



张鑫友英语专业应试系列

英语专业

过关阅读 180 篇

主编 张鑫友

READING
Comprehension

4 级

湖北人民出版社

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写在前面的话

在大学英语专业四级试题中,阅读理解部分所占百分值最大,因而此部分解题准确率的高低,是直接决定专业四级能否通过的关键所在。

中国有句古语:“读书破万卷,下笔如有神。”多多阅读的重要性由此可见。在常年的试题及教学研究中我们发现,考生们面临的问题主要有:词汇量不足,缺乏阅读文章的技能,知识面有限,解题思路不明等。同时我们也发现,阅读能力的提高,不是一朝一夕的事,更不是随意翻阅就能解决的问题。提高速度与准确度,扩大视野,显然需要大量泛读。针对这一要求,我们结合多年教学经验和学生中普遍存在的问题编写了此书,以帮助广大考生更有效率地提高自身的英语实力。本书的特点如下:

★ 题材新颖、选材广泛、体裁多样。本书所选文章囊括了百余篇来自新近国外报刊书籍的文章,选材涉及到政治、文化、社会生活、科技及医学等方面。体裁包括记叙文、说明文、议论文和描写文四种。其中以说明文和议论文为主,以帮助考生提高其分析和解决问题的能力。

★ 解析详尽。本书中每篇文章均附有详尽解析。由词汇双解、思路及大意、答案及详析三大部分组成。其中答案及详析又细分为答案、题意及详析(解题思路)三栏,旨在使考生在每次阅读及解题后都能得到详细指导,并在此基础上得到启发,取得进步。

★ 层次分明。本书共分 15 个单元,每一单元包括 5 篇精读文章和 7 篇泛读文章,由易到难分布,以便于考生循序渐进地进行练习备考。

本书是英语专业四级考试应试者之良师益友,同时也是广大英语爱好者及大专院校学生自学英语的首选参考书目,更是英语教学学者进行教学的好帮手。

四达外研语言研究部

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UNIT 1

SECTION A READING COMPREHENSION

In this section there are five reading passages followed by a total of fifteen multiple-choice questions. Read the passages and then mark your answers on your colored answer sheet.

TEXT A

Imagine a classroom where the instructors speak a foreign language and the students can't take notes, turn to a textbook, or ask any questions. Yet at the end of the final exam, one participant may face life in jail or even death. That's the task handed to American jurors, briefly thrown together to decide accused criminals' fate.

In "A Trial by Jury", Princeton history professor D. Graham Burnett offers a rare glimpse inside jury deliberations at a New York murder trial where he served as foreman last year. According to the prosecutor, the case seems clear-cut; a sexual encounter between two men went awry. The defendant stabbed his victim 26 times, but claims he acted in self-defense, killing a man who was attempting to rape him. Burnett opens with a graphic description of the crime. He then introduces the characters and walks readers through the 10-day trial. You hear the testimony of witnesses dressed in drag and find yourself put off by a growling prosecutor and the judge's indifference. Most of the drama, though, comes during four days and three nights of deliberations. Once retreated in the jury room, confusion reigns. Most jurors don't understand the charges or the meaning of self-defense. Uninterested jurors seem more concerned about missing appointments. On the third day, one juror runs to a bathroom in tears after exchanging curses. By the final day, nearly everyone cries.

Though he's no more familiar with the law than the other jurors, who include a vacuum-cleaner repairman and a software developer, it's fitting that Burnett is a teacher. For us, he serves as a patient instructor, illustrating with his experience just what a remarkable and sometimes remarkably strange duty serving on a jury can be.

For many citizens, jury duty is their first exposure to our justice system. Jurors discover firsthand the gap between law and justice. They face two flawed versions of the same event, offered by witnesses they may not believe. As Burnett observes, "We expect much of this room, and we think about it less often than we probably should." We assume jurors will take their job seriously. We expect them to digest complicated definitions that leave lawyers confused.

But as Burnett quickly discovers, jurors receive little help. The judge offers them no guidance about how to conduct themselves and races through his delivery of the murder charges. Only within the past decade have we finally abandoned the misconception that jurors naturally reach the right decision without any assistance. Led by Arizona, states have instituted jury reforms as simple as letting jurors take notes or obtain written copies of their instructions. It's not clear whether these changes improve the quality of justice, but the reforms certainly ensure that jurors leave

their tour of duty with better feelings about the experience. Unfortunately, such reforms hadn't come yet to New York at the time of this trial. Nonetheless, Burnett and his fellow jurors grope toward their own solution, ultimately reaching what he describes as an "avowedly imperfect" result.

1. The focal point of "A Trial by Jury" seems to be on _____.
 - A) the presentation of a series of measures aimed to reform the jury system
 - B) the description of the writer's experience on a typical jury
 - C) the reporting of a special lawsuit and the comment on it
 - D) the jury system can not do justice to the accused
2. The point the author intends to make by employing the analogy in the first paragraph is that _____.
 - A) students should never be taken by surprise
 - B) jurors are not qualified for reaching a verdict
 - C) jurors often make mistakes in their decision
 - D) the jury system can not do justice to the accused
3. The description of what happened inside the jury room seems to suggest that _____.
 - A) better-educated people should be selected as jurors
 - B) jurors should keep their heads cool and try not to be sentimental
 - C) there is much room for reaching an arbitrary and flawed verdict
 - D) the judge should have given the jurors clear instruction about what to do
4. The objective of the jury reforms is to _____.
 - A) improve of the quality of justice
 - B) give jurors reassuring feelings about the experience in court
 - C) help jurors to reach an avowedly perfect verdict
 - D) enable jurors to abandon some misconceptions about law and justice

TEXT B

Generally, history, political science, economics, and sociology are included in any listing of the social sciences. Psychology and geography are often added to the list. Basically, social scientists are concerned with man in all his aspects, with each of the social sciences concentrating on a particular area of human life or society. For example, political scientists are concerned with the methods that man has evolved to govern himself. While there are definite divisions of interest among the social sciences, at times it can be very difficult to separate history from political science or economics or sociology, for one social science can not operate without the findings of one or two or all of the others. This is a major factor in the growing popularity of interdisciplinary courses in many colleges and universities.

The great majority of social scientists are college teachers. Government employment is in second place. Private industry does not employ large numbers of social scientists, and tends to hire economists more than any other group. However, businessmen are coming to understand more fully the value of the social sciences and therefore more job opportunities will appear, especially for

consultants. It should be noted that the majority of college teachers in the social sciences are also actively engaged in research and publication in their respective fields.

The best preparation for a career in the social sciences is a broad general education in the liberal arts and the humanities. Since the majority of career opportunities in the social sciences require graduate work, the serious student will plan early for this. He should study at least two foreign languages and begin early in his college career to examine the merits of various graduate schools. He should also try to maintain a high scholastic average. To begin college teaching, a Master's degree in the field is necessary and a Ph.D. is eventually necessary. While government world offers some opportunities to those without a graduate degree, the more specialized jobs are not open to those who have not done advanced work.

5. According to the passage, most social scientists work _____.
A) both in government organizations and in business firms
B) hard for a Master's degree and a Ph.D.
C) as teachers, researchers, and writers simultaneously
D) in private industry as econonomists
6. What is the very least colleges and universities require of a college teacher?
A) A Master's degree and a Ph.D.
B) A career in political science.
C) Graduate work and experience in teaching.
D) A Master's degree.

TEXT C

The producers of instant -coffee found their product strongly resisted in the market places despite their manifest advantages. Furthermore, the advertising expenditure for instant -coffee was far greater than that for regular coffee. Efforts were made to find the cause of the consumers' seemingly unreasonable resistance to the product. The reason given by most people was dislike for the taste. The producers suspected that there might be deeper reasons, however. This was confirmed by one of motivation research's classic studies, one often cited in the trade. Mason Haire, of the University of California, constructed two shopping lists that were identical except for one item. There were six items common to both lists: hamburger, carrots, baking powder, bread, canned peaches and potatoes, with the brands of amounts specified. The seventh item, in the fifth place on both lists, read "1 lb. Maxwell House coffee" on one list and "Nescafe instant -coffee" on the other. One list was given to each person in a group of fifty women, and the other list to those in another group of the same size. The women were asked to study their lists and then to describe, as far as they could, the kind of woman ("personality and character") who would draw up that shopping list. Nearly half of those who had received the list including instant -coffee described a housewife who was lazy and a poor planner. On the other hand, only one woman in the other group described the housewife, who had included regular coffee on her list, as lazy; only six of that group suggested that she was a poor planner. Eight women felt that the instant -coffee user was probably not a good wife! No one in the other group drew such a conclusion about the

housewife who intended to buy regular coffee.

7. The fact that producers found resistance to their product despite the fact that they spent more advertising money on instant than regular coffee shows that _____.
A) advertising does not assure favorable sales results
B) companies spent more money on advertising than they should
C) people pay little attention to advertising
D) the more one advertises the better the sales picture
8. This investigation indicated that _____.
A) 50 per cent of housewives are lazy
B) housewives who use instant-coffee are lazy
C) many women believe that wives who use instant-coffee are lazy
D) wives who use regular coffee are good planners
9. It is implied but not stated that _____.
A) despite its advantages, most people dislike instant coffee because of its taste
B) the advertising expenditure for instant-coffee was greater than that for regular coffee
C) very often we do not know the real reasons for doing things
D) taste is the principal factor in determining what we buy

TEXT D

It might be supposed that greater efficiency should be achieved if several people collaborate to solve a problem than if only one individual works on it. Such results are by no means invariable.

Although groups often may increase the motivation of their members to deal with problems, there is a counterbalancing need to contend with conflicts arising among members of a group and with efforts to give it coherent direction. Problem solving is facilitated by the presence of an effective leader who not only provides direction but permits the orderly, constructive expression of a variety of opinions; much of the leader's effort may be devoted to resolving differences. Success in problem solving also depends on the distribution of ability within a group. Solutions simply may reflect the presence of an outstanding individual who might perform even better by himself.

Although groups may reach a greater number of correct solutions, or may require less time to discover an answer, their net man-hour efficiency is typically lower than that achieved by skilled individuals working alone.

A process called brainstorming has been offered as a method of facilitating the production of new solutions to problems. In brainstorming, a problem is presented to a group of people who then proceed to offer whatever they can think of, regardless of quality and with as few inhibitions as can be managed. Theoretically these unrestricted suggestions increase the probability that at least some superior solutions will emerge. Nevertheless, studies show that when individuals work alone under similar conditions, performance tends to proceed more efficiently than it does in groups.

Under special circumstances, however, a group may solve problems more effectively than does a reasonably competent individual. Group members may contribute different (and essential)

resources to a solution that no individual can readily achieve alone; such pooling of information and skills can make group achievements superior in dealing with selected problems. Sometimes social demands may require group agreement on a single alternative, as in formulating national economic or military policies under democratic governments. When only one among several alternative solutions is correct, even if a group requires more time, it has a higher probability of identifying the right one than does an individual alone.

One difference between problem solving by a group and by an individual is the relative importance of covert or vicarious processes. The group depends heavily on verbal communication, while the individual, in considerable degree, attacks the problem through implicit, subjective, silent activity.

10. According to this passage, a group _____.
A) may require less time to find a solution to a problem than an individual
B) tends to spend more time to find a solution to a problem than an individual
C) rarely depends on verbal communication in problem solving
D) generally achieves a higher net man-hour efficiency in problem solving than does a skilled individual
11. Successful problem solving by a group primarily depends on _____.
A) the motivation of its members
B) the pooling of information and skills
C) the constructive expression of various opinions
D) the presence of an effective leader
12. The author believes that a group _____.
A) generally solves a problem more efficiently than an individual
B) cannot solve a problem so efficiently as an individual
C) doesn't necessarily solve a problem more efficiently than an individual
D) tends to solve a problem less efficiently than an individual
13. The proper title for this passage should be _____.
A) Brainstorming
B) Thinking in Groups
C) Thinking Individually
D) Solving Problems Efficiently

TEXT E

Tourists were surprised to see a woman driving a huge orange tractor down one of Rome's main avenues. Italy's political leaders and some of its male union chiefs are said to have been even more puzzled to see that the tractor was followed by about 200,000 women in a parading procession that took more than three hours to snake through central Rome.

Shouting slogans, waving flags and dancing to drumbeats, the women had come to the capital from all over Italy to demonstrate for "a job for each of us, a different type of job, and a so city without violence". So far, action to improve women's opportunities in employment has been the province of collective industrial bargaining. "But there is a growing awareness that this is not enough", says a researcher on female labor at the government-funded Institute for the Develop-

ment of Professional Training for Workers.

Women, who constitute 52 per cent of Italy's population, today represent only 35 per cent of Italy's total workforce and 33 per cent of the total number of Italians with jobs. However, their presence in the workplace is growing. The employment of women is expanding considerably in services, next to the public administration and commerce as their principal workplace. Official statistics also show that women have also made significant strides in self-employment. More and more women are going into business for themselves. Many young women are turning to business because of the growing overall unemployment. It is also a fact that today many prejudices have disappeared, so that banks and other financial institutes make judgments on purely business considerations without caring if it is a man or a woman.

Such changes are occurring in the professions too. The number of women doctors, dentists, lawyers, engineers and university professors increased two to threefold. Some of the changes are immediately visible. For example, women have appeared on the scene for the first time as state police, railway workers and street cleaners.

However, the present situation is far from satisfactory though some progress has been made. A breakthrough in equal opportunities for women is now demanded.

14. About 200,000 women in Rome demonstrated for _____.

- A) more job opportunities
- B) a greater variety of jobs
- C) "equal job, equal pay"
- D) both A and B

15. Official statistics show that women _____.

- A) show no reaction to their present status
- B) represent 33 per cent of the total number of Italians with jobs
- C) go into business for themselves
- D) are more and more going into the office as doctors, dentists, lawyers, engineers and university professors

SECTION B SKIMMING AND SCANNING

In this section there are seven passages with ten multiple-choice questions, skim or scan them as required and then mark your answers on your answer sheet.

TEXT F

First read the questions.

16. Why must ramps be built? Because _____ if there are not any ramps.

- A) people in wheelchairs can't get into buildings
- B) the blind people can't find the correct floor
- C) companies may refuse to hire disabled workers
- D) businesses can't offer special services to the disabled

17. Lifts need floor numbers in Braille because _____.

- A) the new law is passed for the blind
- B) it can help people with weak eyes
- C) it is helpful to the blind

D) all the blind know Braille

Now, go through the text quickly and answer the questions.

A new law helps people with disabilities. The law says that people with disabilities must be able to get into and out of all public buildings. It also says that businesses must offer special services to people who have special needs. Companies cannot refuse to hire disabled workers.

Many businesses may have to change their buildings and services.

—Ramps must be built so people can get into buildings.

—Movie theatres must have space for people in wheelchairs and seats for their friends to sit near them.

—Supermarkets must have wider doors and passages.

—Lifts need floor numbers in Braille(盲文).

This law will help millions of people. One woman who has been in a wheelchair for many years said, "It's like a dream."

TEXT G

First read the question.

18. The best title for this article is _____.

A) Bill Gates

B) Bill Gates' Book

C) 11 rules

D) Bill Gates' rules

Now, go through the text quickly and answer the question.

In Bill Gates' Book for high school and college graduates, there is a list of 11 things they did not learn in school. In his book, Bill Gates talks about how feelgood, politically-correct teachings created a full generation of kids with no concept of reality and how this education set them up for failure in the real world.

The 11 things are:

(1) Life is not fair, get used to it.

(2) The world won't care about you selfesteem. The world will expect you to accomplish something before you feel good about yourself.

(3) You will not make 40 thousand dollars a year right out of high school. You won't be a vice president with a car phone, until you earn both.

(4) If you think your teacher is tough, wait till you get a boss. He doesn't have tenure.

(5) Flipping burgers is not beneath your dignity. Your grandparents had a different word for burger flipping; they called it opportunity.

(6) If you mess up, it's not your parents fault, so don't whine about our mistakes, learn from them.

(7) Before you were, your parents weren't as boring as they are now. They got that way from paying your about how cool you are. So before you save the rain forest from the parasites of your parents' generation, try "delousing" the closet in your own room.

- TEXT H**

Now, go through the text quickly and answer the questions.

Royal Berkshire Hospital: London Rd, Reading, RG1 5AN. 0734 875111. (Accident and emergency patients to South Wing).

TEXT I

First read the questions.

21. This passage mainly discusses _____.
A) language learning B) language teaching
C) language acquisition D) language renewal
22. After _____, most students were ignorant of the Ute language.
A) 1984 B) 1953
C) 1960 D) 1969

Now, go through the text quickly and answer the questions.

On April 10, 1984, the Northern Ute tribe became the first community of American Indians in the United States to affirm the right of its members to regain and maintain fluency in their ancestral language, as well as their right to use it as a means of communication throughout their lives.

Like many other Native Americans, these people had experienced a decline in fluency in their native tongue, as they were forced to interact more and more intensively with outsiders who spoke only English.

Once the on-reservation boarding school was closed in 1953, Ute children had to attend schools where teachers and most other students were ignorant of the Ute language. Outside the classroom, children and adults alike were increasingly bombarded by English as they sought employment off reservation, traded in non-Indian communities, or were exposed to television and other popular media.

By the late 1960s, although Ute language fluency was still highly valued, many members of the community could no longer speak it.

TEXT J

First read the question.

23. The main purpose of this letter is to _____.
A) get information about the hotel
B) make a reservation
C) apply for a job in the hotel
D) make friends with the hotel manager

Now, go through the text quickly and answer the question.

The Manager
Hotel Romantica
Sea Road
Felixstowe

April 1

Dear Sir,

Your hotel has been recommended to me by Mr Charles Brown, who is a regular guest of yours and who has told me quite a lot about the hotel.

I wish to reserve two twin-bedded rooms and one single room for myself and my family (3 adults and 2 children) for 7 nights from July 7th. We should like to have quiet rooms with a bath or shower and which have sea views, preferably with balconies. Would you please inform me of the cost of the rooms with half board and enclose a brochure describing your hotel?

One member of my party is my father-in-law, Mr Black, who will be occupying the single room. He has a small dog which he would like to sleep in his room. Please confirm that this will be convenient. He is also a vegetarian, so please also confirm that you can provide suitable meals for him.

I look forward to hearing from you.

Yours sincerely,
Alan Green

TEXT K

First read the question.

24. Which jobs would particularly like a German speaker?

- | | |
|----------------------------|------------------|
| A) Advertisement salesman. | B) Travel agent. |
| C) Advisement salesman. | D) Babysitter. |

Now, go through the text quickly and answer the question.

A:

Restaurant

Supervisor

Waiting staff

Telephonist

The ideal candidates must have relevant experience gained in a high quality hotel. Please call personnel on 071-722-7733, or send your CV to Regents Park Hilton, Lodge Road, London

NW8 7JT

LONDON

REGENTS PARK

HILTON

B:

USE YOUR

LANGUAGES AND EARN

450-1200 P. W.

We are one of the largest business publishers in Europe and have limited vacancies for intelligent young people in our London advertisement sales office. Enquiries from German Spanish and

eastern European speakers especially welcome. Phone Andrew Warburton on 071 753 4300.

C:

SECRETARY

Busy chartered

Accountants require experienced/efficient secretary, accounts, typing experience and an excellent telephone manner essential shorthand useful.

Please send CV to box No. 9245 c/o evening standard classified, 2 derry street, Kensington W8 5EE.

071 228 8546

D:

TRAVEL

COMPANY

Vacancy for self-confident person to look after bookings for our Caribbean hotels. Salary based on applicant's experience & suitability. Please send CV to Ian Taplin, MRI LTD, 9 Gale-na Road, London, WGOLX

071 223 8563

E:

NANNY WANTED

For 9 month old handful. Artistle/Prof household Ntting Hill, 3 days per week. Some hours flexibility requird. Knowledge German/Hungarian advantage not essential

071 221 7375

F:

JOIN THE STARS!

FOOD SERVERS

The biggest and busiest restaurant in London is seeking additional stars for its team of dedi-cated professionals. If you have experience in high volume restaurants and are looking for a chal-lenge, then come on down for an audition.

Interview day is on Friday, 6th MAY from 12 noon to 7 pm. planet Hollywood is located at 13 Coventry Street, London. W1.

071 225 7852

TEXT L

First read the question.

25. What distinguished his verse?

A) Cost.

B) Length.

C) Hyperbole.

D) Naturalness.

Now, go through the text quickly and answer the question.

The English Romantic poets were distinguished by a naturalness of style hitherto unknown in the classically pure, rigidly formulated work of the Enlightenment authors. Difficult as it is for us to comprehend now, when his language appears stilted, even flowery, to the modern ear, Wordsworth's earliest poems were considered radical inspirations to a whole generation.

It fact, to write a simple poem about seeing daffodils was a thing unheard of in the lofty ranks of England's serious poets of the time. Wordsworth's focus on a common experience, remembered and related without recourse to hyperbole, immediately set him apart from the rest. He was followed of course by Coleridge, then Shelly and Byron, and finally Keats – the latter three of whom were to make fun of their hero as he became more famous, more respectable, and finally more labored in his verse.

Still, Wordsworth's contributions freed his successors forever from the need to create in labored language on subjects of suitable importance. He was a revolutionary, no matter what his sentiments in later life.

* * * * *

TEXT A

【词汇双解】

trial ['traɪəl] *n.* examination of evidence in a lawcourt, by a judge and often a jury, to decide if sb. accused of a crime is innocent or guilty 审问; 审讯; 审理; 审判

prosecutor ['prɒsɪkjʊ:tə(r)] *n.* person who prosecutes in a court of law 检举人; 告发人; 起诉人; 公诉人; 原告

avowedly [ə'vaɪdli] *adv.* admittedly; openly 公开承认地; 公开地

deliberation [dɪ'lɪbə'reɪʃn] *n.* careful consideration or discussion 仔细的考虑或商议; 审议

【思路及大意】

本文讲述的是作者参加一个典型的陪审团时的亲身经历。作者去年在一次凶杀案的审讯中被选入陪审团,并且担任陪审团主席。作者在第二段讲述了案件的审讯过程,接着指出了陪审团制度的缺点,并且提到司法改革的相关情况。

【答案及详析】

1. 【答案】 B

【题意】 这场陪审团的审讯的焦点在什么地方?

【详析】 B项意为“描述作者参加一个典型的陪审团时的亲身经历”。从第二段第一句我们了解到, Burnet 教授去年在一次凶杀案的审讯中被选入陪审团,并任陪审团主席 (foreman)。第二段简述了案件的审讯过程,第四、五段讲到了陪审团制度的缺点和改革该制度的一些努力。在 A Trial by Jury 中, Burnet 用自己的亲身经历和所见所闻揭示了陪审团制度的缺点,故选 B。