

English Qualifying



Test for
Master-degree Applicants
Preparation Guide to Reading

同等学力人员申请硕士学位英语水平全国统考

主 编 李景雨
副主编 左跃琨 史逢阳

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天津大学出版社
TIANJIN UNIVERSITY PRESS

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图书在版编目 (CIP) 数据

同等学力人员申请硕士学位英语水平全国统考·阅读
准备/李景雨主编. —天津: 天津大学出版社, 2002. 9
ISBN 7-5618-1667-7

I. 同… II. 李… III. 英语-阅读教学-研究生
-统一考试-自学参考资料 IV. H310.42

中国版本图书馆 CIP 数据核字 (2002) 第 067961 号

出版发行	天津大学出版社
出 版 人	杨风和
地 址	天津市卫津路 92 号天津大学内 (邮编: 300072)
电 话	发行部: 022-27403647 邮购部: 022-27402742
印 刷	河北省昌黎县第一印刷厂
发 行	全国各地新华书店
开 本	185mm×260mm
印 张	19.5
字 数	488 千
版 次	2002 年 9 月第 1 版
印 次	2002 年 9 月第 1 次
印 数	1—5 000
定 价	25.00 元

前言

同等学力人员申请硕士学位,除专业课程综合考试外,英语水平全国统考的成绩好坏直接影响申请学位。而阅读又占英语试卷分值的30%左右,是试卷中分值最高的部分。英语能否过关,阅读至关重要。

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问题的。提高阅读速度、扩大视野,显然需要大量泛读,但掌握和应用英语、突破语言关,以实力获得考试成功,还必须进行严格的精读。精读、泛读相结合才能达到提高阅读能力之目的。本书正是针对这一要求,结合近几年辅导班的教学经验及同等学力在职人员学习英语的特点,为帮助广大在职研究生提高英语阅读能力而编写的。

本书的特点:

1. 题材广泛、内容新颖。本书文章多数选自国外最新报纸、杂志,时效性强,内容丰富,涉及政治、经济、文化、文学、哲学、教育学、语言学、历史、心理学、人类学、人物传记和科普文献等诸方面,以便考生在提高能力的同时扩大知识面,从而取得好成绩。
2. 体裁齐全。本书所选文章包括记叙文、说明文、议论文和应用文四种,以议论文为主。以便提高考生对各种体裁的文章的分析能力和解决问题的能力。
3. 层次分明。本书的文章按照技巧篇、精选篇、模拟篇和综合篇四部分给出,以便考生系统复习和训练。
4. 答案简明、扼要。本书文章中的问题答案均配有简明扼要的解释,并归纳了做题思路和方法,以便考生掌握和学会阅读技巧,提高阅读能力。
5. 仿真度高。无论是题材,还是文章篇幅都非常贴近同等学力人员申请硕士学位英语水平全国统考的阅读理解试题。因此考生在阅读时,不仅要做题,更重要的是要读懂每篇文章,从分析句子结构着手,仔细精读,这样不仅能提高阅读水平,而且能提高翻译、写作水平。

本书是广大申请硕士学位在职人员的良师益友,也是大专院校学生自学英语、提高阅读能力的一本极有价值的参考书。

参加本书编写工作的有南开大学外语学院公共英语教学部的左跃琨(12篇)、史逢阳(16篇、综合填空24篇)、陆林(24篇)、李玉平(12篇)、张宝莹(8篇)、郭嘉(8篇)、刘孟欣(7篇)、崔晓红(3篇)。

由于作者水平有限,错误和缺点在所难免,望读者不吝赐教,以备修订时改正。

编著者

2002年3月于南开园

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第一部分

阅读理解技巧篇

同等学力人员申请硕士学位英语水平全国统一考试阅读理解部分包括 5~6 篇短文, 每篇约 300 词, 再加每篇短文后 5 个问题, 总阅读量在 2 500~3 000 词之间, 考生在 50 分钟内较从容地完成该部分是相当不容易的, 因而考生必须具备较强的阅读能力。

加快阅读速度, 达到大纲规定每分钟 80~100 个词的要求, 学会阅读和处理问题的方法, 是解决这一矛盾的关键。有些考生担心阅读速度加快必然降低理解的准确率, 认为二者不可兼得, 其实并非如此。考生应该学会正确的阅读节奏, 按照快和慢两种速度交替形成的节奏调节自己的阅读速度。加快或放慢阅读速度要依据文章本身的结构而定。

众所周知, 在一个句子中, 组成句子的每个词的分量不同, 有些词起关键作用; 在同一段落中, 句子与句子之间分量也不一样, 即段落中也许只有一个句子阐明一个观点, 其他句子仅在说明这个句子所阐明的道理; 在一篇文章中, 段落与段落之间的分量也有所不同, 即只有某个段落阐明文章旨在说明的问题, 其他段落只是提供论据用以支持主旨。这些关键词、句、段是表达文章重要信息的地方。抓住了它们, 就抓住了文章的核心; 抓住了它们就知道了什么地方需要加快阅读速度, 什么地方应该放慢速度, 甚至知道了什么地方可漏过, 从而掌握阅读节奏。

如何知道哪些词比其他词更重要, 哪些句、段比其他句、段更重要呢? 下面从段落的理解和短文的理解两个方面探讨这个问题。

一、段落的理解

段落是由一些阐述一个主题相关的句子所组成。因而, 段落必须有主题(Topic)、中心思想(Main idea)和阐述中心思想的细节(Details)三个基本要素。否则就不是段落。

主题(Topic)是段落所阐述的问题(人或事物), 是段落中的连接因素。段落中的每个句子都与之相关。

中心思想(Main idea)是作者要论述关于主题的一个观点或思想, 是段落中最重要的部分, 段落中的其他句子都围绕这一中心思想而展开。中心思想有多种表现形式, 较常见的有主题句(Topic sentence)表现法。所谓主题句是表达中心思想的句子, 对段落有宏观指导和限定作用。一个好的主题句既要简洁明晰、内容具体, 又要有概括性, 它所限定或概括的内容要有助于段落的展开和发挥。

细节(Details)是论述中心思想的事实、例证、证据、解释和原因等。

每篇短文从结构上说都由几个自然段所组成, 而短文的中心思想是由段落的中心思想组成的, 因此, 要理解短文大意, 就要从理解段落大意着手; 段落的中心思想一般由主题句表达出来, 因而, 辨认主题句(Topic sentence)是重要的阅读技巧之一。

主题句可以位于段首、段中、段尾, 也可以首尾兼而有之。主题句无论在什么位置, 它都必须为段落中心服务, 其余各句中思想的展开也必须紧扣主题。

1. 段首主题句

主题句置于一段之首, 开门见山, 引入段落中心思想。其他各句都紧紧围绕主题句逐步展开, 这种结构有助于理清脉络, 抓住主线, 自然展开而又不至于离题。例如:

The good listener, in order to achieve the purpose of acquiring information, is careful to follow specific steps to achieve accurate understanding. First, whenever possible the

good listener prepares in advance for the speech or lecture he or she is going to attend. He or she studies the topic to be discussed and finds out about the speaker and his or her beliefs. Second, on arriving at the place where the speech is to be given, he or she chooses a seat where seeing, hearing, and remaining alert are easy. Finally, when the speech is over, an effective listener reviews what was said and reacts to and evaluates the ideas expressed.

2. 段尾主题句

主题句先不出现,而是先讲细节,然后在段尾归纳得出结论。这种段落结构可使读者产生悬念,从而收到特殊的效果。例如:

Whenever possible, the good listener prepares in advance for the speech or lecture he or she plans to attend. He or she studies the topic to be discussed and finds out about the speaker and his beliefs. On arriving at the place where the speech is to be given, he or she chooses a seat where seeing, hearing, and remaining alert are easy. And, when the speech is over, he or she reviews what was said and reacts to and evaluates the ideas expressed. Thus, an effective listener, in order to achieve his purpose of acquiring information, takes specific steps to achieve accurate understanding.

3. 段中主题句

有时主题句在段落中间出现,在这种段落中通常先提出一种具体细节并稍加发展,接着主题句出现,然后再继续展开论证。例如:

Whenever possible, the good listener prepares in advance for the speech or lecture he or she plans to attend. He or she studies the topic to be discussed and finds out about the speaker and his beliefs. An effective listener, as you are beginning to see, takes specific steps to achieve accurate understanding of the lecture. Furthermore, on arriving at the place where the speech is to be given, he or she chooses a seat where it is easy to see, hear, and remain alert. Finally, when the speech is over, the effective listener reviews what was said and reacts to and evaluates the ideas expressed.

4. 首尾主题句

主题句在段首提出来,然后在段末重述一遍,又称“首尾并用”。这种段落结构,可以使读者准确把握作者的思想,点明并预测下一段的内容。例如:

The good listener, in order to achieve the purpose of acquiring information, is careful to follow specific steps to achieve accurate understanding. First, whenever possible the good listener prepares in advance for the speech or lecture he or she is going to attend. He or she studies the topic to be discussed and finds out about the speaker and his beliefs. Second, on arriving at the place where the speech is to be given, he or she chooses a seat where seeing, hearing, and remaining alert are easy. Finally, when the speech is over, he or she reviews what was said and reacts to and evaluates the ideas expressed. Effective listening is an active process in which a listener deliberately takes certain actions to insure that accurate communication has occurred.

此外,有时一些段落并不出现主题句,而是隐含在段落中,段落中的所有细节都证实了一个中心思想或使中心思想具体化。这种段落的中心思想需要读者自己去概括、归纳。例如:

Suppose a group of plumbers in a community decide to set standard prices for repair services and agree to quote the same price for the same job. Is this ethical? Suppose a group of automobile dealers agree to abide strictly by the used car blue book prices on trade ins. Is this ethical? Two meat supply houses serving a large university submit identical bids each month for the meat contract. Is this ethical?

此段描述了确定商品价格达成协议的三个例子。很显然,The main idea of the paragraph is whether price collusion is ethical.但这个中心思想在此段中没有直接表达出来,而是隐含在段落中。

Exercise 1

Directions: Read each of the following paragraphs and underline the sentence that states the main idea.

1. To be able to successfully bridge the gap between ordinary and photographic seeing, a photographer must train himself to see as the camera sees. He must remember that human vision is augmented by other sense impressions: sound, smell, taste, and tactile sensations combine to inform him about the various aspects of his surroundings. If he stands by the ocean, he sees water, sand, and sky; he hears wind and waves; he smells the kelp, tastes the salty spray, and feels the pounding of the surf. But if he takes a photograph trying to record these impressions, he probably will be dismayed that it lacks the feeling of that experience.

2. In arithmetic, it is never possible to add unlike quantities. For example, we should not add inches and gallons and expect to obtain a sensible answer. Neither should we attempt to add volts, amperes, kilocycles and microfarads, ohms and watts, etc. So it goes through algebra — we can never add quantities unless they are expressed in the same units.

3. Sedimentary rocks are derived from an earlier generation of rocks and minerals by the geological processes of weathering, transportation, and deposition. Typically, they are hard, cemented deposits formed in an ocean environment, and they contain both primary and secondary minerals. The consolidation of sediments into hard rock results from the accumulation of precipitates that cement loose mineral grains into a continuous mass. Many sedimentary rocks consist almost entirely of precipitated compounds, as for example, limestones formed by limesecreting organisms in sea water.

4. The skin itself is the largest organ of the body, is composed of epithelial and connective tissue components, and forms a pliable protective covering over the external body surface. It accounts for about 7 percent of the body weight and receives about 30 percent

of the left ventricular output of blood. The term protective, as used here, includes not only resistance to bacterial invasion or attack from the outside, but also protection against large changes in the internal environment. Control of body temperature, prevention of excessive water loss, and prevention of excessive loss of organic and inorganic materials are necessary to the maintenance of internal homeostasis and continued normal activity of individual cells. In addition, the skin acts as an important area of storage, receives a variety of stimuli, and synthesizes several important substances used in the overall body economy.

5. After you have constructed your speech and written out a full-content outline for it, you are ready to begin your oral practice. The key-word outline is an excellent aid to memory in such practice. This outline has the same indentation and the same symbols as the full-content outline, but it boils down each statement to a key word, phrase, or brief sentence that can be more easily remembered. By reading a key-word outline through repeatedly from beginning to end, you will be able to fix the ideas of your speech firmly in mind and to recall them readily as you stand before an audience. Of course, to ensure accuracy, you may read specific quotations or figures from note cards.

6. The numbers of small solid objects revolving about the sun that are too small to observe with telescopes are very great indeed, and the number seems to be greater and greater for objects of smaller and smaller size. These tiny astronomical bodies, too small to observe individually as each travels unhindered in its orbit, are called meteoroids. Their presence becomes known only when they collide with the earth, and plunging through the earth's atmosphere, heat with friction until they vaporize. The luminous vapors that are produced look like stars moving quickly across the sky and are popularly known as "shooting stars."

7. There are basically two types of computers—analogue computers and digital computers. Analogue computers operate on the principle of a parallel or analog between numbers and physical quantities. For example, a slide rule is an analogue device with length representing numbers. Modern analogue computers use electronic circuitry to represent physical processes with changes in electric current representing the behavior of the system being studied. Digital computers, on the other hand, are essentially based on counting operations. Most modern computers are digital computers, and it is usually digital computers which are referred to when the word "computer" is used. For this reason, the explanations in the chapters to follow apply only to digital computers.

8. Nothing is quite so important in establishing personal contact with an audience as the simple device of looking at individuals directly. For this reason, reading a speech or even glancing at notes too frequently reduces this feeling of interpersonal communication and almost invariably detracts from a speaker's effectiveness. Obviously, it is impossible to look at each member of the audience at the same time. Therefore, do as you would in

an informal conversation: pick out one person and talk directly to him for a few seconds, looking him in the eye as you do so; then shift to someone else. Be careful, moreover, to pick out people in various parts of the audience and to stay with each one long enough to avoid the appearance of simply wagging your head.

9. In their classification, rocks are separated into three major groups of igneous, sedimentary, and metamorphic on the basis of origin, and into a wide range of specific types primarily on the basis of mineralogy and texture. The mineralogy of a rock depends on the kinds and proportions of different minerals it contains, whereas the texture is a function of the average size of grains or crystals in which these minerals occur. Not only do these two properties provide for the fairly easy recognition of major rock types, they indicate the potential weatherability of a rock and the products it is likely to yield under weathering influences.

10. The study of mathematics may be likened to the study of a language. In fact, mathematics is a language, the language of number and size. Just as the rules of grammar must be studied in order to master English, so must certain concepts, definitions, rules, terms, and words be learned in the pursuit of mathematical knowledge. These form the vocabulary or structure of the language. The more a language is studied and used, the greater becomes the vocabulary; the more mathematics is studied and applied, the greater becomes its usefulness.

Exercise 2

Directions: Each exercise below is a statement which could express the main idea of a paragraph. Following each statement are a number of sentences containing details which may relate to the main idea statement. Read each sentence and make a check mark beside those which contain details that can be considered primary support for the main idea statement.

1. Main idea;

Licorice is used in tobacco products because it has specific characteristics which cannot be found in any other single ingredient.

Details:

- ☐ a. McAdams & Co. is the largest importer and processor of licorice root.
- ☐ b. Licorice blends with tobacco and provides added mildness.
- ☐ c. Licorice provides a unique flavor and sweetens many types of tobacco.
- ☐ d. The extract of licorice is present in relatively small amounts in most types of pipe tobacco.
- ☐ e. Licorice helps tobacco retain the correct amount of moisture during storage.

2. Main idea;

Many dramatic physical changes occur during adolescence, between the ages

of 13 and 15.

Details:

- ___ a. Voice changes in boys begin to occur at age 13 or 14.
- ___ b. Facial proportions may change during adolescence.
- ___ c. The forehead tends to become wider and the mouth widens.
- ___ d. Many teenagers do not know how to react to these changes.
- ___ e. Primary sex characteristics begin to develop for both boys and girls.

3. *Main idea:*

The development of speech in infants follows a definite sequence or pattern of development.

Details:

- ___ a. By the time an infant is six months old, he or she can make twelve different speech sounds.
- ___ b. Before the age of three months, most infants are unable to produce any recognizable syllables.
- ___ c. During the first year, the number of vowel sounds a child can produce is greater than the number of consonant sounds he or she can make.
- ___ d. During the second year, the number of consonant sounds a child can produce increases.
- ___ e. Parents often reward the first recognizable word a child produces by smiling or speaking to the child.

4. *Main idea:*

The two main motives for attending a play are the desire for recreation and the need for relaxation.

Details:

- ___ a. By becoming involved with the actors and their problems, members of the audience temporarily suspend their personal cares and concerns.
- ___ b. In America today, the success of a play is judged by its ability to attract a large audience.
- ___ c. Almost everyone who attends a play expects to be entertained.
- ___ d. Plays allow the audience to release tension which facilitates relaxation.
- ___ e. There is a smaller audience which looks to theater for intellectual stimulation.

5. *Main idea:*

In some parts of the world, famine is a constant human condition and exists due to a variety of causes.

Details:

- ___ a. In parts of Africa, people are dying of hunger by the tens of thousands.

- ___ b. Famine is partly caused by increased population.
- ___ c. Advances in medicine have increased life expectancies, keeping more people active for longer periods of time.
- ___ d. Agricultural technology has not made substantial advances in increasing the food supply.
- ___ e. Due to the growth of cities, populations have become more dense and agricultural support for these population centers is not available.

6. *Main idea:*

The amount of alcohol a person consumes has been found to depend on a number of socioeconomic factors such as age, sex, ethnic background, and occupation.

Details:

- ___ a. Some religions prohibit consumption altogether and most encourage moderation.
- ___ b. The lowest proportion of drinkers is found among people with an educational level of below sixth grade.
- ___ c. People in a lower socioeconomic level drink more than people in a higher socioeconomic level.
- ___ d. In some cultures drinking is common at meals, but these same cultures disapprove of drunkenness.
- ___ e. Farm owners have the highest proportion of nondrinkers, while professionals and businessmen have the highest proportion of drinkers.

7. *Main idea:*

An individual deals with anxiety in a variety of ways and produces a wide range of responses.

Details:

- ___ a. Anxiety may manifest itself by physical symptoms such as increased heart activity or labored breathing.
- ___ b. Fear, unlike anxiety, is a response to real or threatened danger.
- ___ c. Psychologically, anxiety often produces a feeling of powerlessness or lack of direct control over the immediate environment.
- ___ d. Temporary blindness, deafness, or the loss of the sensation of touch are examples of extreme physical responses to anxiety.
- ___ e. Some people cannot cope with anxiety and are unable to control the neurotic behavior associated with anxiety.

8. *Main idea:*

An individual's status or importance within a group affects his behavior in that particular group.

Details:

- ___ a. High-status individuals frequently arrive late at a social function.
- ___ b. Once a person achieves high status, he attempts to maintain it.
- ___ c. High-status individuals demand more privileges.
- ___ d. Low-status individuals are less resistant to change within the group structure than persons of high status.
- ___ e. There are always fewer high-status members than low-status members in any particular group.

9. *Main idea:*

An oligopoly is a market structure in which only a few companies sell a certain product.

Details:

- ___ a. The automobile industry is a good example of an oligopoly, although it gives the appearance of being highly competitive.
- ___ b. Breakfast cereal, soap, and cigarette industries, although basic to our economy, operate as oligopolies.
- ___ c. Monopolies refer to market structures in which only one industry produces a particular product.
- ___ d. Monopolies are able to exert more control and fixation of price than oligopolies.
- ___ e. In the oil industry, because there are only a few producers, each producer has a fairly large share of the sales.

10. *Main idea:*

Advertising can be used to expand consumer choice as well as to limit it.

Details:

- ___ a. Food stores which typically advertise their "specials" each Wednesday in the local paper are encouraging consumer choice.
- ___ b. Department store advertising often makes the consumer aware of new products and styles, as well as current prices of products.
- ___ c. Misleading or excessive advertising is usually rejected by the consuming public.
- ___ d. Exaggerated claims made by certain advertisers serve to limit the consumer's actual knowledge and free choice of products.
- ___ e. Advertising which provides little or no actual information but attempts to make the brand name well known, actually restricts consumer's free choice.

Exercise 3

Directions: Read each paragraph below and identify the topic and main idea. Place brackets around the main idea sentence. Then underline the key supporting details.

1. Alcoholism can be caught and successfully treated long before it reaches final phases. For specific information, one can consult the local Medical Association, the local branch of Alcoholics Anonymous, or the Yale Center of Alcohol Studies. In general, the first step in treatment is to stop the patient's drinking. Next, his personality must be rebuilt to exclude the maladjustive mechanism of drinking, and to include the adjustive mechanism of direct problem-solving. Voluntary associations like Alcoholics Anonymous often can help with the first and second step, and interview therapists with the third step. Thus far, however, no method has been successful in every case.

Topic: _____

Main idea: _____

2. The Spanish-speaking communities in the United States constitute, numerically and culturally, the most important ethnic minority group. Approximately 80 percent of the 5 million Americans of Mexican ancestry live in California, Arizona, New Mexico, Texas, and Colorado. The tenacious preservation by the Mexican-American of his language and culture is little understood by most other Americans. The Mexican-American, like many immigrant Jews to this country, often seeks to obtain what is good and of benefit to him and his family in American society without losing the ethnic identity or the customs and traditions of the old country. Many, but not all, Mexican-Americans preserve their contacts with the people and institutions of old Mexico and take great pride in the history and culture of their ancestors. In recent years, there has been a great deal of interest among young Mexican-American intellectuals in promoting this sense of identity and pride. This term *la raza*, for example, means race, but it evokes far more in feelings of brotherhood and comradeship.

Topic: _____

Main idea: _____

3. Recent studies show that dreams can be studied objectively as well as subjectively. In a series of experiments at the University of Chicago, two scientists recorded brain waves, body movements, and eye movements made during sleep. Drs. Nathaniel Kleitman and William Dement found that eye movements during sleep are connected with periods of dreaming. In 130 of 160 cases studied, dreams were recalled by subjects awakened after eye movements. Some subjects were awakened five minutes, and some fifteen minutes, after the dream—as shown by the stopping of eye movements—ended. Those awakened after the five minutes could recall far more of the dream than those awakened after fifteen minutes.

Topic: _____

Main idea: _____

4. Products purchased mainly for Christmas, such as toys, Christmas-tree lights, and yuletide candies, have a marketing program different from that for products sold uni-