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研究生入学考试 英语阅读理解 攻关教程

黎原 主编



北京大学出版社

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英语阅读理解攻关教程

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序 言

本书曾多次作为考研英语训练班阅读理解教材,包括作者在北京大学研究生院主办的考研英语训练班上用做阅读理解的教材,均取得了显著的效果。这次出版,我们根据新大纲的精神和几年的教学经验,对本书做了全面的修改。我们深信读者通过对本书的研读,一定能够达到突破考研英语阅读理解关,从而取得高分的目的。

本书编写选材的特征如下:

1. 第一章大部分内容是讲阅读技巧和答题技巧的,因此,这一章讲解技巧的例文有一部分比考研试卷的阅读理解的语篇稍容易些,这是我们有意设计的。根据我们的经验,讲解这一部分内容最好采用浅显的例文,才便于学生学习和掌握技巧。但是,这章的练习部分仍然是高难度的,这是为了达到训练技巧的目的。

2. 第二章选材有易、中、难三个层次。容易篇章的难度相当于考研试卷中阅读理解篇章的平均难度(大约占本章选材总量的百分之三十);中等难度的篇章约高于考研试卷中阅读理解篇章的平均难度(约占本章选材总量的百分之五十);难度较大的篇章高出考研试卷中最难的篇章(大约占本章选材总量的百分之二十)。这章所选语篇后的阅读理解题难度较大,含推理性的题目较多,干扰选项的干扰性强。

3. 在我们编写第一章讲解阅读技巧和解题技巧的内容时,选用了若干篇历年考研英语试卷阅读理解的篇章,我们采取了不注明某一年试卷的办法,而是仅注明“考研试卷”。其理由是:根据我们对考研试卷阅读理解篇章和考题的分析,参照其他考研专家的意见,1996年、1997年、1998年这几年的阅读理解难度最大,到了2000年阅读理解难度却有明显的下降。而我们编写教材或者课堂教学是根据难易程度选择的例文和练习,不一定局限于最近这几年。有的同学认为,例文选取考卷的年代越新,训练的效果越好,其实,这是不准确的。我们在教学中发现,例文注明选取年代,对学习效果是个潜在的心理干扰。因此,我们在本书第一章的例文中采取不注明年代的办法,我们认为,这样做效果会更好。

对广大考研考生在研读本书时,有如下建议:

1. 第一章第二单元是本书的主要部分,通过这一单元的研读,学会对阅读理解测试题进行分类,例如:事实细节题、主旨大意题、推理题、是非题等;学会分析题干中的信息,例如,哪些文字是与文章中的某些文字内容大体相同的相关信息,题干中哪些文字是决定取舍答案的关键信息,题干中哪些文字是编写题干的一般信息;学会分析干扰案是怎样利用文字中的某些信息编写而成的,熟悉答案及干扰案的编写情况,对能快速正确地选出答案有决定性的意义。

2. 第二章第一单元的精读部分请读者参考讲解内容,多读几遍以加深对文章的理解,对篇章后的阅读理解题的题干和四个备选案要认真研读。但是,也不一定达到百分之百的理解,对篇章和阅读理解题能达到百分之八九十的理解也就可以了。第二章第二、三、四单元是篇章难易程度穿插在一起的几个泛读循环。希望读者在读这一部分的时候不要太追求答对率,只需尽量理解原文、题干和备选案,达到训练阅读能力、理解题干和备选案的目的即可。我们相

信,只要有了上述所讲能力的提高,攻破考研英语阅读理解关是完全可以实现的。整个泛读篇章难度较大,题目较难,当读者细心研读这部分之后,就会发现,回过头来再阅读考研英语阅读理解文章时,难度就不大了,题目的答对率自然就上去了。阅读理解取得高分便是水到渠成的事了。

在编写本书的过程中,参阅了大量的专著和资料,对它们的著作者表示衷心的感谢,由于篇幅所限,在这里就不一一列举了。

黎 原

2003年3月



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Part One

考研英语阅读理解篇章 难度分析及解题技巧讲解

❖ 简要说明 ❖

本章学习目标:读者通过对本章的研读,能够了解考研英语阅读理解文章的深度和出题概况;学会阅读较难文章的方法;掌握考研英语阅读理解的各种答题技巧。

选材特征:由于本章大部分内容是讲解阅读技巧和答题技巧的,所以,讲解技巧的例文有一部分比考研试卷的阅读理解语篇稍容易些,这是我们有意设计的。根据我们的经验,讲解这部分最好采用浅显的例文,才便于学生学习和掌握技巧。但是,本章的练习部分仍然是高难度的,这是为了达到训练技巧的目的。我们这样安排材料,经几次办班讲课均已收到了很好的效果。

读者在研读本章第一单元的过程中,要注意:

(1) 我们编写的大学英语四、六级考试阅读理解难度与考研英语阅读理解难度的对比。大部分读者都已熟悉大学英语四、六级考试阅读理解的难度,通过对比,可以更深刻地体会到考研英语阅读理解的难度。

(2) 学会正确的读书方法,摒弃不良的读书习惯。重要的是在读一篇文章时,能尽快地找到反映中心思想的文字以及支撑中心思想的句子。

本章第二单元是本章的主要部分,也是本书的主要部分。通过对本单元的研读,读者要掌握以下的主要内容:

(1) 学会对阅读理解的测试题进行分类,例如:事实细节题、主旨大意题、推理题、是非题等。

(2) 学会分析题干中的信息,例如,哪些文字是与文章中的某些文字内容大体相同的相关信息;题干中哪些文字是决定取舍答案的关键信息;题干中哪些文字是编写题干的一般信息。

(3) 学会分析干扰项是怎样利用文字中的某些信息编写而成的,熟悉答案及干扰项的编写情况,对能快速正确地选出答案有决定性的意义。

本章的讲解过程以及单元后的练习,选了不少有分量的阅读理解文章,读者要认真研读,以便达到既学习各种技巧,又提高阅读理解能力的目的。

Unit One

考研英语阅读理解难度评估、阅读技巧、题目分类

◇ 单元说明 ◇

阅读速度以及在阅读中获得信息的多少和准确性,是由英语的基本水平和在阅读方面的训练状况来决定的;而阅读理解的答对率,又是以此为基础的。但是,对以下几个问题有深入的了解,将为学习阅读技巧,进一步掌握解题技巧,以达到提高答对率的最终目的,有着至关重要的意义。

(1) 考研英语阅读理解与考生了解的四、六级统考阅读理解相比,其难度究竟如何;近年来,考研英语阅读理解的选材有什么趋势,以及出题趋势是什么;

(2) 自己的阅读速度、阅读习惯是否适应考研英语阅读理解的解题;如何改变自己的阅读习惯,提高阅读速度,加大获取信息的速度和准确程度;

(3) 对考研英语阅读理解的题目种类、题干结构应有清楚的了解,这也是阅读理解题的关键。

上述是编写本章的目的,也是本节的主要内容。

I. 考研英语和大学英语统考阅读理解题相关难度的对比和分析

◇ 说明 ◇

(1) 绝大部分考研的考生都是大学生,对大学英语统考大多是熟悉的,首先对大学英语统考与考研英语进行对比,便于考研的考生摸清考研英语的真实难度;

(2) 在进行对比时也选了一点四、六级的全真考题,一方面是为了对比,另一方面也让读者先测试一下自己,看看自己处于什么级别,估计一下自己距离考研上线还有多远。

1. 考研英语阅读理解和大学英语统考阅读理解相关难度的各因素,可以量化的对比和分析

考研英语和大学英语统考阅读理解题(平均值)可以量化的相关因素对比表

注:2000年前后几年所反映情况同下表所列举几年的情况大体相同。只因2000年前后的某年阅读理解难易起落较大,没有下表中各年反映的情况典型,所以请读者参考下表中各年的数据。

	总阅读 词汇量	语篇数	平均每篇 词汇数	测试时间 (分钟)	占总时 间比例	每分钟 测词量	分值及占 总分比例	推断题 发展趋势
硕士考 研英语	2500	5	500	60	$60/180$ $=1/3$	42	$20 \times 2 =$ 40, 40%	1994至1997年间是: 4个、4个、6个、7个, 呈增加趋势
大学英语 四级	1000	4	250	35	$35/120$ $\approx 1/3$	28	$20 \times 2 =$ 40, 40%	样题及1990、1991、 1993年是:3个、7个、 6个、5个,无增加趋势
大学英语 六级	1400	4	350	35	$35/120$ $\approx 1/3$	40	$20 \times 2 =$ 40, 40%	基本同四级, 无增加趋势
说明						上列阅读量是根据 前面数字计算的		

简要分析:

相同之处:(1)在两种试卷中,阅读理解的题目均是20个题目,分值计算是 $20 \times 2 = 40$,占总分的40%;

(2)根据两种试卷考试大纲的规定,选材的题材和体裁基本相同。但是,考研英语阅读理解的选材,多摘选于有关历史、政治、经济等的大块文章;而大学英语统考阅读理解多摘选于报刊的杂文。

不相同之处:(1)根据前面数字计算出来的阅读量,考研英语阅读理解要求的速度更快些;

(2)考研英语阅读理解平均每篇短文500个词汇,大学英语统考六级平均每篇短文350个词汇,大学英语统考四级平均每篇短文250个词汇。也就是说,考研英语阅读理解的语篇长度是大学英语统考四级语篇长度的2倍,是大学英语统考六级语篇长度的1.43倍。由此可见,考研英语阅读理解的语篇之长是显而易见的。但是,考研英语阅读理解的语篇给的时间是“60分钟 \div 5=12分钟”,大学英语统考四、六级阅读理解的语篇给的时间是“35分钟 \div 4 \approx 9分钟”。若按每分钟必须理解的词汇量计算,考研英语理解每分钟42个词,大学英语统考四级阅读理解每分钟28个词,大学英语统考六级阅读理解每分钟40个词,加起来综合考虑,还是考研英语阅读理解的要求高,难度大。

(3)推断题或推理性、隐含性较强的题目的多少,对整个阅读理解试题的难度有较强的影响。随着全国考研态势的升温,在硕士考研英语阅读理解题项中,推理性的问题呈增加趋势;而大学英语统考的阅读理解题项中却没有这种趋势。

上述的简要分析仅是根据可量化的几个因素做出的,这种分析不一定是无懈可击的,但它却给了我们一个明显的难度轮廓。下面,再就一些不可量化的因素加以描述。

2. 大学英语统考和硕士考研英语阅读理解题项中, 不易量化的有关难度各因素的对比和分析

(1) 硕士考研英语与大学英语统考的阅读理解题中语篇与句子难度的比较和分析

(下面从硕士考研英语和大学英语四、六级统考的阅读理解题中分别选一篇进行比较和分析, 首先从大学英语四级统考的阅读理解题中选, 接下来选六级的一篇, 最后选一篇硕士考研英语的阅读理解题。)

考生通过阅读以下考试全真题的对比, 达到三个目的:

第一, 对比大学英语统考与硕士考研英语的阅读理解题的难度;

第二, 考一考自己的阅读理解是属于什么水平;

第三, 可以精细地读一读, 借以提高自己的阅读解题能力。

大学英语四级考卷

A rapid means of long-distance transportation became a necessity for the United States as settlement spread ever farther westward. The early trains were impractical curiosities, and for a long time the railroad companies met with troublesome mechanical problems. The most serious ones were the construction of rails able to bear the load, and the development of a safe, effective stopping system. Once these were solved, the railroad was established as the best means of land transportation. By 1860 there were thousands of miles of railroads crossing the eastern mountain ranges and reaching westward to the Mississippi. There were also regional southern and western lines.

The high point in railroad building came with the construction of the first transcontinental system. **In 1862 Congress authorized two western railroad companies to build lines from Nebraska westward and from California eastward to a meeting point, so as to complete a transcontinental crossing linking the Atlantic seaboard with the Pacific.** The Government helped the railroads generously with money and land. Actual work on this project began four years later. The Central Pacific company, starting from California, used Chinese labor, while the Union Pacific employed crews of Irish laborers. The two groups worked at remarkable speed, each trying to cover a greater distance than the other. In 1869 they met at a place called Promontory in what is now the state of Utah. Many visitors came there for the great occasion. There were joyous celebrations all over the country, with parades and the ringing of church bells to honor the great achievement.

The railroad was very important in encouraging westward movement. It also helped build up industry and farming by moving raw materials and by distributing products rapidly to distant markets.

In linking towns and people to one another it helped unify the United States.

36. The major problems with America's railroad system in the mid 19th century lay in _____.

A. poor quality rails and unreliable stopping systems

B. lack of financial support for development

- C. limited railroad lines
D. lack of a transcontinental railroad
37. The building of the first transcontinental system _____.
A. brought about a rapid growth of industry and farming in the west
B. attracted many visitors to the construction sites
C. attracted laborers from Europe
D. encouraged people to travel all over the country
38. The best title for this passage would be "_____".
A. Settlements Spread Westward
B. The Coast-to-Coast Railroad: A Vital Link
C. American Railroad History
D. The Importance of Railroads in the American Economy
39. The construction of the transcontinental railroad took _____.
A. 9 years C. 4 years B. 7 years D. 3 years
40. What most likely made people think about a transcontinental railroad?
A. The possibility of government support for such a task.
B. The need to explore Utah.
C. The need to connect the east coast with the west.
D. The need to develop the railroad industry in the west.

对上述大学英语四级阅读理解题语篇难度的简单评述:

① 文章内涵的难度:本篇是一篇说明文,介绍 19 世纪中叶,当时美国火车所遇到的问题,美国国会授权修建一条连接东西海岸、横跨美国大陆的铁路的情况,以及这条铁路在开发西部、发展工农业和连贯美国等方面所起的作用。虽然讲的是 19 世纪中叶的情况,其内容并不复杂,大部分大学生是可以理解的。

② 该篇 250 个词汇左右,特别长而又复杂的句子不多,仅有第二段的第二句(文中的黑体标出部分)。略长一些,可能考生在理解上有点难度。

下面对该句进行语法分析,读者可借此体会一下难度。

In 1862 Congress authorized two western railroad companies to build lines from Nebraska westward and from California eastward to a meeting point, so as to complete a transcontinental crossing linking the Atlantic seaboard with the Pacific.

本句并不是复合句。主语是 congress,谓语 authorized 后是复合宾语,即,宾语 two western railroad companies 和它的作为逻辑谓语的不定式短语 to build lines from Nebraska westward and from California eastward to a meeting point。逗号后的 so as to complete a transcontinental crossing linking the Atlantic seaboard with the Pacific 是不定式短语作状语。

(本句的意思是:1862 年美国国会授权两个西部的铁路公司修建一条铁路,一个公司从内布拉斯加州向西,一个公司从加利福尼亚州向东,从而达到一交汇点,这样就完成了连接东西海岸、横跨美国大陆的铁路贯通。)

上文的答案:36. A 37. A 38. B 39. D 40. C

大学英语六级考卷

The relationship between the home and market economies has gone through two distinct stages. Early industrialization began the process of transferring some production processes (e. g. clothmaking, sewing and canning foods) from the home to the marketplace. Although the home economy could still produce these goods, the processes were laborious (费力的) and the market economy was usually more efficient. **Soon, the more important second stage was evident—the marketplace began producing goods and services that had never been produced by the home economy, and the home economy was unable to produce them (e. g. electricity and electrical appliances, the automobile, advanced education, sophisticated medical care).** In the second stage, the question of whether the home economy was less efficient in producing these new goods and services was irrelevant; if the family were to enjoy these fruits of industrialization, they would have to be obtained in the marketplace. The traditional ways of taking care of these needs in the home, such as in nursing the sick, became socially unacceptable (and, in most serious cases, probably less successful). **Just as the appearance of the automobile made the use of the horse-drawn carriage illegal and then impractical, and the appearance of television changed the radio from a source of entertainment to a source of background music, so most of the fruits of economic growth did not increase the options available to the home economy to either produce the goods or services or purchase them in the market.** Growth brought with it increased variety in consumer goods, but not increased flexibility for the home economy in obtaining these goods and services. Instead, economic growth brought with it increased consumer reliance on the marketplace. In order to consume these new goods and services, the family had to enter the marketplace as wage earners and consumers. The neoclassical (新古典主义的) model that views the family as deciding whether to produce goods and services directly or to purchase them in the marketplace is basically a model of the first stage. It cannot accurately be applied to the second (and current) stage.

36. The reason why many production processes were taken over by the marketplace was that _____.
- A. it was a necessary step in the process of industrialization
 - B. they depended on electricity available only to the market economy
 - C. it was troublesome to produce such goods in the home
 - D. the marketplace was more efficient with respect to these processes
37. It can be seen from the passage that in the second stage _____.
- A. some traditional goods and services were not successful when provided by the home economy
 - B. the market economy provided new goods and services never produced by the home economy
 - C. producing traditional goods at home became socially unacceptable

- D. whether new goods and services were produced by the home economy became irrelevant
38. During the second stage, if the family wanted to consume new goods and services, they had to enter the marketplace _____.
A. as wage earners B. both as manufacturers and consumers
C. both as workers and purchasers D. as customers
39. Economic growth did not make it more flexible for the home economy to obtain the new goods and services because _____.
A. the family was not efficient in production
B. it was illegal for the home economy to produce them
C. it could not supply them by itself
D. the market for these goods and services was limited
40. The neoclassical model is basically a model of the first stage, because at this stage _____.
A. the family could rely either on the home economy or on the marketplace for the needed goods and services
B. many production processes were being transferred to the marketplace
C. consumers relied more and more on the market economy
D. the family could decide how to transfer production processes to the marketplace

对上述大学英语六级阅读理解题语篇难度的简单评述:

① 文章内涵的难度:本篇也是一篇说明文,讲的是早期西欧经济发展的两个阶段。第一阶段,工业革命后,家庭作坊经济已不适应,势必发展到第二阶段的市场经济。文章的内涵明显地比上一篇(即大学英语四级的一篇)要丰富。对于大部分大学生来说,其理解难度要大一些。

② 该篇有近 350 个词汇,比上篇四级阅读理解语篇多大约 100 个词汇。有两个较长的句子(文中的黑体标出部分)。

下面对这两个句子进行语法分析,读者可借此体会一下难度。

句 1:

Soon, the more important second stage was evident—the marketplace began producing goods and services that had never been produced by the home economy, and the home economy was unable to produce them (e. g. electricity and electrical appliances, the automobile, advanced education, sophisticated medical care).

该句虽长,但其主句是个简单句,只是破折号后面对它的进一步说明部分语句长且结构和内涵稍费思考。破折号后面是个并列复合句。在第一个分句 the marketplace began producing goods and services that had never been produced by the home economy 中,谓语 began 后跟一个含定语从句 that had never been produced by the home economy 的动名词短语 producing goods and services 作宾语。第二个分句“and the home economy was unable to produce them (e. g. electricity and electrical appliances, the automobile, advanced education, sophisticated medical care), 语法关系明确。

该句的意思是：“更为重要的第二阶段很快地显示了出来——市场经济开始提供了家庭经济从未提供过的产品和服务，家庭经济不能够提供诸如电力、电器、汽车、先进的教育和复杂的

医疗保健等等。”

句 2:

Just as the appearance of the automobile made the use of the horse-drawn carriage illegal and then impractical, and the appearance of television changed the radio from a source of entertainment to a source of background music, so most of the fruits of economic growth did not increase the options available to the home economy to either produce the goods or services or purchase them in the market.

该句是个复合句。Just as the appearance of the automobile made the use of the horse-drawn carriage illegal and then impractical, and the appearance of television changed the radio from a source of entertainment to a source of background music, 是两个由 and 连接的状语从句, 在第一个状语从句中有复合宾语现象。其后, 即 so most of the fruits of economic growth did not increase the options available to the home economy to either produce the goods or services or purchase them in the market 是主句, 其中, available to the home economy 和它后面的两个动词不定式 to either produce the goods or services or purchase them in the market 是 the options 的修饰语。

该句的意思是: “正如汽车的问世使马车成为非法, 继而使其无实用价值, 电视的出现使收音机的娱乐功能变为只能播放一些背景音乐一样, 多数经济发展的成果并没有给家庭作坊经济提供什么更多的选择余地, 无论是在生产哪些产品、提供哪些服务方面, 还是在市场上购买哪些产品和服务方面, 情况都是如此。”

上文的答案: 36. D 37. B 38. C 39. C 40. A

考研试卷

In the last half of the nineteenth century “capital” and “labour” were enlarging and perfecting their rival organizations on modern lines. Many an old firm was replaced by a limited liability company with a bureaucracy of salaried managers. **The change met the technical requirements of the new age by engaging a large professional element and prevented the decline in efficiency that so commonly spoiled the fortunes of family firms in the second and third generation after the energetic founders.** It was moreover a step away from individual initiative, towards collectivism and municipal and state-owned business. The railway companies, though still private business managed for the benefit of shareholders, were very unlike old family business. At the same time the great municipalities went into business to supply lighting, trams and other services to the taxpayers.

The growth of the limited liability company and municipal business had important consequences. **Such large, impersonal manipulation of capital and industry greatly increased the numbers and importance of shareholders as a class, an element in national life representing irresponsible wealth detached from the land and the duties of the landowners; and almost equally detached from the responsible management of business.** All through the nineteenth century, America, Africa, India, Australia and parts of Europe were being developed by British capital, and British shareholders were thus enriched by the world's movement towards

industrialization. Towns like Bournemouth and Eastbourne sprang up to house large "comfortable" classes who had retired on their incomes, and who had no relation to the rest of the community except that of drawing dividends and occasionally attending a shareholder's meeting to dictate their orders to the management. On the other hand "shareholding" meant leisure and freedom which was used by many of the later Victorians for the highest purpose of a great civilization.

The "shareholders" as such had no knowledge of the lives, thoughts or needs of the workmen employed by the company in which he held shares, and his influence on the relations of capital and labour was not good. **The paid manager acting for the company was in more direct relation with the men and their demands, but even he had seldom that familiar personal knowledge of the workmen which the employer had often had under the more patriarchal system of the old family business now passing away.** Indeed the mere size of operation and the numbers of workmen involved rendered such personal relations impossible. Fortunately, however, the increasing power and organization of the trade unions, at least in all skilled trades, enabled the workmen to meet on equal terms the managers of the companies who employed them. The cruel discipline of the strike and lockout taught the two parties to respect each other's strength and understand the value of fair negotiation.

59. It is true of the old family firms that _____.
A. they were spoiled by the younger generations
B. they failed for lack of individual initiative
C. they lacked efficiency compared with modern companies
D. they could supply adequate services to the taxpayers
60. The growth of limited liability companies resulted in _____.
A. the separation of capital from management
B. the ownership of capital by managers
C. the emergence of capital and labour as two classes
D. the participation of shareholders in municipal business
61. According to the passage, all of the following are true except that _____.
A. the shareholders were unaware of the needs of the workers
B. the old firm owners had a better understanding of their workers
C. the limited liability companies were too large to run smoothly
D. the trade unions seemed to play a positive role
62. The author is most critical of _____.
A. family firm owners B. landowners C. managers D. shareholders

对上述考研英语阅读理解题语篇难度的简单评述:

① 文章内涵的难度:本篇是一篇有关经济的说明文。讲的是 19 世纪后半叶,旧的家族制企业管理在消亡,被有限责任公司及市政企业所代替,由此产生了若干社会现象,并对企业发展带来了相当的影响。大部分大学生,若对 19 世纪后半叶的企业发展状况有一定深度的了解

绝非易事。所以,该短文的内涵加大了理解的难度。

② 该篇有近 500 个词汇,有四个相当长的句子(文中的黑体标出部分)。有的句子结构也不是很好理解。

下面选两个句子进行语法分析,读者可借此体会一下难度。

句 2:

Such large, impersonal manipulation of capital and industry greatly increased the numbers and importance of shareholders as a class, an element in national life representing irresponsible wealth detached from the land and the duties of the landowners; and almost equally detached from the responsible management of business.

该句虽长,却并不是一个复合句。在第二个逗号前面是主句部分,该逗号后面直到末尾是个分词独立结构,以进一步的说明情况。在该分词独立结构中,有两个并列的过去分词短语,即 detached from the land and the duties of the landowners; and almost equally detached from the responsible management of business, 用于修饰前面的 irresponsible wealth。由于该分词独立结构过长,比主句还长得多,且含有两个并列的过去分词短语,给短时间内了解其含义加大了难度。

该句的含义是:“对资本与企业的如此大规模的非个人操纵,大大地增加了作为一个阶层的持股人的数量及地位的重要性。国民生活中的这种现象代表了不由个人负责的财富与土地及其土地所有者职责的分离,这也同样意味着不由个人负责的财富与经营管理责任的分离。”

句 4:

The paid manager acting for the company was in more direct relation with the men and their demands, but even he had seldom that familiar personal knowledge of the workmen which the employer had often had under the more patriarchal system of the old family business now passing away.

该句是由 but 连接的并列复合句,从开头的 The paid manager 到 but 前的 their demands, 是该并列句的第一个分句, but 后直到末尾是第二分句。在第二分句中,含有一个 which 引导的定语从句,修饰前面的 personal knowledge。在从 which 到末尾的定语从句中,有一个 under 引导的介词短语(用作修饰 which 定语从句的状语),该介词短语的宾语,即 the more patriarchal system of the old family business now passing away, 是一个动名词复合结构。

该句的含意是:“为公司服务的拿工资的管理者与工人和他们的要求有着更加直接的关系。但是,即便这种管理者对工人们的情况也了解甚少,而在众多消亡中的旧家族制管理的企业中的雇主,倒是常常对这种情况有所了解。”

上文的参考答案:59. C 60. A 61. C 62. D

(2) 考研英语阅读理解和大学英语统考阅读理解中不易量化的有关难度各因素的对比和分析的小结:

读者读了上述三篇短文及其分析,会总结出以下两点:

第一,虽然三篇短文都是说明文,讲的都是有关 19 世纪经济发展的情况,但是,所包含内容的多少却差别甚大。由大学英语统考四级,进而大学英语统考六级,到硕士考研英语,所包含的信息量阶梯形地加大,对内容的理解难度也阶梯形地加大。

第二,三篇短文所用的词汇数量阶梯形地增多,长句子的数量也阶梯形地增多,句子结构

的复杂程度也阶梯形地增大。显而易见,对篇章和句子的理解难度也必然阶梯形地加大。

◇ 本单元小结 ◇

从上述可以量化的和不可以量化的分析和总结不难得出如下的结论:大学英语统考四级、六级及硕士考研英语的语篇阅读理解的难度明显地呈阶梯形地加大。

另外,决定阅读理解题的难度因素还有题干、答案和干扰项所体现的难易程度,这些虽然不易对比,但有两点是显而易见的:

(1) 硕士考研英语阅读理解题项中,推理性的问题呈增加趋势;而大学英语统考的阅读理解题项中却没有这种趋势;

(2) 硕士考研英语阅读理解题项的主旨大意题都是需要全篇性地总结概括才能选择答案,而大学英语统考阅读理解题的主旨大意题多是进行局部地总结概括就能选择答案。

总之,不论是语篇的结构和内涵,或是题目的题干、答案以及干扰项的设计,硕士考研英语阅读理解题的难度比大学英语四、六级的阅读理解题的难度要大出一到两个级别。

注意:近年来,考研英语阅读理解题选材上的变化:

考试大纲规定,考生应能以每分钟 60 词的速度阅读各种题材(社会生活、人物传记、科普、史地、政治、经济等)和体裁(议论文、记叙文、说明文、应用文等)的文字材料。实际上,试卷上的阅读理解文章的选材,在题材方面有着明显的变化。1997 年以前,大多是社会性的文章;1997 年以后特别是 2000 年以后,报导和报刊评论明显增加,尤其是有关科普方面的文章;从体裁上看,变化不大,仍然是以议论文和说明文为主,偶有记叙文。这是因为,议论文和说明文阅读信息集中,便于出题。

值得注意的是,由于中国理工考生对美国社会背景和生活习惯了解不多,报道性的评论文章的词语,与中国学生从课本上学的语句,在规范性上也有所差异,再加上科普文章中有不大熟悉的词语,如此等等,致使不少考生读起这些短文来,深感艰涩难懂,味如嚼蜡。

II. 掌握有效而必要的阅读技巧,摒弃不良的阅读习惯,培养好的阅读习惯,学会有效的阅读技巧

1. 摒弃不良的阅读习惯

时代的发展,需要查找的资料迅猛增加,必须有“快速阅读(fast reading)”的能力才能适应。各种教学大纲和考试大纲都要求每分钟读多少词;任何英语考试的阅读理解,都要求在若干分钟内完成。而几乎绝大部分的英语学习者,都存在着不良的阅读习惯,读得太慢,即便是没什么生词也读不快。这种“快速阅读(fast reading)”的时代要求和“读得太慢”的阅读习惯,形成了一种明显的“需要”与“现实”的反差,这是一对必须克服的尖锐矛盾。

那么,具体地讲,什么是不良的阅读习惯呢?

(1) 一个词一个词地逐词阅读,好像数珠子,只是数得快慢而已;

(2) 出声朗读,或心中默读。更有甚者还用手或笔指点着读,头随阅读进展不时地转换方向;

(3) 没有把学到的文章结构用于阅读理解,不去尽力捕捉中心含义和支撑材料,企图把一些句子翻译出来;