

最新大学英语 四级真题 阅读详解

主编 林学明 / 审定 王迎军

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大学英语四级考试阅读理解样题

阅读理解部分考试时间为 35 分钟, 要求学生阅读若干篇短文, 总阅读量为 1000 词左右, 不包括试题问句选择项文字。每篇短文后有若干个问题, 样题中共有 20 个问题。阅读理解测试计 40 分, 占考试总分数的 40%, 是 CET-4 考试的重点部分, 因为阅读理解能力是《教学大纲》规定的第一个层次的要求, 即“大学英语的教学目的是培养考生具有较强的阅读能力”。

阅读短文的选材原则:

- (1) 题材广泛, 可以包括人物传记、社会、文化、日常生活常识、科技常识等, 但是所涉及的背景知识应为考生所理解;
- (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, 则用汉语注明词义。

按上述选材原则, 阅读理解样题中共有四段短文, 每段短文之后有 4—6 个问题, 共 20 个问题。

阅读理解主要测试下述能力:

- (1) 掌握所读材料的主旨和大意;
- (2) 了解说明主旨和大意的事实和细节;
- (3) 既理解字面的意思, 也能根据所谈材料进行一定的推理判断和推论;
- (4) 既理解个别句子的意义, 也理解上下文的逻辑关系。

Part II Reading Comprehension

(35 minutes)

Directions: There are 4 reading passages in this part. Each passage is

followed by some questions or unfinished statements. For each of them there are four choices marked A), B), C) and D). You should decide on the best choice and mark the corresponding letter on the Answer Sheet with a single line through the centre.

Passage One

Questions 21 to 25 are based on the following passage.

The advantages and disadvantages of large population have long been a subject of discussion among economists. It has been argued that the supply of good land is limited. To feed a large population, inferior land must be cultivated and the good land worked intensively. Thus, each person produces less and this means a lower average income than could be obtained with a smaller population. Other economists have argued that a large population gives more scope for specialisation and the development of facilities such as ports, roads and railways, which are not likely to be built unless there is a big demand to justify them.

One of the difficulties in carrying out a world-wide birth control program lies in the fact that official attitudes to population growth vary from country to country depending on the level of industrial development and the availability of food and raw materials. In the developing country where a vastly expanded population is pressing hard upon the limits of food, space and natural resources, it will be the first concern of government to place a limit on the birth-rate, whatever the consequences may be. In a highly industrialised society the problem may be more complex. A decreasing birth-rate may lead to unemployment because it results in a declining market for manufactured goods. When the pressure of population on housing declines, prices also decline and the building industry is weakened. Faced with considerations such as these, the government of a

developed country may well prefer to see a slowly increasing population, rather than one which is stable or in decline.

21. A small population may mean _____.

- A) higher productivity, but a lower average income
- B) lower productivity, but a higher average income
- C) lower productivity and a lower average income
- D) higher productivity and a higher average income

22. According to the passage, a large population will provide a chance for developing _____.

- A) agriculture
- B) transport system
- C) industry
- D) national economy

23. In a developed country, people will perhaps go out of work if the birth-rate _____.

- A) goes up
- B) goes down
- C) remains stable
- D) is out of control

24. According to the passage, slowly rising birth-rate perhaps is good for _____.

- A) a developing nation
- B) a developed nation
- C) every nation with a big population
- D) every nation with a small population

25. It is no easy job to carry out a general plan for birth control throughout the world because _____.

- A) there are too many underdeveloped countries in the world
- B) underdeveloped countries have low level of industrial develop-ment
- C) different governments have different views of the question
- D) even developed countries may have complex problems

Passage Two

Questions 26 to 30 are based on the following passage.

"It hurts me more than you," and "This is for your own good." These are the statements my mother used to make years ago when I had to learn Latin, clean my room, stay home and do homework.

That was before we entered the permissive period in education in which we decided it was all right not to push our children to achieve their best in school. The schools and the educators made it easy on us. They taught that it was all right to be parents who take a let-alone policy. We stopped making our children do homework. We gave them calculators, turned on the television, left the teaching to the teachers and went on vacation.

Now teachers, faced with children who have been developing at their own pace for the past 15 years, are realising we've made a terrible mistake. One such teacher is Sharon Klompus who says of her students—"so passive"—and wonders what happened. Nothing was demanded of them, she believes. Television, says Klompus, contributes to children's passivity. "We're not training kids to work any more," says Klompus. "We're talking about a generation of kids who've never been hurt or hungry. They have learned somebody will always do it for them. Instead of saying go look it up, you tell them the answer. It takes greater energy to say no to a kid."

Yes, it does. It takes energy and it takes work. It's time for parents to end their vacation and come back to work. It's time to take the car away, to turn the TV off, to tell them it hurts you more than them but it's for their own good. It's time to start telling them no again.

26.Children are becoming more inactive in study because _____.

- A) they watch TV too often
- B) they have done too much homework
- C) they have to fulfil too many duties
- D) teachers are too strict with them

27.To such children as described in the passage _____.

- A) it is easier to say no than to say yes
- B) neither is easy—to say yes or to say no
- C) it is easier to say yes than to say no
- D) neither is difficult—to say yes or to say no

28.We learn from the passage that the author's mother used to lay emphasis on _____.

- A) learning Latin
- B) natural development
- C) discipline
- D) education at school

29.By "permissive period in education" the author means a time _____.

- A) when children are allowed to do what they wish to
- B) when everything can be taught at school
- C) when every child can be educated
- D) when children are permitted to receive education

30. The main idea of passage is that _____ .

- A) parents should leave their children alone
- B) kids should have more activities at school
- C) it's time to be more, strict with our kids
- D) parents should always set a good example to their kids

Passage Three

Questions 31 to 36 are based on the following passage.

They are among the 250 000 people under the age of 25 who are out of work in the Netherlands, a group that accounts for 40 percent of the nation's unemployed. A storm of anger boils up *at the government-sponsored* (由政府监控的) youth centre, even among those who are continuing their studies.

"We study for jobs that don't exist," Nicollete Steggerda, 23, said.

After three decades of prosperity, unemployment among 10 member nations of the European Community has exceeded 11 percent, affecting a total of 12.3 million people, and the number is climbing.

The bitter disappointment long expressed by British youths is spreading across the Continent. The title of a rock song "No Future" can now be seen written on the brick walls of closed factories in Belgium and France.

Recent surveys have found that the increasing argument in the last few years over the *deployment*(部署) in Europe of North Atlantic Treaty Organisation missiles and the possibility of nuclear war have clouded European youths' confidence in the future.

One form of protest tends to put the responsibility for a country's economic troubles on the large numbers of "guest workers" form

Third World nations, people welcomed in Western Europe in the years of prosperity.

Young Europeans, brought up in an extended period of economic success and general stability, seem to resemble Americans more than they do their own parents. Material enjoyment has given them a sense of expectation, even the right, to a standard of living that they see around them.

“And so we pass the days at the discos, or meet people at the cafe, and sit and stare,” said Isabella Gault. “There is usually not much conversation. You look for happiness. Sometimes you even find it.”

31. Unemployment in the Netherlands has affected _____.

- A) one million people
- B) roughly 0.6 million people
- C) 250 000 people
- D) less than half of the population

32. What Nicolle Steggerda said (Para.2) means that _____.

- A) school education is not sufficient
- B) what the students learn is more than necessary
- C) the students cannot get work after graduation
- D) the students' aim in study is not clear

33. The word “prosperity” (Line 4, Para.6) most probably means _____.

- A) achievements in economy
- B) advance in politics
- C) economic troubles
- D) political crisis

34. Which of the following statements is NOT TRUE?

- A) The rock song "No Future" is an expression of the disappointment of European youth.
- B) 40% of the guest workers are out of work in Western Europe now.
- C) European youths are worried about a new world war in the future.
- D) Widespread unemployment is beyond European youths' expectation.

35. British youths _____.

- A) are trying to find work on the Continent
- B) are sympathetic with the unemployed on the Continent
- C) have been the first to show their disappointment over joblessness
- D) show their concern for unemployment in France and Belgium

36. It seems that young Europeans _____.

- A) look upon life as their elders do
- B) are more like Americans than their elders in their way of thinking
- C) look more like Americans than their elders do
- D) expect more from Americans than from their elders

Passage Four

Questions 37 to 40 are based on the following passage.

The news of the escape first got around on Sunday night. It threw the oldest son into anxiety, almost panic, possibly because he was old enough to know what it meant. The youngest didn't seem to care: he was too young. Mrs. Birnam—an unimaginative mother, easy going, busy with family matters—seemed to take the attitude that if danger

was involved, it was danger to somebody else besides themselves. Don's reaction, the middle son, was romantic: what a pity that it had happened forty miles away, and thus the consequent exciting danger or threat would never reach as far as their town of Arcadia. He was twelve at the time.

There had been a break at the state prison in Auburn. Six dangerous criminals had shot their way out and were even now—so everybody said—terrorising the countryside, though no one had seen them since their rush to freedom after a wounded guard, at gun point, had raised the outer gate for their escape. They might equally have vanished off the face of the earth or hidden in somebody's abandoned barn, too frightened to stir from their hiding places for weeks to come.

The news came to the Birnams *inevitably* (不可避免地) from one of their neighbours over the telephone. There was no radio in those days but Mrs. Kirtle was just as good. By some mysterious gift she always managed to hear things before anybody else and immediately got on the phone or rushed across the back yards, ducking under clotheslines and knocking at kitchen door. "Pauline Revere," the boys called her, and their mother *suppressed* (强挤出) a smile and scolded them for disrespect.

37. How far was the prison from Arcadia?

- A) Forty miles.
- B) Six miles.
- C) Twelve miles.
- D) The selection doesn't tell us.

38. Mrs. Birnam's family learned of the news of the escape

- _____.
- A) through Mrs. Kirtle

- B) over the radio
- C) from the wounded guard
- D) by some mysterious gift

39. The boys' attitude toward Mrs. Kirtle was one of _____.

- A) tolerance
- B) impoliteness
- C) doubt
- D) kindness

40. Which of the following statements is NOT TRUE?

- A) The six criminals succeeded in escaping with much violence.
- B) Mrs. Kirtle always kept herself informed about daily happenings in their neighbourhood.
- C) Mrs. Birnam thought that the news had nothing to do with her family.
- D) Every member of the Birnams was thrown into a panic by the news.

样题详解

Passage One

21. A small population may mean _____. (人口少意味着_____.)

【解题思路】正确选项为 D), 属于推理题。题干关键词 “a small population” 出现在第一段第四句中 “Thus, each person produces less and this means a lower average income than could be obtained with a smaller population.” 这也就是说人口少意味着高生产力高收入。恰与选项 D) 相符。

22. According to the passage, a large population will **provide a chance** for developing _____. (根据短文, 人口多能提供机会发展_____。)

【解题思路】正确选项为 B), 属于事实细节题。文章第一段的最后一句中 “give more scope for” 与题干 “provide a chance for” 意义相吻合, 答案势必在这一句话中: “Other economists have argued that a large population gives more scope for *specialization and the development of facilities such as ports, roads and railways...*” 从这句话可以得出人口多能提供机会发展交通, 因为文章中的 “ports, roads and railways” 都属交通。

「词义辨析」 **provide / provided** 这两个单词的根源同是 “provide”, 即提供.....条件, 后者借助过去分词形式, 表示 “假设可以提供以下条件的話, 那么.....” 久而久之成为连词。请注意它们之间的使用区别:

provide v. 提供, 供给

1. He *provided* himself with an umbrella. 他给自己预备一把伞。