

大学英语分级系列教材

四级

阅读原文选

● 张 华 编

● 海洋出版社



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前 言

阅读是获得知识和信息的主要手段,因而阅读理解在大学英语四级统考中占分比重最大。就本质而言,阅读理解是对读者的语言知识、智力水平及逻辑思维能力的综合测试。此三者练就学成,绝非一日之功,有赖阅读大量文章,做大量理解题。据此,我们选编了这本《四级阅读文选》,共 65 篇文章,近 400 道理解题。本书中的文章选自国内外书刊,有的略有加工。

本书广泛介绍欧美社会、经济、文化、人物、史地、科普等方面的知识,以扩大学生视野,拓宽知识面,从而提高其理解力。本书中的理解题包括归纳主旨,辨认细节,解释词语,判断推论等。文章或知识性强,或见解独到,或用笔含蓄,或叙述简练;问题大多不能从字面上直接找到答案,而要根据原文寻找同义解释,或从字里行间揣摩作者意图,体会作者的思维模式,才能做出合理的判断,进行正确的推论。于趣味性外,本书还特别选入内容生疏枯燥,人物关系复杂,人名地名繁多的文章,以提高学生对各类文章的适应能力。本书语言搭配丰富,长难句多,有助于提高学生的语言知识和增强语感。本着从难从严训练的原则,本书中有少量文章略超四级大纲。本书对生词不作注释,我们认为,把挑选和注释关键词的工作留给任课教师,会更有针对性,更利于提高学生猜词悟意的能力。

本书由张华教授编写,孔云老师提供了部分资料。本书在

我校从 87 级起一直沿用至今,效果良好。

由于水平有限,本书中谬误之处,敬请读者斧正。

第一军医大学外语教研室

1990 年 2 月

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Passage 1

Last May the National Institute of Mental Health (NIMH) issued a report summarizing over 2 500 studies done in the last decade on television's influence on behavior. Evidence from the studies—with more than 100 000 subjects in dozens of nations—is so “overwhelming”, the NIMH found, that there is a consensus in the research community “that violence on television does lead to aggressive behavior.”

Television ranks behind only sleep and work as a consumer of our time. In fact, according to the 1982 Nielsen Report on television, the average American family keeps its set on for 49.5 hours each week. The typical youngster graduating from high school will have spent almost twice as much time in front of the tube as he has in the classroom—the staggering equivalent of ten years of 40-hour weeks. He will have witnessed some 150 000 violent episodes, including an estimated 25 000 deaths.

1. Studies on television's influence on behavior _____.

A. were led and conducted by NIMH B. aroused great interest of NIMH C. led to 2 500 reports D. involved many cases and nations

2. The researchers _____.

A. disputed whether violence on television would influence behavior B. were of the opinion that violence on television

does result in aggressive behavior C. are still seeking the solution to the television influence on behavior D. failed to convince the public that violence on television would lead to aggressive behavior

3. The time an average American spends watching TV is _____.

A. far more than that he does on sleep and work B. little less than that he does on sleep and work C. exactly the same amount as he does on sleep and work D. less than sleep but more than he does on work

4. By the time a young American student graduates from high school, he will have watched TV for _____.

A. ten years of 40-hour weeks B. twenty years of 80-hour weeks C. five years of 20-hour weeks D. approximately 150 000 hours

5. Each year this same high school student would watch _____.

A. more than 10 000 violent episodes B. nearly 1 500 violent episodes C. 25 000 deaths D. almost 150 000 deaths

Passage 2

Americans do not give cooking, "considered as one of the fine arts", an important place in life. Lunch is for them a kind of gratuity paid to the body. They hurriedly toss it a fruit or a fish and go back to work. Certain writers, in rebellion, have

founded the club, "Three Hours for Lunch", but they are an agreeable exception. Even at dinner, general conversation is rare. Everyone talks to his neighbor. (After dinner the men linger at the table, a custom inherited from England. In New York your host will often propose taking you to the theatre, or else he will provide a pianist, a singer, a lecturer. The idea of leaving the guests to themselves, and expecting them to get pleasure out of meeting one another,) astonishes and even appalls him. His excessive modesty does not permit his imagining that his friends can be happy merely in being in his house, with one another. He treats them like children. On Christmas Eve you will see, in some of the pleasant homes in New York, Christmas trees for grown people. In other places, after a dinner at which you exchange ideas, there will be a magician who will do his best to amuse the oldsters. There you must realize that the absence of conversation in American homes comes, not from absence of ideas or lack of intelligence of understanding, but from an unconquerable shyness and a prodigious self-distrust.

6. The Americans hurry through lunch because _____.

- A. they are ambitious B. they have rebelled against English customs C. they don't think it is important D. talking while eating is impolite

7. The author believes that _____.

- A. people are capable of getting pleasure out of meeting one another B. people enjoy their food more when it is attractive

- tively served C. Americans don't want to act like mature adults D. Americans don't think deeply enough to be good conversationalists
8. The author talks about some American writers, who _____.
- A. wrote stories about American eating habits B. decided to enjoy leisurely lunches C. eat while they work D. wrote short plays to be presented at fancy night clubs
9. The author feels that Americans lack _____.
- A. understanding B. self-confidence C. self-control D. a rebellious spirit
10. According to the author, in England _____.
- A. the men are accustomed to money B. the men remain at the table to talk C. the guests expect the host to have entertainment for them D. people don't consider Christmas dinner important

Passage 3

It was not yet eleven o'clock when a boat crossed the river with a single passenger who had obtained his transportation at that unusual hour by promising an extra fare. While the youth stood on the landing-place searching in his pockets for money, the ferryman lifted a lantern, by the aid of which, together with the newly risen moon, he took a very accurate survey of the stranger's figure. He was a young man of barely eighteen.

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years, evidently country bred, and now, as it seemed, on his first visit to town. He was wearing a rough gray coat, which was in good shape, but which had seen many winters before this one. The garments under his coat were well constructed of leather, and fitted tightly to a pair of muscular legs; his stockings of blue yarn must have been the work of a mother or sister, and on his head was a three-cornered hat, which in its better days had perhaps sheltered the grayer head of the lad's father. In his left hand was a walking stick, and his equipment was completed by a leather bag not so abundantly stocked as to inconvenience the strong shoulders on which it hung. Brown, curly hair, well-shaped features, bright, cheerful eyes were nature's gifts, and worth all that art could have done for his adornment. The youth, whose name was Robin, paid the boatman, and then walked forward into the town with a light step, as if he had not already traveled more than thirty miles that day. As he walked, he surveyed his surroundings as eagerly as if he were entering London or Madrid, instead of the little metropolis of a New England colony.

11. What time of year was it in this story?

A. Spring. B. Summer. C. Fall. D. Winter.

12. At what time of day did Robin cross the river?

A. Morning. B. Midday. C. Late afternoon. D. Night.

13. The boatman was willing to take Robin across the river because _____.

A. he wanted to make extra money

- B.** he saw that Robin was young and rich ^P
C. he was going to row across the river anyway ^x
D. he felt sorry for him because Robin looked poor ^p
14. The stockings that Robin wore were obviously _____.
A. well worn **B.** very expensive
C. handmade **D.** much too big
15. From the way he looked, it was evident that Robin was _____.
A. a wealthy merchant's son **B.** a country boy
C. a soldier **D.** a foreigner
16. Robin was apparently going to the town _____.
A. to buy new clothes **B.** for the first time **C.** for the first time in several years **D.** on one of his regular trips there
17. How did Robin appear as he walked into town?
A. He was cheerful and excited. ^{高兴} **B.** He was tired.
C. He seemed very sad. **D.** He seemed frightened by his strange surroundings.

Passage 4

Trees should only be pruned when there is a good and clear reason for doing so and, fortunately, the number of such reasons is small. Pruning involves the cutting away of overgrown and unwanted branches, and the inexperienced gardener can be encouraged by the thought that more damage results

from doing it unnecessarily than from leaving the tree to grow in its own way.

First, pruning may be done to make sure that trees have a desired shape or size. The object may be to get a tree of the right height, and at the same time to hope the growth of small side branches which will thicken its appearance or give it a special shape. Secondly, pruning may be done to make the tree healthier. You may cut out diseased or dead wood, or branches that are rubbing against each other and thus causing wounds. The health of a tree may be encouraged by removing branches that are blocking up the center and so preventing the free movement of air.

One result of pruning is that an open wound is left on the tree and this provides an easy entry for disease, but it is a wound that will heal. Often there is a race between the healing and the disease as to whether the tree will live or die so that there is a period when the tree is at risk. It should be the aim of every gardener to reduce that risk of death as far as possible. It is essential to make the area which has been pruned smooth and clean, for healing will be slowed down by roughness. You should allow the cut surface to dry for a few hours ~~and then~~ ^{to be} paint it with one of the substances available from garden shops produced especially for this purpose. Pruning is usually done in winter, for then you can see the shape of the tree clearly without interference from the leaves and it is, too, very unlikely that the cuts you make will bleed. If this does happen, it is, of

course, impossible to paint them properly.

18. Pruning should be done to ____.

- A. make the tree grow taller ~~B. improve the shape of the tree~~
C. get rid of the small branches D. make the small branches thicker

19. Trees become unhealthy if the gardener ____.

- ~~A. allows too many branches to grow in the middle~~
B. does not protect them from the wind C. forces them to grow too quickly
D. damages some of the small side branches

20. A special substance is painted on the tree ____.

- A. to make a wound smooth ~~B. to prevent disease entering a wound~~
~~C. to cover a rough surface~~ D. to help a wound to dry

21. A good gardener prunes a tree ____.

- A. at intervals throughout the year B. as quickly as possible
C. only when necessary ~~D. regularly every winter~~

22. What is the author's purpose in writing this passage?

- ~~A. To give practical instructions for pruning a tree.~~ ~~B. To give a general description of pruning.~~
C. To explain how trees develop diseases. D. To discuss different methods of pruning.

Passage 5

It was very late before Guglielmo followed his brother up

to bed, for an extraordinary idea had come to him. If a spark could cause ether waves to travel to another machine across a room and make that machine spark, why couldn't a bigger spark make waves travel a longer distance and cause another spark, say, a mile away? And, by using long and short spark, why couldn't this be used to send messages by Morse Code? Indeed, why shouldn't messages be sent this way over great distances, using the ether instead of wires?

The elder man found his young brother poor company during the rest of that holiday, for Guglielmo was so interested in his ideas that he could not take his thoughts off it.

At last they arrived home at their father's mansion outside Bologna, and young Marconi hurried to his laboratory to start his experiments. Assisted by his brother Alfonso, who, although nine years his senior, was not ashamed to work under this brilliant young scientist, he struggled for months testing his idea. At last, to their joy, they got the instrument at the other end of the room to give its answering spark.

Marconi now decided to show his father that there really was something in this idea of his, for Signor Marconi, who had made a large fortune in business, had not a great deal of faith in his youngest son's science.

At last the apparatus was ready, and Guglielmo invited his father and mother to come to the laboratory.

Signor Marconi entered, his goodhumoured face beaming. "What is this new toy you have made, my boy?" he asked.