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大学英语四级 分类阅读 **160** 篇

刘学云 姜保华 编著

上海交通大学出版社

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前 言

《大学英语四级分类阅读 160 篇》是根据《大学英语教学大纲》和《最新大学英语四级考试大纲》，参考改革后的大学英语四级考试新题型样卷精心编写的，其目的在于帮助学生迅速提高阅读能力，达到规定要求，顺利通过大学英语四级及其他相应的考试。

本书是作者多年教学和辅导经验以及对学生考后反馈信息的结晶，它具有很强的针对性和实用性。它包括了最新四级考试的所有考点和重点，并严格按照改革后四级考试的最新阅读题型及考点的分布规律编写。真正做到了在题型、篇幅、难度和考点覆盖面等方面与改革后的样题保持一致。

该书由作者在美国和加拿大编著。书中文章取材新颖、广泛，集趣味性、知识性、实用性、可读性于一体，涵盖了四级考试中阅读理解的常考题材，有社会生活、名人轶事、风土人情、经济贸易、文化教育、政治法律、科普知识、天文地理、动物昆虫、IT 产业、风俗礼仪、历史故事、医疗保健、人与自然以及体育娱乐等各个方面。所选文章体裁多样，语言规范。从多方面、多角度和多层次给学生提供思想性、趣味性、实用性强的 33 个分类共 160 篇文章。

全书分两部分：第一部分为快速阅读 (Skimming and Scanning)，要求考生在 15 分钟内完成一篇 1200 词左右的文章和后面的 10 道题，前 7 题是判断正误，后 3 题是填空；第二部分为仔细阅读 (Reading in Depth)，它包括选词填空和多项选择两部分。选词填空部分要求考生从给出的 15 个被选词中选出 10 个，填入一篇 220 词左右的短文的 10 个空格中，使文章意思通顺，表达正确；多项选择部分由 360 和 320 词左右的短文组成，每篇后有 5 道多项选择题，要求考生在 25 分钟内完成一篇填空阅读和两篇多项选择阅读。测试题目分布合理：文章主旨、内

容细节、辨析词义、作者态度和文章笔调各占一定比例。读者可根据新题型规定的每篇字数,从第一和第二部分任意挑选四篇文章,组成一套改革后的四级考试阅读理解题,按照考试规定的时间进行自测。每部分前分别有解题技巧说明。书的最后附两套模拟试题及答案。

本书供具有一定英语水平为提高阅读能力和参加大学英语四级考试的考生使用,同时对报考研究生,参加托福、雅思和英语水平考试的读者也大有裨益。

由于作者才疏学浅。书中纰漏在所难免,尚希读者不吝指正。

编者

2006年5月

目 录

Part I Skimming and Scanning (快速阅读)

Skills for Comprehension (解题技巧)	1
Tracing Origins (追根溯源)	2
Tastes of Life (人生百味)	13
Education of Children (少儿教育)	28
Body and Mind (身心相系)	39
Natural Exploration (自然探索)	51
Economy and Business (经济贸易)	70
Popular Science (科普知识)	86
News and Newspapers (新闻报刊)	105

Part II Reading in Depth (仔细阅读)

Section A Filling in the Blanks (选词填空)	119
Skills for Comprehension (解题技巧)	119
Celebrity Anecdotes (名人轶事)	120
Animal World (动物世界)	124
Life Topics (生活花絮)	128
Social Events (社会聚焦)	132
Educational Forum (教育论坛)	136
Cultural Life (文化生活)	140
Technology Fair (科技博览)	143
Section B Multiple Choice (多项选择)	146
Skills for Comprehension (解题技巧)	146
Man of the Times (风云人物)	147

Successful Careers (精彩生涯)	154
Path to Innovation (革新之路)	160
Historical Stories (史海钩沉)	166
Animal Fairyland (动物乐园)	172
Birds and Insects (鸟类昆虫)	177
Politics and Law (政法档案)	182
Philosophy of Life (人生哲学)	188
Commerce and Finance (商业财经)	194
Information Technology (IT) (信息技术)	200
Folk Belief (民间信仰)	207
Custom and Rites (风俗礼仪)	212
Cultural Origins (文化渊源)	217
Educational Perspectives (教育视点)	224
Health Care (医疗保健)	230
Medical Research (医学研究)	235
The Universe (日月星光)	241
Man and Nature (人与自然)	247

Part III Simulated Tests (模拟试题)

Test 1	254
Test 2	261

Part IV Answer Key (答案)

Part I	269
Part II	274
Part III	277

Part I Skimming and Scanning (快速阅读)

Skills for Comprehension (解题技巧)

尽管改革后的新四级阅读理解考试的题型更多样化,更灵活,对考生提出了更高的要求,但阅读理解考查的宗旨无非是考查考生的阅读速度和准确性。

改革后的新四级阅读理解考试主要考查考生以下几方面的能力:

- (1) 正确理解和把握所读文章的中心思想。
- (2) 了解与阐述中心思想有关的事实和细节。
- (3) 根据上下文判断单词和短语的具体含义。
- (4) 正确领会上下文的逻辑关系、作者的思路,根据所读材料进行合理的推理和判断,得出正确结论。
- (5) 正确领悟作者的立场、态度和观点。
- (6) 准确推断出文章的出处、作者的职业和文章笔调等。

以上测试方向的比例大致如下:主旨题约占 25%,与中心思想有关的事实和细节题约占 50%,词汇、作者的态度和观点以及文章的出处等题约占 25%。

快速阅读(Skimming and Scanning)顾名思义,Skimming 是“浏览”、“略读”或“粗读”的意思,Scanning 是“查读”或“寻读”的意思。这一题型要求考生在 15 分钟内完成一篇 1200 词左右的文章和后面的 10 道题,前 7 题是判断正误,后 3 题是填空,答案基本上都是原文中出现的原词。这就意味着考生必须在短时间内,快速阅读,准确理解全文,获取信息,并做完后面的测试题。这就要求考生做题时既要快,又要准确。

这部分的解题思路如下:

(1) 速读文章之前,要先浏览后面的 10 个题目,要在尽可能短的时间内获得将要阅读的文章的中心思想,正确理解题目所表达的含义,标出关键词,做到对所查找的内容心中有数。

(2) 带着问题去浏览和查找问题的答案。这要求考生要有良好的阅读习惯,不是一个词一个词地去读,要按意群或词组扫读,并划出文章中含有重要信息的单词、短语和句子,以便在解题时查找所需信息。同时,还要掌握文章的中心思想和文章的结构。

(3) 在阅读中,要凭借自己的经验和语篇知识预测与考题相关内容可能在文中出现的位置,掠过或排除与考题无关的内容,以便提高跳读的速度和准确性。

(4) 根据考题中所要查找的信息或关键词,在文中找到相关内容后,有时可以很快地得到正确结论,但有时却难以找到现成的答案,或者看上去貌似现成答案很可能是错误的。因此,在百分之百的把握之前,要仔细阅读相关内容所在句子,有时须仔细阅读上下文,即前后句。

这种题型做起来并不难,但要求考生在平时必须注意培养自己浏览(略读)和查读(寻读)的良好习惯和能力。

值得考生注意的是:在做完快速阅读、选词填空和多项选择的考题后,都要用语法知识检查答案是否正确。答案中的单词、短语或句子都要符合时态、语态、主谓语一致和字母大小写等语法习惯。

Directions: *In this part, you will go over the passages quickly and answer the questions.*

For questions 1-7, mark

Y (for YES) if the statement agrees with the information given in the passage;

N (for NO) if the statement contradicts the information given in the passage;

NG (for NOT GIVEN) if the information is not given in the passage.

For questions 8-10, complete the sentences with the information given in the passage.

Tracing Origins (追根溯源)

Passage 1

Where Did the Food Come From?

In the modern world, transportation and the spread of products have made almost any foods and drinks available all over the world. Americans drink Russian vodka, and the Japanese eat American beef. But many foods that we eat today originally were eaten or grown in only one part of the world. The origins of various foods are interesting.

Tomatoes, for example, are originally from the Americas. Potatoes are also originally from the Americas. Both foods were first taken to Spain and spread from there to the rest of Europe and, eventually, the rest of the world. Both vegetables are so common all over the world now that it is difficult to imagine they were unknown outside of the Americas only five hundred years ago.

One food that is rapidly spreading throughout the modern world is the hamburger. The hamburger has many variations. The basic hamburger is, of course, made of chopped or ground beef that has been fried and put between two

halves of a round roll or bun. It may be eaten plain(普通的) or with a variety of additions. In modern fast-food shops, hamburgers are sold in what seem like hundreds of varieties. The cheeseburger, a hamburger fried with a slice of cheese on top, is a common variation. Hamburgers are also eaten with many different additions, including lettuce(生菜), tomato, mustard(芥末), ketchup(调味番茄酱), pickles(腌渍品), and onions.

As recently as twenty or thirty years ago, the hamburger was a basic food in the United States, Canada, and some European countries, but it was not eaten in many other countries. Now, energetic businesspeople are taking the hamburger to South America, Japan, the Middle East, and China.

Hamburgers have an interesting history. They were made at one time in the German city of Hamburg, but the custom of chopping meat was begun by the Tartars(鞑靼人) of Central Asia more than a thousand years ago. They chopped the meat of cows because the meat was tough, and they often ate the meat raw. Many centuries later, Russian Tartars carried the custom of eating chopped meat to Germany. Germans began to eat chopped meat also, and in the city of Hamburg, chopped meat was eaten both cooked and raw and became known as "Hamburg steak".

In the late nineteenth century, German immigrants to the United States brought the custom of eating chopped meat steak. By the early part of this century, Americans were eating hamburger steaks between slices of bread and were calling the sandwich a "hamburger". The sandwich quickly spread throughout the United States. In the 1930s and after, many small American restaurants advertised "the best hamburger in town," but it was large companies such as White Castle, McDonalds, Burger King, and Wendy's in the United States and Wimpy's in England that made the hamburger a standard kind of fast food all over the United States and, recently, the world. Hamburgers made by U. S. companies are now sold in Caracas(加拉加斯), Venezuela(委内瑞拉); Beijing, China; Tokyo, Japan; and Moscow, Russia.

Pasta(意大利面食) is an Italian word for a large group of food made from wheat flour, cut and formed into various shapes, and eaten after being boiled in water and, usually, combined with a sauce. Spaghetti(意大利式细面条), macaroni(通心面), and noodles are all forms of pasta, but pasta, especially in Italy, can have over five hundred shapes and sizes. One pasta-maker in New York claimed that there must be over a thousand forms of pasta. It is not clear where pasta originated. The usual explanation is that noodles were first made in China over three thousand years ago. When Marco Polo, the Italian traveler,

returned to Italy from China in the 1300s, he is said to have returned with the idea for making pasta. According to the story, the Italians took the Chinese idea and developed it into the many forms of pasta we have today.

Other historians, however, can show that the Italians were eating a kind of ravioli(馄饨), or a meat or vegetable filling inside a pasta shell, long before Marco Polo returned from China. So we really do not know if pasta was invented in China and carried to Italy or if it was invented in both places, and probably many more places also. The Chinese still make many kinds of noodle dishes. Italian pasta is famous, and Italian pasta dishes are eaten all over the world. In Afghanistan and Russia, there are people who eat a kind of ravioli called ashak, which has a vegetable filling inside a pasta shell.

Italians eat over sixty pounds of pasta per person every year. People in the United States eat only about seven or eight pounds per person. Pasta is good food. It is usually made only from wheat flour and water, although a special hard wheat is used for the wheat flour. Eggs are added to some kinds of noodles, and in other countries, noodles are made with rice, bean, and other kinds of flour. Pasta has a lot of carbohydrates(碳水化合物), and carbohydrates are now thought to be a very important ingredient(成分) in human nutrition. Pasta is also low in fat. Since pasta can be cooked and eaten in so many different ways, and because it is eaten in so many different countries, it must be called one of the basic foods of the world.

Sauces are used in cooking almost everywhere. In fact, the word sauce almost has no meaning in English because it is used in so many different ways. Sauces are cooked and added to food such as pasta. Sauces may also be uncooked, such as the white mayonnaise(蛋黄酱) that is used on many sandwiches. One simple sauce has become almost universal on dinner tables all over the world; that sauce is ketchup, or catsup(both spellings are common).

Actually, the word for ketchup entered the English language before the sauce that we know today did. The word ketchup is from a Chinese word something like ke-tsiap that was used to mean "a kind of sauce for food". But ke-tsiap did not have any tomatoes in it, and modern ketchup is made mostly of tomatoes.

British sailors liked the ketchup sauce they found in Asia and took the idea back home to England. During the 1700s, ketchup was a common sauce used all over England. It still did not contain tomatoes, though. It was the Americans who first added tomatoes to the sauce. From 1800 to 1850, the recipe(配方) for ketchup changed until it became mostly a tomato sauce and also became a sauce

used in almost every American kitchen. Ketchup spread from the United States to many other parts of the world, completing a journey begun many centuries earlier in China.

Types of food, just like ideas and manufactured goods, often begin in one place and spread, often with many changes in form, from one place to another. It is difficult to imagine a world without tomatoes, but it was not long ago that most of the world did not know about this vegetable. Maybe in a few more centuries the hamburger will be as universal as the tomato.

1. Now people can eat almost any foods and drinks available all over the world.
2. Chinese ke-tsiap and modern ketchup are very different.
3. Hamburgers are all high in protein and fats.
4. The hamburger became a basic food in the United States and Europe recently.
5. Spaghetti, macaroni, and noodles are the only forms of pasta in Italy.
6. Pasta was definitely invented in both China and Italy.
7. Ketchup contains a lot of vitamin C.
8. There are over _____ of pasta in Italy.
9. People outside of the Americas didn't know tomatoes and potatoes _____.
10. White Castle, McDonalds, Burger King, and Wendy's made the hamburger _____ of fast food.

Passage 2

Styles of Marriage

All human beings are born into families, and families begin with the joining together of a man and a woman in marriage. All societies have their own form of marriage. The ideas that we have about marriage are part of our cultural background; they are part of our basic beliefs about right and wrong. As we study marriage, we find that different cultures have solved the problem of finding a spouse in different ways. Finding a marriage partner has never been easy for people, no matter when or where they have lived.

In traditional Chinese culture, marriage decisions were made by parents for their children. Parents who wanted to find a spouse for their son or daughter asked a match-maker (婚姻介绍人) to find someone with the right characteristics, including age and educational background. According to the Chinese way of thinking, it would be a serious mistake to allow two young people to follow their romantic feelings and choose their own partners. The all-important decision of marriage was made by older family members, who understood that the goal of marriage was to produce healthy sons. In traditional Chinese society, sons were important because they would take positions of leadership in the family and keep the family name alive.

As part of the cultural background, beliefs about marriage can be as different as the cultures of the world. While the traditional Chinese did not believe that young people should be free to choose their own marriage partners, the Hopi, a native people of North America, had a very different idea about freedom. The Hopi allowed boys to leave their parents' home at the age of thirteen to live in a kiva(大地穴——美国西部和墨西哥等地印第安人用作会堂的一种建筑), a special home for young males. Here they enjoyed the freedom to go out alone at night and secretly visit young girls. Most boys tried to leave the girl's home before daylight, but a girl's parents usually did not get angry about the night visits. They allowed the visits to continue if they thought the boy was someone who would make a good marriage partner. After a few months of receiving visits, most girls became pregnant(怀孕的). As a consequence, they could choose their favorite boy for a husband.

The Hopi(霍皮人——美国亚利桑那州东南部印第安村庄居民) culture is not the only one that allowed young people to visit each other at night. Some Bavarian(巴伐利亚的) people of southern Germany once had a "windowing" custom that took place when young women left their windows open at night so that young men could enter their bedrooms. When a woman became pregnant, the man usually asked her to marry him. But women who did not get pregnant after windowing were often unable to find a husband. This was because fertility(人口生产) was a very important requirement for women in this culture, and the windowing custom allowed them to prove their fertility to others in the community. Some people are surprised when they learn of this unique custom because they expect the people of southern Germany to follow the rules of the Catholic religion, which teach that it is wrong for unmarried women to become pregnant. But the windowing custom is only one example of the surprising views of marriage that are found around the world, even among people whose religious beliefs require more common marriage practices.

One view of marriage that surprises most of us today was held by John Noyes, a religious man who started the Oneida Community in the state of New York in 1831. He began it as an experiment of a different way of living. Noyes decided that group marriage was the best way for men and women to live together. In this form of marriage, men and women changed partners frequently. They were expected to love all members of the community equally. Children belonged to all members of the community, and all the adults worked hard to support themselves and shared everything they had. Members of the Oneida(奥奈达人——美国纽约州、威斯康星州的印第安人) Community lived

this lifestyle for a while without any serious problems; however, this way of life ended when John Noyes left the community in 1876. Without his leadership and unique way of thinking, members of the community quickly returned to the traditional marriage of one woman and one man.

A more famous example of a different style of marriage is found among the early Mormons (摩门教徒). The group's first leader, Joseph Smith, believed that a man should be allowed to have several wives. As the Mormon Church grew, many of the men followed Smith's teaching and married a number of wives. The Mormons believed that it was a woman's duty to marry at a young age and raise as many children as possible. For example, in 1854, one Mormon leader became a father nine times in one week when nine of his wives all had babies. Today the Mormon Church, which calls itself the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-Day Saints, teaches that marriage should be a partnership of one man and one woman who will be together not only during this life, but forever.

Today there are some men who might agree with the custom of allowing a man to have as many wives as he chooses. Many young lovers today dream of the freedom of the Hopi, and some of us wish that a matchmaker would help us find the perfect mate. Finding a spouse with whom we can commit to spending a lifetime has always been an important concern. Despite all the different ways of finding a marriage partner, one idea is the same throughout the world: Marriage is a basic and important part of human life.

1. In traditional Chinese culture, young people were capable of making the right marriage choices for themselves.
2. In Bavarian culture, getting pregnant shows that you will be a good wife.
3. The Hopi believe that a girl should be not free to choose her own husband.
4. In Oneida community it is better for society if people are limited to one marriage partner.
5. Today the Mormons believe that marriage is a partnership of one man and one woman who will be together forever.
6. Hopi parents stopped night visit if they thought a boy would not be a good husband.
7. Finding a spouse with whom we can commit to spending a lifetime is easy.
8. Different cultures have solved the problem of finding a spouse _____.
9. John Noyes thought that group marriage was the best way _____ to live together.
10. In traditional Chinese society, sons were important because they would keep _____.

Passage 3

Immigration to the United States

From the beginning of time, individuals and groups of people have moved from one place to another to live. Such migration has strongly affected the

social, economic, linguistic(语言上的), and ethnic(种族的) character of every country on earth. In historical times, the Western Hemisphere has been particularly affected by migration, especially immigration, the movement of people into the area.

At the time that European explorers first began visiting the Americas, in the fifteenth century, a large population of people was already living there. Some historians believe that these people came to the Americas from Asia many centuries earlier, but we do not know for sure. The original peoples of the Americas are often called Indians, because the early explorers thought they had reached India. The more common modern term for them, however, is Native American. In the fifteenth century the Native American population of North and South America is estimated to have been over 7 million people. A little over 1 million of them lived in North America. Unlike the population of immigrants, the number of Native Americans decreased rapidly from disease brought by the immigrants and from wars with the new settlers. The Native American population of the United States reached a low of about 220,000 by 1910, but it has increased since then, today numbering over a million again.

Native American people have contributed much to the culture and civilization of the Americas, but the modern countries of North America, in particular, also owe a great deal to the contributions made by the many groups of immigrants from all over the rest of the world.

Large numbers of people have immigrated to the United States since its beginning. In fact, since 1850, an average of about 500,000 people have come to the country every year. Since its beginning as a nation, four great waves of immigration to what is now the United States have taken place. The first wave began in the 1600s, the second in the 1820s, the third, and largest, in the 1880s, and the fourth in about 1965.

The Early Immigrants

During the 1600s and 1700s the majority of immigrants to what would become the United States came from Europe and Africa. At first, the largest number of Europeans were from England, but they were later followed by people from almost all of Europe, from south to north, and as far east as Russia and the Ukraine. The majority of the early immigrants was looking for better economic opportunities, but many also were coming for religious reasons or for purposes of avoiding jail. Many immigrants did not come by choice. The new U. S. government made it illegal to bring slaves to the United States in 1808, but by then almost 400,000 Africans had already been brought to the country by force.

1820 to 1870

The second large group of immigrants to the United States came during the fifty years from 1820 to 1870. Immigration reached a peak of almost half a million a year, and during the fifty years over 7 million new immigrants arrived, mostly from European countries. By far, the largest number of these 7 million were from Ireland; they had left Ireland to avoid a food shortage caused by a failure of the potato crop. Almost as numerous were immigrants from Germany, most of whom moved to the central part of the country and became farmers. During this period, many people also came to the United States from China. The nineteenth-century wave of immigration ended when the United States encountered economic difficulties and conditions improved in Europe. As a result, the number of immigrants dropped off somewhat.

1880 to 1930

This was the great period of immigration into the United States. Over 24 million people entered the country during this period, reaching a peak of over a million a year between 1900 and 1910. During these years, immigrants came from all over the world, with southern and eastern European countries such as Italy, Russia, Poland, and Greece predominating. Large numbers of immigrants also came from Japan, the Philippines, and Mexico.

Although there had been resistance to the high rate of immigration during the nineteenth century, only in the early twentieth century were several laws passed that restricted both the number of people who could come to the United States and where they could come from. One law limited the number of immigrants from Asian countries, whereas another required immigrants to be able to read and write. The most restrictive of these new laws was the Immigration Act of 1924, which limited annual immigration to about 150,000 people, mostly from northern and western Europe. This law, poor economic conditions in the United States, and World War II combined to limit immigration during the 1930s and 1940s. In fact, many people left the United States during this period.

1965 to the Present

In 1965 the government passed a new law that increased the number of immigrants from non-European countries, and from all countries, that were allowed into the United States. As a result of this law and world events such as the Vietnam War, immigration gradually increased during this period. The numbers of immigrants have still not yet reached the levels experienced during the nineteenth century, however.

At present, over half a million immigrants enter the United States every year. Most of them are from Mexico, the Philippines, Haiti, China, India, Vietnam, some Caribbean countries, Cuba, and South Korea.

1. The Native American population of the United States increased to a million by 1910.
2. The first of the four great waves of immigration to the United States started in 1965.
3. The new U. S. government made it illegal to bring slaves to the United States in 1808.
4. Between 1820 and 1870, 7 million immigrants came to the United States from China.
5. Over 24 million immigrants came between 1880 and 1930.
6. Since passage of the new law in 1965, the number of immigrants has reached the levels of the nineteenth century.
7. Most immigrants now are very educational.
8. Over 7 million _____ lived in North and South America in the fifteenth century.
9. The majority of immigrants during the 1600s and 1700s were from _____.
10. The Immigration Act of 1924 limited annual immigration to _____.

Passage 4

Norman Who

The name we all associate with the discovery of penicillin is Alexander Fleming. Two others shared the Nobel Prize—but there is one name, Norman Heatley whose very important involvement seems almost to be forgotten.

When asked to associate a name with penicillin, the first antibiotic (抗生素), most people will mention Alexander Fleming, whose fame in the mid-twentieth was so great that he was famous on every continent of Earth and on the moon as well, where a mouth of a volcano was named for him. A few scientists and Nobel Prize experts might also add Howard Florey, the Oxford University Professor of Pathology (病理学) and head of the laboratory at the Sir William Dunn School, where the antibiotic component in the mould (霉) *Penicillium notatum* was first isolated and turned into a curative drug, and his colleague the biochemist Ernst Chain. But except to his Oxford colleagues, Norman Heatley, whose practical genius was essential to making the drug, is not simply forgotten, he was never known.

Fleming's great contribution to penicillin is his chance observation in late 1928 of the mould's antibiotic power after a spore (孢子) had grown in a dish he had cultured as part of the research he was doing for the chapter of a book on bacteriology. Unfortunately, every attempt he made over the next four years to isolate the active component from the broth (肉汤) used to cultivate the mould was in vain; each time he tried to take it out, it vanished in the process. He was able to take the penicillin from the broth into ether (乙醚), but could not get it