College English Test

四级阅读 500题



详解



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大学英语四级考试

阅读 500 题详解

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前言

在大学英语四级考试中,阅读理解部分占 40%的比重,大大超过了其它几部分,是四级考试中测试的重点。最新修订的《大学英语教学大纲》也指出"大学英语教学的目的是,培养学生具有较强的阅读能力和一定的听、说、写、译能力,使他们能用英语交流信息",可见,阅读理解是检测四级考生英语水平的最重要的一项测试。

本书是根据最新《大学英语教学大纲》及《大学英语四级考试 大纲》编写的,目的在于帮助广大考生迅速提高阅读水平,达到 《大纲》的要求,在四级统考中获得优良的成绩。

全书共计 25 个单元,每单元 4 篇短文,每篇配有 5 道阅读理解题,篇幅及难度按递增顺序排列,在选材难度及结构形式上力求与四级考试保持一致,以便于考生检测自己的阅读水平。

本书在选材上涵盖了四级考试中阅读理解的常考题材,即日常生活知识、科普常识、风土人情、人物传记、社会文化教育,具体又可分为自然地理、妇女、能源与环保、教育、经济、文体、医学、人文、交通建筑、其它等十大类别,体裁涉及叙述文、说明文、议论文、应用文。内容新颖,并具有一定的知识性及实用性,可读性强。

在题型设计上,按四级考试题型进行设置,包括信息细节题、中心主旨题、词义辨析题、推断结论题,使考生通过练习达到《大纲》要求的阅读能力,即:掌握基本的阅读技能,能顺利地阅读并正确理解语言难度中等的一般题材的文章和科普、科技读物,阅读速度达到每分钟 70 词(老大纲要求为每分钟 50 词)。阅读难度略低,生词不超过总词数 3%的材料时,速度达到每分钟 100词。考生可以把这些规定作为对自己能力检测的一个参考,进一

步明确自己在阅读理解能力训练中存在的问题和努力的方向,完成必要的阅读量。只要在平时的练习中,能时时加以比较和调整,并自觉加强训练,那么在 35 分钟的规定时间内完成四篇短文 1000~1300 词的阅读量和 20 道题,应能从容不迫。

本丛书由郑天义教授主编,北京大学苏颖、张凤琴、陈菁,北京外国语大学张洪亮,清华大学彭秋兰,北京理工大学李冬梅、王淑美,中国人民大学周新生等编著,参加编写的还有黄鲁、郝文荣、李琰。全书英文部分由美籍专家 Duncan Rayner 审读,在此表示感谢。

由于编者水平有限,书中的疏误在所难免,敬请读者不吝批评、指正。

编 者 2001年9月于清华园

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American agriculture, one of the great achievements in which the Americans take pride, has produced affluent foods and other necessities enough to feed the nation and bring in great sums of cash from world markets by exporting its surplus products of grain, cotton, peanut, soybean, tobacco, vegetable, fruit, livestock, poultry, egg, dairy and other animal products.

Modernization of farming operations and application of advanced agricultural science are the secret of the miraculous achievement. During the past 35 years, revolutionary changes have taken place in farms, ranches, orchards, plantations, poultry farms, dairy farms throughout states: Arkansas, Illinois, Indiana, Kansas, Kentucky, Michigan, Minnesota, Mississippi, Missouri, Nebraska, Ohio, Tennessee, Texas, Wisconsin - the Middle West, the breadbasket of America. A great army of agricultural machines take all manipulations on farms, replacing humans and horses - plowing land, sowing seeds, planting seedlings and spreading fertilizers, spraying pesticides, irrigating saplings. harvesting crops, drying grains, picking tomatoes, fields. collecting potatoes, milking cows, feeding chickens, watering livestock, hatching chicks, gathering eggs, cleaning pens, removing manure, washing cattle, etc. Besides, they prepare hybrid feed for cattle and chickens by programming computers to 2

monitor the process and determine the proper ingredients. They control and adjust the temperature and moisture inside greenhouses using sensors and automatic devices. They develop good strains of crop and livestock that can resist diseases, provide higher quality of products, and yield more output. Supported by manufactures and construction industry, they have trucks, refrigerators, barns, warehouses, garages and workshops. They use airplanes to sow seeds, spray pesticides, spread fertilizers. Their irrigation systems can be controlled by computers from a remote house. Veterinary service helps them to stamp out epidemic diseases that would otherwise lead to heavy losses of livestock and poultry. TV, telephones can help them to get information just in time to prevent disaster, to react to markets, and to consult professionals.

- 1. What important role does the American agriculture play in the nation's daily life?
 - A) It has produced enough agricultural products to feed the nation.
 - B) It has produced enough agricultural products to earn much money.
 - C) The development of agriculture can improve national industry.
 - D) It has produced enough opportunities for agricultural workers.
- 2. How have advanced techniques helped American agriculture in farming operations?
 - A) A great number of agricultural machines have helped American farmers plow land.
 - B) A great number of agricultural machines have helped American farmer plant seedlings.
 - C) A great number of agricultural machines have helped American farmer spread fertilizers.

- D) All of the above.
- 3. Why can Americans get so many achievements in agriculture?
 - A) Because of government's policy.
 - B) Because of modernization of farming operations.
 - C) Because of farmers themselves.
 - D) Because of the climate in the US.
- **4.** The word "breadbasket" means ...
 - A) a container
 - B) a common food
 - C) an important area for grain production
 - D) the stomach
- **5.** Which of the following is the best title of the passage?
 - A) Great Achievement in American Agriculture.
 - B) American Agriculture and Farmers.
 - C) Great Role of American Agriculture.
 - D) American Farmers' Easy Work.

Amongst the most popular books being written today are those which are usually classified as science fiction. Hundreds of titles are published every year and are read by all kinds of people. Furthermore, some of the most successful films of recent years have been based on science fiction stories.

It is often thought that science fiction is a fairly new development in literature, but its ancestors can be found in books written hundreds of years ago. These books were often concerned with the presentation of some form of ideal society, a theme which is still often found in modern stories.

Most of the classics of science fiction, however, have been

written within the last one hundred years. Books by writers such as Jules Verne and H.G. Wells, to mention just two well-known authors, have been translated into many languages.

Modern science fiction writers don't write about men from Mars or space adventure stories. They are more interested in predicting the results of technical developments on society and the human mind; or in imagining future worlds which are a reflection of the world which we live in now. Because of this their writing has obvious political undertones(含意).

In an age where science fact frequently overtakes science fiction, the writers may find it difficult to keep ahead of scientific advances. Those who are sufficiently clear-sighted to see the way we are going, however, may provide a valuable lesson on how to deal with the problems which society will inevitably face as it tries to master its new technology and come to terms with a continually changing view of the world.

A) shows the writer's viewpoints

- B) is worse than that in the past
- C) has been written only by Jules Verne and H.G. Wells
- D) tells stories about men from Mars
- 4. From the article we get the impression that science fiction _____.
 - A) is a fairly new development in literature
 - B) is popular
 - C) describes things that happen in developed countries
 - D) reflects the technical advances in the past
- 5. Which of the following statements is true?
 - A) Science fiction often overtakes science fact.
 - B) Writers may find it easy to keep ahead of scientific advances.
 - C) Science fiction is based on successful films.
 - D) The writers who can see clearly the way we are going will give us valuable instructions.

In most corners of the world malnutrition is plainly a matter of outright insufficiency of food for the population — where the majority of the people do not obtain enough food calories to meet minimal needs for support of physical work and for maintenance of health. Elsewhere the problem may be not one of insufficient calories but of lack of specific nutrients essential for health.

In Latin America, as in other places, the dread protein(蛋白质) deficiency disease kwashiorkor(红孩病) is taking its heavy toll of children's lives. Strategic vitamins and minerals may be lacking due to traditional diets which are nutritionally unbalanced. Here people continue their eating pattern year after year without knowledge of what their dietary (饮食的) habits are doing to themselves and to future generations.

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With a basic knowledge of nutritional needs and deficiencies, efforts could be directed to finding food substitutes which could meet these needs. Mixtures of vegetable proteins, like soybeans and peanuts, could provide an abundance of cheap, useful protein where meat, eggs, and milk are not within economic reach of large groups in the population. Efforts could also be expended on increasing the agricultural productivity in specific regions; where large areas are given over to relatively inefficient use as grazing land, the intensive production of vegetable protein crops could bring remedial nutrition to an undernourished population. Elsewhere, enrichment with specific vitamins and minerals of traditional staple foods that are deficient in essential nutritive factors could wipe out disabling deficiency diseases most overnight. Similarly, addition of minute amounts of inexpensive iodine(碘) to salt benefit large areas where endemic goiter(地方流行性甲状腺肿大) has been accepted as an integral(组成的) part of life for generations.

٠.	Cheap protein substitutes	for mink, eggs, and meat		
	A) may be obtained from	n vitamins and minerals		
	B) are being sought by s	cientists		
	C) can be gotten from so	pybean		
	D) can be found in iodize	ed salt		
2 .	In the last sentence,	the word which best indicates the		
frequency of occurrence of goiter is				
	A) endemic	B) inexpensive		
	C) minute	D) similarly		
3.	. The major cause of malnutrition in the world is lack of			
	A) protein	B) vitamins		
	C) iodine	D) food		
4	Kwashiorkor			

Chan protein substitutes for milk aggs and meat

- A) is especially harmful to children
- B) is caused by starvation
- C) affects adults only
- D) is confined to Latin Malnutrition
- **5.** The title that best expresses the ideas of this passage is _____.
 - A) Science and Agriculture
 - B) Eliminating Starvation
 - C) Improving Our Diet
 - D) Combating Malnutrition

The government should focus on improving the health of present and future mothers to reduce future inequalities in health, according to the forthcoming independent inquiry on inequalities in health, which is expected to be published in November.

Sir Donald Acheson, who was commissioned to chair the inquiry just over a year ago as part of the government's new health strategy, Our Healthier Nation, gave the first public account of the inquiry in his Harveian speech to the Royal College of Physicians last week. He said, "There is evidence that inequalities which we observe today may be projected into the next generation."

Low birth weight is associated with poorer health and earlier death. Babies born to parents from social class I weigh an average 130g more than those born to class V and 200g more than babies registered by their mothers alone. Two principal determinants of a baby's weight at birth are the mother's weight before she becomes pregnant and her own birth weight. This disadvantage is further compounded by a steep social class gradient (梯度变化曲线) associated with breast feeding.

Sir Donald said; "While there are many interventions which will reduce inequalities between adults from the various social groups, those with the best chance of reducing future inequalities related to children, to parents and in particular to present and future mothers."

Sir Donald said that a policy which improves health on average may have no effect on inequalities, or may actually increase them. One example is antismoking campaigns which have proved effective among the better off but much less so among women in lower income groups. The report will call for antismoking campaigns to be targeted at the less well off in general and single mothers in particular. Programs in the past to encourage breast feeding, increase immunization (免疫) uptake, or improve the uptake of cancer screening have also been more effective in higher income groups.

Sir Donald did not give any details about his report, which will contain 39 recommendations covering 12 subject areas. But he said: "What is needed is a new emphasis for existing policies across the whole social spectrum — income, education, employment, the environment, transport, nutrition, smoking, and the rest, an approach which wherever possible gives priority not just to the poor but to the less well off as a whole."

Latest government statistics show that the gap between rich and poor has widened again, with the proportion of people living on an income of less than half the average rising to 24%. The Department of Social Security's analysis of households on bellow average income suggests that increasing numbers of children have been growing up in poverty, with nearly one child in four living in a family without a working parent.

1.	The main idea of this passage is
	A) the number of children growing up in poverty is increasing
	B) mothers are the key to reducing future inequalities in health
	C) a healthier nation needs more educated mothers
	D) poverty is the reason of inequalities in health
2.	From the passage, we know
	A) the social class of parents may influence baby's habit
	B) inequalities in health may be worsened by the different
	degree of breast feeding
	C) parents of lower social class tend to have heavier baby
	D) baby's birth weight is determined by his parent's birth weight
3.	According to the passage, which of the following is true?
	A) When babies have grown up, there are still some chances of
	reducing inequalities.
	B) People of lower income should be given priority while
	granted welfare funds.
	C) Inequalities between adults can be erased at last.
	D) Measures have been taken to shorten the gap between the
	rich and the poor.
4.	The word "those" in Line 3 Paragraph 4 refers to
	A) interventions
	B) inequalities
	C) adults
	D) the various social groups
5.	It can be inferred from the passage that
	A) the campaign of reducing future inequalities would have few
	effects on lower income groups
	B) antismoking campaigns have proved to be successful among
	the whole social group

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- C) people of higher income groups have ears which are much more sensitive
- D) people of lower income groups are much more well-informed than those of higher income groups