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大学英语六级考试

全真试卷

(1998 年 1 月 ~ 2002 年 6 月)

CET6

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大学英语六级考试题型透析与应试技巧

第一部分 听力理解(Listening Comprehension)

一、考试内容及题型分析

1. 考试内容

大学英语六级考试听力部分共 20 个题,分别由 A、B 两节组成:A 节(Section A)中有 10 个题,每题含有一组对话,对话后有一个问句;B 节(Section B)有 10 个题,分别安排在若干篇短文之后,每篇短文后有 2—4 道题,每题为一个问句。

新题型公布后,又增加了听写填空和复合式听写。

听写填空(Spot Dictation)

“听写填空”安排在“听力理解”之后。试卷上给出一篇约 200 字的短文,其中有 10 个左右的空格。每个空格要求填入一个句子或者句子的一部分。全文以《大学英语教学大纲》规定的语速(每分钟约 140 个词)朗读 3 遍。第一遍全文朗读,没有停顿,目的是让考生了解全文内容;第二遍在空格处停顿,要求考生把听到的内容(句子或句子的一部分)填入空格处;第三遍同第一遍一样,没有停顿,目的是供考生进行核对、校改。

“听写填空”部分的题材、体裁和难度等与听力理解部分的短文大致相同。“听写填空”的录音和听力理解题录音,制作在同一磁带上。

复合式听写(Compound Dictation)

“复合式听写”安排在“听力理解部分”之后。“复合式听写”虽然是一道独立的大题,但实质上由两部分组成:第一部分是单词听写,要求考生在空格处填入所缺的单词;第二部分是表达,要求考生根据所听内容写出要点。

“复合式听写”通常是一篇约 250 个词左右的短文,朗读 3 遍。第一遍是全文朗读,没有停顿,目的是让考生了解全文内容。第二遍朗读时,在第一部分的每个空格处略有停顿,要求考生填入所缺的单词;在第二部分之后停顿 5 分钟,让考生根据所听到的内容写出要点。第三遍朗读与第一遍一样,没有停顿,目的是供考生进行核对、校改。

“复合式听写”部分的题材、体裁和难度等与听力理解部分的短文大致相同,朗读速度略低于大学英语教学大纲规定的语速。

如:2000 年 12 月份 Section B

The human body is a remarkable food processor. As an adult, you may consume(S1)_____ a ton of food, per year and still not gain or lose a pound of body weight. You are(S2)_____ harnessing and consuming energy through the intricate(S3)_____ of your body in order to remain in energy balance. To (S4)_____ a given body weight, your energy input must balance your energy output. However, sometimes the(S5)_____ energy balance is upset, and your(S6)_____ body weight will either fall or (S7)_____.

The term body image refers to the mental image we have of our own physical appearance, and(S8)_____. Research has revealed that about 40 percent of adult men and 55 percent of adult women are dissatisfied with their current body weight. (S9)_____. At the college level, a study found that 85 percent of both male and female first-year students desired to change their body weight. (S10)_____. Thinness is currently an attribute that females desire highly. Males generally desire muscularity. The vast majority of individuals who want to change their body weight do it for the sake of appearance; most want to lose excess body fat, while a smaller percentage of individuals actually want to gain weight.

【答案】S1 over S2 constantly S3 mechanism S4 maintain S5 overall S6 normal S7 increase
S8 It can be influenced by a variety of factors, including how much we weigh, or how that weight is distributed.

S9 Similar findings have also been reported at the high school level, mainly with female students.

S10 The primary cause of this concern is the value that American society in general assigns to physical appearance.

注:新题型“听写填空”和“复合式听写”的出台及陆续采用主要是为了考查学生的听力能力、拼写能

力、记笔记的能力和书面表达能力,即实际运用能力。同时,也是为了促使广大英语教师和学生在日常的教与学过程中,把精力集中在提高语言的运用能力上,从而避免应试教育。

2. 题型分析

(1) 对话部分的题型分析

对话就是交际,因此离不开一定的语言环境。在做对话部分的听力理解时,如果我们能够注意对话的语言环境,了解对话交流的主要信息,那么做这部分题时,准确率就会大大提高。现就对话部分经常出现的一些语境总结归纳如下:

对话者的关系	地点背景	内 容	关 键 词
学生—教师	学校、教室	作业、考试	homework, marks, assignment, grades
学生—图书管理员	图书馆	借(还)书	borrow, return, fine, renew, due, overdue
顾客—售货员	商店	购物品	how much, price tag, expensive, cheap
顾客—工作人员	邮局	邮购信件、包裹	letter, address, postage
住客—服务员	宾馆	住宿	room, reservation, check in, check out
司机—交通警察	马路	违犯交通规则	break the rule, fine, policeman
乘客—机场人员	机场	航班、登机	take off, flight, stewardess
病人—医生	医院、诊所	看病	headache, pain, What's the matter?
乘客—售票员	公共汽车	问路	excuse me, How can I...?, Will you tell me...?

上面只是常见的一些对话情景,此外还有同事之间,夫妻之间,父母子女之间,经理和秘书之间,邻居之间等等的对话。从对历年全真试题的分析来看,对话部分中的许多考题都是根据这一原则设置的,听力测试中常出现的题型有以下几种:

① 计算题

计算题的特点是要求考生回答对话中有关数字的一些问题,如数字、日期、年龄、时间、速度等。计算方式一般是加、减、乘、除。例如:1997年1月份考题对话部分的第3小题。

M: I'll have these shoes. Please tell me how much I owe you.

W: They are \$40 a pair and three pairs make a total of \$120. But today we offer a 10% discount.

Q: How much does the man have to pay?

- A) \$120. B) \$108. C) \$90. D) \$40.

该题是一道简单计算题,主要测试考生对有关数字的捕捉。对话中,男子询问应付多少钱,女士回答每双鞋\$40,3双鞋共\$120,但可按10%的折扣结账,因此应付\$108。从本题可以看出,计算题并不难,但捕捉对话的数字信息要准确。此外,该题是针对对话的第二部分提出问题,从对若干全真题的分析来看,这是对话部分出题的一个重要特点,因此应特别留意对话中的第二部分。

② 地点题

地点题指针对对话双方直接或间接提到的某个地点提问的问题。该类试题要求考生根据对话内容辨别和推断出对话的场所或对话中提到的场所。这些场所包括学校、图书馆、商店、邮局、医院、机场等等。例如:1997年6月份对话部分的第7题。

M: I've just got back from the holiday you arranged for me, but I must tell you the hotel was really awful!

It was miles from the sea. The food was awful too. The bed room was dirty.

W: Sorry about that. But it's not really our fault. The contract does say that the hotel accommodation is not our responsibility.

Q: Where is this conversation probably taking place?

- A) At the airport. B) In a travel agency.
C) In a hotel. D) At the reception desk.

该题属于地点题型。在对话中,男士谈到他刚刚旅游归来,对旅馆的食宿极为不满;女士除表示歉意外,强调合同中讲明旅馆膳宿问题他们概不负责。由此可以看出,这是在旅行社的一段对话,而不是在机场、旅馆或旅馆的接待处,故选B)。

如:2000年12月份对话部分的第2题

2. W: I have a complaint to make, sir. I waited 10 minutes at the table before the waiter showed up, and when I finally got served, I found it was not what I ordered.

M: I'm terribly sorry, Ma'am. It has been unusually busy tonight. As a compensation, your meal will be free.

Q: Where does the conversation most probably take place?

A) At the information desk. B) In an office. C) In a restaurant. D) At a railway station.

[答案]C)。本题是地点题,要求考生根据对话内容辨别和推断出对话的场所或对话中提到的场所。根据对话中的关键词 waiter, serve, order, meal, free 等可看出,这是发生在饭店的一段对话,故选 C)。

③身份或职业题

该类题要求考生通过对话人的用词和语气,判断说话者的身份或他从事的职业。做这类题时,可根据 4 项选择所提供的表示不同身份或职业的名词去留心对话中可能会出现有关专业术语。例如:1996 年 1 月份短文听力部分 Passage 1 中的第 11 题。

11. What job did Miss Susan Brown have before she worked as a night nurse in a hospital?

A) She was an office worker. C) She was a cleaner.
B) She was a physician. D) She was a social worker.

该短文中的第 11 题是一个涉及职业的题目。该题要求考生捕捉细节,然后作出正确的判断。只要考生抓住了“office cleaner”这个关键词语,就能判断正确的答案是 C)。

④对话者关系题

该类题要求考生通过对话内容识别出对话者之间的关系。这种关系包括师生关系,母子关系,夫妻关系,医生和病人的关系,乘客与售票员的关系,司机和警察的关系等等。例如:

1998 年 1 月份对话部分的第 5 小题。

W: Take a seat, Mr. Brown. Could you tell me which position you think most appeals to you?

M: Well, as for me, I prefer to take the post of sales manager if you think I'm qualified.

Q: What's the man's purpose in meeting the woman?

A) To find out her position in the company. C) To offer her a position in the company.
B) To apply for a job. D) To make an appointment with the sales manager.

该题属于对话者关系题。在对话中,男士询问布朗先生喜欢什么样的职位,布朗先生回答喜欢担任销售经理的职位。由此看出,对话中的女士是面试者,布朗先生是被面试者,两者是面试者和被面试者的关系。因此,可以排除其他干扰项,确定正确答案是 B)。

如:2000 年 12 月份对话部分的第 9 小题

9. W: Sorry I didn't come yesterday, because I had a temperature. Could you tell me your requirements for my term paper?

M: The theme of your paper can be about business management or touring resources in China, and the length of your paper should be no less than 15 pages.

Q: What is the most probable relationship between the two speakers?

A) Manager and employee. C) Guide and tourist.
B) Salesman and customer. D) Professor and student.

[答案]D)。对话者关系题。女士说她昨天由于发烧而没能来,问男士对其学期论文有何要求。男士对其论文主题、长度做了要求。由此可见,两者是师生关系。

⑤推理判断题

推理判断题是针对对话的内容出题。该类题要求考生根据对话的内在意义推断说话者的态度、观点、目的、意图等。常采用的问句形式是:

What does the man/woman mean?

What do we learn from the conversation?

What conclusion can we draw from the conversation?

如 1999 年 1 月全真题对话部分中的第 4 小题。

M: If you are in a hurry, you can take the subway. If you want to go sightseeing, take a bus.

W: Actually, I don't have to be at the conference before noon.

Q: What will the woman probably do?

A) Hurry to the conference. C) Take the subway.
B) Skip the conference. D) Take a bus.

该题属于推理判断题,目的是测试考生的理解推断能力。该题要求考生根据女士谈话的内容,推测出她可能会做什么,在男士介绍完赶时间应该乘坐地铁,如果不着急,想观光一下市容就乘坐公共汽车后,女士回答:“I don't have to be at the conference before noon.”(我不必在中午前赶到会议上不可)。言外之意,“我并不赶时间”,“我可以乘坐公共汽车观光一下市容。”根据以上推断,判定选择项 D) 为正确答案。从这一道题,我们可以看出,整个对话没有生词或难句,但如果不留意对对话内容整体的理解或漏听了“in a hurry”,“take the subway”,“go sightseeing”,“take a bus”,“before noon”等关键词语,就很难作出正确的判断。这一点考生一定要注意,该类题型是目前六级听力题的出题趋势,即考查考生的综

合理理解能力。每套听力题中大约有 60%~70% 的题属于推理判断题。

如:2000 年 1 月份对话部分的第 9 小题

9. M: I think I'm going to give up playing tennis. I lost again today.

W: Just because you lost, is that the reason to quit?

Q: What does the woman imply?

A) The man should take up a hobby.

C) The man should stick to what he's doing.

B) The man should stop playing tennis.

D) The man should find the cause for his failure.

[答案] C)。本题测试学生推测讲话人情绪和情感。男士说,“我想我该放弃打网球了,(因为)我今天又输了。”女士反诘了一句,“仅仅因为输了,这就是要放弃的理由吗?”可见,女士认为男士应该坚持下去,故 C) 为正确答案。

如:2002 年 1 月份对话部分的第 7 小题:

7. M: When we are supposed to submit our project proposals, Jane?

W: They'll do by the end of the week. We've only 2 days left. We'll just have to hurry.

Q: What does the woman mean?

[答案] A)。本题是推理判断题。女士说,我们还剩下两天,得快点儿,由此可知:最后期限快到了,故选 A)。

(2) 听力理解第二部分(短文部分)题型解析

以上简单地介绍了 6 种常见的题型。这 6 种题型不仅适应于对话听力部分,而且适应于短文听力部分。除了以上题型外,短文部分的问题通常还会涉及到中心思想、作者或说话者所论述的问题的观点和看法或短文中的一些具体事实或过程的因果关系。从对历届全真题的分析来看,短文听力部分对考生而言难度较大。主要是由于这部分的听力材料较长,一些考生在听的过程中抓不住主要内容,只听懂一些单词或几个句子,或跟不上录音的速度等。解决这些问题需要考生在考试之前有计划地、比较系统地听上十几套模拟题或听力练习题,在听的过程中进行归纳总结,使自己逐渐适应外国人的语音和语调,熟悉对话的语速。

例如:1998 年 1 月份第二部分的第三篇短文。

On 15th, Feb, 1989 an instant survey was carried out among 18 overseas postgraduate students. 11 students were male and 7 were female. The purpose of the survey was to discover the views of the students on a number of matter of personal concern. The survey was conducted by means of a questionnaire given to the students to complete. There were five questions. The first question concerned favorite color and the second favorite number. The next 3 questions were all concerned with aspects of marriage. No. 3 looked at the ideal age to get married, No. 4 examined the qualities looked for in a partner and No. 5 asked about the ideal number of children. The main findings were as follows: Blue was the most popular color. This was followed by Green and Purple. There was no real significance in the choice of lucky number. About one third of the students said that they had none. Sixty-one percent of the students selected the age group 26 to 30 years as ideal for marriage, followed by 21 to 25 year. In looking at the most important qualities in an ideal partner, someone hoped the person to be Intelligent, others chose Natural, still others indicated Attractive and Honest. The ideal number of children was 2, followed by 3. It is not easy to reach any definite conclusion based upon such a small sample of students from such widely different backgrounds. However, it is clear that majority favorite of 26 to 30 is the ideal age to get married with an intelligent partner, and producing 2 children.

17. A) 18 American undergraduates.

C) 18 overseas undergraduates.

B) 18 American postgraduates.

D) 18 overseas postgraduates.

18. A) Family relations.

C) Family planning.

B) Social problems.

D) Personal matters.

19. A) Red

B) Blue

C) Green

D) Purple

20. A) The five questions were not well designed. C) Only a small number of students were surveyed.

B) Not all the questionnaires were returned. D) Some of the answers to the questions were not valid.

【解析】该篇短文篇幅简短,语言流畅,没有超纲的词语,并无障碍可言,但如果在做题的过程中漏听了某些具体的事实或细节,或虽然留意到了这些具体事实或细节,但拿得不准,似是而非,那样就很难找出正确的答案。

短文中的第 17 题:“Who were involved in this instant survey?”就是一个细节题。如果考生把握住第一句:On 15th Feb, 1989 an instant survey was carried out among 18 overseas postgraduate students, 11 students were male and 7 were female.”并留意到该句中的关键词 overseas postgraduates, 那么这道题就迎刃而解了。

【小结】从该题可以看出,把握关键词,准确获取重要细节信息的能力在做短文理解题中是十分重要的。

短文中的第 18 题:“What do the 5 questions to be answered focus on?”是一个推断型的题,主要是测试考生获取明示信息的能力及由此进行推理判断的能力。该题要求考生回答调查表中的 5 个问题集中于

哪个方面。短文的前半部分对5个问题进行了详细阐述,而且在详细阐述之前明确指出:“The purpose of the survey was to discover the views of the students on a number of matter of personal concern.”,该句可以说是五个问题的主题句。5个问题中,第一个问题是关于“喜欢的颜色”;第二个问题是关于“喜欢的数字”;第三个问题是关于“婚姻”方面的问题,如:结婚年龄,怎样才能找到一个好的伴侣,婚后要几个孩子等。从这5个要回答的问题来看,都属于个人问题,因此,正确的答案应是D)。

【小结】从本题可以看出,把握短文中的具体细节固然重要,但利用细节进行逻辑推理的能力不可缺少。同时,把握主题句也是做对题的关键。

短文中第19题“What colour was chosen as the most popular in the survey?”与第18题相同,属于具体细节题。短文中第20题“Why is it difficult to reach any definite conclusion from the survey?”是一个推断型的题。该题要求考生根据具体的细节(调查的人数较少,被调查者的背景各不相同)推断出正确的答案。实质上短文结尾部分“It is not easy to reach any definite conclusion based upon such a small sample of students from such widely different backgrounds”(该句是整个调查结果的总结句)一句已经明确地给出了答案。但大部分考生未能做对这道题,究其原因该句较长。在听的过程中,大部分考生只获取了支离片语的信息,只好凭主观臆测。

【小结】从本题可以看出:把握总结句,准确地理解较复杂的长句是做好短文听力的重要技能之一。

二、听力技能训练及应试技巧

听力理解测试是衡量考生语言基本技能的一种重要手段,大学英语六级考试就把听力理解作为考试的重要项目之一,共20道题,20分,占整个卷面分数的1/5。

一般说来,考生在听力测试部分遇到的问题是:(1)大脑的思维跟不上语速;(2)漏听某些关键词;(3)由于发音不准,不容易听准;(4)对全文的内容印象模糊,不能做出正确的推断。因此,笔者认为考生首先应就听力基础和听力理解两个方面加强训练。

1. 听力基础训练

在语言的基本技能中,听力属于接受型技能,这就决定了听力技能的提高必须通过进行大量的听力实践训练来实现。听力基础训练可以从以下几步进行:

(1)训练听力速度有两种方法。

第一种方法是循序渐进,由慢速到快速,逐步提高,这样可以使学生逐渐适应听力速度,树立起听的信心。

第二种方法是一开始就以听力测试的正常语速进行训练,起初会出现“听不懂,跟不上”的现象,但由于在这种语速的不断冲击下,听力会逐渐敏感。久而久之,从开始只听懂只言片语,到能接受一个句子,以后是几个连续的句子,直至一个段落。这时,大脑已完全适应了这种语速,接下来便是增强记忆与理解的能力了。

我们在教学实践中体会到,第二种方法更有效。在听力速度的训练中,采用结构简单、词汇浅显,但语速正常的听力材料,经过一段时间的训练之后,语速保持不变,但逐渐加大语法与词汇的难度,直至达到听力测试的要求。这种方法往往会使学生在较短时间内有较大提高。

(2)基本素质训练

听力基本素质是对音素识别、连续爆破、句子重读、语音语调等英语语音基本知识的掌握,也包括熟悉英国音和美国音的发音特点。

在正常的连贯性说话中会出现一些音的变化,如音的同化、合成、不完全爆破、连读、略读等,掌握这些基本的语音规则,有利于在听力测试中听得准。

(3)记忆力的训练

听力记忆是听力测试中的一个重要环节。在教学实践中我们体会到,听力记忆训练可分3步进行:

①填空。这一阶段的主要任务是训练听关键词的能力,如主语、谓语动词、表示时间或地点的名词、否定副词、转折连词、主从连词等。

②听写。听写是训练记忆的有效方法。听写训练应从单句开始,逐步向段落过渡,应选用结构简单、词汇通俗的短文。听写短文时,应听完几句后,按内容的先后顺序,写出主要内容即可。

③复述。听完一个句子或段落,不是逐字逐句地去背诵,而是抓住关键词,用自己的话复述原文的意思。应当注意,无论听什么短文,都应全神贯注,全力以赴,听完后立刻在大脑中重播,如此反复训练,记忆力会大大提高。

2. 应试技巧

(1)做好考前准备,快速浏览卷面的选择项

记住携带必备物品,熟悉考场规则和程序,熟悉考题形式、做法要求。每部分的开始都有一段 Directions,介绍该部分考题的形式、做法及要求,Section A 还给了一个对话实例。如果考生能提前熟悉 Directions,那么就可以利用这段时间快速浏览卷面的选择项,从中预测对话的主题和可能提出的问题,从而带着问题去听,浏览选择项对提高做题的准确率有很大的帮助。

(2) 弄清提问是做好听力题的关键

解题成功与否,很大程度上取决于能否听清楚提问的问题,这一点不仅适应于对话部分,而且(尤其)适应于短文听力部分。

从对历届全真试题的分析来看,对话部分的提问大都是以 *wh-* 开头的特殊疑问句(*what, where, when, why, who, which, whose, how* 等)。1999 年 1 月份听力考题对话部分 10 道题中,7 道题以 *what* 提问,2 道题以 *how* 提问,1 道题以 *why* 提问。此外,对话部分的大多数问题都是围绕着第二个人的话语提出的,所以听懂第二个人的对话内容至关重要。在 1999 年 1 月份的听力对话 10 个考题中,直接围绕第二个人的说话内容进行提问的共有②,④,⑤,⑥,⑦,⑧,⑨七道题。

就短文部分来讲,虽然短文的内容多种多样,但问题都是有规律的,概括起来有以下几点:

- ①主题和中心思想;
- ②事实和理由;
- ③人物之间的关系;
- ④事件的时间和观点;
- ⑤观点和态度。

(3) 捕捉关键词,关键词,弄清说话人的言外之意

语言的目的就是交际,对话人使用它就是为了表达他的思想、意图和目的。对话的一方可能请求另一方的帮助,征求对方的意见,而另一方可能赞同,也可能反对,拒绝或者提出建议、意见,或者作出相应的解释说明。有时说话人的语气可能十分委婉,含蓄,很客气,有时可能很气愤,这就要求考生通过不同的语言环境、语意,甚至于语调来推断说话人的态度和真正意图。因此,听音时一定要注意听力材料的背景,对话人之间的关系,以及对整体意义的理解,留意短文听力中的关键词(如主题句、总结句等),只有这样,才能把握主题,听出说话人的言外之意。

(4) 善于排除干扰

卷面的正确答案通常在意念上与原文相同或相似,很少采用和原文完全一致的形式。而另外 3 个选项往往在音、形上与听力原文一致,目的在于迷惑考生、干扰考生的选择思路。因此在正确理解听力材料 and 选择项的基础上,考生应“坚持己见”,不受干扰。

(5) 保持良好的精神状态。

首先考生应做到情绪稳定,头脑清醒。听音时,要集中精力,全力以赴。如果个别词汇或句子听不懂,千万不要中断思路,停顿下来,应冷静地继续听下去。如果对某题的答案无把握,不必反复推敲,应迅速转向下一题,要有全局观念。

总之,听力技能是一种综合的语言技能。因此,提高听力技能,必须打好扎实的语言基本功,在此基础上,熟悉不同的语言环境,了解各种测试题型,掌握听力技巧,才能在测试中取得事半功倍的效果。

第二部分 阅读理解(Reading Comprehension)

一、概 说

阅读是大学英语课的主要培养目标,又是生活和工作中获取知识和信息的主要手段,因而对阅读能力的测试就成了各类英语考试的重头戏,大学英语六级考试也不例外。阅读理解实质上就是阅读文字、理解意思的信息处理过程。而且,在这一过程中,文字与意思在特定的篇章中构成了形式与内容的辩证关系。换言之,意思寓于文字中,必须依据文字线索理解意思;同时,单个的词或句的意思又受制于通篇的意思,不可作片面孤立的解释。

较强的阅读能力来自:(1)丰富的词汇知识。要有一定的词汇量(《大学英语教学大纲(修订本)》规定六级要求掌握 5 500 单词及一定数量的短语),并正确掌握词义、词的搭配关系、用法。(2)扎实的语法知识。语法是语言中的结构关系,表示一定的意义。熟练掌握语法也是理解的基础。(3)充分的语篇知识。如把握整篇的结构、段落与句子的逻辑关系、语体色彩、作者的风格、思路及观点态度等。总之,词、句、篇三者可谓文章的点、线、面,相辅相成,辩证统一。此外,宽广的知识面也是很重要的。

当然,就应试而言,语言知识而外,一定的阅读技巧是不容忽视的。阅读技巧可在较短时间内训练、提高,因此,考生备考过程中,应在具备一定的语言能力的基础上训练实用有效的阅读技巧。

阅读理解的测试内容包括理解与速度两方面。速度方面,教学大纲规定六级要求每分钟阅读 70 个英语单词,因此六级的阅读材料篇幅约为 1 400 词(共 4 篇文章,每篇篇幅约为 350 词)。倘达不到此速度,则无法在规定时间内读完全部材料,当然影响阅读理解部分的得分。

从实际情况来看,很多考生考前只顾拼命背单词,速度的问题退居“被遗忘的角落”,结果却是没有时间读完所有的文章,损失同样惨重。

需要指出的是,语言基础与应试技巧并不矛盾。语言基础越好,技巧运用越容易,不能走入离开语言基础单纯追求技巧的误区,那无异于建造空中楼阁。因此,平时的学习中,应扎扎实实练好语言基本功,

拓展知识面与思维视野;备考过程中,也不应忽视有针对性地掌握一些有实用价值的应试技巧。

二、真题透视

军家要言:“知彼知己,百战不殆。”考场如战场,只有将试题的方方面面了然于胸,才能胜券在握。

(一)关于阅读材料

六级的阅读文章以议论文、说明文为主,叙述文罕见。议论文论证某一观点的正误,由论点、论据、结论构成;说明文对事物或现象进行说明或解释;叙述文讲述事件的发生、发展、结构或人物的生平经历,或者描述人或事件以及相关的情景。

文章的题材广泛,大致可分为人文类(包括历史、地理、文化、教育、语言、文学、风俗习惯等)、社科类(如社会学、心理学、经济学等)、自然科学(包括物理、化学、数学、计算机等)和生命科学(如生物学、医学等)。

(二)测试重点

1. 掌握所读材料的主旨和大意;
2. 把握与主旨和大意有关的事实和细节;
3. 既理解单句的意思,又理解上下文的逻辑关系;
4. 既读懂字面意思,又能推断隐含之意;
5. 根据上下文判断词汇、短语、句子的特定含义;
6. 领会作者的观点、态度、意图。

(三)命题特点

摸准六级阅读理解的命题特点,并结合自己的语言知识娴熟运用,则省时省力,大有事半功倍之效。

★ 任何一道试题都紧扣原文的某些语句,或者说,都在原文有或隐或现的线索,考生应按图索骥。当然,考生应总结这些线索出现的规律,考试时才能又快又准地抓住它们。

★ 理解即由文字读出意思,通常要做合理推断或转换。因此,正确的选项往往只是意思上与原文相近,而用词或结构上与原文相似的选项则多为干扰项,是貌似而神离,不足取也。

备考时,倘能牢记命题规律,仔细体味之,才能将其运用于应试中。至于具体应用,本书将结合真题精解作详细说明,以指破迷津。

(四)题型分析

六级阅读理解题尽管提问方式变化多样,题型却相对规范、稳定,主要有:主旨题(提问题目、大意、写作目的)、作者的观点或态度题、推断题、细节题、词汇题、语句释义题等。1995年1月到2002年6月的十六套试题的题型分布情况如下表:

试 题 题 型	2002年		2001年		2000年		1999年		1998年		1997年		1996年		1995年		总数	所占比例
主旨题	0	2	0	0	0	1	0	2	3	1	4	3	2	2	5	2	27	8%
观点、态度题	0	1	1	1	1	0	1	1	1	1	0	2	0	0	0	2	12	4%
推断题	8	10	11	6	8	11	7	7	7	6	7	8	6	6	7	7	122	38%
细节题	10	7	8	11	10	6	10	6	9	8	8	5	10	11	7	8	134	42%
词汇题	0	0	0	1	0	1	2	1	0	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	12	4%
语句释义题	2	0	1	1	1	1	0	3	0	3	0	1	1	0	0	0	14	4%

I. 主旨题

主旨题主要考查考生能否通过理解、分析全文,区别主要信息和次要信息,进而总结归纳文章的中心思想或主要内容。常见的提问方式有:

- ① What's the main idea of the passage?
- ② With what topic/theme/subject is the passage mainly concerned?
- ③ What is the passage mainly about?
- ④ The passage deals mainly with _____.
- ⑤ Which of the following statements best sums up the whole passage?
- ⑥ The best summary of the passage is _____.
- ⑦ What is the best/most appropriate title for the passage?
- ⑧ The title that best expresses the idea of the passage is _____.
- ⑨ The author's purpose in writing this passage is _____.

主旨是一篇文章或一个段落的核心,通常以主题句(topic sentence)的形式出现在文中。准确把握主题句是解答这类题的关键。主题句一般具有意思完整概括、形式简单的特点。一个段落一般围绕一个主题句展开,其他句子对主题句进行阐述、扩展或论证。而段落主题句又以文章主旨句为核心。

由于不同的文章要求不同,不同的作者手法各异,主题句的位置不尽相同。演绎性文章中,主题句一般位于篇章、段落的开头部分,开头就明确主题,然后展开讨论。归纳性文章中,主题句常出现于段末或篇末。有的作者喜欢开门见山,有的作者则喜欢作些铺叙,主题句也随之出现在开头或中间。从经验来看,篇章的主旨句多出现在文章段首,有时是第一句话,有时跟在 however, but 之类的转折连词后面;此外,第一段的开头或结尾倘出现问句,则对这个问句的回答往往就是文章的主旨大意。

应注意,这类题目的正确选择项决不会是原文主题句的简单重复,而是其意思的重新表达。

例文:

Americans are people obsessed with child-rearing. In their books, magazines, talk shows, parent training courses, White House conferences, and chats over the back fence, they endlessly debate the best ways to raise children. Moreover, Americans do more than debate their theories; they translate them into action. They erect playgrounds for the youngsters' pleasure, equip large schools for their education, and train skilled specialists for their welfare. Whole industries in America are devoted to making children happy, healthy and wise.

But this interest in childhood is relatively new. In fact, until very recently people considered childhood just a grief, unimportant prelude to adulthood and the real business of living. By and large, they either ignored children, beat them, or fondled (爱抚) them carelessly, much as we would amuse ourselves with some little dogs. When they gave serious thought to children at all, people either conceived of them as miniature adults or as peculiar, unformed animals.

Through the ages the experiences of childhood have been as varied as its duration. Actions that would have provoked a beating in one era elicit extra loving care in another. Babies who have been nurtured exclusively by their mothers in one generation are left with day-care workers in another. In some places children have been trained to get through dangerous mountain passes, and carry heavy objects on their heads. In other places they have been taught complicated piano concerto (协奏曲)。

But diverse as it has been, childhood has one common experience at its core and that is the social aspect of nurture. All children need adults to bring them up. Because human young take so long to become independent, we think that civilization may have grown up around the need to feed and protect them.

1. The main purpose of this passage is to _____.

- A) show that Americans are overworried about child-nurturing
- B) argue that children, though they are not adults, should be respected
- C) propose that our civilization should center on children problems
- D) call our attention to the social aspect of child-rearing

2. What is paragraph three mainly about?

- A) Children's experiences vary from place to place and from one period of time to another.
- B) Some children behaved badly but they received extra love.
- C) Children are treated differently in different areas.
- D) Children have quite dissimilar experiences in their childhood.

整体来看,上文以归纳的方式展开:首先描述美国人非常关心儿童成长的现状,接着将今昔进行对比指出今非昔比,最后总结问题的焦点在于儿童抚养问题的社会属性。因此,应到结论段(即最后一段)中找文章的主旨;也就是结论段的主题句 "... childhood has one common experience at its core and that is the social aspect of nurture", 显然, D) 项是第 1 题的正确答案。

第 2 题问第三段的大意。第三段是以演绎方式展开论述的,首先总说不同时期、不同地区的儿童待遇不同,然后分别论述。因此,这一段的主题句就是它的大意。选项 A) 是对主题句的转述,故选 A)。

C) 只是大意的一方面,失之偏颇。D) (不同孩子的童年经历不同) 不是文章的观点。

有些文章中不出现明确的主题句,而将主旨隐含于论述之中。考生应发挥综合判断能力及逻辑推理能力,选择概括全面又不至于空泛的选项。作出选择后,应回头印证一下选项是否将主要内容都概括进去了。

例如:1997 年 6 月份考题中的第 30 题

30. What is the main idea of the passage?

- A) American firms are different from Japanese and German firms in human-resource management.
- B) Extensive training is indispensable to effective human-resource management.
- C) The head of human-resource management must be in the central position in a firm's hierarchy.
- D) The human-resource management strategies of American firms affect their competitive capacity.

文章开始即指出,由于美国公司向来不重视人力资源的管理,因此,要想在竞争中保持优势(而这一优势取决于工人的技术水平),那么美国公司就会面临很大的问题。文章接着指出在美国公司里,人力资

源管理不受重视,有限的培训资金主要用在专业和管理人员身上,忽视了工人的基本技术训练,从而减缓了技术改革的进程,最终势必影响美国公司的竞争力。由此可见,本文的中心思想是:美国公司人力资源管理的策略影响其竞争力。也就是选项 D)概括的内容。A)、C)概括不够全面,有见树不见林之嫌,B)项则不是文中的内容。

如:2000年6月份试题第30小题

30. In discussing the marketing concept, the author focuses on _____.

- A) its social impact
B) its theoretical basis
C) its possible consequence
D) its main characteristic

文章第一段介绍的是“市场营销”的概念普及之前的情形;生产厂商关心的只是生产的效率和产品的销售;第二段引入营销的概念及其特征;第三段进一步对这一概念和特征进行分析,并且举例说明。由此可见,文章主要是围绕营销的特征展开,而与其社会影响,可能的后果,以及理论基础无关,故 D) 为正确答案。

II. 作者的观点、态度题

作者往往并不直陈自己对某一事物或观点的态度和倾向。有时通过全文的叙述,考生可领悟作者的态度;有时可通过作者的用词(尤其是形容词和副词),推断作者的语气。常见的提问方式有:

- ① What is the author's opinion?
- ② What is the author's attitude toward _____?
- ③ What does the author think of _____?
- ④ How does the author feel about _____?
- ⑤ Which of the following can best describe the tone/style of the passage?

例文：

Farewell, rutherfordium. So long, kurchatovium. All hail unnilquadrum! The bland and faceless scientists at the International Union of Pure and Applied Chemistry (IUPAC) have decided that the names for all newly created elements will be equally bland. No more will the creators of a new element be able to name it after a famous scientist (lawrencium), city (berkelium), or state (californium). Instead, the names of new elements will be systematically based on their atomic numbers, beginning with element 104, which will henceforth be known as unnilquadrum (un = 1, nil = 0, quad = 4).

Some investigators are thankful that the committee has not been able to extend its influence into other areas of physics and biology. If it had, the quark might be simply particle. By the same token, Legionnaires' diseases might simply be infectious disease 203. Science might become orderly, but it would be a lot less interesting.

1. What is the author's attitude toward this new system for naming elements?
A) Indifferent B) Apparently approving C) Hard to determine D) Slightly critical
2. How do investigators feel about the new system for naming elements?
A) Insulted B) Disapproving C) Shocked D) Grateful
3. Which of the following best describes the tone of the passage?
A) Furious and indignant C) Humorously critical
B) Neutral and formal D) Cautiously optimistic

从最后一句话看出,作者认为新的命名方法有利(science might become orderly),但弊端很大(a lot less interesting),由此推断,作者对此虽不是讨厌至极,但还是不赞同。第1题的正确答案应是D)。由第三段首句知道,委员会未能将新命名法推广到物理、生物等其他学科,一些调查者对此感到谢天谢地(thankful)。显然调查者们对新命名法是不赞成的。第2题中B)为正确选项。作者一开头对一些化学元素名称说“Farewell”,“So long”,其语气是幽默的。再由最后一句推断出作者的不赞成态度,首尾一加,第3题正确答案A)就出来了。

III. 推断题

这是常见题型之一,且有相当的难度。推断题主要测试考生对所读材料进行判断、推理的能力。推理必须基于事实依据,不可主观臆断,但推理的结果不只是事实本身。考生应在准确把握全文主旨或段落主题的基础上,分析句间关系,捕捉语言线索,揣测作者的意图。概括起来,考生应注意以下几点:

- (1) 要从语篇层面上把握全文,做到全局在胸;
- (2) 利用相关部分的背景知识,甚至常识推理;
- (3) 逻辑推理要严密;
- (4) 不死抠字面意思,也不可主观臆断;
- (5) 区别事实和观点;
- (6) 捕捉语言线索,按图索骥。

提问方式一般为:

- ① It can be inferred/concluded from the passage/paragraph that _____.
② We can infer/conclude/draw/see from the passage that _____.

- ③ It is implied in the passage that _____.
 ④ Implied but not stated: _____.
 ⑤ Where would the passage most probably found?

例如:1998年1月份试题第33题

33. According to the passage, alcohol has something to do with bad breath mainly because _____.
 A) it keeps offending bacteria from reproducing C) it kills some helpful bacteria
 B) its smell adds to bad breath D) it affects the normal flow of saliva

文中讲到,口腔异味是由唾液产生速度减缓造成的(bad breath can happen whenever the normal flow of saliva slows),酒精是其成因之一(Alcohol, hunger, ...—anything that dries the mouth produces bad breath),由此可推断,酒精是通过减缓唾液的产生速度引发口腔异味的。D)是答案。这是一个较简单逻辑推理过程。

又如:1990年1月份试题的第31题

31. It is implied that fifty years ago _____.
 A) eighty percent of Americans working people were employed in factories
 B) twenty percent of Americans intellectuals were employees
 C) the percentage of intellectuals in the total work force was almost the same as that of individual workers
 D) the percentage of intellectuals working as employees was not so large as that of industrial workers.

文章中说约100年前只有1/5的人受雇于人,50年前被雇用意味着在工厂或农场当劳动力,而今天只有1/5的人不受雇于人,而且今天的雇员中受过教育的中产阶级的数目越来越大,因此可以推断,50年前“雇员中知识分子的比例远远小于产业工人”,即D)是正确选项。选错的考生是因为他们只注意个别句子的意思,未能理解隐含意义。

如:2000年12月份试题的第27小题

27. It is implied in the passage that holding a university degree _____.
 A) may result in one's inability to solve complex real-life problems
 B) does not indicate one's ability to write properly worded documents
 C) may make one mentally sick and physically weak
 D) does not mean that one is highly intelligent

根据文章第一段倒数第二句可知,“然而,那些有着各种能证明自己受过教育学历证书的人在精神病院里一点也不鲜见。”由此可推断D)正确。

再如:1995年6月份试题的第35题

35. The passage is most likely a part of _____.
 A) a news article B) a journalistic interview C) a research report D) a preface

本题要求推断文章的体裁。判断的依据在于文中的语言信号,如本文结尾时出现的 as this book indicates (诚如本书所表明的)以及开头的 The importance and focus of the interview in the work of the print and broadcast journalist is reflected in several books that have been written on the topic. Most of these books... stress the “how to” aspects of journalistic interviewing rather than the conceptual aspects of the interview, its context, and implications(这段文字显然在评价某些书的内容),以及语言外知识(关于书评、研究报告等的知识)。

推断文章体裁的题目较为少见,这里的体裁指论说文、说明文的细类,如书评(book review)、研究报告(research report)、序言(preface)、新闻报道(news report)等。上例向我们说明,阅读理解既要运用语言知识,又要依靠广泛的语言外知识,考生要善于触发原有知识以加深对文章的理解。

IV. 细节题

理解字面意义是最起码的要求。当然,正确理解事实和细节有时也需要运用综合判断的能力。一般说来,细节题的答案都能直接从原文中找到。但是,细节题一方面数量较多,另一方面细节在文章中的位置往往不太显眼,因此,细节题很费时间。比较好的做法是在浏览(skim)全文时,将标志主要事实或细节的语言标志做记号,看完问题后扫描所需细节时首先扫描有记号的地方,就可以大大节省时间。

那么,哪些语言标志需要划出呢?综观六级试题,以下几点需要注意:

★ 与主旨大意有关的重要事实和细节,如举例、引用、调查、实验、重要数据等。体现在语言形式上,有 for example, a case in point, the most important/highest..., it is essential 等语言标志。

★ 表示因果关系的词语,如 because, since, as, so, therefore, hence, with 结构,现在分词短语, as a result, consequently, give rise to, derive from, originate from, in that, 以及冒号、破折号、分号等标点符号。句与句之间的关系中,因果关系考得最频繁。

★ 表示转折对立关系的词语,如 while, whereas, however, but, although, yet, still, in fact, on the other hand, on the contrary, conversely 等。破折号也可用来表示转折关系。

★ 并列陈述的事实或列举的事项,很容易构成如 “Which of the following is NOT true” 之类的是非问题。

例文:

Predictions of large populations of robots in industry haven't got to come true. The market for big robots is now oversupplied, and the impetus of the robotics revolution is claimed to be with makers of machines that handle a few kilos at most.

"Heavy-robot manufacturers are in some difficulty in finding customers. There has been a disappointing growth everywhere in the numbers of robots, so we have to admit we are either deceiving ourselves or that the market is slow growing," said John Reekie, chairman of Colne Robotics. "The following things must happen for the robotics revolution to occur. We must achieve widespread robot literacy (基本知识); just as there has been a computer literacy program, there must be a robot literacy campaign. We must also achieve not just a cut in, but a collapse of robot prices. Finally, some kind of artificial intelligence needs to be available."

Colne makes educational robots and machine tools. It is small compared with companies like Unimation, ASEA, or Fujitsu Fanuc. But Colne and others—like Pendar, which makes robots in Wales, and departments in universities—possess an advantage over the giants. The big companies sell very expensive robots to businesses with expert knowledge in automation. The little companies make robots for teaching people, and now they have realized there is a need for small, low-cost robots that they can meet.

The little companies either bring their educational machines up to an industrial standard or design from the very beginning. One technique that they all adopt is to choose standard components where possible. The major cost of making both their models is the electronics, which will fall in price.

1. The future market for robots belongs to _____.
A) manufacturers that produce small robots
B) manufacturers that supply productive robots
C) makers of robots that weigh only a few kilos
D) makers of robots that will accelerate the robotics revolution
2. Which of the following is NOT relevant to the realization of the robotics revolution?
A) A campaign to educate people on knowledge of robot C) Easy access to artificial intelligence
B) Sharp reduction of prices D) Production of giant robots
3. To compete for a bigger slice of the market, small companies have to lower further the cost of their products by _____.
A) increasing the mechanical life of their robots C) increasing the varieties of low cost robots
B) using more standard electronic parts D) limiting the size of educational robots

第1题考一个重要细节:谁主未来机器人市场的沉浮?根据第一段,关于工业中大规模运用机器人的预言远未实现,大型机器人市场供大于求,推动机器人革命的动力在于小型机器人生产商。所以A)对。

第2题考文中列举的内容。作者所引用的 John Reekie 的话中,作为机器人革命的先决条件有三:robot literacy, collapse of robot prices, artificial intelligence. 4个选项中D)是没有列举到的,所以D)对。

第3题考的重要事实是:为争取更大市场份额,小公司应如何降低成本。根据最后一段,小公司或者将其教育用机器人标准化,或者从头重新设计。事实上,他们采用的办法就是将其部件尽可能地标准化。B)是正确答案。

再如:

With the coverage of a wide range of studies, from simple description and investigation to the construction of sophisticated experiments, research is a process which is almost impossible to define.

Research is difficult to define because _____.

- A) its objective is usually uncertain at the beginning
- B) it can involve simple as well as complicated procedures
- C) it differs from one academic field to another
- D) it includes the construction of sophisticated experiment

如果熟练掌握了 with 结构表示原因这一点,则很快就会选出B)。其他选项虽符合常理,却不是作者的观点。可见阅读时要仔细,不能仅凭常识猜测。

V. 词汇题

词汇题主要测试考生利用上下文判断词语在具体语言环境中的确切含义的能力。在很大程度上,推测词义的基础是对上下文的正确理解。常见的提问方式有:

- ① The word "... " in line... means _____.
- ② The word "... " in line... could best be replaced by _____.
- ③ By "... " the author means _____.

对词汇的考核主要有对熟词僻义和生词的考核两方面。

1. 熟词僻义

考察常用词的不常见意义。遇上这样的题,一方面应推敲上下文,领会其意思,或对词的本义作适当

引申;另一方面要坚决排除其常见意义选项。

例如:

One important difference between bumble bees (大黄蜂) and honey bees is that the former has a much longer tongue. It can fertilize plants which the honey bee's tongue cannot even reach. It has been said that the bumble bees won the Bore War! The horses that helped to win that war fed on clover(三叶草), a plant which only the bumble bees can fertilize. Without the bumble bees there would be no clover.

What does the verb "fertilize" in paragraph three mean?

- A) to make...productive C) to make...grow faster
B) to put fertilizer on D) to make...healthy

fertilizer(肥料)是个常见词, fertilize 表示“施肥”也是考生比较熟悉或容易联想到的。但从上下文看,蜜蜂 fertilize clover(一种开花的草),使 clover 生长繁茂,为战马提供了充足的草料,从而赢得了战争。据此再结合蜜蜂是可传播花粉使植物受粉的常识可推测, fertilize 此处是“使...受粉”、“使...有繁殖能力”之意,即 A)是正确答案。B)是首先要排除的选项。

2000年1月份试题28小题

28. According to the passage, "to move as much of these goods as possible" (Lines 3-4, Para. 1) means

- A) to redesign these goods for large-scale production C) to sell the largest possible amount of goods
B) to transport goods as efficiently as possible D) to dispose of these goods in large quantities

解答此题的关键在于对动词 move 的理解。在这里, move 用的是它的一个较为罕见的词义:“售出”。但是即使不知道词义也可以通过上下文推测把题做对。厂家强调生产的效率,并试图用促销的手段尽可能地“move”其产品,而后文又补充道,这样的“生产和销售”如何如何,显而易见, move 的词义在这里相当于 sell,故 C)为正确答案。

2. 生词、难词

生词、难词并不可怕。因为一旦考生词、难词,命题者选中的一定是在上下文中有线索可循的单词。考生要做的,就是冷静地理解上下文,找准其中线索,合理推测。考生可采取以下方法:

(1) 利用定义、解释推测

选用生僻词语时,作者往往在上下文,尤其是下文进行解释、说明,或用一个较简单的词重复该词。如:

I would like your candid opinion, direct and truthful.

direct 和 truthful 是对 candid 的重复说明,由此,可推断 candid 是“坦诚”的意思。

(2) 利用列举推测

列举往往表明上类与下类的关系,据此,可推测出某一生词的大致意思。如:

This kind of medicine is effective in curing carditis and other heart diseases.

此处列举告诉我们 carditis (心肌炎)是 heart disease(心脏病)的一种。

(3) 利用对比关系推测

Tom is quite talkative, whereas his sister remains reticent all the time.

由 whereas 可知前后两分句意思相对,即 reticent 大致上是 talkative 的反义词。据此可推测出“不健谈,沉默寡言”之意。

(4) 利用构词法知识推测

丰富的词根、词缀知识对推测词义也是很有帮助的。比如,如果知道前缀 bene-意思是“好的”、词根 dict 意思是“说”,就可推测 benediction 是“说好话、说吉祥话”的意思并可进一步引申出“祝愿”之意。当然,构词法知识只是推测词义的基础,考生还需联系上下文适当引申词义。

(5) 利用上下文中的相关信息综合判断

很多情况下,上下文线索比较隐晦,不出现可参照的同义词或反义词,这就要求考生在理解整体意思的基础上仔细捕捉线索,合理推断以排除错误选项。如:

One day in 1935 the management of British Southern Railway announced its intention to close the branch line from Lynton to Barnstaple in North Devon. The proposal was received by the local inhabitants with angry protest. For them, the locomotives and the stations of Devon had become as much of an institution as the village church or tavern. Moreover, the line ran through the heart of a popular tourist district. What would the holiday makers do without it? Closing down the railway line had been unthinkable, yet now some busybody officials in remote London was threatening to destroy it with a stroke of pen.

The word "busybody" most nearly means _____

- A) efficient B) honorable C) meddling D) businessman

这段文字的大意是:远在伦敦的铁路公司打算关闭一条对当地居民来说在文化上和经济上有着重要意义的铁路线。这对资方来说只是大笔一挥(a stroke of pen)的问题,对当地居民却影响重大。仔细体会一下, remote 和 with a stroke of pen 是比较直接的线索:这些资方人员远在伦敦,铁路线不影响他们的利益,却要大笔轻轻一挥(不考虑当地居民的利益),这样的官员显然不是 efficient(效率高的)、honorable(可

尊敬的)、businessman(商人式的)而纯粹是多管闲事,多此一举(meddlesome)。

IV. 语句释义题(Paraphrase)

又称转述题。即,重新解释命题人从一篇阅读材料中挑出的短语或句子。这类词句一般具有以下特点:

☆ 与文章主旨密切相关;

☆ 语言文字或语法结构上有一定难度,不易理解;

☆ 在特定上下文中有特殊含义。

常见的提问方式有:

① The sentence/expression "... " means/implies that _____.

② What does the sentence/expression "... " mean/indicate/suggest?

③ The sentence/expression "... " can be paraphrased as _____.

做这类题时,一定要注意依据文章的主旨或段落的主题来理解语句。此外,如果句子很长,应首先分析句子结构,不可因对句子结构分析错误而导致误解句子含义。

例如:1993年6月试题中的第30题

30. What does the author imply by saying "living space... is figured... also in cubic volume above the earth" (Lines 9-11, Para. 3, Pass. 2)?

A) Our living space on the earth is getting smaller and smaller.

B) Our living space should be measured in cubic volume.

C) We need to take some measures to protect space.

D) We must create better living conditions for both birds and animals.

这一句在语言表达上比较形象具体:用平方指地表,用立方表空间。对其深层含义的理解离不开对全篇主旨 conservation(保护自然环境和资源)的理解:动物的生存空间不仅是地表,还有地表空间。因此,我们既要保护地表又要保护地表空间。D)是答案,但D)的表达给考生造成了一定困难: create better living conditions 是原意的抽象说法,而 birds and animals 又是 man's fellow creatures 的具体说法。C)项的干扰度较大,因为它部分正确,但这一说法不完整。

再如:

It would be a mistake, however, to believe that the New World, as a whole, was an oasis of civilization in the European sense of the term. America had many faces, and to its conquerors it offered a variety of aspects. Christopher Columbus, when he first went ashore, was greeted by the Lucayas, the agricultural and artistic people. The Spaniards, on the other hand, were shortly to meet a completely different sort of native, the ferocious cannibals of the Caribbean.

When the author says "America had many faces", he probably means that the people _____.

A) had a variety of facial characteristics

C) were sometimes barbaric but wished to be civilized

B) came from many different racial backgrounds

D) were at various levels of cultural development

本题考查对比喻性说法 "America had many faces" 在具体上下文中的特殊含义的理解。全段讨论的主题是 "新大陆" 的文明发展状况,显然作者认为,当时各个部落的文明程度不一(a variety of aspects)。因此可推断,此处的 many faces 是指文明的程度不一而言,故 D) 正确。A)、B) 将 faces 理解实了,与原文格格不入。C) 与文中内容相悖。

另如:2000年12月份试题的第15小题

15. By "just the tip of the iceberg" (Line 2, Para. 8), Siegel suggests that _____.

A) half-brain sleep has something to do with icy weather

B) the mystery of half-brain sleep is close to being solved

C) most birds living in cold regions tend to be half sleepers

D) half-brain sleep is a phenomenon that could exist among other species

语句释义题,需根据最后一段进行推测。"对鸟类的研究或许能使人们以独特的视角了解睡眠。M. Siegel 说,他认为:鸟类的半睡眠 '只是冰山浮出水面的那一角'。他推断当我们更深入地研究其它物种时还会发现更多类似的例子。"故 D) 为答案。

三、应试技巧

题型透视部分已针对各种题型分析了解题思路并提出了一些对策,下面来从宏观上探讨一下一些基本的应试技巧。

(一) 答题步骤及方法

阅读方法因人而异,不必强求一致。但不同的方法,其效果可有高低之分。实践证明,对大多数考生来说,以下的阅读方法对提高速度和答题的准确率较为有效。

1. 浏览(skim)全文并做标记。通过浏览全文,了解全篇的主旨大意和结构框架。浏览全文时,不能盲目求快,应保证弄清文章主旨。浏览全文的关键在于找出或归纳篇章及段落的主题句。主题句起着明

确主题的作用。篇章主题句多出现在首段或末段,段落主题句多出现在段首或段尾,有时出现在段中。因此,浏览全文时,一篇文章的首段、尾段以及各段的段首、段尾都应仔细阅读。

浏览全文的同时,应顺手将主题句、重要细节标出来,为第二步扫描做好准备。关于应当标出的内容,题型分析部分中的细节题部分已作过说明,现作一简单总结:

- (1)主题句、结论句;
- (2)表示因果关系的词语及结构;
- (3)表示转折关系的词语;
- (4)比较、对比;
- (5)举例;
- (6)列举;
- (7)重要事实,如 the most important..., the biggest...;
- (8)引用、实验结果、实验方法等;
- (9)连接词。

2. 扫描(scan)全文,搜索信息。浏览全文后,再读问题,带着问题扫描全文。由于浏览时已将重要内容标出,扫描时可首先扫描有标记的地方,再结合对文章结构的把握,可以大大降低搜索时的盲目性,从而提高速度与准确率。

在此,我们建议:备考时每做完一套题都要核实正确答案,然后回到原文中找出每道题的答案在原文中的位置,并仔细找出其语言标志(连词、标点、形容词等),体会语言标志的作用,并进一步揣摩答案句子与文章主旨的关系。这对把握出题思路以及考察内容很有帮助,也有利于培养阅读技能。

(二)排除法

很多考生一直认为排除法是别无他法时的下下策,不可靠。这是一种误解。其实,排除法是以较强的语言能力和阅读技能为基础的。有些题,用排除法远比综合各处内容再一步步推理省时省力得多。

以 1999 年 1 月试题中的 34 题为例。

34. Emotions are significant for man's survival and adaptation because _____.

- A) they provide the means by which people view the size or shape of objects
- B) they are the basis for the social feeling of agreement by which society is maintained
- C) they encourage people to perform dangerous achievements
- D) they generate more love than hate among people

本题需根据第二段的内容综合判断。第二段的主要内容是:情感是人类生存、应变的基本手段,因为它以很重要的方式构建了这个世界。具体地说,从个人角度讲,它提供了划分事物的基础;从社会角度讲,对事物的情感经历产生了对事物或行为的好坏的社会认同感。而社会靠这种认同感来维持。综合而言,情感以产生维持社会存在的社会认同感的方式构建了世界,所以对人类生存、应变很重要。因此 B) 正确。这一综合、推理的过程涉及多层因果关系,难度较大。

如果用排除法,就简单多了:A)、C) 明显与文章内容矛盾,D) 也是第二段没有涉及的内容,可大胆排除掉,并确定 B) 为正确答案。

灵活运用排除法可有意外收获,但它不是万能钥匙,不可盲目滥用。可将排除法与其他方法结合来用。

(三)复杂长句的理解

很多考生反映,阅读中最怕遇上枝杈旁出的句子,往往读不懂,影响了理解或情绪。长句一般结构较为复杂,意思缜密,对语言能力要求较高。但是,并非没有破译长句的办法。首先,遇有长句时,应保持心情平静,不可先有畏难情绪。其次,要从分析句子主干入手弄清句子结构,结构清楚了,意思也就容易理解了。分析结构时,先找出全句的主、谓、宾,再分析各个成分内从句的主、谓、宾及主句与从句的关系。如:

In 1975 psychologist Robert Ader at the University of Rochester School of Medicine conditioned mice to avoid saccharin by simultaneously feeding them the sweetener and injecting them with a drug that while suppressing their immune systems caused stomach upsets.

句子主语、谓语分别是 psychologist Robert Ader 和 conditioned mice to avoid saccharin, 表方式的 by 短语比较复杂, feeding, injecting 都是 by 的介词宾语, the sweetener 和 a drug 分别是 feeding 和 injecting 的直接宾语,其中 drug 又有一个宾语从句,从句中含有“while + 分词”的结构。清楚了结构后,可以理顺全句的意思:1975 年,罗切斯特大学医学院的心理学家罗伯特·爱德通过同时给老鼠喂食糖精和给它注射一种既抑制其免疫系统又引发腹痛的药使其形成条件反射,不吃糖精。

平时经常动手分析长句的结构,可以培养驾驭长句的能力。

综上所述,阅读理解既考核语言能力,又考核阅读技能。诚望考生通过本部分的分析说明,仔细体会英语阅读理解的学习策略,找出自己的薄弱环节,有针对性地进行训练以求不断提高自己。

第三部分 词 汇(Vocabulary)

教育部 1999 年《大学英语教学大纲(修订本)》要求英语六级领会式掌握 5 500 单词(其中复用式掌握的单词为 3 000),以及由这些词构成的常用词组 2 000 条(含中学所掌握的单词和词组),并具有按照构词法识别生词的能力。复用式词汇指词义,用法都必须掌握的单词,是考查的重点。《大学英语教学大纲(修订本)》新增 300 多六级单词,使六级词汇的难度又有所增加,希望读者注意。

为使考生备考时能够突出重点,有的放矢,提高应试水平,我们对历年六级试题中的词汇部分进行了透视分析,并总结出了一些解题思路或应试对策。

一、题型分析

大学英语六级试题词汇测试主要采用难词辨义、近义词辨析、短语辨析、固定搭配、形(音)近易混词辨析等题型。

1. 难词辨义

这类题是对考生对大纲词汇掌握情况的量化考查,在考试中所占比例最大,各选项无论在拼写还是意义及用法上都没有太大的联系,正确选项词多为次常用词,其目的在于考查考生的词汇量。需要指出的是,随着考生的水平不断提高,大纲词汇量逐步扩大,以前的难词现在看来已算不上难词,因此,为避免误导读者,我们将部分题视作“单词辨义”题。

难词辨义题的关键在于抓住题干中的线索,准确理解题干句的逻辑意义,作出符合句意的选择。

【例 1】The insurance company paid him \$10 000 in _____ after his accident. (CET-6, 1997 年 6 月)

A) compensation B) instalment C) substitution D) commission

【分析】答案为 A)。4 个选项之间意义毫不相干。A)意为“赔偿”,B)意为“分期付款中每一次所付的款项”,C)意为“代替(物)”,D)意为“委员会;佣金”。根据题干中的 insurance company(保险公司)可确定,保险公司在事故发生后赔了他 1 万美元。显然,只有 A)符合句意。

【例 2】The doctors don't _____ that he will live much longer. (CET-6, 2000 年 1 月)

A) manifest B) articulate C) anticipate D) monitor

【分析】答案为 C)。4 个选项之间意义毫不相干。C) anticipate 的意思是“预期,预见”;A) manifest 的意思是“表明,证明”,例如: The disease typically manifests itself in a high fever and chest pain. 这种疾病典型表现为高烧和胸痛。B) articulate 的意思是“清晰明白地说”,例如: He finds it very difficult to articulate his distress. 他发现很难表达他的悲伤。D) monitor 的意思是“监听,监控”。

【例 3】It is _____ that women should be paid less than men for doing the same kind of work.

(CET-6, 2002 年 1 月)

A) abrupt B) absurd C) adverse D) addictive

【分析】答案为 B)。4 个选项之间意义毫不相干。A)意为“突然的,陡峭的;粗鲁的”;B)意为“不合理的,荒谬的,可笑的”;C)意为“相反的;敌对的;不利的”;D)意为“使成瘾的;上瘾的”。只有 B)符合题意。本句意为:妇女与男子做同样的工作,却得到较少的报酬,这是不合理的。

2. 近义词辨析

此类题型考查近义词内涵、用法的区别,是词汇题的重点和难点。考生在平时学习中,通常把这类词简单地看作同义词,不去细究它们之间的差异,从而很容易造成判断上的偏差。事实上,我们必须树立这样的认识:没有严格意义上的同义词——单词不同,其内涵和用法肯定不会完全相同。考生在平时学习过程中,不能满足于背过单词的汉语解释,而应多查英语词典,区别近义词之间的差异。

【例 1】As an excellent shooter, Peter practised aiming at both _____ targets and moving targets.

(CET-6, 1997 年 6 月)

A) standing B) stationary C) still D) stable

【分析】答案为 B)。4 个选项都含“没有(缺少)活动的”之意。standing 意为“停滞的;不流动的;不运转的”。如: a pool of standing water(一潭死水); a standing factory(停工的工厂)。stationary 和 still 用汉语解释都是“静止的,不动的”,因此从汉语解释根本看不出两者的区别。stationary 的英文解释是“standing still(站着不动的); not moving(不移动的)”,still 则意为“not moving”。可见 stationary 更具体地表明了“静止站立的”这一状态。targets 当然都是立着的,所以 B)从细微意义上更符合题意。此外,still 表示“not moving”时,多用作表语,如: Keep still while I fasten your shoe. (我给你系鞋带时你别乱动)。stationary 则用作定语,如: A stationary target is easiest to aim at. (静止的靶子最容易瞄准)。(上两例见《朗文当代英语词典》)stable 意为“稳固的;稳定的;不易改变的”。如: a politically stable country(一个政局稳定的国家)。大学英语考试对近义词的考查多结合不同的语境进行。因此,考生应当依靠题干中的上下文,仔细揣摩命题者的思路及意图。

【例2】They had a fierce _____ as to whether their company should restore the trade relationship which was broken years ago. (CET-6, 1997年1月)

A) debate B) clash C) disagreement D) contest

【分析】答案为A)。4个选项均含“冲突”之意,意义、用法却不尽相同。debate意为“争论;辩论”,多指以此得到一个结论。显然,他们就是否恢复前几年中断的贸易关系进行辩论,是有着作出结论的目的的。clash意为“碰撞;冲突”,强调意见的分歧。显然,题干句不在突出他们之间的分歧。disagreement意为“意见上的分歧;不同意;不符”。作“不同意;不符”讲时,disagreement是不可数名词,表示“意见上的分歧”时为可数名词。根据上下文,他们不可能只有一项分歧。contest意为“竞争,比赛”,强调以取得优势或控制权为目的。因此,D)也不符合题意。

【例3】The two most important _____ in making a cake are flour and sugar. (CET-6, 2000年12月)

A) elements B) components C) ingredients D) constituents

【分析】答案为C)。ingredient意为“(混合物的)组成部分,配料;(构成事物的)要素,成分”。element通常指一个整体中基本的、不可缺少的或固有的成分,它所强调的常常是一个复杂的整体中简单的或基本的成分;component和constituent多指机械装置的(组)成(部)分。本句中面粉和糖是指做蛋糕的两种最重要的配料,故C)为正确答案。

3. 短语辨析

这类题型考查考生对大纲规定的动词短语、介词短语、形容词短语的掌握程度,也是考生普遍感到困难的题型(尤其是动词短语,数量多又不能顾名思义)。对于这类题,平时应多积累。此外,也可以尽可能地摸索出一些理解或记忆的规律,这主要是针对介词或副词而言的。

一般而言,短语的含义与短语中的介词或副词有着密切关系。如off表示“离开”(be away from),所以就有set off(动身前往...),keep off(使离开,不接近),clear off(使走开),take off(起飞),doze off(睡着),turn off(避开困难、问题等;路叉开),come off(从...离开),make off(逃跑)等。由“离开”之意又可引申为“(使)消失、消除、解除”之意,如pass off(疼痛消失),lay off(停止工作或活动;暂时解雇),call off(取消),clear off(消除、摆脱烦恼或负担),sell off(廉价出清存货)。由“消失”等义又进一步引申出“(使)结束;完结”之义。如:come off(结束),turn off(关闭),break off(断绝关系;停止讲话),cut off(切断),ring off(挂断电话)等。

再如:到经常用于表示“服从;遭受”意义的短语,如:be subject to(使服从;使遭受),be subordinate to(服从的;从属于...),yield to(投降;听从;屈服),submit to(使服从;使受到;甘受),bend to(使服从),conform to(遵守,遵照)等。如:

【例1】All individuals are required to _____ to the laws made by their governments.

(CET-6, 1999年1月)

A) obey B) conform C) concede D) observe

答案为B)。

【例2】I don't think that this question is subordinate _____ the main aim of our company.

(CET-6, 1996年1月)

A) with B) to C) for D) on

答案为B)。

【例3】The wood was so rotten that when we pulled, it _____ into fragments. (CET-6, 2000年1月)

A) broke away B) broke off C) broke up D) broke through

【分析】答案为C)。C) break up意为“打碎,破裂,分裂”。本句意为“木头已经是如此的腐朽,以至于我们一拉,它就变成了碎片。”A) break away意为逃跑,尤指“突然的”行为。例如:The prisoner broke away from the two policemen who were holding him. 那个犯人从押着他的两个警察那里逃跑了。此外,break away还有从某一组织中分离出来的意思。例如:The extremist faction broke away from the main party in 1980. 那个极端主义派别在1980年从本党中分离出去。B) break off意为中止,也含“突然”之意。有及物和不及物两种用法。例如:(及物)The two countries have broken off diplomatic relations with each other. 那两个国家已经中断了彼此的外交关系。(不及物)The talks broke off without any solution being reached. 会谈没有达成任何结果就中断了。D) break through意为“穿越”。例如:At last the sun broke through the clouds. 太阳终于穿过了云层。此外,break through还有在科技上取得进展之意。例如:Scientists hope to break through soon in their search for a cure for this type of cancer. 科学家希望尽快在研究中发现对这种癌症的治疗方法。

4. 固定搭配

介词、副词与动词、名词、形容词的结合也是固定搭配的一部分,由于这部分内容有自己的特点,数量又很大,故单列出短语辨析一项。此外,固定搭配还指一些类似成语的固定表达法。针对这些表达法,考生应在平时多积累,不能完全靠考试时顾名思义式的推理。如:

【例1】The political future of the president is now hanging by a _____.

(CET-6, 1997年6月)

A) thread B) cord C) string D) rope