

大学英语四级考试 全能突破

阅读理解精练精析

丁雪明 王月 等 编著



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内 容 提 要

本书精选了大学英语四级考试阅读真题及模拟题多篇,分为科普知识、社会生活、体育活动等几个方面进行详细讲解,能够切实帮助考生提高阅读水平和应试能力。

本书适用于准备参加大学英语四级考试的读者。

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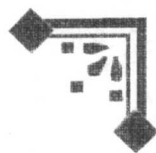
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第一章

科 普 知 识

Passage 1

Unless we spend money to spot and prevent asteroids (小行星) now, one might crash into Earth and destroy life as we know it, say some scientists.

Asteroids are bigger versions of the meteoroids (流星) that race across the night sky. Most orbit the sun far from Earth and don't threaten us. But there are also thousands whose orbits put them on a collision course with Earth.

Buy \$ 50 million worth of new telescopes right now. Then spend \$ 10 million a year for the next 25 years to locate most of the space rocks. By the time we spot a fatal one, the scientists say, we'll have a way to change its course.

Some scientists favor pushing asteroids off course with nuclear weapons. But the cost wouldn't be cheap.

Is it worth it? Two things experts consider when judging any risk are: 1) How likely the event is; and 2) How bad the consequences if the event occurs. Experts think an asteroid big enough to destroy lots of life might strike Earth once every 500, 000 years. Sounds pretty rare—but if one did fall, it would be the end of the world. "If we don't take care of these big asteroids, they'll take care of us," says one scientist. "It's that simple."

The cure, though, might be worse than the disease. Do we really want fleets of nuclear weapons sitting around on Earth? "The world has less to fear from doomsday (毁灭性的) rocks than from a great nuclear fleet set against them," said a New York Times article.

1. What does the passage say about asteroids and meteoroids?

[A] They are heavenly bodies different in composition.

[B] They are heavenly bodies similar in nature.

- 004

1.

[题目分析] 细节题。文章对小行星和流星有什么说法?

[答案精解] B。由文中第二段第一句“Asteroids are bigger versions of the meteoroids that race across the night sky”，可知小行星与流星本质上一样，只是比流星大而已，因此答案为 B，而选项 A、C、D 文中都没有提及。bigger versions of 表明两者性质相同、体积不同。

2.

[题目分析] 科学家们在小行星与地球的碰撞是怎么说的?

[答案精解] A。依据文章第二段的相关内容“*But there are also thousands whose orbits put them on a collision course with Earth*”可见小行星与地球碰撞的危险是存在的。第五段中作者又说到“*Experts think an asteroid big enough to destroy lots of life might strike Earth once every 500,000 years. Sounds pretty rare—but if one did fall, it would be the end of the world*”可见专家认为，一颗能摧毁许多生命的小行星每 50 万年才有可能撞击地球一次。听起来可能性很小——但是一旦落下来，世界将走向末日。在本题的选项中，只有 A 项符合题意。

3.

[题目分析] 推理题。人们对用核武器来改变小行星运行轨迹的建议持什么样的观点?

[答案精解] B。依据文章最后一段的相关内容“*The cure, though, might be worse than the disease...The world has less to fear from doomsday rocks than from a great nuclear fleet set against them*”即核武器比小行星带来的后果也许更糟。“……大批对付小行星的核武器带给世人的恐惧要大于那些毁灭性的石头”。A 项说该方法看起来可行但不能解决问题，与文章不符；C 项说撞击不可能发生，与文章不符；D 项说需进一步研究，文章没有提及；可见 B 项最符合题意。

4.

[题目分析] 综合推断题。我们从这篇文章可以得出结论_____。

[答案精解] D。本文主要讲述了以下几个方面内容：什么是小行星；小行星可能撞击地球的时间及其后果；科学家提出的关于避免小行星撞击地球的方法；人们对解决小行星撞击地球方法的忧虑。A 项说如果用核武器使小行星偏离轨道，核武器会毁灭地球，文章并没有提及；B 项说在不久的将来小行星会撞击地球，与文中 50 万年出现一次碰撞

的说法矛盾；C项说小行星碰撞地球在我们这个时代不会发生，我们不用为此担心，与文章不符；D项说仍然要去寻找可行的解决办法，正是文章要表达的意思，因为从最后一段知道核武器不是最好的解决办法。

5.

[题目分析] 态度题。作者写这篇文章的态度是_____。

[答案精解] C。本篇文章多次借用科学家和杂志文章的讲述，表明作者没有在文章中表达自己的主观评论，而是引用多方观点进行比较评论，因此作者的语气应该是客观的，C项为正确答案。

Passage 2

In the 1960s, medical researchers Thomas Holmes and Richard Rahe developed a checklist of stressful events. They appreciated the tricky point that any major change can be stressful. Negative events like “serious illness of a family member” were high on the list, but so were some positive life-changing events, like marriage. When you take the Holmes-Rahe test you must remember that the score does not reflect how you deal with stress—it only shows how much you have to deal with. And we now know that the way you handle these events dramatically affects your chances of staying healthy.

By the early 1970s, hundreds of similar studies had followed Holmes and Rahe. And millions of Americans who work and live under stress worried over the reports. Somehow, the research got boiled down to a memorable message. Women’s magazines ran headlines like “Stress causes illness!” If you want to stay physically and mentally healthy, the articles said, avoid stressful events.

But such simplistic advice is impossible to follow. Even if stressful events are dangerous, many—like the death of a loved one—are impossible to avoid. Moreover, any warning to avoid all stressful events is a prescription (处方) for staying away from opportunities as well as trouble. Since any

change can be stressful, a person who wanted to be completely free of stress would never marry, have a child, take a new job or move.

The notion that all stress makes you sick also ignores a lot of what we know about people. It assumes we're all vulnerable (脆弱的) and passive in the face of adversity (逆境). But what about human initiative and creativity? Many come through periods of stress with more physical and mental vigor than they had before. We also know that a long time without change or challenge can lead to boredom, and physical and mental strain.

1. The result of Holmes-Rahe's medical research tells us _____.
[A] the way you handle major events may cause stress
[B] what should be done to avoid stress
[C] what kind of event would cause stress
[D] how to cope with sudden changes in life
2. The studies on stress in the early 1970's led to _____.
[A] widespread concern over its harmful effects
[B] great panic over the mental disorder it could cause
[C] an intensive research into stress-related illnesses
[D] popular avoidance of stressful jobs
3. The score of the Holmes-Rahe test shows _____.
[A] how much pressure you are under
[B] how positive events can change your life
[C] how stressful a major event can be
[D] how you can deal with life-changing events
4. Why is "such simplistic advice" (Line 1, Para. 3) impossible to follow?
[A] No one can stay on the same job for long.
[B] No prescription is effective in relieving stress.
[C] People have to get married someday.

[D] You could be missing opportunities as well.

5. According to the passage people who have experienced ups and downs may become ____.

[A] nervous when faced with difficulties

[B] physically and mentally strained

[C] more capable of coping with adversity

[D] indifferent toward what happens to them

1.

[题目分析] 细节题。Holmes-Rahe 的医疗研究结果告诉我们_____。

[答案精解] A。文章第一段说明两位研究人员列举了一个给人带来压力的事件一览表，他们意识到任何重大变化都能给人带来压力这一微妙之处，所以研究结果是 A 项所说的“我们应付大的事件的方式会带来压力”。

2.

[题目分析] 细节题。20 世纪 70 年代早期对压力的研究导致_____。

[答案精解] A。依据文章第二段第二句话“*And millions of Americans who work and live under stress worried over the reports*”，即在工作和生活压力之下的数百万美国人对这些研究报告非常担心，可知 20 世纪 70 年代早期对压力的研究导致了人们对压力的负面影响的普遍担忧，因此 A 为正确答案。

3.

[题目分析] 细节题。Holmes-Rahe 测试的分数显示_____。

[答案精解] A。答案可在第一段第四句“*...that the score does not reflect how you deal with stress—it only shows how much you have to deal with*”，即这个分数并不反映你如何应对压力，而只是显示你必须应付的压力的大小，因此 A 为正确答案。

4.

[题目分析] 推理题。为什么不能遵循第三段第一行的“过于简单化的建议”？

[答案精解] D。文章第三段指出：“这样过分简单化的忠告很不可取。

即使造成人们紧张的事件很危险，但有许多事情是无法避免的，像心爱的人去世。而且任何回避压力的忠告使你在远离麻烦的同时也失去了机会，因此 D 项为正确答案。选项 B 说的是没有有效的办法来缓解压力，文中没有提及。

5.

[题目分析] 推理题。根据本文，经历过波折的人会变得_____。

[答案精解] C。依据文章最后一段第四句 “Many come through periods of stress with more physical and mental vigor than they had before”，可见 A、B、D 三项均不正确，选项 C 为正确答案。

Passage 3

After the violent earthquake that shook Los Angeles in 1994, earthquake scientists had good news to report; The damage and death toll (死亡人数) could have been much worse.

More than 60 people died in this earthquake. By comparison, an earthquake of similar intensity that shook America in 1988 claimed 25, 000 victims;

Injuries and deaths were relatively less in Los Angeles because the quake occurred at 4 : 31 a. m. on a holiday, when traffic was light on the city's highways. In addition, changes made to the construction codes in Los Angeles during the last 20 years have strengthened the city's buildings and highways, making them more resistant to quakes.

Despite the good news, civil engineers aren't resting on their successes. Pinned to their drawing boards are blueprints (蓝图的) for improved quake-resistant buildings. The new designs should offer even greater security to cities where earthquakes often take place.

In the past, making structures quake-resistant meant firm yet flexible materials, such as steel and wood, that bend without breaking. Later, people tried to lift a building off its foundation, and insert rubber and steel be-

tween the building and its foundation to reduce the impact of ground vibrations. The most recent designs give buildings brains as well as concrete and steel supports, called smart buildings, the structures respond like living organisms to an earthquake's vibrations. When the ground shakes and the building tips forward, the computer would force the building to shift in the opposite direction.

The new smart structures could be very expensive to build. However, they would save many lives and would be less likely to be damaged during earthquakes.

1. One reason why the loss of lives in the Los Angeles earthquake was comparatively low is that _____.
[A] new computers had been installed in the buildings
[B] it occurred in the residential areas rather than on the highways
[C] large numbers of Los Angeles residents had gone for a holiday
[D] improvements had been made in the construction of buildings and highways
2. The function of the computer mentioned in the passage is to _____.
[A] counterbalance an earthquake's action on the building
[B] predict the coming of an earthquake with accuracy
[C] help strengthen the foundation of the building
[D] measure the impact of an earthquake's vibrations
3. The smart buildings discussed in the passage _____.
[A] would cause serious financial problems
[B] would be worthwhile though costly
[C] would increase the complexity of architectural design
[D] can reduce the ground vibrations caused by earthquakes
4. It can be inferred from the passage that in minimizing the damage caused by earthquakes attention should be focused on _____.

- [A] the increasing use of rubber and steel in capital construction
- [B] the development of flexible building materials
- [C] the reduction of the impact of ground vibrations
- [D] early forecasts of earthquakes

5. The author's main purpose in writing the passage is to ____.

- [A] compare the consequences of the earthquakes that occurred in the U. S.
- [B] encourage civil engineers to make more extensive use of computers
- [C] outline the history of the development of quake-resistant building materials
- [D] report new developments in constructing quake-resistant building

1.

[题目分析] 事实辨认题。洛杉矶地震死亡率较低的一个原因是_____。

[答案精解] D。文章第三段指出：In addition, changes made to the construction codes in Los Angeles during the last 20 years, 可见选项 D “建筑物和高速公路的建设已经得到改善” 是正确答案，选项 C 是对原文的曲解。

2.

[题目分析] 细节题。文中提到的计算机的功能在于_____。

[答案精解] A。文章第五段指出：“...the computer would force the building to shift in the opposite direction” 可以看出选项 A “平衡地震对大楼的作用力” 是正确答案。

3.

[题目分析] 事实辨认题。文中提到的智能建筑_____。

[答案精解] B。答案可从第五段第六段中找到，第五段讲智能建筑的功能，第六段讲对它的评价和意义，容易看出作者的观点是：虽然 expensive, 但是很有用，能够 save many lives, 因此选项 B 为正确答案。

4.

[题目分析] 推理题。从文中可以推断出，为了使地震带来的灾害最小化，应该重点关注_____。

[答案精解] C。文章第五段中讲到 in the past 和 later 两种情况下的方法，答案即在 later 中：Later, people...foundation to reduce the impact of ground vibrations。选项 C 只是用名词短语来复述文中不定式的内容。

5.

[题目分析] 推理题。作者写这篇文章的主要目的是_____。

[答案精解] D。作者回顾历史，过去地震造成的伤亡人数很大，后来采用新型的建筑材料可以减少损失，而更先进的技术则是把计算机应用到防震建筑中去，来减少地震的摇摆幅度，因此 D 项“报告防震建筑的新进展”为正确答案。

Passage 4

Even plants can run a fever, especially when they're under attack by insects or disease. But unlike humans, plants can have their temperature taken from 3,000 feet away—straight up. A decade ago, adapting the infra-red (红外线) scanning technology developed for military purposes and other satellites, physicist Stephen Paley came up with a quick way to take the temperature of crops to determine which ones are under stress. The goal was to let farmers precisely target pesticide (杀虫剂) spraying rather than rain poison on a whole field, which invariably includes plants that don't have pest (害虫) problems.

Even better, Paley's Remote Scanning Services Company could detect crop problems before they became visible to the eye. Mounted on a plane flown at 3,000 feet at night, an infrared scanner measured the heat emitted by crops. The data were transformed into a color-coded map showing where plants were running "fevers". Farmers could then spot-spray, using 50 to 70 percent less pesticide than they otherwise would.

The bad news is that Paley's company closed down in 1984, after only three years. Farmers resisted the new technology and long-term backers were hard to find. But with the renewed concern about pesticides on produce, and

refinements in infrared scanning, Paley hopes to get back into operation. Agriculture experts have no doubt the technology works. "This technique can be used on 75 percent of agricultural land in the United States," says George Oerther of Texas A&M. Ray Jackson, who recently retired from the Department of Agriculture, thinks remote infrared crop scanning could be adopted by the end of the decade. But only if Paley finds the financial backing which he failed to obtain 10 years ago.

1. Plants will emit an increased amount of heat when they are _____.
[A] sprayed with pesticides [B] facing an infrared scanner
[C] in poor physical condition [D] exposed to excessive sun rays
2. In order to apply pesticide spraying precisely, we can use infrared scanning to _____.
[A] estimate the damage to the crops
[B] draw a color-coded map
[C] measure the size of the affected area
[D] locate the problem area
3. Farmers can save a considerable amount of pesticide by _____.
[A] resorting to spot-spraying
[B] consulting infrared scanning experts
[C] transforming poisoned rain
[D] detecting crop problems at an early stage
4. The application of infrared scanning technology to agriculture met with some difficulties _____.
[A] the lack of official support
[B] its high cost
[C] the lack of financial
[D] its failure to help increase production