

大学英语

四级考试

精典阅读

110篇

中国建材工业出版社



主编 王芳
副主编 董晓秋 胡秀梅

大学英语四级考试 精典阅读 110 篇

主 编 董晓秋

中国建材工业出版社

图书在版编目(CIP)数据

大学英语四级考试精典阅读 110 篇/董晓秋编. —北京:中国建材工业出版社, 2001.5

ISBN 7-80159-126-7

I. 大… II. 董… III. 英语—阅读教学—高等学校—水平考试—自学参考资料 IV. H319.4

中国版本图书馆 CIP 数据核字(2001)第 21455 号

大学英语四级考试精典阅读 110 篇

中国建材工业出版社

(北京三里河路 11 号 邮编:100831)

新华书店经销

北京丽源印刷厂印刷

开本:850×1168 1/32 印张:8.375 字数:290 千字

2001 年 5 月第 1 版 2001 年 5 月第 1 次印刷

印数:0—10,000 册 定价:10.00 元

ISBN 7-80159-126-7/G·007

★ 编者的话 ★

本书共有三大部分,可以帮助你轻松愉快且快速地掌握阅读技能,提高阅读速度和答题准确率:

1. 阅读理解出题形式,应试技巧讲解——

让你知己知彼,透彻了解阅读考试的命题规律。

2. 阅读理解出题秘密及真题解析——

精选 30 篇历年考试阅读理解真题,每一篇都有译文提示、试题解析、考点归纳和词汇语法四部分,做到了 100% 透明度,让你知道阅读理解到底在测试你什么。

3. 阅读理解反向强化训练——

精选 80 篇阅读测试文章,其题材广泛,内容包罗万象,如有关动植物、人物传记、历史、文化、环境、资源、交通、医学、经济、信息等方面。总体上说,其题材主要集中在科普知识、社会文化和经济生活三方面。阅读理解的体裁有叙述文、议论文、说明文等,通过历年试题的分析,我们发现阅读文章主要是议论文和说明文。阅读理解的题型主要有主观性题型和客观性题型。前者主要包括主旨型、推理型、作者语气型、态度型、结论型等。后者主要包括事实型、推测词义型、指代关系型、常识题、是非题等。本部分最显著的一个特点是采用了反向阅读强化训练法,让你知道自己该读什么,该怎样回答。

授人以渔,远胜授人以鱼,对于本书,亦可作如是观。

2001 年 4 月

目 录

英语四级阅读理解出题形式	(1)
第一部分 阅读理解应考秘诀	(3)
第二部分 阅读理解出题秘密及真题精析	(6)
真题精析 1	(6)
真题精析 2	(10)
真题精析 3	(14)
真题精析 4	(18)
真题精析 5	(22)
真题精析 6	(26)
真题精析 7	(29)
真题精析 8	(33)
真题精析 9	(37)
真题精析 10	(41)
真题精析 11	(44)
真题精析 12	(48)
真题精析 13	(51)
真题精析 14	(56)
真题精析 15	(59)
真题精析 16	(63)
真题精析 17	(67)
真题精析 18	(71)
真题精析 19	(75)
真题精析 20	(79)
真题精析 21	(82)

真题精析 22	(86)
真题精析 23	(90)
真题精析 24	(94)
真题精析 25	(97)
真题精析 26	(101)
真题精析 27	(105)
真题精析 28	(109)
真题精析 29	(112)
真题精析 30	(115)
第三部分 阅读理解反向强化训练	(120)
Unit 1	(121)
Unit 2	(128)
Unit 3	(135)
Unit 4	(142)
Unit 5	(149)
Unit 6	(156)
Unit 7	(163)
Unit 8	(169)
Unit 9	(176)
Unit 10	(183)
Unit 11	(191)
Unit 12	(198)
Unit 13	(205)
Unit 14	(212)
Unit 15	(219)
Unit 16	(226)
Unit 17	(234)
Unit 18	(241)
Unit 19	(248)
Unit 20	(256)

英语四级阅读理解
Reading Comprehension

出 题 形 式

Part II Reading Comprehension (35 minutes)

Directions: *There are 4 reading passages in this part. Each passage is followed by some questions 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.*

Example: Read the following passage.

Long before the Sioux migrated to the Dakotas from the east, three sedentary tribes had settled along the Missouri River which bisects the two states.

Of these, Mandans are believed to have arrived first, they once occupied several villages of semisubterranean earth lodges in what's now south Dakota, but had moved farther north when discovered by the explorers, Lewis and Clark, in 1804. They were a Siouan language group.

Question: What is the main idea of this passage?

- A) The difference between two states.
- B) The great diversity among American Indians.
- C) Lewis and Clark's adventure.
- D) The introduction of Mandans.

The passage said that Mandans, one of the three Sioux tribes lived in South Dakota, and moved farther north. Therefore, you should choose answer D).

[例题解析]

早在苏族印第安人由东部移往达科他之前,三个定居部落已沿着区分两州的密苏里河而居。

这些部族当中,Mandans 被认为是最早到达的,他们一家占领了现在南达科他州半地下式小屋构成的几个村落,但是在 1804 年被路易斯和克拉克两位探险家发现时,已移往更北的地方。他们是一个苏语族。

以上就是阅读测验的一般形式。有人认为四级考试中,得高分与否取决于阅读部分,其实并不为过。因为听力测验只要短时间密集训练,并有基本的英文能力,就不难听懂。语法靠反复练习基本句型即可,词汇题目也不算难。阅读测验则文章涉猎广泛,并要求迅速作答,因此必须具备相当的英语实力。有许多考生就败在阅读测验,成绩不理想的情形非常多。

因此,要如何在短时间内把握阅读方法,且能迅速找到答案呢?请看本书的应试秘诀及强化训练。

第一部分 阅读理解应考秘诀

我国教育部颁布的《大学英语教学大纲》指出:大学英语教学的目的是培养学生具有较强的阅读能力,一定的听力,以及初步的写和说的能力,使学生能以英语为工具获取专业所需要的信息,并为进一步提高英语水平打下较好的基础。可见,阅读是我国大学英语课程的主要目标。阅读又是大学生毕业后在我国社会主义现代化建设中获取本专业所需信息的主要手段。在大学英语考试试卷构成中,各部分的得分经过加权处理,阅读部分的得分数量最大。

大学英语四级试卷中阅读部分总分达 40 分,整个阅读理解部分包括四篇短文,每篇短文约为 250~350 词,短文之后有 5 个问题,阅读部分阅读量为 1000~1400 词,需回答 20 个四选一的选择题,总时间为 35 分钟。

阅读理解部分有两个难点:①阅读速度;②理解程度。

有资料表明,以英语为母语的人,经过训练其阅读速度可达 300~600 WPM,我国理工科学生的阅读速度应在 120~200 WPM 之间,但实际教学大纲要求达到 80 WPM 就能过关。理解程度指在此速度下能保证 70% 以上的阅读理解正确率。我国学生应试最大的问题也就是在阅读方面,因为理解不仅仅只是读懂一段文字,它涉及到应试者词汇量、语法、知识面、逻辑思维能力和应变能力,没有扎实的基本功很难在短时间内提高阅读理解能力,也很难在此项得高分,一般得分在 28 分以上的(70% 正确率)学生,四级考试的通过可能性基本在 60% 以上。

阅读理解部分内容广泛,类别以叙事文,议论文和说明文为主,形式多样。阅读段落涉及天地人文各个方面,有经济知识、社会科学、历史知识、地理常识、风土人情、科技报道等,主要考查学生快速寻取信息的能力。

大学英语考试中的阅读理解部分主要测试下述能力;

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. 既理解字面意思,也能根据所读材料进行一定的判断和推论;
4. 既理解个别句子的意义,也能理解上下文和逻辑关系。

应试技巧

1. 如何合理运用阅读部分的 35 分钟的时间

由于四级考试每一部分的时间并不像托福及其它考试那么严格,因此,阅读可以有少于 35 分钟的时间。但这部分时间的合理运用能保证考生的成绩。

首先以很短的时间略读一下全文,了解全文的主要内容,作者意图,并在有具体时间、地点、人物、事件的地方作个标记。然后仔细阅读短文后的题目,带着问题回到文中查阅,这样对于一些要求解答数字、时间、人名、地点等的题目,均可在短文中查出,个别题目可能需要简单的计算后便可得出答案。

这样从略读短文到找到答案时间应控制在 20 分钟内,考生必须为自己留出近一半的时间,把答案带回原文中核实,如时间宽裕,可以把其它选项带回原文,找出错误所在,这样做可以确保作出的答案正确率在 70% 以上。

2. 阅读过程中解决问题

① 生词

考生在阅读部分中常见的就是生词,首先要遇到生词不能产生畏惧的心理。尽量分析生词的前缀、后缀、词根,如 babysitter,再通过上下文限定它的大致涵义和词性后继续向下阅读。有的生词可能是上下文出现的词的反义词;有的生词后接下来的句子就解释了前面的生词;有的生词通过相关事物可以推断出来;有的生词在没有上下文可参照时,需要借助考生语言之外的素质,借助常识来判断和选择答案。

② 难句

遇到难句,第一次读不懂,可回头将整段再读一下,借助上、下理解难句,至少能了解这个难句的大概意思。有的多项选择也可以帮助考生确定难句的主要意思,通过上下文排除与本段相关不大的句意后,难句的涵义就明白了。

3. 试题类型

阅读理解主要就是要了解考生在读完一段文章后到底明白多少,对具体事实是否有所掌握。因此一般阅读理解的问题有:

① 主题句、中心意思类。通常问题是:

What is the main idea of this passage?

What can you infer from this passage?

The best title for this passage is _____.

对于隐含的句子通常会问:

What did the author imply in this passage?

What did the author mean by...?

要顺利地抓住文章的主题句,必须学会区分主题句的细节。绝大多数的段落都有主题句,主题句在段落中可能有三个位置:A)主题句位于段首;B)主题句位于段末;C)主题句位于段中。有些主题句位于段中。有些文章段落没有主题句,它的中心思想含在各个句子中,只有归纳这些句子,才能找出中心思想。

② 揣摩类。根据短文猜测作者态度、语气、风格等。对于这种类型的问题,通常的问题是:

What is the author's attitude to...?

The tone of the passage maybe _____.

What does the author feel about _____?

③ 释义类。在一段落之后考生会被要求解释一个句子,一个短语或一个单词。这主要测试考生利用上下文特定的语言环境正确判断句子,短语或单词涵义的能力。

常见的问题有:

What does "... " mean?

The word "... " refers to _____.

Which of the following has the closest meaning to "... "?

The sentence "... " implies that _____.

考生除掌握应试技巧外,还需要扩大词汇量,并且博览群书,广泛涉猎各类书籍,扩大知识面,尽可能做到不论谈及哪一方面都能心中有数地去读,因为知识都是融会贯通的。

第二部分 阅读理解出题 秘密及真题精析

本部分以教育部 2000 年最新英语考试大纲为基础,精选精析了 30 篇全真试题测试文章。这些文章包括了四级考试阅读理解部分可能出现的所有题型,极具代表性。大家对这一部分一定要认真研读,针对各种题型,总结出自己的答题技巧。

请大家准备好,现在开始训练。 ⇨

[真题精析 1]

More than 30,000 drivers and front seat passengers are killed or seriously injured each year. At a speed of only 30 miles per hour it is the same as falling from a third-floor window. Wearing a seat belt saves lives; it reduces your chance of death or serious injury by more than half.

Therefore drivers or front seat passengers over 14 in most vehicles must wear a seat belt. If you do not, you could be fined up to £ 50. It will not be up to the drivers to make sure you wear your belt. But it will be the driver's responsibility to make sure that children under 14 do not ride in the front unless they are wearing a seat belt of some kind.

However, you do not have to wear a seat belt if you are reversing your vehicle; or you are making a local delivery or collection using a special vehicle; or if you have a valid medical certificate which excuses you from wearing it. Make sure these circumstances apply to you before you decide not to wear your seat belt. Remember you may be taken to court for not doing so, and you may be fined if you cannot prove to the court that you have been excused from wearing it.

1. This text is taken from _____.

A) a medical magazine

C) a legal document

- B) a police report
 - D) a government information booklet
2. Wearing a seat belt in a vehicle _____.
 - A) reduces road accidents by more than half
 - B) saves lives while driving at a speed up to 30 miles per hour
 - C) reduces the death rate in traffic accidents
 - D) saves more than 15,000 lives each year
 3. It is the driver's responsibility to _____.
 - A) make the front seat passenger wear a seat belt
 - B) make the front seat children under 14 wear a seat belt
 - C) stop children riding in the front seat
 - D) wear a seat belt each time he drives
 4. According to the text, which of the following people riding in the front does have to wear a seat belt?
 - A) Someone who is backing into a parking space.
 - B) Someone who is picking up the children from the local school.
 - C) Someone who delivering invitation letters.
 - D) Someone who is under 14.
 5. For some people, it may be better _____.
 - A) to wear a seat belt for health reasons
 - B) not to wear a seat belt for health reasons
 - C) to get a valid medical certificate before wearing a seat belt
 - D) to pay a fine rather than wear a seat belt

[词汇语法]

- ① at a speed of 以…速度。如：
at a speed of fifty kilometers an hour 以每小时 50 公里的速度
at very low speed 很慢的速度，低速
at top speed 高速，全速
- ② by more than half 这是一个非常有用的短语，表示“增加或减少多少”，by 后面可接数字，more than, at least 等。如：
My salary went up by half when I moved South.
我到南方后的工资增加了一半。
Increasing your reading time by 15 minutes each day.

每天增加阅读时间 15 分钟。

- ③ fine 罚款,可以用作名词,也可以用作动词。如:

Offenders may be liable to a heavy fine.

违法者可能受到很重的罚款。

The court fined him \$ 500. 法庭罚他 500 美元。

- ④ to be up to somebody 是某人的责任或义务。如:

It's up to us to help those in need.

我们有责任帮助有困难的人。

It's not up to you to tell me how to do my job.

我怎样干我的工作不用你来说三道四。

- ⑤ to excuse someone from (doing) something 免除某人的责任、义务、罚款。

如:

The teacher excused me from doing exercise because I had a cold.

因为我感冒了,老师准许我不做操。

He was excused from punishment. 他免于受罚。

[内容大意]

每年汽车驾驶员和前排乘客在车祸中死亡或严重受伤的人数超过 3 万人。汽车时速若是 30 英里,在发生车祸时对人的撞击相当于从三层楼的窗户上摔下来的强度。系上安全带可以拯救你的性命,可以使死亡或严重受伤的机率减少一半以上。

就大多汽车而言,驾驶员和 14 岁以上的前排乘客必须系上安全带,否则将会受到 50 英镑以上的罚款。驾驶员并非对所有的前排乘客是否系上安全带负有责任。但是,驾驶员有责任让坐在前排年龄在 14 岁以下的乘客系上某种安全带,否则不得坐在前排。

然而,你在有些时候并不一定要系安全带,比如在倒车的时候,或是驾驶专用车在当地发、收(货物);或者你取得有关医疗单位的证明,证明你不宜使用安全带。但是,你必须十分有把握确知上述情况对你适用,否则,你会被送上法庭。

那时如果你不能向法庭证明你可以不系安全带,你将会被罚款。这一点你必须牢记在心。

[试题解析]

1. This text is taken from _____. 这篇文章选自于_____。

[D] a government information booklet
一份政府的信息报告(小册子)。

【考点】本题考核学生分辨文章文体的能力。

2. Wearing a seat belt in a vehicle _____.

乘车时系安全带_____。

[C] reduces the death rate in traffic accidents.
减少交通事故中的死亡率。

【考点】本题考核学生是否读懂第一部分的内容。文章说,驾驶员和前排乘客系上安全带在发生交通事故时可以大幅度地减少伤亡。

3. It is the driver's responsibility to _____.

司机的责任是要_____。

[B] make the front seat children under 14 wear a seat belt.
使前排不足14岁的孩子系上安全带。

【考点】本题检查学生理解文章细节的能力,问及在系安全带方面驾驶员的责任。从语言的角度来看,这一题实际上只是考核学生在一定的上下文中的 to be up to somebody 这一词组的理解。

4. According to the text, which of the following people riding in the front does not have to wear a seat belt?

根据文章,坐在汽车前排位置的哪些人可以不系安全带?

[A] Someone who is backing into a parking space.
将车倒进停车场的人。

5. For some people, it may be better _____.

对一些人来说,_____比较好。

[B] not to wear a seat belt for health reasons.
由于健康(身体)原因,不系安全带。

【考点】本题为了第3段提及的一个细节:一些人由于身体上的原因可以不系安全带,但需要医生证明(即第3段第一向所提及的内容)。

[真题精析 2]

If you want to stay young, sit down and have a good think. This is the research finding of a team of Japanese doctors, who say that most of our brains are not getting enough exercise—and as a result, we are ageing unnecessarily soon.

Professor Taiju Matsuzawa wanted to find out why otherwise healthy farmers in northern Japan appeared to be losing their ability to think and reason at a relatively early age, and how the process of ageing could be slowed down.

With a team of colleagues at Tokyo National University, he set about measuring brain volumes of a thousand people of different ages and varying occupations.

Computer technology enabled the researchers to obtain precise measurements of the volume of the front and side sections of the brain, which relate to *intellect* (智能) and emotion, and determine the human character. (The rear section of the brain, which controls functions like eating and breathing, does not contract with age, and one can continue living without intellectual or emotional faculties.)

Contraction of front and side parts—as cells die off—was observed in some subjects in their thirties, but it was still not evident in some sixty- and seventy-year-olds.

Matsuzawa concluded from his tests that there is a simple remedy to the contraction normally associated with age—using the head.

The findings show in general terms that contraction of the brain begins sooner in people in the country than in the towns. Those least at risk, says Matsuzawa, are lawyers, followed by university professors and doctors. White collar workers doing routine work in government offices are, however, as likely to have shrinking brains as the farm worker, bus driver and shop assistant.

Matsuzawa's findings show that thinking can prevent the brain from shrinking. Blood must circulate properly in the head to supply the fresh oxygen the brain from shrinking. Blood must circulate properly in the head to supply the fresh oxygen the brain cells need. "The best way to maintain good blood circulation is through using the brain," he says, "Think hard and engage in conversa-

tion. Don't rely on pocket calculators."

1. The team of doctors wanted to find out _____.
 - A) why certain people age sooner than others
 - B) how to make people live longer
 - C) the size of certain people's brains
 - D) which people are most intelligent
2. On what are their research findings based?
 - A) A survey of farmers in northern Japan.
 - B) Tests performed on a thousand old people.
 - C) The study of brain volumes of different people.
 - D) The latest development of computer technology.
3. The doctor's tests show that _____.
 - A) our brains shrink as we grow older
 - B) the front section of the brain does not shrink
 - C) sixty-year-olds have better brains than thirty-year-olds
 - D) some people's brains have contracted more than other people's
4. The word "subjects" in Paragraph 5 means _____.
 - A) Something to be considered
 - B) branches of knowledge studied
 - C) persons chosen to be studied in an experiment
 - D) any member of state except the supreme ruler
5. According to the passage, which people seem to age slower than the others?
 - A) Lawyers.
 - B) Farmers.
 - C) Clerks.
 - D) Shop assistants.

[词汇语法]

- ① finding 意为“调查(研究)的结果”,常用复数。如:
The committee published its findings after a thorough investigation.
委员会在彻底调查以后公布了调查结果。
- ② set about 开始为…忙碌…、着手工作。如:
She set about clearing up after the party.
晚会结束后她开始打扫卫生。