

新世纪大学生英语

阅读技巧与实践

(新题型)

彭建武 周晨阳 姜泗平 编

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电子科技大学出版社

新世纪
大学生英语阅读技巧与实践
(新题型)

主编 彭建武 周晨阳 姜泗平
主审 刘明东

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内 容 提 要

该书分为两大部分。第一部分为理论篇,探讨了英语阅读要求,阅读的常用方法及阅读的解题技巧。第二部分为实践篇,从最新题型中精编了100篇多选题型的阅读材料和30篇简短回答题型的阅读材料供读者训练。是广大学生参加考级的理想参考教材。

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前 言

21 世纪是一个信息时代，各国人民的信息交流会越来越多并愈加频繁，英语无疑是这一交流过程中的一种十分重要的工具。而要获取大量的新信息主要通过阅读这一方式。为了帮助新世纪的大学生突破英语阅读难关，我们编写了本书。

全书分两大部分。第一部分为理论篇，主要探讨了四级英语阅读要求、阅读的常用方法（略读、浏览、研读）、四级英语阅读的解题技巧以及英译汉的常用方法与技巧。第二部分为实践篇，精编了 100 篇多选题型的阅读材料（每篇均配有英译汉题型）和 30 篇简短回答题型的阅读材料供读者训练。全书有讲有练，理论与实践相结合，并且所有练习均配有参考答案，是大学生参加 CET-4 的理想参考教材。

在本书的编写过程中参考了大量的国内外有关资料，在此我们向有关作者致以深深的谢意。书中不妥之处望读者批评指正。

编者

1999 年 5 月

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第一部分 理论篇

一、四级英语阅读要求

新修订的《大学英语教学大纲》仍将“培养学生具有较强的阅读能力”作为全国高等学校非英语专业大学英语教学的首要目的。它对基础阶段阅读能力的基本要求为“能顺利阅读并正确理解语言难度中等的一般性题材的文章,掌握中心大意,了解作者的观点和态度,阅读速度达到每分钟 70 词。在阅读篇幅较长、难度略低、生词不超过总数 3% 的材料时,能正确理解中心大意,抓住主要事实和有关细节,阅读速度达到每分钟 100 词。”它所提出的较高要求为“能顺利阅读并正确理解难度较高、题材广泛的一般性文章,掌握中心大意,理解有关的事实和细节;能就文章的内容进行分析、推理、判断和综合概括,了解作者的观点和态度,阅读速度达到每分钟 70 词。在阅读篇幅较长,难度略低,生词不超过总词数 3% 的材料时,能理解中心大意,抓住主要事实和有关细节,阅读速度为每分钟 120 词。”

《大学英语四级考试大纲》中规定的 35 分钟阅读理解部分要求考生阅读若干篇短文,总阅读量不超过 1000 词。每篇短文后有若干个问题。考生应根据文章内容从每题四个选项中选出一个最佳答案。选材的原则是:

1. 题材广泛,可以包括人物传记、社会、文化、日常知识、科普常识等,但是所涉及的背景知识应能为学生所理解;
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,用汉语注明词义。

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

阅读理解部分的目的是测试学生通过阅读获取信息的能力,既要求准确,也要求有一定的速度。

二、阅读的常用方法

1. 略读

略读(skimming)就是迅速地阅读,目的在于了解大意,获得总的信息(general information),对所读材料有个总的概念,同时了解文章的主题和各细节的分布情况。它是一种阅读技巧。学会了它,就可以在同一时间内获得更多的信息。略读时可注意以下几点:

1. 留心短文开头的两句(如由多段组成的短文则注意第一、二段),力求抓住文章大意、背景知识、作者的文体风格、口吻或语气等。

2. 注意了解有关主题句和结论句。

3. 将重点放在支持主题句或中心思想的细节上,其他细节可以略读。

【例一】

Experience, it is said, is a costly teacher. Direct experience is often desirable, despite its cost, but not all our experience can or need be acquired directly. It is possible to avoid disaster, for instance, and yet lay hold of the quality of character that disaster sometimes creates or at least reveals. The imaginative projection of ourselves into the consciousness of others, through literature, yields experiences that would be too strenuous to endure without hazard in actual life, and yet can chasten and humanize us, bringing us to a better understanding of ourselves and others. The range of such vicarious experiences is surprisingly large and varied—from the outrageous to the sublime—but they are

most meaningful to the reader when they complement his actual experiences. Steinbeck's "The Chrysanthemums" holds much meaning for any woman who has even vaguely felt herself beckoned by something beyond her daily life, and Yeats' "Down by the Salley Gardens" cuts deep into the man who already regrets that he has restrained himself from tasting more freely life's pleasures. The central idea is _____.

- A. experience can be acquired indirectly through literature
- B. experience can be acquired directly
- C. not all our experience need be acquired directly
- D. a man will regret having restrained himself from sampling more freely life's pleasures

通过第二句的转折词 but 可知并不是所有经验都可以或需要直接获得。第四句则说到通过文学可产生经验。后面的部分则是进一步解释和举例可一扫而过并且快速得出正确答案为 A。

【例二】

By the time the first European travelers on the American continent began to record some of their observations about Indians, the Cherokee people had developed an advanced culture that probably was exceeded only by the civilized tribes of the Southwest: Mayan and Aztec groups. The social structures of Cherokee people consisted of a form of clan kinship in which there were seven recognized clans. All members of a clan were considered blood brothers and sisters and were bound by honor to defend any members of the clan from wrong. Each clan, the Bird, Paint, Deer, Wolf, Blue, Long Hair, and Wild Potato was represented in the civil council by a counselor or counselors. The chief of the tribe was selected from one of these clans and did not

inherit his office from his kinsmen. Actually, there were two chiefs, a Peace chief and a War chief. The Peace chief served when the tribe was at peace, but the minute war was declared, the War chief was in command.

Select the statement which best expresses the main idea of the paragraph.

A. The Cherokee chief was different in war time than in peace time.

B. Before the arrival of the Europeans the Cherokees had developed a well-organized society.

C. The Mayans and the Aztecs were part of the Cherokee tribe.

D. Several Indian cultures had developed advanced civilizations before Europeans arrived.

本段的第一句为主题句,它概括了大意,接下来的都是细节的叙述。因此只要说了第一句便可得出正确答案为B。

【例三】

In 1860, Firshport was a small rural settlement on the west coast of Newland with a population of 204 pioneers. The inhabitants were small farmers and fishermen. They farmed the land during the summer months and survived the sub-zero temperatures from November to May fishing and hunting. The population of Fishport rose steadily. The birth rate and longevity increased and child mortality decreased due to improvements in medical care and greater attention to problems of nutrition. By 1950, there were 2,000 people living in the community.

In the 1940's and early 1950's, exploration companies

discovered large deposits of iron ore and other minerals in a region some 500 km inland. There is now a 500 km railroad which carries minerals from Iron City and Fairview to Fishport. There, the minerals are loaded directly onto ships to be transported to the industrial centers in southern Newland or exported to foreign countries. As a result of this development, Fishport's population rose dramatically until, by 1980, there were 110,000 residents. Immigration from other countries was higher than that of other areas of Newland and, consequently, Fishport is now a multi-lingual urban community. It has a small but busy airport and road, rail and sea links with most important towns in the rest of the country.

The Fishport town council is now seriously concerned about the size of the community and about its future. If the town continues to grow at the same rate as for the last twenty-year period, it will have nearly 200,000 inhabitants by the year 2,000. If this happens, hospitals, housing, schools, and other important service will all be inadequate.

1. What does the passage mainly talk about?
 - A. Mineral wealth in a country called Newland.
 - B. The growth of a town called Fishport.
 - C. The early settlers of a town called Fishport.
 - D. The people living in Fishport.
2. Which of the following is the best title of the passage?
 - A. Agricultural Life in Fishport
 - B. The Growth of Urban Communities
 - C. The History and Development of Fishport
 - D. The Observed Effect of Population Growth on a Rural

Village in Western Newland

从 1860, 1940's, 1950's, 1980 等表年份的数字便可知道本文讲的是 Fishport 的发展情况, 本文题一的答案应为 B, 题二的答案应为 C。

【例四】

There is a simple economic principle used to determine prices. It is called the law of supply and demand. Supply means the amounts of, or access to certain goods. If there are more goods than wanted, the price of them falls. On the other hand, if the demand for those goods is much greater than the supply, then the price rises. Of course manufacturers prefer to sell more goods at increased prices.

What is the best title which expresses the ideas of the passage?

- A. Economic Principle
- B. Law of Supply and Demand
- C. More Goods, Lower Prices
- D. Fewer Goods, Higher Prices
- E. Government Controls Supply and Demand

本段的前两句道出了主题, 后面讲的是 supply 和 demand 的具体关系。因而 B 应为正确答案。

2. 浏览

浏览(scanning), 也称 查阅或跳读。它是一种从大量的资料中迅速查找某一具体事实或某一特定信息, 而无须阅读全部材料的快速阅读方法。运用这种方法, 可在最短的时间内获取所需信息。浏览是一种快速寻找信息的阅读技能, 既要求查阅的速度, 又要求查阅的准确性。也就是说, 浏览带有明确的目的性, 即有针对性地

选择问题的答案。浏览时可注意以下几点：

1. 迅速阅读问题，确定浏览的信息范围。
2. 注意所查信息的特点。例如要知道某事是何时发生的，则需查找一个日期，要知道某事是何人所为则需查找一个人名。
3. 采用快速扫视的方法查寻信息，对不相干的信息一掠而过。

【例一】

Until recently, the ability to make tools was considered one of the characteristics that distinguished humans and their ancestors from all other animals. In 1964, Dr. Jane M. Goodall shattered this belief when she observed that chimpanzees in the African forest frequently make simple tools for catching termites (白蚁). The ape first looks for the right materials. It carefully selects a twig of the correct size and shape and then strips off the leaves. Then the ape inserts the twig into a hole in the termite nest. When the twig is pulled out, it is covered with delectable insects.

1. According to the passage, when chimpanzees need tools they first look for _____.

A. a deep hole B. appropriate materials

C. leaves to eat D. a termite nest

2. Chimpanzees make simple tools to _____.

A. build nests B. select twigs

C. catch food D. strip leaves

回答上述问题时，可在略读的基础上阅读问题与选择答案，然后用浏览法确定与问题相关的语句范围，这两个问题的语句范围分别为文章的第二句和第三句，所以可以轻易地选择正确答案为B和C。

【例二】

Now she came in sight, walking across the open toward the camp. She was wearing jodhpurs and carrying her rifle. The two boys had a Tommie slung and they were coming along behind her. She was still a goodlooking woman, he thought, and she had a pleasant body. She had a great talent and appreciation for the bed. She was not pretty, but he liked her face. She read enormously, liked to ride and shoot and, certainly, she drank too much. Her husband had died when she was still a comparatively young woman and for a while she had devoted herself to her two just-grown children, who did not need her and were embarrassed at having her about, to her stable of horses, to books, and to bottles. She liked to read in the evening before dinner and she drank Scotch and soda while she read. By dinner she was fairly drunk and after a bottle of wine at dinner she was usually drunk enough to sleep.

What did she like to do while she was reading?

- A. She liked to ride and shoot.
- B. She liked to drink soda at dinner.
- C. She liked to read in the evening before dinner.
- D. She liked to drink Scotch and soda.

先看问题,然后快速读文章,注意力只放到 while she was reading 上,对于与它不相关的信息略去不管。当读到例数第二句时,便可得出正确答案 D。

【例三】

Washington was chosen as the site of the nation's capital in 1790. In 1800 Congress and the rest of the government moved from Philadelphia to Washington, where they have been located ever since. Approximately half-way between New England and

Georgia, it was a compromise site between North and South. Washington was also at the head of the Potomac River tidewater, well situated for commerce, but far enough inland to protect it against sea attack.

Pierre L'Enfant, a Frenchman, was selected as the original designer of the city. Most of his plans for Washington have come to fruition, despite his disputes with the federal government.

The District of Columbia was laid out in the shape of a diamond, with the corners pointing exactly north, south, east and west. The U. S. Capitol is in the center, and imaginary lines drawn from it to each of the corners divide the city into four quadrants— northwest (N. W.), northeast (N. E.), southwest (S. W.), and southeast (S. E.). The quadrant designation is an integral part of all D. C. addresses.

Streets running north-south are numbered from the Capitol, and streets running east-west are lettered from the Capitol, so that many names appear twice or more in opposite ends of the city. For example, 6th Street and I Street (sometimes written Eye Street) intersect in the N. W., S. W., N. E., and S. E. quadrants. Toward the end of the alphabet, close to the district limits, two and then three syllable alphabetized words serve as street names. (There is no J Street, however, since John Jay was a traitor to the revolution.)

Most of the broad avenues are named after states and run diagonally across the city. Frequently, where they cross the intersections of two streets, or intersect each other, there are circles.

1. Washington was selected as the site for the capital of the

United States in _____.

- A. 1800 B. 1790 C. 1789 D. 1890

2. The selection of Washington as the site of the nation's capital was _____.

- A. a great victory for the North
B. a victory for the South
C. a compromise between North and South
D. a failure for the South

3. The river is called the _____.

- A. Potomac B. Georgia
C. Times D. Washington

4. U. S. Congress and the government offices moved to Washington from _____.

- A. New York B. Boston
C. New England D. Philadelphia

5. The first designer of the city was _____.

- A. Frenchman B. Englishman
C. American D. German

6. In the center of the city is _____.

- A. the House of Representatives B. the Supreme Court
C. the Senate D. the Capitol

7. _____ are given to the streets running north-south from the Capitol.

- A. Numbers B. Letters C. Names D. Words

8. There is no J Street, however, since John Jay was _____.

- A. a great man
B. a traitor