大纲》对精读与泛读考试的总评价目标作了明确的阐述:精读与泛读考试旨在考查英语专业专科阶段的基础知识、基本理论和基本技能,注重考查读、写、译等语言综合运用能力。考生应能掌握并准确地运用英语语音的基本知识和技能;具有相当的词汇量,识记理解并正确运用一定数量的单词及有关词组和习语,掌握构词法的基本知识,掌握词与词之间的搭配关系,并能在语言实践中加以正确鉴别与运用;运用各种阅读技巧读懂不同题材、不同体裁、难度相当的英语材料并能准确地回答相关的问题;运用写作基本知识,按题材、体裁、词数等要求完成写作任务;掌握翻译基本知识,利用常用的翻译技巧进行英汉互译。

本书的70篇阅读文章摘自各种题材的现代英语著作——有科学、文学和一般题材的文章。它们是依据词汇、句法和思想内容的难度循序渐进的。把第一篇和最后一篇作一粗略比较,就可以了解到本书原定的最初水平和预期的最终水平。

本着这个原则,本书分为七个部分。第一至第三部分旨在提高学生的综合理解能力,通过仔细阅读与识记理解,掌握和正确运用一定数量的单词及有关词组和习语,运用各种阅读技巧读懂文章,准确回答有关问题。为了便于学生理解文章,书后附有译文。第四至第七部分,旨在提高学生的阅读能力,加快阅读速度以提高应试答题的能力。在阅读过程中可以根据文章上下文来理解生词的含义,以帮助理解文章内容,这在课后练习当中给予了体现。另外,为提高学生理解文章翻译内容的能力,增加了对划线部分英文翻译成中文的练习。为了便于学生随时考察自己的阅读水平,附有阅读速度对照表。

在阅读时要注意以下几个要点:

一、预测:从标题预测文章的大概内容,浏览文章后面的问题预测文章可能会谈什么,并带着问题进行阅读。

二、略读:在阅读中学会把握文章的总体,领会文章的大意,而不要逐字阅读。

三、查读:在领会大意的基础上进行查读,把注意力集中到需要找出答案的段落,找出有关的事实、数据或信息。

四、从上下文中判断词义:阅读时不能使用工具书。通过语境、上下文中的同义词、反义词获知词义或根据词的结构和构词法常识判断词义。

五、一气呵成:养成从头至尾一气呵成的阅读习惯,减少回视的次数,这样有利于提高阅读的速度。

六、找主题句:有些理解题要求你对文章内容进行归纳分析,为此学会分析语篇结构很有必要。一般议论文和说明文由三大部分组成:即文章的开头、发展和结尾。每段文章又可由三部分组成:即主题句、发展句和结尾句。

主题句:除了记叙文以外,一般文章都有一个主题句,表达段落的中心思想并控制

段落的发展。主题句大多位于段落的开头或结尾,有时也可能在段落的中间。

发展句:发展句是围绕主题句进行叙述、描写、说明或论述。发展句是用来支撑主题句的。

结尾句:结尾句是主题句的总结。

因此在阅读文章时,要把注意力集中在每段的开头和结尾,这样有利于把握总体篇章结构。

七、归纳大意:阅读完每段文章,应注意归纳段落大意。

八、分清体裁:不同体裁的文章侧重点应有所不同。如对于事实性阅读材料,应抓住文章的中心思想把握每段的大意,掌握文章的主要观点;对于鉴赏性阅读材料要能正确领会作品的主题及作者的思想感情,辨明写作格调;对于评论性阅读材料,要求能准确辨明文章的主要论点。

九、认真审题:有的题目较难作出判断选择。这类题往往是要看你是否具有推理分析的能力,从深层发掘弦外音的能力,或归纳文章主要论点的能力。

十、正确选择答案:有时答案不明显,模棱两可,这时要用排斥法将不可能的选择排除,缩小范围,以便提高命中率。

本书的目的是为了帮助专科生提高入学前的知识和能力水平,因此是一本具有针对性与实用性特点的参考书。在阅读本书的同时,学生的读、写、译等语言综合运用能力将会得到巩固与提高。

编 者

1998年10月15日

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I. 课文

Section 1

Text 1

Early Birds

An 'early bird' used to be a person who was awake early and began his (or her) day's work before other people. The people who said it were thinking of an old saying: "It is the early bird that catches the worm." But since 1965 the Early Bird has had a different meaning. The modern Early Bird is a communications satellite in orbit round the earth.

The use of wires to carry telephone communications and for other purposes of the same kind does not satisfy modern needs. We had to use radio. But the radio waves that we use for these purposes — microwaves — — — travel in straight lines. They do not follow the curve of the earth's surface. We can send them from one radio station to another — — — a relay station — — — where we amplify them and send them on to a third station. If there is no relay station within about 50 kilometres to receive the microwaves, they will continue into space. At a certain height, some of them are sent back to earth. A powerful station several hundred kilometres from their starting — point can receive them. But these are not good ways of sending the thousands of telephone, radio and television signals across the oceans.

Scientists were thinking about communications satellites. They wanted to produce satellites big enough to separate a large number of different signals, amplify them and then relay them powerfully. And they wanted to put each of these satellites into an orbit which would keep it over one point on the surface of the turning world. With four satellites of this kind — — — two over the Atlantic, one over Pacific, and one over the Indian Ocean — — — we could send radio, television, and telephone signals from any one place to any other place on the surface of the earth.

Early Bird was the first of these new communications satellites. It went into orbit in a "fixed" position over the Atlantic Ocean on 2 May 1965.

Just over two years later, the second and third satellites went into positions over the Pacific Ocean. This made it possible for people in a large number of countries to see the same television pictures at the same time.

On 25 June 1967, very large numbers of people in very many countries saw and heard the same television programme 'live'. The programme was called "Our World". It dealt with man's problems and difficulties. It also dealt with man's successes and his hopes for the future. The pictures and the sound were relayed by the Atlantic and Pacific satellites; they came from Africa, Canada, Mexico, Australia, Japan, and Europe. And they were received in all those parts of the world — — — received 'loud and clear', as the radio men say.

Notes

1. The use of wires to carry telephone communications ... does not satisfy modern needs ———
“satisfy” means “fulfill the desires, expectations, needs or demands”. 在此“satisfy”是动词，意思是满足，使满意。
2. This made it possible for people in a large number of countries to see the same TV pictures at the same time ——— to be as a Preparatory Object, “it” in “make it possible” refers to “for people in a large number of countries to see the same TV pictures at the same time.” 作为预指对象，“it”指“在很多国家同时观看同样的电视节目”这件事。

Comprehension

I. Select the best of the four choices a, b, c, and d for each sentence.

1. In this text Early Bird refers to
 - a. A person who was awake very early.
 - b. A person who began work before anyone else.
 - c. Communications satellites over the Atlantic, the Pacific and the Indian Oceans.
 - d. One of these satellites in orbit around the earth.
2. What does a communications satellite do?
 - a. It sends TV signals to any part of the world.
 - b. It receives radio, telephone and TV signals from any part of the world.
 - c. It serves as a radio, telephone and TV relay station.
 - d. It broadcasts live programmes around the world.
3. What is a relay station?
 - a. It is just another name for radio station or broadcast station.
 - b. It is a place where people collect microwaves from space.
 - c. It is a place where the microwaves continue into space.
 - d. It is a place where radio waves are received, strengthened and then sent on.
4. How many satellites are necessary to send radio or TV signals from any one place to any other place around the world?
 - a. One. b. Two. c. Three. d. Four.
5. Early Bird went into orbit in a ‘fix’ position. What does this mean?
 - a. Its orbit keeps it always over the same place on the earth’s surface.
 - b. It is not moving and so it always stays in the same place.
 - c. It is usually over one of the oceans.
 - d. It only relays certain signals but not other signals.
6. People in many countries saw and heard the same television programme ‘live’. What does this mean?
 - a. It means what they saw and heard was true.

- b. It means they could see and hear the programme while they were still alive.
- c. It means the programme they saw and heard then was at actual performance.
- d. It means the programme took place in real life.

II . Complete the sentences, using the words or phrases taken from the text. (Verbs should be used in their proper forms.)

- a. awake b. communications c. purpose d. needs e. follow f. signals
- g. keep h. surface i. large numbers of j. deal with

1. Communications satellites separate a large number of different ____, amplify them and then relay them powerfully.
2. Though much improved , ____ remain a big problem in China.
3. Is the child ____ or asleep?
4. My needs are few. Ten or twenty dollars will meet my immediate ____.
5. ____ wild animals get killed throughout the world each year.
6. The railway line ____ the river for several miles.
7. In this part of the world the earth has a really rough ____.
8. Her illness ____ her in hospital for almost a year.
9. Did you come for the ____ of visiting your family ,or for business purposes?
10. What did he ____ in his last lecture?

Text 2

Looking for a Job

When I told my family that I was thinking of taking a cooking job, the roars of laughter were rather discouraging. No one believed that I could cook at all, as I had never had a chance to practise at home. Our cook, aged sixty-five and slightly touched, had ruled in the kitchen for thirty years and had an irritating tendency to regard the saucepans, stove and indeed all the kitchen fittings as her own property.

I once crept down there when I thought she was asleep in her room to try out an omelette. Noiselessly I removed a frying pan from its hook and the eggs from their cupboard. It was the pop of the gas that woke her, I think, for I was just breaking the first egg when a pair of slippers feet shuffled round the door and a shriek of horror caused me to break the egg on the floor. This disaster upset cook so much that she locked herself in the larder with all the food and we had to make our Sunday dinner off bananas.

If the family weren't going to be helpful I would look for a job all by myself and not tell them about it till I'd got one. I had no idea of exactly what job I should apply for, so I decided to go to an agency. I had seen one advertised in a local paper, so as soon as there was no one about to say "where are you going?" I rushed out of the house in search of it. I was wildly excited, and as nervous as if I were going to a stage audition. Finding the place quite easily, I tore up three flights of stairs, and swung breathlessly through a door which said "Enter without knocking, if you please".

The dingy, bottle-green atmosphere of the office sobered me, and I sat meekly on the edge of a chair and could see my nose shining out of the corner of my eye. I thought perhaps it was a good thing; it might look more earnest. The woman at the desk opposite scrutinized me for a while through rimless glasses, and I became absorbed in the question of whether or not she wore a wig. I had just decided that it was too undesirably shabby to be anything but her own hair, when I realized that she was murmuring questions at me. I answered in a hoarse whisper because it seemed to be the thing, and because all of a sudden I started to feel rather pathetic. She hinted in a delicate way that she wondered why I was looking for this sort of job, so I felt impelled to give her a glimpse of a widowed mother and a desperate struggle against poverty. I almost made myself believe in the pathos of it, and we had to cough and change the subject. I felt even more pathetic when she told me that it would be difficult to get a job without experience or references. She rustled about among her papers for a bit and I wondered whether I ought to leave, when the telephone on her desk rang. While she was conducting a mysterious conversation she kept looking at me. Then I heard her say:

"As a matter of fact, I've got someone in the office at this very moment who might suit." She wrote down a number, and my spirits soared as I took the slip of paper she held out to me, saying: "Ring up this lady. She wants a cook immediately. In fact, you would have to start tomorrow

by cooking dinner for ten people. Could you manage that, I wonder?"

"Oh yes," said I — — never having cooked for more than four in my life.

Notes

1. There **was** no one **about** to say "where are you going?" — — "be about" means "be nearby; be in the area or be around (Am. E)". 周围没有人问“你去哪儿?”
2. **I became absorbed in** the question of whether or not she wore a wig — — "be absorbed in" means "use up much of the attention or interest". 专心致志、全神贯注。
3. **All of a sudden I** started to feel rather pathetic — — "all of a sudden" means "suddenly". Here "sudden" is a noun. 突然间我觉得很伤感。

Comprehension

I. Select the best of the four choices a, b, c, and d for each sentence.

1. When the girl told her family that she was thinking of taking a cooking job they all laughed because
a. They didn't believe she was serious.
b. They wanted to discourage her from the idea.
c. She could not cook at all.
d. ☒ She had never cooked anything at home.
2. One Sunday when their cook got upset
a. The family had to go hungry.
b. The family had to do their own cooking themselves.
c. ☒ The family had to had some fruit for dinner.
d. The girl cooked dinner for the family.
3. When did the girl leave home to look for a job?
a. ☒ After the family refused to help her.
b. As soon as she saw an advertisement in a local paper.
c. ☒ She waited until there was no one at home.
d. After she had made up her mind about what to do.
4. The dingy, bottle-green atmosphere of the office sobered me. That means
a. ☒ She became relaxed in the office.
b. She became less worried in the office.
c. ☒ She became sensible in the office.
d. She became disappointed in the office.
5. The woman in the office
a. ☒ Had very untidy hair.
b. Wore a shabby wig.

- c. Wore a wig because her hair was untidy.
 - d. Had very unattractive hair like a shabby wig.
6. It seemed to be the thing means
- a. It seemed to be what the woman wanted to know.
 - b. It seemed proper to talk in a low hoarse voice.
 - c. It seemed right to answer her questions.
 - d. It seemed that I should feel pathetic.
7. The woman told the girl that it would be difficult for her to get a job because
- a. She was too young to get a job.
 - b. She was too pathetic to hold a job.
 - c. She had never learned to be a cook.
 - d. She had never had a job before.
8. Which of the following statements is true?
- a. The girl had to struggle against poverty because her mother was widowed.
 - b. Her family was living in poverty because of the death of her father.
 - c. She lied to the woman about her family background.
 - d. She had to tell the truth of her family so as to get a job.

II . Complete the following sentences , using the words and phrases from the text. (Verbs should be used in their proper forms.)

1. poverty 2. all by oneself 3. have no idea of 4. aged 5. asleep 6. rush
7. helpful 8. anything but 9. discouraging 10. as a matter of fact
1. It's very ____ that every time I try to ride a bicycle I fall off.
2. She is ____ probably between 20 and 25.
3. The boy lay half ____ on the sunlit lawn in the park.
4. Your advice has been very ____ to our decision.
5. Do you think you can manage ____?
6. She ____ what he was trying to explain.
7. We ____ him home before the rain began.
8. He is ____ diligent.
9. ____ prevented the boy from continuing his education.
10. Officially he is in charge , but ____ his secretary does all the work.

Text 3

Capital Punishment or Life—Imprisonment?

Among the company was a lawyer, a young man of about twenty—five. On being asked his opinion, he said:

"Capital punishment and life—imprisonment are equally immoral; but if I were offered the choice between them, I would certainly choose the second. It's better to live somehow than not to live at all."

There ensued a lively discussion. The banker who was then younger and more nervous suddenly lost his temper, banged his fist on the table, and turning to the young lawyer, cried out:

"It's a lie. I bet you two millions you wouldn't stick in a cell even for five years."

"If you mean it seriously," replied the lawyer, "then I bet I'll stay not five but fifteen."

"Fifteen! Done!" cried the banker. "Gentlemen, I stake two millions."

"Agreed. You stake two millions, I my freedom," said the lawyer.

So this wild, ridiculous bet came to pass. The banker, who at that time had too many millions to count, spoiled and capricious, was beside himself with rapture. During supper he said to the lawyer jokingly:

"Come to your senses, young man, before it's too late. Two millions are nothing to me, but you stand to lose three or four of the best years of your life. I say three or four, because you'll never stick it out any longer. Don't forget either, you unhappy man, that voluntary is much heavier than enforced imprisonment. The idea that you have the right to free yourself any moment will poison the whole of your life in the cell. I pity you."

And now the banker, pacing from corner to corner, recalled all this and asked himself:

"Why did I make this bet? What's the good? The lawyer loses fifteen years of his life and I throw away two millions. Will it convince people that capital punishment is worse or better than imprisonment for life? No, no! all stuff and rubbish. On my part, it was the caprice of a well-fed man; on the lawyer's, pure greed of gold."

Notes

1. capital punishment and life—imprisonment——死刑与终身监禁
2. ensue——v. 接着进行, 继而发生
3. stick——v. 呆在, 留在
4. stake——v. 下赌注
5. capricious——a. 任性的

6. rapture——a. 欢天喜地的,兴高采烈的

7. cell=prison——n. 监狱

Comprehension

Make the best choice according to the text.

1. If I _____ offered the choice between them, I would certainly choose the second.
 - a. am
 - b. have
 - c. have been
 - d. were
2. The idea _____ you have the right to free yourself any moment will poison the whole of your life in the cell.
 - a. that
 - b. which
 - c. what
 - d. when
3. If this selection were converted to drama form, the last paragraph would be considered a
 - a. allegory
 - b. climax
 - c. masque
 - d. soliloquy
4. The interest of this selection is ,for the most part ,attributable to
 - a. the well—developed dialogue forming the plot of the story
 - b. the skill of the writer in creating a mood of mystery
 - c. the many leading questions that are asked throughout the selection
 - d. the fact that most people are interested in the question of capital punishment as opposed to life imprisonment
5. The underlined word "capricious" refers to a person who
 - a. is conceited to the point that he believes no one is worthy of his company
 - b. is commercial even in his dealings with friends
 - c. hardly ever takes time out for recreation and relaxation
 - d. lives as his fancy dictates
6. The lawyer was eager to make the bet primarily
 - a. to teach banker a lesson
 - b. to win two million dollars
 - c. because he was strongly opposed to capital punishment
 - d. because he enjoyed being indoors for long periods of time