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英语

全国大学英语四级考试
重点、难点复习必备

ENGLISH

阅读 分册

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主 编 王长喜
副主编 陈 雁 王著定

English



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前 言

如何提高考生的英语阅读能力一直是外语界重点研究、探讨的一个问题,相关的辅导书也是琳琅满目。四级阅读考试题虽然有词汇范围的限制,但基本上没有确定的读物范围,也没有阅读内容的限制,因此,仍有许多考生面对阅读题不知所措。笔者在认真分析和归纳历年四级试题的基础上,采用了一种较新的信息分析法来解题,在一定程度上对题目进行了量化处理。按这种方法可把选文中的每个词界定为一个最小的信息点,它们以不同的方式交叉、组合构成一个个大小不同的信息面。这些信息面不仅覆盖了全文的信息,还折射出一定的在文中未直接给出的信息。无论相关考题怎样变化,都是围绕某一个或几个信息点、信息面设计的。考生顺着这个思路更容易在繁杂的文字材料中理清层次,更准确地找到答案所在。

全书并无太多的文字冗述,而将重点放在实战练习题上。共编了十五套 **Warming-up Exercises**, 二十套 **Simulation Exercises**。每套练习包含四篇选文,每篇选文配五道练习题。选文除从历年四级考试真题中选择外,还从较新的外文报刊中挑出了不少难度适中的段落。选文涉及的内容广泛,所配练习题设计巧妙。每套题除附有正确答案外,针对基础较弱的考生,十五套 **Warming-up Exercises** 还附有解析。另外,每段选文还用黑体字标出了可提供答题依据的相关词句。考生在使用本书时,可在充分理解其中的“解题技巧”的基础上,努力应用“信息分析法”分析每套题,以便掌握阅读题的解题思路和技巧。

由于时间仓促,本书难免有疏漏之处,敬请读者指正。

2000年10月

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第一篇 热身练习



Warming-up Exercise One

Passage One

Television carries more national advertising than any other in the United States. The same is true in some smaller countries such as Spain and Portugal, where it is the only medium reaching a general national audience. In many countries, Sweden and Denmark, for example, the state-owned television accepts no advertising. In many other countries the amount of commercial time is extremely limited, as in France, Germany, and Italy. Soviet state-owned television began accepting a limited amount of advertising in 1988.

The chief reason for the popularity of television among United States advertising is that it reaches a vast number of people at the same time. While it can cost well over 100 000 dollars, a 30-second commercial on network television can be seen and heard by as many as 25 million viewers. For manufacturers who must make *prospects* aware of their products and convince them of its benefits immediately, there is nothing as efficient as television advertising.

Because it employs motion as well as words, graphics, sound, and music, **television is a valuable medium for products that lend themselves to demonstration.** No other medium is as effective in showing how quickly an automobile can accelerate or how well a brand of wrist-watch will stand up under abuse and continue to run. **Similarly, it is an ideal medium for conveying a mood or an emotional benefit for products such as long-distance telephone calls.**

1. In which country television carries most national advertising?

- A) Spain. B) Sweden. C) Italy. D) Soviet Union.

2. Which medium carries most national advertising in Portugal?
A) Newspaper. B) Radio. C) Television. D) Computer.
3. What does the article mainly discuss?
A) TV can make advertisers aware of their products.
B) TV is more popular than any other medium in the United States.
C) TV carries more national advertising than any other in the United States.
D) TV covers a large audience at the same time.
4. The word "prospects" in the second paragraph means _____.
A) property B) future customers
C) medium D) producers of certain goods
5. The writer of the article is _____ about the benefits of TV advertising.
A) optimistic B) unconcerned C) enthusiastic D) positive

Passage Two

Most Europeans want small cars. Many Americans prefer large cars. As a result, European auto-makers produce a wide variety of economical, lightweight cars while American auto-makers tend to build bigger, heavier cars.

The price of gasoline has much to do with this. **Gasoline is expensive in Europe, so Europeans naturally prefer cars that will go a long way on a small amount of fuel.**

Other reasons also enter into the big or little car decision. Many Old World cities have very narrow, winding streets. In these cities a small car is more practical and easier to handle than a large one.

Some Americans like powerful engines in their cars. **They enjoy having roomy cars that are comfortable for large families and long trips.** They are prepared to pay higher operating costs to get these advantages.

Other Americans, however, have learned to like small, *nimble*

cars. Many visitors to Europe during and after WW II discovered that small cars were fun to drive and easy to park in small spaces. They were delighted to learn how far small cars could go on a few gallons of gasoline.

In the 1950s many Americans began buying European cars. In 1957, for the first time, the United States imported more cars than it exported. The best seller among these imported cars was an odd-looking but dependable small car from Germany. Americans promptly nicknamed it "the bug".

Today, American car buyers have a wide choice. There are big cars for people who want elbow room, comfort and power. And there are small cars, mostly imported but some American-made, for people who want easy parking and economical operation.

1. Implied but not stated _____.
 - A) all Americans buy European cars
 - B) no one wants to drive a powerful car
 - C) small cars are not expensive to run
 - D) Americans don't like roomy cars
2. What does the word "nimble" mean?
 - A) Cheap.
 - B) Beautiful.
 - C) Swift.
 - D) Foreign.
3. On the whole, the article tells about _____.
 - A) parking cars in America
 - B) the price of gasoline
 - C) the price of roomy cars
 - D) big cars and small cars
4. Why do some people want to purchase big cars?
 - A) They want to have elbow room, comfort and power.
 - B) It is easier to park big cars.
 - C) They need to make long-distance journey.
 - D) Big cars cost less than small cars.
5. Which statement seems true according to the article?
 - A) Americans are not accustomed to travelling in Europe.
 - B) People like to choose cars from many makers.

- C) People like to buy European cars without any specific reason.
- D) No one drives big cars in Old World cities.

Passage Three

The bath was invented before the bath plug. The bath plug could not have been invented before the bath, except as a small object with which to play ice hockey. **The order in which inventions are made is very important, much more important than has ever been realized, because we tend automatically to think that later inventions are better than earlier ones. A moment's thought will show this is not so.** If, for example, a solution to today's urban traffic problems was proposed in the shape of a small man-powered two-wheeled vehicle which would make the motor car look like a cumbersome over-powered device, a space rocket trying to tackle suburban problems, we would greet it as a great technological breakthrough. "Bicycle makes car *obsolete!*" We would cry. **Unfortunately, the bike came first, so we shall always unconsciously see it as a cruder version of the car. Other things which may have been invented too early are the airship, the radio, the railway train, the cuff-link.**

Consider also the zipper. Zippers represent a technological advance on buttons, being faster and more complete. **They are also more liable to come adrift, break, jam, stick and catch. Buttons can only go wrong if the thread is faulty. Even then, buttons can be mended by the user, zips rarely can.**

1. If the bicycle were to be invented now, the car would appear _____.

- A) unsuitable for its purpose B) in advance of its time
- C) unnecessarily expensive D) too far for safety

2. The railway train and the radio are examples of things which _____.

- A) were not fully appreciated at the time of their invention

- B) are more suitable for use now than when they were invented
 - C) are neglected in favor of more recent invention
 - D) are less suited to their purpose than earlier invention
3. According to the author, buttons are preferable to zippers because they _____.
- A) are more convenient B) are more reliable
 - C) cost less to replace D) are more complete
4. What conclusion can be drawn from the article?
- A) Modern technology can't solve our problems.
 - B) Everything has two aspects, advantages and disadvantages.
 - C) We should change our usual way of thinking about inventions.
 - D) Technological innovations do not always mean more benefits.
5. What does the word "obsolete" mean?
- A) Outdated. B) Slow in movement.
 - C) Ridiculous. D) Awkward.

Passage Four

The convention of national accounting allocates services and output that does not come from the four goods-producing sectors: agriculture, mining, manufacturing, and construction. The service sector thus **embraces distributive services** such as wholesale and retail trade, communications, transportation, and public utilities. **Producer services** such as accounting, legal counsel, marketing, banking, architecture, engineering, and management consulting, **consumer services** such as restaurants, hotels and resorts, laundry and dry cleaning establishments; and **government services** such as education, health, the administration of justice, and national defense.

The United States economy in 1929 employed 45 percent of the working population in the production of goods; by 1977 that sector employed only 32 percent. Employment in the service sector therefore increased from 55 to 68 percent of the working population. Most of the

shift came in the three decades after the end of the Second World War. Between 1948 and 1977 employment in goods production declined by 12 percentage points; the decline in manufacturing employment accounted for two-thirds of the decline.

1. Which of the following can be classified as a goods-producing sector of the economy?

- A) Engineering. B) Accounting.
C) Mining. D) Cooking.

2. Into how many categories does the author divide the services sector of the economy?

- A) 12. B) 8. C) 6. D) 4.

3. What does the word “embrace” in line 4, paragraph 1 mean in the article?

- A) Hold tightly. B) Classify. C) Include. D) Employ.

4. According to the passage, what happened to employment in the goods-producing sectors of the economy between 1929 and 1977?

- A) It remained the same. B) It increased.
C) It fluctuated(起伏). D) It decreased.

5. Which of the following is not considered part of the service sector of the economy?

- A) A farm. B) A hospital. C) A bank. D) A school.

Warming-up Exercise Two

Passage One

I find it wholesome to be alone the greater part of the time, to be in company, even with the best, is soon wearisome and dissipating(浪费的, 消遣的), and I never found a companion so companionable as solitude.

We are for the most part more lonely when we go abroad than when we stay in our chambers, for solitude is not measured by the

space that intervenes between a man and his fellows.

The farmer, who can work alone all day without feeling lonely, but must recreate with others at night, wonder how the student can sit alone at night. He does not realize the student, though in the house, is actually at work in his field and chopping his wood as the farmer was in his.

Society is commonly too cheap: **We meet at very short intervals, not having had time to acquire any new value for each other.** We meet at meals three times a day and try to give each other a new taste of that musty old cheese that we have. **We live thick** and are in each other's way, and I think that we thus lose some respect for one another.

We have now agreed on a certain set of rules, called etiquette and politeness, to make this frequent meeting tolerable; certainly less frequency would suffice for all important and hearty communications between men.

It would be better if there were but one inhabitant to a square mile, as where I live, for as the value of a man is not in his skin, we need not touch him.

1. The author of this selection finds solitude _____.

- A) lonely
- B) wearisome
- C) healthy and comforting
- D) dissipating

2. A person can be more lonely among men than by himself at home because _____.

- A) loneliness is a state of mind
- B) solitude is not measured in miles
- C) loneliness is not the same as being alone
- D) All of the above.

3. Through the example of the farmer, the author implies that _____.

- A) loneliness is a necessity for men
- B) recreation with others is valueless

- C) loneliness is not equal to solitude
 - D) work is man's means of escape from loneliness
4. Frequent meetings prevent us from _____.
A) refreshing ourselves
B) appreciating the values of solitude
C) acquiring new values for each other
D) feeling lonely between meetings
5. What does the phrase "live thick" means?
A) Find new values in ourselves.
B) Increase the value of our friendships.
C) We are too intimate with each other.
D) Acquire respect for society.

Passage Two

The term "culture shock" has already begun to creep into the popular vocabulary. **Culture shock is** the effect that immersion in a strange culture has on the unprepared visitor. **Culture shock is** what happens when a traveler suddenly finds himself in a place where "yes" may mean "no", where a "fixed price" is negotiable. **It is what happens when the familiar psychological cues that help an individual to function in society are suddenly withdrawn and replaced by new ones that are strange or incomprehensible.**

The culture shock phenomenon accounts for much of the bewilderment, and frustration that plagues Americans in their dealings with other societies. Yet culture shock is relatively mild in comparison with the much more serious malady, future shock. **Future shock is the dizzying disorientation brought on by the premature arrival of the future. It may well be the most important disease of tomorrow.**

Take an individual out of his own culture and set him down suddenly in an environment sharply different from his own. He reacts to a different set of cues—**different conceptions of time, space, work,**

love, religion, sex and everything else. He is cut off from any hope of retreat to a more familiar social landscape, **and the dislocation he suffers is doubly severe.**

Now imagine not merely an individual but an entire society, an entire generation, including its weakest, least intelligent, and most irrational members, suddenly transported into the new world. **The result is mass disorientation, future shock on a grand scale.**

1. Culture shock occurs _____.
 - A) when one can conduct negotiations for fixed prices
 - B) where people express ideas and emotions contrary to what they really feel
 - C) when value standards are so different that one is unable to make his own judgement
 - D) when one loses all hope of returning to his hometown environment
2. In the author's opinion, "future shock" is _____.
 - A) the product of some future society
 - B) the effect of a new culture on an unprepared visitor
 - C) a term incomprehensible in the popular vocabulary
 - D) a kind of social malady in the fast changing society
3. "Culture shock" and "future shock" shares one common point. That is _____.
 - A) constant turmoil of the new culture itself
 - B) disorientation of the masses
 - C) constant and radical changes
 - D) bewilderment and frustration of the victims
4. What does the word "cues" mean?
 - A) Treatment for psychological patients.
 - B) Hints about how to behave and what to do.
 - C) Clues to the significance of changing values.
 - D) Circumstances that differ sharply from what one is used to.

5. This passage implies _____.

- A) the readers of today should prepare for possible dangers of tomorrow
- B) travelers should prepare for the unfamiliar environment
- C) psychologists should understand certain irrational behavior better
- D) people should predict more accurately what will happen to mankind

Passage Three

The skin is the body's largest and one of its most complex organs. Spread out flat it would cover approximately 18 square feet, every inch of which includes about a yard of blood vessels, four yards of nerves, a hundred sweat glands (腺) and more than three million cells, constantly dying and being replaced. We need this *elaborate* natural spacesuit to navigate the many dangers of life on planet Earth, **for without it not only would we be prey to deadly bacteria, but we would quickly die from the loss of body heat.**

A burn is a breach in this vital natural barrier. A first-degree burn (such as a bad sunburn) reddens the skin; although painful, it poses no threat to life. A second-degree burn, far more painful and far more serious, destroys the top layers of the skin and can lead to permanent scarring. If not treated properly, a second-degree burn can turn into a **third-degree one, most dangerous of all, in which all the layers of skin are destroyed and the skin cells can no longer replace themselves. Skin burned to the third degree is dead and useless tissue, a perfect breeding ground for bacteria and an immediate danger to life.** The American Burn Association defines a severely burned patient as anyone with second- and third-degree burns over 20 percent of the body, or even less among children, whose skin is very soft and vulnerable to danger.

1. According to the passage _____.

- A) children's skin can renew itself more readily

- B) a second-degree burn always turn into a third-degree one
 - C) third-degree burns are dangerous because the dead skin is prone to bacterial infection
 - D) a bad sunburn can kill people
2. The article states that _____.
 A) the skin is the body's most complex organ
 B) life on earth is very dangerous for human beings
 C) skin retains body heat
 D) a third-degree burn is not serious
3. What does the word "elaborate" mean in this article?
 A) Complex. B) Large. C) Superficial. D) Beautiful.
4. Which degree burn is most painful?
 A) First. B) Third. C) Second. D) Not mentioned.
5. We can infer from the passage that _____.
 A) the skin is made of complex organs
 B) the skin is full of blood vessels and nerves
 C) the skin is very sensitive
 D) the skin is full of bacteria

Passage Four

Since it was completed in 1889, Eiffel Tower has been attacked in every strange way. **Three years after its completion, a baker established the tradition by climbing non-stop 363 steps to the first platform, on stilts.** In 1937, a local sport writer bumped all the way in the opposite direction, on a bicycle. That record was smashed 35 years later by a stuntman who descended the stairs on a unicycle. Because it was there, squads of mountaineers have attempted to climb the iron framework; not until 1964 did four experienced climbers finally reach the top.

Not all the assaults ended well. In 1901 a **Hungarian tailor stepped off the tower in the first test of spring-loaded, batwing cape**