

英语分类阅读

四级 140 篇

(附答案、分析与讲解)

◆ 主编 姚兰



分类阅读

分类突破

阅读高分

一手在握

华中科技大学出版社

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内 容 提 要

本书以帮助广大英语学习者培养及提高英语阅读能力为宗旨,在分析研究国家英语四级考试真题的基础上,将阅读文章的题材分为自然地理、妇女、能源与环保、教育、经济、文体、医学、人文、交通建筑和其他等十大类别,帮助学生进行有针对性的训练和讲解。所选文章里收集了国家英语四级考试曝光卷中的阅读篇章,内容丰富、体裁广泛,突出了知识性和趣味性的特点,适于广大英语学习者,尤其是高等学校的本科生,进行阅读训练。

前

言



就阅读的目的而言,语言学家 David Nunan 将它分为获取信息、与朋友信函交往、了解时事新闻、休闲娱乐等七大类别。本书涉及的是如何在英语阅读理解测试中获取书面信息。

目前,国内的各种英语考试几乎都有阅读理解一项。《大学英语教学大纲》(高等学校文理科本科用)对阅读理解的要求是:“掌握较高的阅读技能,能顺利阅读并正确理解一般题材、语言难度较高的文章。”所谓阅读技能,指的是猜测词义、辨认重要事实、确定中心思想、得出合乎逻辑的结论、作出合理的判断、进行正确的推论以及综合概括等语言微技能。从国家四、六级英语考试中的阅读理解的题型来看,阅读理解测试的不外乎是上述技能。这就要求考生不仅要弄清单词或短语的意义、句子的语法结构,还应懂得通过上下文的联系,根据遣词造句、谋篇成章的特点来理解文章的主旨大意以及作者的意图。

为了准确地获取阅读篇章中的信息,具备一定的阅读技巧,如略读、查读、细读等,是十分必要的。然而,阅读技巧毕竟只是服务于阅读实践的。真正要提高阅读水平仍在于大量的脚踏实地的阅读实践。

目前,四级英语考试有关阅读理解方面的书籍主要是以抓基础和考试题型为主。鉴于这种情况,本书在分析研究国家四级英语考试曝光卷的基础上,突出了以下特点:

- 一、按阅读文章的题材分类,以帮助学习者有针对性地进行训练。所涉及的题材包括自然地理、妇女、能源与环保、教育、经济、文体、医学、人文、交通建筑、其他等十大类别。

二、收集了历次国家四级英语考试曝光卷中的阅读篇章,所选文章题材丰富、体裁广泛,具有知识性和趣味性,适于高等学校的本科生阅读,也可作为专科生、非英语专业研究生的阅读训练材料。

三、全书分为篇章阅读、参考答案、分析与讲解三部分。每篇文章不仅附有答案,最重要的是,每道题都有重点讲解。学习者可在做完答题、对过答案之后,进一步了解所读文章的确切信息,对自己做题时所犯的错误找到有帮助的诊断和指点。

由于阅读理解在英语考试中是较为重要的一项,考生做得好与坏、得分高与低,对整个考试的成败起着决定性的作用。因此,编者希望本书能有助于英语学习者在平时的学习中培养和提高其阅读能力以应对未来的考试。

本书的自然地理类、妇女类、能源类由何璠负责编写;教育类、工农业类、交通建筑类由周虹负责编写;文体类、医学类由叶琳负责编写;人文类、经济类由桂敏负责编写。

由于编者水平有限,书中的疏误在所难免,敬请读者不吝批评、指正。

编者

2000年1月

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第

一

部

分



◎ 分类阅读 · 分类突破 · 阅读高分 · 一手把握 ◎

篇章阅读



一、自然地理类

此类文章主要涉及海洋研究、地震学、火山、冰川、气候等方面的问题。在阅读时除了理解文章及段落的大意之外,还应注意文章中某些细节的描写,以及词和习语的用法。

Passage 1

Most earthquakes occur within the upper 15 miles of the earth's surface. But earthquakes can and do occur at all depths to about 460 miles. Their number decreases as the depth increases. At about 460 miles one earthquake occurs only every few years. Near the surface earthquakes may run as high as 100 in a month, but the yearly average does not vary much. In comparison with the total number of earthquakes each year, the number of disastrous earthquakes is very small.

The extent of the disaster in an earthquake depends on many factors. If you carefully build a toy house with an Erector set, it will still stand no matter how much you shake the table. But if you build a toy house with a pack of cards, a slight shake of the table will make it fall. An earthquake in Agadir, Morocco, was not strong enough to be recorded on distant instruments, but it completely destroyed the city. Many stronger earthquakes have done comparatively little damage. If a building is well constructed and built on solid ground, it will resist an

earthquake. Most deaths in earthquakes have been due to faulty building construction or poor building sites. A third and very serious factor is panic. When people rush out into narrow streets, more deaths will result.

The United Nations has played an important part in reducing the damage done by earthquakes. It has sent a team of experts to all countries known to be affected by earthquakes. Working with local geologists and engineers, the experts have studied the nature of the ground and the type of most practical building code for the local area. If followed, these suggestions will make disastrous earthquakes almost a thing of the past.

1. Which of the following can NOT be concluded from the passage?
 - A) The number of earthquakes is closely related to depth of the earth.
 - B) Roughly the same number of earthquakes occur each year.
 - C) Earthquakes are impossible at depth over 460 miles.
 - D) Earthquakes are most likely to occur near the surface.
2. The destruction of Agadir is an example of _____.
 - A) faulty building construction
 - B) an earthquake's strength
 - C) widespread panic in earthquakes
 - D) ineffective instruments
3. The United Nations' experts are supposed to _____.
 - A) construct strong buildings
 - B) put forward proposals
 - C) detect disastrous earthquakes
 - D) monitor earthquakes

4. According to the passage, more deaths will result from _____.
- A) surface earthquakes
 - B) panic
 - C) the falling of houses
 - D) the slight shake of the earth surface
5. Which one of the following statements is true?
- A) Many stronger earthquakes have done comparatively little damage.
 - B) The number of the earthquakes increases as the depth increases.
 - C) The United Nations is likely to use the distant instruments.
 - D) Yearly average of earthquakes varies much.

Passage 2

After the violent earthquake that shook Los Angeles in 1994, earthquake scientists had good news to report: The damage and *death toll* (死亡人数) could have been much worse.

More than 60 people died in this earthquake. By comparison, an earthquake of similar intensity that shook America in 1988 claimed 25 000 victims.

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.

Despite the good news, civil engineers aren't resting on

their successes. Pinned to the drawing boards are *blueprints* (蓝图) for improved quake-resistant buildings. The new design should offer even greater security to cities where earthquakes often take place.

In the past, making structures quake-resistant meant firm yet flexible materials, such as steel and wood, that bend without breaking. Later, people tried to lift a building off its foundation, and insert rubber and steel between the building and its foundation to reduce the impact of ground vibrations. The most recent designs give buildings brains as well as concrete and steel supports. Called smart buildings, the structures respond like living organisms to an earthquake's vibrations. When the ground shakes and the building tips forward, the computer would force the building to shift in the opposite direction.

The new smart structures could be very expensive to build. However, they would save many lives and would be less likely to be damaged during earthquakes.

1. One reason why the loss of lives in the Los Angeles earthquake was comparatively low is that _____.

- A) improvements had been made in the construction of buildings and highways
- 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) new computers had been installed in the buildings

2. The function of the computer mentioned in the passage is to _____.

- A) help strengthen the foundation of the building
 - B) predict the coming of an earthquake with accuracy
 - C) counterbalance an earthquake's action on the building
 - D) measure the impact of an earthquake's vibrations
3. The smart buildings discussed in the passage _____.
- A) would cause serious financial problems
 - B) would be worthwhile though costly
 - C) would increase the complexity of architectural design
 - D) can reduce the ground vibrations caused by earthquakes
4. It can be inferred from the passage that in minimizing the damage caused by earthquakes attention should be focused on _____.
- A) the increasing use of rubber and steel in capital construction
 - B) the reduction of the impact of ground vibrations
 - C) the development of flexible building materials
 - D) early forecasts of earthquakes
5. The author's main purpose in writing the passage is to _____.
- A) compare the consequences of the earthquakes that occurred in the U. S.
 - B) encourage civil engineers to make more extensive use of computers
 - C) outline the history of the development of quake-resistant building materials
 - D) report new developments in constructing quake-resistant buildings

Passage 3

Deep inside a mountain near Sweetwater in East Tennessee is a body of water known as the Lost Sea. It is listed by the *Guinness Book of World Records* as the world's largest underground lake. The Lost Sea is part of an extensive and historic cave system called Craighead Caverns.

The caverns have been known and used since the days of the Cherokee Indian nation. The cave expands into a series of huge rooms from a small opening on the side of the mountain. Approximately one mile from the entrance, in a room called "The Council Room", many Indian artifacts have been found. Some of the items discovered include pottery, arrowheads, weapons, and jewelry.

For many years there were persistent rumors of a large underground lake somewhere in a cave, but it was not discovered until 1905. In that year, a thirteen-year-old boy named Ben Sands crawled through a small opening three hundred feet underground. He found himself in a large cave half filled with water.

Today tourists visit the Lost Sea and ride far out onto it in glass-bottomed boats powered by electric motors. More than thirteen acres of water have been mapped out so far and still no end to the lake has been found. Even though teams of divers have tried to explore the Lost Sea, the full extent of it is still unknown.

1. According to the passage, the Lost Sea is unique because it is

- A) part of a historical cave system
 - B) the biggest underground lake in the world
 - C) listed in the Guinness Book of World Records
 - D) the largest body of water in Tennessee
2. Who located the Lost Sea in recent times?
- A) The Cherokee Indians.
 - B) Tourists.
 - C) Ben Sands.
 - D) Scientists.
3. According to the passage, how can the caverns be entered?
- A) From an opening in a mountainside.
 - B) By driving into water.
 - C) By riding out onto the lake.
 - D) From "The Council Room".
4. What was found in "The Council Room"?
- A) A small natural opening.
 - B) A large cave.
 - C) Another series of rooms.
 - D) Many old Indian objects.
5. It can be inferred from the passage that the Craighead Caverns presently serve as ____.
- A) an underground testing site
 - B) an Indian meeting ground
 - C) a tourist attraction
 - D) a motorboat race course

Passage 4

All lightning, the bright flashes of light in an electrical storm, has one form although observers might say that they have seen four different kinds. One type, the most common, is called forked, zigzag, or chain lightning. It is truly a chain of light, a

streak of brightness that travels instantly through the dark sky following a meandering path, changing its course in many directions like a river. Sheet lightning is that which has no form at all, a bright flash that lights up a cloud. Sheet lightning occurs below the horizon in relationship to the observer. Heat lightning, the same as sheet lightning, is common on a summer evening. Because heat lightning is not always associated with rain, it has been given a separate label by observers. The fourth and rarest kind of lightning is ball lightning, so called because it resembles balls of fire with three to five second's duration. These balls of fire fall from the clouds, strike the ground, and explode within a short time. Some experts have doubted the stories of fire balls although they have had to believe the testimony of reliable witnesses. As one scientist said, "when the mayor of the town, three school teachers, and a judge say that they have seen a fire ball, it is hard to say that they are all imagining it."

1. The word "meandering" is defined in the phrase "_____".
 - A) a streak of brightness that travels instantly through the dark sky
 - B) changing its course in many directions like a river
 - C) the flash of light
 - D) the observing of brightness
2. One scientist thought that when a mayor, three school teachers and a judge say that they have seen a fire ball, _____.
 - A) it's obvious they are all imagining it
 - B) they are justified to feel proud