Readin



大学英语四级全方攻略 Strategies for CET-4

勤学苦练好, 方法得当更妙!

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大学英语四级全方攻略系列 季明雨总主编

大学英语四级全方攻略 阅读

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总序

21世纪是中国走向世界的世纪。社会对于大学生的英语水平和实际应用英语的能力都提出了更高的要求,是否获得国家大学英语四级考试的合格证书也已成了大多数用人单位对大学毕业生的基本要求之一。如何才能高分通过英语四级是每一个大学生必须要面对的问题。那么,怎样将那么多年在课堂上所学的英语知识进行系统而全面的整理,作好决战之前的准备呢?学生的需要就是我们的动力。为了满足广大同学复习备考的需要,我们开始了并不轻松的编写过程。经过 10 多位老师一年多的共同努力,这套大学英语四级全方攻略 丛书终于要问世了。 她凝聚了我们的心血——是我们多年从事大学英语教学的结果,她也负载着我们的期望——期望她能对英语学习者和应考者起到梳理知识和热身训练的作用。

如果我们将英语比作一座大厦,那么语法规则就像是构建这座大厦的框架,词汇则是砌成大厦的砖石,掌握了这两者,我们就掌握了进入大厦的途径,也有了基本的连词成句、连句成段的能力。我们的阅读理解就是对大厦的整体把握与欣赏,不仅理解其外表,即字面的含意,还要弄懂其内涵,即言外之意,这些语言技能是我们发展语言应用能力的基础。而听力和写作能力是应用能力的两个重要方面,是我们各种语言技能的综合反映。这一综合能力的获得和提高绝不是靠一朝一夕的功夫,靠学几本教科书就可以奏效的,它需要大量的、持之以恒的、听说读写全方位的实践和练习。学习者和考生切不可将考前辅导和摸拟练习视作灵丹妙药。那种一曝十寒、临考才突击的学习态度是不可取的。但不可否认,考前的综合性、针对性训练又的确能起到起跳前的助跑作用。这正是本丛书的编写目的。如果读者发现本丛书确能对他们通过英语四级考试助一臂之力,则可谓实现了我们的初衷了。

本丛书统一设计、分工编写,分为听力、阅读、词汇与语法以及英语写作四册,既可作辅导材料,又可作教材。丛书涵盖了教学大纲的基本要求,注意复习有关的语言基本知识,并较详细地介绍了应试技能。听力分册介绍的基本听力技能对提高听力很有帮助,所配的练习多样、全面;阅读分册的题型分析和解题技巧富有特色,所选的练习内容丰富、题材广泛;词汇与语法分册注重讲解重点难点,针对性强,有较高的参考价值;英语写作分册可以作为教材使用,书中的范文及其评析对学习者会有很大帮助。整套丛书体现了选材新颖、针对性强、结构合理、简洁实用的编写原则,并经过几次修改而成。编者们根据多年从事大学英语教学和英语四级考前辅导的经验,对学生中有共性的问题、教学中的薄弱环节、考试中的重点难点进行了归纳和整理,通过简明的讲解和有针对性的练习来帮助读者和考生复习巩固语言知识,提高语言能力和应试能力。

本丛书的编写获得了我校教务处的大力支持,并被列为"广东工业大学十五规划教

材基金支持项目"。本校英语界前辈刘达明先生对本书提出了很多宝贵的意见和建议, 暨南大学外国语学院副院长区炜光教授在百忙中审阅了全书,出版社的阮继女士为本书 的顺利出版也做了很多工作,在此一并表示谢意。囿于水平,书中不足之处在所难免。 我们诚挚地希望广大师生和读者提出批评和建议,以便本丛书在修订中不断改进和完善。

> 季明雨 2001年9月于广东工业大学

前 言

高等学校本科用的《大学英语教学大纲》(修订本)明确规定:"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。大学英语教学应帮助学生掌握良好的语言学习方法,打下扎实的语言基础,提高文化素养,以适应社会发展和经济建设的需要。"修订本的《大纲》仍然把"培养学生具有较强的阅读能力"放在第一位,这说明了阅读能力的培养始终是大学英语教学的主要任务。大学英语系列教材总主编董亚芬教授在《培养较强的阅读能力始终是我国大学英语教学的首要任务》一文中,对阅读提出了以下的观点:①阅读能力永远是绝大多数大学毕业生的第一需要;②阅读是语言输出的主要来源;③阅读能力是听、说、写、译的基础,也是毕业生继续深造的基石;④阅读能力是评定大学生文化素质的重要依据之一。《大纲》的明确规定及董亚芬教授的观点充分说明了阅读的重要性,不仅反映了语言学习的规律,也反映了学习的一般规律。事实上,阅读一直是我们获取信息、学习知识的重要途径。

在大学英语四级考试中,阅读的项目同样占有重要地位。阅读理解在考试项目中占分数比例最大、篇幅最长,如采用新题型英译汉或简答题,和阅读有关的得分就占了总分的 1/2。因此,有人说大学英语四级考试成绩的好坏在于阅读理解的成绩好坏,这是有道理的。

在大学英语的教学中,必须始终把阅读放在重要的位置,避免只重视语法结构及语言点的教学而忽视了阅读技能的培养和提高和只顾学好精读课而忽视快速阅读和泛读的倾向。我们应在教学和学习中,加强阅读的实践和训练,通过广泛阅读巩固所学的语法知识,扩大词汇量,增加背景知识,掌握各种阅读技能,这样我们才能不断提高自己的阅读理解能力和语言运用能力,达到《大纲》的要求,在四级考试中取得优异成绩。

编者 2001.9.1

目 录

第一章	努力掌握和运用好各种阅读技巧 ······	(1)
第二章	阅读理解题型分析及解题技巧 ······	(2)
2.1	主旨题	(2)
2.2	细节题	(7)
2.3	词汇题	(11)
2.4	推断题	(14)
2.5	翻译题	(17)
2.6	简答题	(20)
第三章	练习测试及参考答案	(23)
	One (
	Гwo (
	Γhree (
Test F	Four ((46)
Test F	Five ((54)
Test S	Six ((61)
Test S	Seven ((69)
Test E	Eight ((77)
Test N	Nine ((85)
Test 7	Ten ((93)
Test E	Eleven(1	(01)
Test 1	Twelve	09)
Test T	Thirteen ····· (1	17)
	Pourteen (1	
	李案	
主要参考	· 学文献····································	44)

第一章 努力掌握和运用好各种阅读技巧

阅读的目的和材料不同,所采用的阅读方法是不同的,阅读的速度也是不同的。为了有效地进行阅读,我们必须根据实际情况采用不同的方法,掌握并灵活地运用各种阅读技能。常见的阅读技巧有如下几种:

▲ 略读

略读指的是为了迅速了解文章的大意、掌握文章的主旨而进行的阅读。略读的重点放在文章的标题、各段首句、段尾句以及一些关键字句,如斜体词或划线词上面,而不需要把全文一句不漏地读完,逐字逐句地理解。略读的目的是通过迅速阅读、了解文章的中心思想,以利于进一步了解文章的有关内容。在考试时、解决主旨题一类问题可采用这种方法。

▲ 查读

查读,又称扫描法或浏览法,是为了查找文章所需的特定的信息或细节而进行的快速阅读。这种方法适用于解决细节题这一类问题,但必须注意在了解文章的主旨的前提下进行,因为文章中的事实和细节都是为说明主旨和大意服务的。

▲ 细读

细读或称研读(study reading),就是对文章的某些字句进行仔细的推敲,除了解它们字面上的意义外,还要了解这些字句与上下文之间的逻辑联系以及字里行间的言外之意,从而使我们领会它们的真正含义以及文章的隐含信息。这种方法适用于解决考试中的词汇题、句意题和推断题。

▲ 评读

评读就是通过阅读文章后对作者的观点、态度和写作目的、论点、论据以及文章的 风格、语言等进行评论,并据此作出相应的推论和判断。此种方法适用于解决考试中的 推断题。

在实际的阅读中,特别是在考试中,这几种技巧都不是单独地使用的,而是互相配合、灵活运用的。就四级考试中的阅读理解题来说,做题时一般都应先略读全文,掌握文章的主题,然后在了解主题的前提下去查找特定的信息,细读有关的字句和信息,最后对作者的观点和态度、目的、风格等作出评论,得出符合逻辑的推论。

第二章 阅读理解题型分析及解题技巧

在四级考试中,阅读理解题共有 20 题、占试卷总分的 40%、考试时间为 35 分钟、要求学生读完四篇短文,并在每篇短文后的每题四个选项中选出一个最佳答案。短文的题材内容广泛、包括人物传记、社会、文化、日常知识、科普知识等、体裁多为说明文和议论文、有时也有叙述文,主要考察学生阅读理解方面的能力、具体包括: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既能理解字面的意思、也能根据所读材料进行一定的判断和推论;④既能理解个别句子的意思,也能理解上下文的逻辑关系。

阅读理解部分的题目都是根据以上的考察内容而设计的、根据近来考试中出现的试题的内容和形式可以归纳为六类:①主旨题:②细节题;③词汇题;①推理题;⑤翻译题:⑥简答题。

下面我们分别对以上几种题型的特点进行分析、并结合实例对各种题型的解题技巧加以论述。

2.1 主旨题

主旨题主要是考查考生了解文章大意的能力,测试考生对某个段落或文章整体的中心思想能否正确理解,以及能否确定文章的标题、作者的态度、写作目的、文章的语气等。

主旨题的提问形式主要有:

- (1) The main idea / central idea of the passage is...
- (2) The main idea of the paragraph may be best expressed as...
- (3) The passage is mainly about / concerned with...
- (4) The passage mainly deals with / tells us...
- (5) The best title for this passage can be...
- (6) The title of the passage can be best replaced by...
- (7) The passage can be entitled...
- (8) What is the main subject / topic / theme of the passage?
- (9) With what topic is the passage mainly concerned?
- (10) Which of the following does this passage mainly discuss / talk about?
- (11) Which of the following expresses the main idea of the passage?
- (12) Which of the following can best summarize / sum up the main idea of this passage?
- (13) What conclusion can be drawn from this passage?

- (14) The author's purpose in writing this passage is...
- (15) It can be concluded from this passage that...

解答主旨题的关键在于找出段落的主题句,因为主题句概括了整个文章的主题思想。主题句的位置因文体不同而不同,但通常位于以下几个位置,我们分别举例加以论述。

(1) 在段首。

例 1

Few can deny the strange coincidences in the deaths of John F. Kennedy and Abraham Lincoln. For example, Kennedy was elected in 1960 while Lincoln assumed the Presidency in 1860. Both men were assassinated from behind, on a Friday, and in the presence of their wives. The two men were born exactly one hundred years apart, as were their assassins, Lee Harvey Oswald and John Wilkes Booth. Perhaps the strangest coincidence is that Kennedy's secretary, whose name was Lincoln, advised him not to go to Dallas where he was shot. Lincoln's secretary, whose name was Kennedy, advised him not to go to the Ford Theater where he met his death.

Which sentence best expresses the main idea?

- A) Few can deny the strange coincidences in the deaths of John F. Kennedy and Abraham Lincoln.
- B) Both men were assassinated from behind, on a Friday, and in the presence of their wives.
- C) The two men were born exactly one hundred years apart, as were their assassins, Lee Harvey Oswald and John Wilkes Booth.
- D) Lincoln's secretary, whose name was Kennedy, advised him not to go to the Ford Theater where he met his death.

读了这个段落,便可以确定段首句为该段的主题句,因为它概括了整段的大意,后面的一些句子是作者通过举例来说林肯和肯尼迪两人之死相类似的巧合之处,因此 A)为正确的答案,而 B), C), D) 只是说明"巧合"的某个方面的事实或细节,不能概括全段的内容。

例 2

The bow is the oldest projectile-throwing weapon man still uses, and for perhaps 30 000 years its form changed little: a bent stick and a string. When the English archer was the terror of Europe, his legendary longbow could send an arrow about 280 yards. The Turkish bow of the seventeenth century could achieve 600 to 800 yards. Today? The world record, achieved in 1970 on a California salt flat in dead-calm air, is one mile, 101 yards, one foot, eight inches.

Which sentence best expresses the main idea?

- A) An ancient weapon, the bow has survived the test of time.
- B) The English archer inspired the modern bow.
- C) California's low altitude is ideal for archery.

D) Over the years, the bow has undergone a drastic change.

很显然,该段第一句为主题句,因为它直接引出了文章的主旨,即弓是一种人类至今仍然使用的投射武器,大约经历了3万年,它的样子没有什么改变。后面的句子都是为这一主题服务,说明弓在射程的方面虽然有了很大的进步,但它的结构还是一只弯的枝条和一根弦。所以A)为正确答案,只是它用不同的词语来表达了段首主题句的意思,这是应值得考生注意的。选项当中往往用些同义词或近义词来表达文章中某个句子或某个词的意义,如有这样的选项,很可能就是我们要找的答案。选项B),C)文章未提及,选项D)与文章内容相悖。

(2) 在段末。

例 3

If you were planning to buy a television set, the following advertisement would certainly attract your attention: "Color TV, only \$79. Two-day sale. Hurry." However, when you go to the store ready to buy, you may discover that the advertised sets are sold out. But the salesman is quick to reassure you that he has another model, a more reliable set which is "just right for you." It costs \$359. This sales tactic is called "bait and switch." Buyers are baited with a sales offer, and then they are switched to another more costly item. Buying items on sale requires careful consideration of the merchandise and the reasons for the sale.

Which sentence best expresses the main idea?

- A) The customer must be on his guard when purchasing items on sale.
- B) Color television sets which sell for \$79.00 are sold out quickly.
- C) Many stores use the "bait and switch" technique to attract customers.
- D) Anyone planning to buy a television set should look for a sale.

这段文章讲的是某些广告如何吸引顾客去购买彩电,当顾客到了商店发现广告上的彩电已销售一空,于是商家便施展引诱的策略劝顾客买更高档的商品。文章最后一句作者点题告诫顾客买东西时要仔细考虑,以防上当。显然,段末句为该段的主题句,所以A)为正确答案。注意这里出题者用不同的词语来表达主题句的意思,顾客在购物时必须警惕与末句购物时需要仔细考虑商品及销售的原因意思基本上是一致的。其他几个选项与文章内容不相符。

(3) 在段中。

例 4

The Cherokee Indians, who considered themselves the "real people," established their villages along the streams and rivers of what are now the Carolinas, Georgia, Virginia, and Kentucky. The building methods used by the Cherokee people reveal a unique civilization. The walls of their houses were constructed with large, sturdy posts planted at three-foot intervals. Smaller posts were used to fill in the intervening spaces. The posts were held in place by twigs and long grasses interwoven to provide strength and protection. To insulate against the wind and cold, the woven walls were plastered with a mixture of grass and clay. This process also improved the appearance of the house and kept the posts from rotting.

Many historians feel that these building techniques place the Cherokee at the forefront of early American Indians.

Which sentence best expresses the main idea?

- A) The Cherokee Indians considered themselves superior.
- B) Most Indian tribes built permanent homes.
- C) The architectural skill of the Cherokee Indians represents an advanced civilization.
- D) Today's historians are impressed by such advanced building techniques.

这个文段的主题句不在段首,也不在段末,而是在文中。前面一句讲了彻罗基印第安人在现在的卡罗莱纳、乔治亚、弗吉尼亚以及肯塔基的河流和小溪沿岸建立了村落的细节,接着点出了段落的主题思想: 彻罗基人使用的建筑方法展示了独特的文明,跟着围绕他们建筑方法,从房子的墙、柱子构造到外型等细节加以陈述。文中的主题句把首句和后面所陈述的细节连接起来,起到承上启下的作用。文章最后讲到,许多历史学家认为,这些建筑技术使彻罗基人处于早期美洲印第安人的前茅,也是围绕 building method 这一主题,所以 C) 为正确答案,其他几个答案均与文章不符。

(4) 有的段落没有明显的主题句,但都包含了 implied main idea (隐含的中心思想),这就要求我们对文章的各个细节进行认真的分析,抓住文章的一些关键词语,然后归纳和总结出文章中心思想。

例 5

When work has accumulated to the point where you feel overwhelmed, you can take certain steps to expedite matters. First, list all the tasks that must be done and decide which requires immediate attention. Next, divide the work into separate piles so you can actually see them disappear as you work. You will avoid a feeling of depression if you can see concrete achievement. Last, assign each task a certain amount of time. If you are realistic and allow yourself a little extra time for each task, you will find that all the work will be done with time to spare and a sense of accomplishment will replace the anxiety you felt at first.

Which sentence best expresses the main idea?

- A) Quality work requires time and patience.
- B) The successful person relies upon good assistants.
- C) Discouragement and depression result from overwork.
- D) Organization saves time and energy.

该段没有一句能概括出全文的大意,因此我们必须对文章的各个细节进行分析,然后进行归纳和总结。文章大体上讲的是当工作堆积如山,令你感到不知所措时,你可采取某些步骤来加快事情的进展。首先,把所有该做的事列出来,决定哪项需要马上引起注意;其次,把工作分成若干小块,以便工作时你可以看到工作的完成;最后,给每项工作一定的时间,而且留有余地,这样你会发现全部工作完成还有多余的时间,并且一种成就感会取代你最初的焦虑感。根据对细节的分析,我们便可以归纳和总结出这样的大意:工作多不可怕,只要有组织有计划地进行便可省时省力。因此 D) 项就表达了此段的主题思想。而其他项与文章的内容均不相符,因为文中都没有提到那些细节。

例 6

Today, personal computers cost about as much as good stereo systems, putting them within reach of a substantial segment of the nation's consumers. These machines can play games with you, balance your checkbook, store your recipes or most-used telephone numbers, control your lights and appliances, and manage your family's energy and fuel consumption efficiently. Systems already developed will permit one home computer to be linked with another by telephone, thereby creating personal computer networks.

What is the main idea of passage?

- A) Personal computers cost about as must as good stereo systems.
- B) Personal computers can play games with you, do things for you.
- C) There are advantages to owing personal computers.
- D) Home computers may create personal computers networks.

这篇文章的主题显然是 personal computers,但没有哪句话能概括出全文的中心思想,因此,我们必须对围绕 personal computers 的每个细节加以分析,然后归纳总结出文章的 implied main idea(隐含的中心思想)。文章第一句讲到 personal computer 的价钱与好的立体声收音机的价钱差不多,在大多数的消费者购买能力之内,说明其价钱便宜;第二句讲到 personal computers 的多种用途。第三句讲到 personal computers 还可以互相联网,因此产生个人电脑的网络。所有这些细节都说明了 personal computers 具有很多优越性,因此段落的 implied main idea 可以概括为 C) There are advantages to owing personal computers. 其他几个选择只是讲到了 personal computers 的某些方面的好处,不能概括全文的大意。

(5) 有的文章有两个主题句,分别在段首和段末,形成首尾呼应。 例 7

A competent translator should combine his translation with researches into the background of the author, his life and thought, and especially his views on art. Here, I am inclined to divide translators of literary works into two categories namely occasional ones and those "in trenches" who devote themselves to one or two particular foreign authors. The former, the guerrilla kind, translates whatever appeals to him. The latter translates systematically, concentrating on the works of one or two authors as completely as possible, such as Pan Jia Xun's translation of the plays of Ibsen, Fu Lei's translation of the works of Balzac and Ru Lung's translation of Chekov. I have great admiration for such translators who devote their whole life to the translation of one particular writer. Such translators often combine their translation with research.

段首句讲到:一个合格的翻译应当把他的翻译和对作者的背景、生平,特别是其艺术观点的研究结合起来。段末又再次归纳这个论点:这样的翻译常常把他们翻译与研究结合起来。这样形成首尾呼应,使得主题思想更加明确。

(6)由两个以上段落组成的文章主题句的位置通常在首段或末段,有时在第二段或 第三段的段首;如不在这些位置,我们必须把各段的共同的主题加以归纳,得出全文的 主旨,或通过各段之间的从属关系来确定哪一个能代表全文的主题思想。这就需要我们 认真加以分析,做题时应加以注意。

2.2 细节题

细节题主要考察考生对阐述主旨的事实和细节是否了解,因为阅读一篇文章除了首 先抓住它的主旨和大意以外,弄清文章的一些重要事实和细节,对于我们进一步领会全 文和确定文章的中心思想也是很重要的。

这类题常见的提问形式有:

- (1) What causes...?
- (2) According to the passage, when / where / what / who / how / why...?
- (3) What time does the writer think is...?
- (4) The author mentions that...
- (5) The author says... because...
- (6) According to the passage, which of the following statements is true?
- (7) According to the passage, which of the following best describes...?
- (8) According to the passage, all of the following are true EXCEPT...?
- (9) Which of the following is not true?
- (10) Which of the following is mentioned / not mentioned in connection with...?
- (11) What can be said about...?
- (12) What does the author pay the least attention to?
- (13) The passage states...
- (14) It is important / necessary that...
- (15) Obviously, the writer states that...

细节题在阅读理解题中占的比例相当大,涉及的内容也很广,例如时间、地点、人物、数字、原因、结果、文章结构等。在解答细节题时,我们首先应略读全文,了解文章的主旨和大意,然后根据问题的要求在原文中逐一查找、对照,排除与文章内容不符的选项,最后确定正确的答案;切不可脱离原文的信息和事实,凭主观想象来做题。

例 8

Americans smoke six thousands million cigarettes every year (1970 figures). This is roughly the equivalent of 4 195 cigarettes a year for every person in the country of 18 years of age or more. It is estimated that 51% of American men smoke, compared with 34% of American women.

Since 1939, numerous scientific studies have been conducted to determine whether smoking is a health hazard. The trend of the evidence has been consistent and indicates that there is a serious health risk. Research teams have conducted studies that show beyond all reasonable doubt that tobacco smoking, particularly cigarette smoking, is associated with a shortened life expectancy.

Cigarette smoking is believed by most research workers in this field to be an important factor in the development of cancer of the lungs and cancer of the throat. Male cigarette smokers have a higher death rate from heart disease than non-smoking males. Female smokers are thought to be less affected because they do not breathe in the smoke so deeply. The majority of physicians and researchers consider these relationships proved to their satisfaction and say, "Give up smoking! If you don't smoke, don't start!"

It might be helpful to look at what tobacco smoking actually does to the human body. Smoke is a mixture of gases, vaporized chemicals, minute particles of ash, and other solids. There is also nicotine, which is a powerful poison, and black tar. As the smoke is breathed in, all these components form deposits on the membranes of the lungs. One point of concentration of deposits is where the air tube divides. Most lung cancer begins at this point.

Smoking also affects the heart and blood vessels. It is known to be related to Beurger's disease, a narrowing of the small veins in the hands and feet that can cause great pain. Smokers also die much more often from heart disease.

While all tobacco-smoking affects life expectancy and health, cigarette smoking appears to have a much greater effect than cigar or pipe smoking. However, nicotine consumption is not diminished by the latter forms, and current research indicates a causal relationship between all forms of smoking and cancer of the mouth and throat. Filters and low tar tobacco are claimed to make smoking to some extent safer, but they can only marginally reduce, not eliminate the hazards.

- 1. Which of the following statements is NOT true according to the information given in the passage?
 - A) Tobacco smoking can cause life-shortening diseases.
 - B) There are twice as many men smokers as women smokers in the U.S. according to the 1970 figures.
 - C) Filters can only decrease rather than eliminate the harm to the human body.
 - D) In the smoke there is nicotine, which is an important factor in the development of cancer of some organs.
- 2. The statement "be associated with a shortened life expectancy" in the second paragraph signifies _____.
 - A) "cause a life expectancy to shorten".
 - B) "be caused by a shortened life expectancy".
 - C) "will change with the shortened life expectancy".
 - D) "will cause from the shortened life expectancy".
- 3. Female smokers are probably less affected by heart disease because _____
 - A) cigarettes women smoke are treated in a special way
 - B) tissue of their heart can get rid of the poisonous elements
 - C) they inhale the smoke less deeply

- D) they, in most cases, pretend to be smokers
- 4. Tobacco smoke is a mixture
 - A) of two poisonous elements
 - B) of various poisonous substances
 - C) of some irritant gases
 - D) of carbon dioxide and water vapour
- 5. Harmfulness from all forms of smoking to the human body may be arranged in severity sequence as follows .
 - A) Cigarette smoking is put first, and next comes cigar or pipe smoking.
 - B) No.1 killer is cigar smoking, and it's followed by cigarette or pipe smoking.
 - C) Cigar or pipe smoking has nearly no effect on the human body in contrast with cigarette smoking.
 - D) All forms of smoking are similarly in effect harmful to the human body.

五个问题中除第一题为是非判断题外,其余四个问题都属于细节题。

- 第二题:与缩短寿命有关。A)表明"会缩短寿命",其他几个答案显然不符合逻辑。此题关键在对"life expectancy"的理解,查读第二段的内容不难理解。
- 第三题: 查读第三段第三句 "Female smokers are thought to be less affected because they do not breathe in the smoke so deeply." 就可知道,这里应该注意的是,出题者换用"inhale"来表达"breathe in"的意思,所以答案为 C)。

第四题:只要查读第四段的第二、三句便可找出答案 B)。

第五题:查读最后一段第一句,就可知 A)是正确答案:按危害严重顺序排列,吸 香烟危害排在首位。

例 9

Pronouncing a language is a skill. Every normal person is an expert in the skill of pronouncing his own language; but few people are even moderately proficient at pronouncing foreign languages. Now there are many reasons for this, some obvious, some perhaps not so obvious. But I suggest that the fundamental reason why people in general do not speak foreign languages very much better than they do is that they fail to grasp the true nature of the problem of learning to pronounce, and consequently never set about tackling it in the right way. Far too many people fail to realize that pronouncing a foreign language is a skill—one that needs careful training of a special kind, and one that cannot be acquired by just leaving it to take care of itself. I think even teachers of language, while recognizing the importance of a good accent, tend to neglect, in their practical teaching, the branch of study concerned with speaking the language. So the first point I want to make is that English pronunciation must be taught: the teacher should be prepared to devote some of the lesson time to this, and by his whole attitude to the subject should get the student to feel that here is a matter worthy of receiving his close attention. So there should be occasions when other aspects of English,

such as grammar or spelling, are allowed for the moment to take the second place.

Apart from this question of the time given to pronunciation, there are two other requirements for the teacher: the first, knowledge; the second, technique.

It is important that the teacher should be in possession of the necessary information. This can generally be obtained from books. It is possible to get from books some idea of the mechanics of speech, and of what we call general phonetic theory. It is also possible in this way to get a clear mental picture of the relationship between the sounds of different languages, between the speech habits of English people and those, say, of your students. Unless the teacher has such a picture, any comments he may make on his students' pronunciation are unlikely to be of much use, and lesson time spent on pronunciation may well be wasted.

But it does not follow that you can teach pronunciation successfully as soon as you have read the necessary books. It depends after that what use you make of your knowledge, and this is a matter of technique.

Now the first and most important part of a language teacher's technique is his own performance, his ability to demonstrate the spoken language, in every detail of articulations as well as in fluent speaking, so that the student's latent capacity for imitation is given the fullest scopes and encouragement. The teacher, then, should be as perfect a model in this respect as he can make himself. And to supplement his own performance, however satisfactory this may be, the modern teacher has at his disposal recordings and radio to supply the authentic voices of native speakers, or, if the teacher happens to be a native speaker himself, or speaks just like one, then to vary the method of presenting the language material.

However, the process of demonstrating pronunciation, whether by personal example or by mechanical means, is only the beginning of teaching pronunciation. The technique of teaching the individual sounds also needs to be considered.

1. The writer argues that going about the problem of pronunciation in the wrong way is

A) an obvious cause of not grasping the problem correctly

B) a fundamental consequence of not speaking well

C) a consequence of not grasping the problem correctly

D) not an obvious cause of speaking poorly

^{2.} What is it that teachers are said to be inclined to forget?

A) The practical teaching of languages.

B) The importance of a good accent.

C) The principles of phonetic theory.

D) The teaching of pronunciation in the classroom.

^{3.} How might the teacher find himself wasting lesson time?

A) By spending lesson time on pronunciation.