

大学英语名校名师助学系列

# 大学 英语四级考试 精讲精练

—— 阅读理解 简答题 英译汉  
主编 陈建生

南开大学出版社

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# 大学英语四级考试精讲精练

——阅读理解·简答题·英译汉

主 编 陈建生  
编 者 颜景台 沈海萍  
张青

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# 前 言

由于大学英语四、六级考试发生了一系列的变化,我们根据新的考试要求组织编写了“大学英语四级考试精讲精练丛书”。这套丛书的编写目的是为了帮助广大考生进行全面、系统的考前复习,巩固语言知识,掌握解题方法与技巧,以进一步提高应试能力,从而顺利通过大学英语四级考试。丛书围绕大学英语四级考试的出题趋势与解题技巧,着眼于考生语言基本功的形成,通过全面剖析大学英语四级考试各项题型,梳理、归纳、总结涉及的考试要点,有的放矢,讲练结合,为广大考生提供了一套非常具有实用价值的解题思路和技巧。

本书的知识性和实用性体现在:通过对大学英语四级考试的每一种题型解题技巧的分析,使学生掌握该题型所涉及的语言技能训练方面的知识。因此,本书不只是为了帮助考生全面了解和准备大学英语四级考试,同时也是为了使考生更好地掌握读、写、听、译的基本技能。辅导学生参加考试的老师也可以从中系统地了解训练学生有关语言技能的方法。

**本丛书具有以下几个突出的特点:**

1. 技巧与技能训练相结合;
2. 模拟题与真题相结合(为了使学生真正了解和把握大学英语四级考试的实际水平,书中的考试技巧方面的内容引用了一些真题);
3. 试题解答简洁明了,分析透彻;
4. 编写人员为南开大学和其他高校的系(教研室)主任他们具有多年教学经验,并且具有丰富的大学英语四级考试辅导经验。

全套丛书分为四册:《听力》、《词汇·语法结构·完形填空》、《阅读理解·简答题·英译汉》、《写作》。系统讲解有关大学英语考试的各种题型及语言基本功,通过实例分析与练习提供与各种解题思路相关的分析方法,突出实战演练。其中:

## 《听力》

全书通过对大学英语四级考试听力部分各种题型(包括小对话、短文、听写填空和复合式听写四种题型)的详细介绍及系统的学习指导和技能训练,旨在帮助广大学生有效地备考,同时帮助他们打好自我听力训练基础,提高听力水平,从而促进读、写、说等其他技能水平的提高。

## 《阅读理解·简答题·英译汉》

其编写目的是加强广大考生的英语阅读理解和写译技能训练,从而促进其语言能力的提高。全书正文分为三大部分:第一部分 阅读理解;第二部分 简答;第三部分 翻译。

第一部分 阅读理解:多角度、多层面地探讨英语的各项技能、要求及特点。众所周知,阅读是要通过书面的形式来达到语言交际的目的。它绝非一种消极被动的语言活

动,而是积极活跃的认识、判断、思维和理解的综合过程。读者为了获取所需要的信息,就得运用各种技能对所读的内容进行分析、判断、推论,找出作者描述的事实和要表达的观点,掌握文章的中心思想以及了解作者对事物的态度等。阅读理解在大学英语四级考试中占有相当重的比例,这说明了英语阅读的重要性。但从实际得分来看,阅读理解又常是失分最多的部分。这种现象反映了学生在学习两个突出的问题:一是没能很好地掌握英语阅读理解的技巧、策略和方法;二是英语语言功底不够深厚,阅读量少,对句子与篇章的理解不透彻。本书结合真题实例进行阅读理解分析,并配以专项技能练习,以期从解题思路、策略和文章理解深度两方面提高读者的阅读理解水平。

**第二部分 简答:**这部分要求考生不但要有较强的理解能力,而且能够在理解原文的基础上用书面语言来回答就文章提出的问题。本部分针对性强,从阅读理解和书面表达两个方面设计练习。所选篇章的文体和语言与大学英语四级考试的真题接近,参考答案和解题思路能够更好地帮助考生掌握该类题型的应试技巧。

**第三部分 翻译:**根据阅读理解材料选定翻译的段落,通过段落翻译的训练,使学生掌握翻译技巧。

### 《写作》

根据大学英语四级考试中作文的命题方式,从中国大学生英语写作的实际水平和需要出发,总结了写作要点。对段落和短文写作的基本理论作了较为详细的阐述,同时精心设计了循序渐进的段落和短文写作训练方案,同时还提供了相关的解题策略。本部分的特点主要包括:(1)重点突出:以段落写作为重点,介绍了写作的基本知识。(2)全面实用:对不同文体和不同命题方式的写作方法和解题策略作了系统介绍,基本覆盖了近年大学英语四级统考中的写作题材。(3)实例充分:通过大量的段落及短文范例,阐述了写作的基本方式。(4)题材新颖:所用范文题材广泛,有时代气息。(5)练习精当:每章节后均配有相应作文题,全书最后附有所有练习的参考范文。

### 《词汇·语法结构·完形填空》

通过对大学英语四级考试词汇、语法结构部分模拟训练,旨在帮助考生在不同的语言环境中记忆四级大纲词汇,掌握大学英语四级语法知识,打好英语词汇基础,从而促进听、说、读、写等其他英语技能水平的提高。完形填空考查学生的语篇理解能力,练习强度大。通过进行此部分有针对性的练习,能够进一步提高考生的篇章理解能力,完善考生的综合语言技能。文章的选材丰富、新颖、难度适中,有利于考生熟悉不同的语言环境。通过这一部分有针对性的训练,进一步提高学生词汇、语法的实战和实用能力。

我们希望这套丛书能够在帮助广大考生提高英语语言水平的同时,对考试的基本规律有一种具体的、真实的了解,充分掌握考试的重点与难点,从而提高考试成绩。祝广大考生在大学英语四级考试中取得成功。

编者  
2003年3月

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# 第一部分 阅读理解

## 一、阅读理解简介及应试技巧

### 1. 阅读理解简介

在我国目前大学英语教学中,虽然培养学生听和说的能力的呼声越来越高,但培养学生的英语阅读能力仍然被放在非常重要的位置。1999年新修订的《大学英语教学大纲》对大学英语基础阶段阅读能力的基本要求作了这样的规定:“能顺利阅读并正确理解语言难度中等的一般性题材的文章,掌握中心大意以及说明中心大意的事实和细节,并能进行一定的分析、推理和判断,领会作者的观点和态度,阅读速度达到每分钟70词。在阅读篇幅较长、难度略低、生词不超过总词数3%的材料时,能掌握中心大意,抓住主要事实和有关细节,阅读速度达到每分钟100词。”

在历次大学英语四级考试中,阅读理解部分都是四段短文,共设20个问题,每个问题2分,共计40分,是占总分比例最大的一个部分。阅读部分短文的单词量(不包括问题部分)约为1000词。规定完成的时间为35分钟。为了在大学英语四级考试的阅读部分获得高分,我们还有必要了解一下除了阅读量以外,《大学英语四级考试大纲》对大学英语基础阶段的英语阅读能力的测试还作了哪些方面的要求。

在阅读部分试题的选材方面,《大学英语四级考试大纲》规定:

1. 题材广泛,可以包括人物传记、社会、文化、日常知识、科普知识等,但是所涉及背景知识应能为学生所理解;
2. 体裁多样,可以包括叙述文、说明文、议论文等;
3. 文章的语言难度中等,无法猜测而又影响理解的关键词,如超出教学大纲词汇表四级的范围,用汉语注明词义。

《大学英语四级考试大纲》还规定,阅读理解部分主要测试以下能力:

1. 掌握所读材料的主旨大意;
2. 了解说明主旨大意的事实和细节;

3. 既理解字面的意义,也能根据所读的材料进行一定的判断和推论;

4. 既理解个别句子的意思,也理解上下文的逻辑关系。

阅读理解部分的目的是测试学生通过阅读获取信息的能力,既要求准确,也要求有一定的速度。

根据对以上大学英语四级考试阅读理解部分的介绍,我们对这部分的内容和要求有了一个概括的了解。但是,从历次考试的实际情况看,阅读理解部分是丢分比较多的一个部分。要想在考试中拿到高分,还应进一步了解和掌握这一部分的试题类型以及解题技巧。

## 2. 阅读理解应试技巧

在大学英语四级考试中,《大纲》中规定的阅读能力是通过考核考生是否具备以下能力来测试的:即考生是否能熟练掌握词汇和语法、是否能正确理解事实和细节、是否能理解隐含的意义和深层的意义以及是否具备了在语篇水平上的阅读理解能力。四级考试一般使用的题型包括:

**事实细节题** 理解明确表达的概念、事实或细节;

**推论题** 理解隐含表达的概念、事实或细节,如:进行推理、下结论、作出判断等;

**主旨大意题** 辨别文章的中心思想,如:找出能归纳文章中心思想的要点;

**词汇短语题** 根据上下文或构词法猜测词或短语的意思。

下面我们将按照这些题型,分别介绍一下解题方法和技巧。

### (一)事实细节题

此类试题在四级考试阅读理解部分中最为常见,每次考试阅读部分的 20 道题中大约有 8 至 10 道题是事实细节题。对于阅读理解来说,理解明确表达的概念或细节,即字面意义,是最起码的要求。这种类型的题往往是以文章中用来论证或说明主旨的事实、细节或例证直接设题,因此答案一般可以直接在文章中找到。这类试题使用的试题形式主要是给出一个不完整的句子,要求学生根据文章内容从四个选项中选出正确答案将句子补充完整,例如:

1. A primary nurse can propose a different approach of treatment when \_\_\_\_\_.
- A) the present one is refused by the patient
  - B) the patient complains about the present one
  - C) the present one proves to be ineffective
  - D) the patient is found unwilling to cooperate

本题选自 1993 年 6 月四级考试阅读理解部分第 23 题,是事实细节题,正确答案是 C,可以从原文第三段找到:

The primary nurse stays with the patient through his hospitalization, keeping track with his progress and seeking further advice from his doctor. ***If a patient at Beth Israel is not responding to treatment, it is not uncommon for his nurse to propose another approach to his doctor.*** What the doctor at Beth Israel has in the primary nurse is a true colleague.

本题问责任护士(primary nurse)在什么情况下可以向医生提出不同的治疗方案建议,题目本身所用的语言 A primary nurse can ... treatment when \_\_\_\_\_. 已经明确地告诉我们答案在文章的哪个部分。在这段文章中,我们可以很容易地找到相应的部分:如果贝斯以色列医院的病人对治疗没有反应,他的护士向医生提出另外一种治疗方案也不是什么很特别的事。

2. According to Fozard's argument, people can make their brains work more efficiently by \_\_\_\_\_.
- A) constantly doing memory work
  - B) taking part in various mental activities
  - C) going through specific training
  - D) making frequent adjustments

本题选自 1995 年 6 月四级考试阅读理解部分第 22 题,是事实细节题,正确答案是 B. 可以从原文第三段找到:

Many experts are so convinced of the benefits of challenging the brain that they are putting the theory to work in their own lives. "The idea is not necessarily to learn to memorize enormous amounts of information," says James Fozard, associate director of the National Institute of Aging. "Most of us don't need that kind of skill. Such specific training is of less interest than being able to maintain mental alertness." Fozard and others say they challenge their brains with different mental skills, both because they enjoy them ***and because they are sure that their range of activities will help the way their brains work.***

本题检查考生是否读懂了第三段的意思,是否读懂了 Fozard 的论点。涉及本题答案的部分是以间接引语形式出现的,即“还因为他们相信各种活动将有助于大脑的工作。”

3. One reason why the loss of lives in the Los Angeles earthquake was comparatively low is that \_\_\_\_\_.
- A) new computers had been installed in the buildings
  - B) it occurred in the residential areas rather than on the highways

- C) large numbers of Los Angeles residents had gone for a holiday
- D) improvements had been made in the construction of buildings and highways

本题选自 1997 年 6 月四级考试阅读理解部分第 21 题,是事实细节题,正确答案是 D,可以从原文第三段找到:

Injuries and deaths were relatively less in Los Angeles because the quake occurred at 4:31 a. m on a holiday, when traffic was light on the city's highways. ***In addition, changes made to the construction codes in Los Angeles during the last 20 years have strengthened the city's buildings and highways, making them more resistant to quakes.***

本段开头两句话分析了 1994 年洛杉矶地震造成的损失和伤亡比较小的原因是:地震发生在节假日的凌晨,公路上的车辆不多;由于建筑法规(construction codes)的修改,近 20 年来洛杉矶城市楼房和公路建筑都加固了,防震性能提高了。所以应选 D。

除了使用一个不完整的句子作为试题形式以外,这类试题还可能是提一个问题要求考生从给出的四个答案中选出正确的答案,例如:

4. What is said about the over 100 aircraft incidents in the past 15 years?
- A) They may have been caused by the damage to the radio systems.
  - B) They may have taken place during take-off and landing.
  - C) They were proved to have been caused by the passengers' portable computers.
  - D) They were suspected to have resulted from electromagnetic interference.

本题选自 1999 年 6 月四级考试阅读理解部分第 22 题,是事实细节题,正确答案是 D,可以从原文第一段找到:

The biggest safety threat facing airlines today may not be a terrorist with a gun, but the man with the portable computer in business class. ***In the last 15 years, pilots have reported well over 100 incidents that could have been caused by electromagnetic interference.*** The source of this interference remains unconfirmed, but increasingly, experts are pointing the blame at portable electronic devices such as portable computers, radio and cassette players and mobile telephones.

选项 D“它们被怀疑是由电磁干扰造成的”正好与短文中第二句以及后面的句子的意思相同。在回答本题时还应注意选项 C 的干扰,原文中并没有提到“已经被证明是由旅客的便携式电脑造成的”,而只是说“这种干扰源仍未被证实……。”

事实细节题的另外一种形式要求考生对给出的选项对照文章内容做出判断。一般

情况下,在给出的四个选项中,有三个是文章中明确提到的事实或细节,有一个选项文章中未提及,或者有三个选项是文章中未提及的,只有一个选项是文章提及的,由考生来选择。这类题也称作是非判断题。根据对历次考试的统计,是非判断题出现的次数较少,一次考试最多有两道这类问题,一般仅为一道题或没有。常见的问题形式有:

Which of the following is NOT MENTIONED in this passage?

According to the passage, which of the following statements is NOT TRUE?

All the following statements are true EXCEPT \_\_\_\_\_.

为了避免考生看错题,否定意义的词或关键性的词语多用大写字母标出,提示考生注意。

5. What is TRUE about lightning according to the passage?

A) Only a small number of lightning flashes occur on earth.

B) Lightning travels 5 times faster than thunder.

C) Lightning flashes usually jump from one cloud to another.

D) There are far more lightning strikes occurring on earth than we can imagine.

本题选自1994年1月四级考试阅读理解部分第38题,是一道判断与事实细节是否相符的事实细节题,正确答案是D,可以从文章第三段找到:

Most lightning flashes take place inside a cloud, and *only a relative few can be seen jumping between two clouds or between earth and a cloud*. But, with about 2000 thunderstorms taking place above the earth every minute of the day and night, there's enough activity to produce about 100 lightning strikes on earth every second.

在文章的其他段落,找不到与选项A,B,C内容相应的事实细节。

6. Which of the following is NOT true according to the passage?

A) The EEC spends one billion pounds on imported energy each year.

B) At the present level of research spending, it is difficult to make any significant progress in the provision of energy from the sun.

C) The desired breakthrough could be obtained by the end of the next decade if investment were increased.

D) The total yearly spending of the EEC on solar energy research amounted to almost 6 million.

本题选自1991年6月四级考试阅读理解部分第29题,是一道判断与事实细节是否相符的事实细节题,正确答案是A。阅读全文便可知道,选项B和C均可在文章第二段中找到:

The senior West German scientist in charge of the Community's solar energy programme, Mr. Joachim Gretz, told journalists that *at present levels of research spending it was most unlikely that solar energy would provide as much as three per cent of the Community's energy requirements even after the year 2000. But he said that with a modest increase in the present sums, devoted by the EEC to this work it was possible that the breakthrough could be achieved* by the end of the next decade.

选项 D 可以在第四段里找到:

At present *the EEC spends about \$ 2.6 millions a year on solar research at Ispra*, one of the EEC's official joint research centres, and *another \$ 3 millions a year in indirect research* with universities and other independent bodies.

本段提到的两项投资合计大约 600 万美元,与选项 D 相符。只有选项 A 的内容文章内没提到,因此是 not true,即正确答案。

是非判断题除了可以让考生对事实细节做出判断外,还可以对主旨大意做出判断,我们将在下面主旨大意部分作讲解。

在做事实细节类的问题时,可以使用阅读技巧中的查阅方法,即快速阅读全文找出所需的具体信息。一般先要仔细阅读问题,弄清问题问的是什么并要熟悉四个选项,然后利用问题或选项中的关键提示词,运用查阅的方法,在文章中迅速查找,略过与问题无关的细节,找出相关的细节并与选项对照,以确定正确答案。以上面第 4 个例句为例,问题中有 over 100 aircraft incidents 和 in the past 15 years,同时选项主要是和造成事故的原因有关,因此带着这样的关键词查阅短文,便会很容易地找到与答案有关的部分,通过仔细阅读和分析找出正确答案。

## (二)推论题

推论题与事实细节题不同,推论题的答案并不是直截了当和明白无误地写在文章中,而是要求考生根据文章中提供的信息进行综合的推理和分析,理解隐含表达的概念或细节,找出正确的答案。推论题属于比较难的题型,据不完全统计,推论题的比例约占每次考试 20 道题中的四分之一。推论题包括推理、下结论、作判断等。

推理常用的提问方式有:

It is implied, (but not stated,) that \_\_\_\_\_.

It can be inferred that \_\_\_\_\_.

We can infer from the passage that \_\_\_\_\_.

The passage implies that \_\_\_\_\_.

下结论常用的提问方式有:

According to the passage, we can conclude that \_\_\_\_\_.

Which of the following conclusions can be drawn from the passage?

What can be concluded from the passage?

作判断常用的提问方式有：

What is the author's / writer's attitude towards/to \_\_\_\_\_?

What's the tone of the passage?

The author's view is \_\_\_\_\_.

The author suggests that \_\_\_\_\_.

According to the author, \_\_\_\_\_.

7. It is implied in the first paragraph that \_\_\_\_\_.

- A) the purpose of taste tests is to promote the sale of colas
- B) the improvement of quality is the chief concern of the two cola companies
- C) the competition between the two colas is very strong
- D) blind tasting is necessary for identifying fans

本题选自 1996 年 1 月四级考试阅读理解部分第 58 题,是推论题,正确答案是 C. 推论的根据可以从原文第一段找到:

Taste is such a subjective matter that we don't usually conduct preference tests for food. The most you can say about anyone's preference, is that it's one person's opinion. **But because the two big cola (可口可乐) companies - Coca-Cola and Pepsi Cola are marketed so aggressively**, we've wondered how big a role taste preference actually plays in brand loyalty. We set up a taste test that challenged people who identified themselves as either Coca-Cola or Pepsi fans: Find your brand in a blind tasting.

本题四个选项的内容均未在这一段中明确出现,然而,根据第三句话前半句的意思“但是因为两大可乐公司——可口可乐公司和百事可乐公司如此咄咄逼人地营销”我们可以推论出“两种可乐之间的竞争是非常激烈的”。

8. We can infer from the passage that \_\_\_\_\_.

- A) English people, like most people in other countries, dislike living in flats
- B) people in most countries of the world today are not opposed to living in flats
- C) people in Britain are forced to move into high blocks of flats
- D) modern flats still fail to provide the necessary facilities for living

本题选自 1995 年 6 月四级考试阅读理解部分第 31 题,是推论题,正确答案是 B. 推论的根据可以从原文开始部分找到:

Britain almost more than any other country in the world must seriously face the problem of building upwards, that is to say of accommodating a considerable proportion of its population in high blocks of flats. **It is said that the Englishman objects to this type of existence, but if the case is such, he does in fact differ from the inhabitants**

*of most countries of the world today...*

文章第二句话的意思是:英国人(在住房问题上)的确与当今世界上许多国家的居民有着不同的看法。如果情况的确是这样的,那么事实上,英国人与世界上许多国家的居民便不相同(意即世界上许多国家的居民不反对住高层公寓),这正是选项 B 的内容。

9. What can be concluded from the passage?
- A) Genuine writers often find their work interesting and rewarding.
  - B) A writer's success depends on luck rather than on effort.
  - C) Famous writers usually live in poverty and isolation.
  - D) The chances for a writer to become successful are small.

本题选自 1997 年 1 月四级考试阅读理解部分第 57 题,要求考生根据短文的内容得出结论,实际上也是一种推论。正确答案是 D。推论的根据可以从原文第二段找到:

The reality is that writing is a lonely, private and poor-paying affair. ***For every writer kissed by fortune there are thousands more whose longing is never rewarded.*** When I left a 20-year career in the U. S. Coast Guard to become a freelance writer (自由撰稿人), I had no prospects at all. What I did have was a friend who found me my room in a New York apartment building. It didn't even matter that it was cold and had no bathroom. I immediately bought a used manual typewriter and felt like a genuine writer.

第二段第二句话说“每一个幸运成功的作家的背后还有众多的人永远无法实现自己的作家梦。”由此可以推论出:一个作家成功的可能性是很小的。

10. It can be concluded from the passage that newspaper readers \_\_\_\_\_.
- A) apply reading techniques skillfully
  - B) jump from one newspaper to another
  - C) appreciate the variety of a newspaper
  - D) usually read a newspaper selectively

本题选自 1998 年 1 月四级考试阅读理解部分第 18 题,需要考生根据文章中提供的信息自己做出结论,正确答案是 D。推论的根据可以从文章最后两句话找到:

.... For all these reasons, no two people really read the same paper; ***what each person does is to put together, out of the pages of that day's paper, his own selection and sequence, his own newspaper.*** For all these reasons, reading newspapers efficient-

ly, which means **getting what you want from them without missing things you need but without wasting time**, demands skill and self-awareness as you modify and apply the techniques of reading.

这里作者谈到:各人所做的是从当日的报纸中根据自己的选择和顺序拼成一份他自己的报纸。另外,在下一句中又提到:获得所需的信息,不能白花时间但又不要漏掉所需的信息。因此,可以得出的结论是:阅读报纸的人通常都是有选择地阅读报纸。

11. What is the author's attitude towards the environmental effects of pesticides?
- A) Pessimistic.                      B) Indifferent.  
C) Defensive.                         D) Concerned.

本题选自 1995 年 6 月四级考试阅读理解部分第 37 题,这是一道推论题,考查考生的综合判断能力,根据文章中提供的信息判断作者的态度,正确答案是 D,判断的根据可以从文章的第一段去找。

Where do pesticides (杀虫剂) fit into the picture of environmental disease? We have seen that they now pollute soil, water, and food, that they have the power to make our streams fishless and our gardens and woodlands silent and birdless. Man, however much he may like to pretend the contrary, is part of nature. **Can he escape a pollution that is now so thoroughly distributed throughout our world?**

作者在这一段里首先描述了杀虫剂对环境的破坏,并指出人类是自然的一部分,并由此引发感慨:(自然环境受到破坏,)人类可能会不受影响吗?由此我们可以得出作者对杀虫剂对自然环境的影响表示关切,即 concerned。

回答作者态度类问题应从篇章的体裁入手,一般来说,在说明文中作者的态度是客观的或中立的;而在议论文中,作者的观点才是各种各样的。用于表示态度常用的形容词或名词有:positive (adj. 积极的);negative (adj. 消极的);neutral (adj. 中立的);approval (n. 赞成);disapproval (n. 反对);indifferent (adj. 漠不关心的);sarcastic (adj. 讽刺的);critical (adj. 批评的);optimistic (adj. 乐观的);pessimistic (adj. 悲观的);subjective (adj. 主观的);objective (adj. 客观的)等。

12. What is the author's overall attitude toward fridges?
- A) Neutral            B) Critical            C) Objective            D) Compromising

本题选自 1997 年 6 月四级考试阅读理解部分第 15 题,需要考生判断作者对冰箱所持的态度,正确答案是 B,判断的根据要从全文中来找:

The fridge is considered a necessity. It has been so since the 1960s when pack-

aged food first appeared with the label: "store in the refrigerator".

In my fridgeless Fifties childhood, I was fed well and healthily. The milkman came daily, the grocer, the butcher (肉商), the baker, and the ice-cream man delivered two or three times a week. The Sunday meat would last until Wednesday and surplus (剩余的) bread and milk became all kinds of cakes. Nothing was wasted, and we were never troubled by rotten food. Thirty years on, food deliveries have ceased, fresh vegetables are almost unobtainable in the country.

The invention of the fridge contributed comparatively little to the art of food preservation. A vast way of well-tried techniques already existed—natural cooling, drying, smoking, salting, sugaring, bottling. . .

What refrigeration did promote was marketing—marketing hardware and electricity, marketing soft drinks, marketing dead bodies of animals around the globe in search of a good price.

Consequently, most of the world's fridges are to be found, not in the tropics where they might prove useful, but in the wealthy countries with mild temperatures where they are climatically almost unnecessary. Every winter, millions of fridges hum away continuously, and at vast expense, busily maintaining an artificially-cooled space inside an artificially-heated house—while outside, nature provides the desired temperature free of charge.

The fridge's effect upon the environment has been evident, while its contribution to human happiness has been insignificant. If you don't believe me, try it yourself, invest in a food cabinet and turn off your fridge next winter. You may miss the hamburgers (汉堡包), but at least you'll get rid of that terrible hum.

作者在第一段说:冰箱被认为是一种必需品。在第二段,作者谈到50年代自己小时候没有冰箱照样吃得很好,身体也很健康,他以自己的亲身体会来说明冰箱并不是必需品。作者在第三段中进一步证明冰箱的发明并未给食品保存的方法带来多大的改进,因为人们已经有了各种保存食品的方法。在第四段,作者谈了自己对冰箱作用的看法,即冰箱不过是促进了设备、电、软饮料等的销售,使人们可以把冷冻的肉在世界各地市场上卖个好价钱。在第五段,作者指出在需要冰箱的地方却没有冰箱,而不需要冰箱的地方冰箱却嗡嗡地响个不停。在最后一段作者谈到,冰箱对于环境的影响是显而易见的,而它对于人类幸福所做的贡献却是微不足道的。分析全篇,作者对于冰箱的态度一目了然,他对冰箱持批评的(critical)态度。

做推论题时,要求考生运用全面理解(reading for thorough understanding)的阅读技巧,深刻领会文章的潜在含义,从字里行间读出作者的言外之意。考生在做推论题时,一定要保持正确的逻辑思维过程,以文章提供的事实为基础,以一般常识和经验为辅。不能超出文章的范围按照自己的想象去做推论,只有这样,才能得出合乎理性的结果。

### (三)主旨大意题

确定文章的中心思想或段落的大意是阅读理解的一个非常重要的方面。一般情况下,每次四级考试阅读理解的20个问题中有大约4至5道题是主旨大意题。

作者在写一个段落时会用一个主题句来表明主旨大意,段落中的其它句子都是用来解释、说明主题句或为主题句提供论证的。主题句在段落中的位置是相对固定的,一般位于段落开始处。作者往往以概述开始,然后给出概述论点的支撑句。这种写法多见于说明文或议论文中。在推理性或归纳性文章中,主题句则常常出现在段尾,这时作者往往先给出事实依据,经过层层深入的推理论证,得出最终结论。有时主题句也可能出现在段落的中间,这时作者常常先谈具体事例,然后归纳主题,随后再围绕主题展开讨论。

在叙述文中,有些段落常常没有主题句,这时需要考生根据段落中各个细节之间的逻辑关系,总结和推论出能准确表达全段中心思想的主题句。

整篇文章的中心思想往往由各段的主题句综合构成,但有时某一段的主题句也可能就是文章的主题句。与段落中的主题句常出现在段首或段尾一样,文章的主题句也多出现于文章的首尾部分。作者常常在文章开始时提出所要论述的主题,然后在各段中围绕这个主题以事实或细节展开论述,在最后一段对文章进行总结、归纳,以使文章首尾呼应。

从以上对主题句的叙述中,可以看出要找出文章或段落的主旨大意,应该仔细阅读文章的首尾段落或一个段落的首尾句,确定了主题句也就找到了主旨大意。

常用于对文章或段落主旨大意提问的问题包括:

What is the main topic/idea of the passage/paragraph?

What does the passage/paragraph mainly talk about?

The author's purpose in writing this passage is to .....

问或还会通过让考生为文章选一个最好的标题来检查考生是否真正读懂了一篇文章并把握了文章的主旨大意。常用的问题有:

Which of the following may be the best title for the passage?

The best title for this passage would be .....

13. The author's purpose in writing the second paragraph is to show that children

.....

A) usually obey without asking questions

B) are passive in the process of learning to speak

C) are born cooperative

D) learn to speak by listening

本题选自1997年1月四级考试阅读理解部分第63题,是主旨大意题,正确答案是D,问题是问作者写第二段的目的是什么,也就是问第二段的主旨大意。原文的第二段如下: