



张鑫友 英语专业应试系列

☆ 根据最新考试大纲编写

英语专业 过关阅读 100 篇

READING
COMPREHENSION

主编 张鑫友



4 级



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张鑫友英语专业应试系列

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主 编:张鑫友

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封面无“张鑫友英语系列”镭射标均为盗版。

写在前面的话

在大学英语专业四级试题中,阅读理解部分所占百分值较大,因而此部分解题准确率的高低,是直接决定专业四级能否通过的关键所在。

中国有句古语:“读书破万卷,下笔如有神。”多多阅读的重要性由此可见。在常年的试题及教学中我们发现,考生们面临的问题主要有:词汇量不足,缺乏阅读文章的技能,知识面有限,解题思路不明等。同时我们也发现,阅读能力的提高,不是一朝一夕的事,更不是随意翻阅就能解决的问题。提高速度与准确度,扩大视野,显然需要大量泛读。针对这一要求,我们根据教育部于2004年2月颁布的最新《高校英语专业四级考试大纲》,结合多年教学经验和学生中普遍存在的问题编写了此书,以帮助广大考生更有效率地提高自身的英语实力。本书的特点如下:

★题材新颖、选材广泛、体裁多样。本书所选文章囊括了100篇来自新近国外报刊书籍的文章,选材涉及到政治、文化、社会生活、科技及医学等方面。体裁包括记叙文、说明文、议论文和描写文四种。其中以说明文和议论文为主,以帮助考生提高其分析和解决问题的能力。

★解析详尽。本书中每篇文章均附有详尽的解析。由词汇双解、思路及大意、答案及详析三大部分组成。其中答案及详析又细分为答案及详析(解题思路)两栏,旨在使考生在每次阅读及解题后都能得到详细指导,并在此基础上得到启发,取得进步。

★层次分明。本书共分20个单元,每一单元包括5篇文章,由易到难分布,以便于考生循序渐进地进行练习备考。

本书是英语专业四级考试应试者之良师益友,同时也是广大英语爱好者及大专院校学生自学英语的首选参考书目,更是英语教学学者进行教学的好帮手。

张鑫友语言研究中心

英语专业应试系列

与英语专业教辅系列同为“张鑫友英语系列”最具代表性图书。此套图书紧贴专四专八考试大纲,以专业的优势深得广大学生信赖,尤其是专四五本单项训练,为备考的学生进行强化练习提供了莫大的指引和帮助,令他们受益匪浅!

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该系列图书紧紧围绕最新相关教材而编写,以其特有的品牌优势及文化内涵常年位居销售排行榜前列,此系列最大的特点是深入浅出、通俗易懂、内容丰富,包括词语点睛、每课一测、背景知识、课文注释、学习目标、习题全解等七大部分,全面帮助学生掌握课本知识。最新出版的《〈全新版大学英语综合教程〉学习指南》是根据李荫华等主编,外教社出版的《全新版大学英语综合教程》而编写;《〈新视野大学英语读写教程〉学习指南》是根据郑树棠等主编,外研社出版的《新视野大学英语读写教程》而编写;《〈当代大学英语〉学习指南》是根据 Neville Grant (英) 等主编,外研社与 LONGMAN 出版的《当代大学英语》而编写;《〈21 世纪大学英语读写教程〉学习指南》是根据余建中等主编,复旦大学出版社出版的《21 世纪大学英语读写教程》而编写;《〈大学英语〉(精读)学习指南》是根据董亚芬主编,外教社出版的《大学英语》(精读)而编写。

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目 录

Unit 1	1
Unit 2	23
Unit 3	44
Unit 4	63
Unit 5	83
Unit 6	104
Unit 7	127
Unit 8	148
Unit 9	169
Unit 10	190
Unit 11	209
Unit 12	231
Unit 13	251
Unit 14	273
Unit 15	293

Unit 16	319
Unit 17	343
Unit 18	365
Unit 19	385
Unit 20	406

Unit 1

READING COMPREHENSION

[25 MIN.]

In this section there are several reading passages followed by twenty questions or unfinished statements, each with four suggested answers marked A, B, C and D. Choose the one that you think is the best answer.

Mark your answers on your answer sheet.

TEXT A

Imagine a classroom where the instructors speak a foreign language and the students can't take notes, turn to a textbook, or ask any questions. Yet at the end of the final exam, one participant may face life in jail or even death. That's the task handed to American jurors, briefly thrown together to decide accused criminals' fate.

In "A Trial by Jury", Princeton history professor D. Graham Burnett offers a rare glimpse inside jury deliberations at a New York murder trial where he served as foreman last year. According to the prosecutor, the case seems clear-cut; a sexual encounter between two men went awry. The defendant stabbed his victim 26 times, but claims he acted in self-defense, killing a man who was attempting to rape him. Burnett opens with a graphic description of the crime. He then introduces the characters and walks readers through the 10-day trial. You hear the testimony of witnesses dressed in drag and find yourself put off by a growling prosecutor and the judge's indifference. Most of the drama, though, comes during four days and three nights of deliberations. Once retreated in the jury room, confusion reigns. Most jurors don't understand the charges or the meaning of self-defense.

Uninterested jurors seem more concerned about missing appointments. On the third day, one juror runs to a bathroom in tears after exchanging curses. By the final day, nearly everyone cries.

Though he's no more familiar with the law than the other jurors, who include a vacuum-cleaner repairman and a software developer, it's fitting that Burnett is a teacher. For us, he serves as a patient instructor, illustrating with his experience just what a remarkable and sometimes remarkably strange duty serving on a jury can be.

For many citizens, jury duty is their first exposure to our justice system. Jurors discover first hand the gap between law and justice. They face two flawed versions of the same event, offered by witnesses they may not believe. As Burnett observes, "We expect much of this room, and we think about it less often than we probably should." We assume jurors will take their job seriously. We expect them to digest complicated definitions that leave lawyers confused.

But as Burnett quickly discovers, jurors receive little help. The judge offers them no guidance about how to conduct themselves and races through his delivery of the murder charges. Only within the past decade have we finally abandoned the misconception that jurors naturally reach the right decision without any assistance. Led by Arizona, states have instituted jury reforms as simple as letting jurors take notes or obtain written copies of their instructions. It's not clear whether these changes improve the quality of justice, but the reforms certainly ensure that jurors leave their tour of duty with better feelings about the experience. Unfortunately, such reforms hadn't come yet to New York at the time of this trial. Nonetheless, Burnett and his fellow jurors grope toward their own solution, ultimately reaching what he describes as an "avowedly imperfect" result.

1. The focal point of "A Trial by Jury" seems to be on _____.
 - A) the presentation of a series of measures aimed to reform the jury system
 - B) the description of the writer's experience on a typical jury
 - C) the reporting of a special lawsuit and the comment on it
 - D) the jury system can not do justice to the accused
2. The point the author intends to make by employing the analogy in the first paragraph is that _____.
 - A) students should never be taken by surprise
 - B) jurors are not qualified for reaching a verdict
 - C) jurors often make mistakes in their decision
 - D) the jury system can not do justice to the accused
3. The description of what happened inside the jury room seems to suggest that _____.
 - A) better-educated people should be selected as jurors
 - B) jurors should keep their heads cool and try not to be sentimental
 - C) there is much room for reaching an arbitrary and flawed verdict
 - D) the judge should have given the jurors clear instruction about what to do
4. The objective of the jury reforms is to _____.
 - A) improve of the quality of justice
 - B) give jurors reassuring feelings about the experience in court
 - C) help jurors to reach an avowedly perfect verdict
 - D) enable jurors to abandon some misconceptions about law and justice

TEXT B

The producers of instant-coffee found their product strongly resis-

ted in the market places despite their manifest advantages. Furthermore, the advertising expenditure for instant-coffee was far greater than that for regular coffee. Efforts were made to find the cause of the consumers' seemingly unreasonable resistance to the product. The reason given by most people was dislike for the taste. The producers suspected that there might be deeper reasons, however. This was confirmed by one of motivation research's classic studies, one often cited in the trade. Mason Haire, of the University of California, constructed two shopping lists that were identical except for one item. There were six items common to both lists: hamburger, carrots, baking powder, bread, canned peaches and potatoes, with the brands of amounts specified. The seventh item, in the fifth place on both lists, read "1 lb. Maxwell House coffee" on one list and "Nescafe instant-coffee" on the other. One list was given to each person in a group of fifty women, and the other list to those in another group of the same size. The women were asked to study their lists and then to describe, as far as they could, the kind of woman ("personality and character") who would draw up that shopping list. Nearly half of those who had received the list including instant-coffee described a housewife who was lazy and a poor planner. On the other hand, only one woman in the other group described the housewife, who had included regular coffee on her list, as lazy; only six of that group suggested that she was a poor planner. Eight women felt that the instant-coffee user was probably not a good wife! No one in the other group drew such a conclusion about the housewife who intended to buy regular coffee.

5. The fact that producers found resistance to their product despite the fact that they spent more advertising money on instant than regular coffee shows that _____.

- A) advertising does not assure favorable sales results
B) companies spent more money on advertising than they should
C) people pay little attention to advertising
D) the more one advertises the better the sales picture
6. This investigation indicated that _____.
- A) 50 per cent of housewives are lazy
B) housewives who use instant-coffee are lazy
C) many women believe that wives who use instant-coffee are lazy
D) wives who use regular coffee are good planners
7. It is implied but not stated that _____.
- A) despite its advantages, most people dislike instant coffee because of its taste
B) the advertising expenditure for instant-coffee was greater than that for regular coffee
C) very often we do not know the real reasons for doing things
D) taste is the principal factor in determining what we buy

TEXT C

It might be supposed that greater efficiency should be achieved if several people collaborate to solve a problem than if only one individual works on it. Such results are by no means invariable.

Although groups often may increase the motivation of their members to deal with problems, there is a counterbalancing need to contend with conflicts arising among members of a group and with efforts to give it coherent direction. Problem solving is facilitated by the presence of an effective leader who not only provides direction but permits the orderly, constructive expression of a variety of opinions; much of the leader's effort may be devoted to resolving differences. Success in problem solving also depends on the distribution of ability within a

group. Solutions simply may reflect the presence of an outstanding individual who might perform even better by himself.

Although groups may reach a greater number of correct solutions, or may require less time to discover an answer, their net man-hour efficiency is typically lower than that achieved by skilled individuals working alone.

A process called brainstorming has been offered as a method of facilitating the production of new solutions to problems. In brainstorming, a problem is presented to a group of people who then proceed to offer whatever they can think of, regardless of quality and with as few inhibitions as can be managed. Theoretically these unrestricted suggestions increase the probability that at least some superior solutions will emerge. Nevertheless, studies show that when individuals work alone under similar conditions, performance tends to proceed more efficiently than it does in groups.

Under special circumstances, however, a group may solve problems more effectively than does a reasonably competent individual. Group members may contribute different (and essential) resources to a solution that no individual can readily achieve alone; such pooling of information and skills can make group achievements superior in dealing with selected problems. Sometimes social demands may require group agreement on a single alternative, as in formulating national economic or military policies under democratic governments. When only one among several alternative solutions is correct, even if a group requires more time, it has a higher probability of identifying the right one than does an individual alone.

One difference between problem solving by a group and by an individual is the relative importance of covert or vicarious processes.

The group depends heavily on verbal communication, while the individual, in considerable degree, attacks the problem through implicit, subjective, silent activity.

8. According to this passage, a group _____.
- A) may require less time to find a solution to a problem than an individual
 - B) tends to spend more time to find a solution to a problem than an individual
 - C) rarely depends on verbal communication in problem solving
 - D) generally achieves a higher net man-hour efficiency in problem solving than does a skilled individual
9. Successful problem solving by a group primarily depends on _____.
- A) the motivation of its members
 - B) the pooling of information and skills
 - C) the constructive expression of various opinions
 - D) the presence of an effective leader
10. The author believes that a group _____.
- A) generally solves a problem more efficiently than an individual
 - B) cannot solve a problem so efficiently as an individual
 - C) doesn't necessarily solve a problem more efficiently than an individual
 - D) tends to solve a problem less efficiently than an individual
11. The proper title for this passage should be _____.
- A) Brainstorming
 - B) Thinking in Groups
 - C) Thinking Individually
 - D) Solving Problems Efficiently

TEXT D

In general, our society is becoming one of giant enterprises directed by a bureaucratic management in which man becomes a small, well-oiled cog in the machinery. The oiling is done with higher wages, well-ventilated factories and piped music, and by psychologists and "human-relations" experts: yet all this oiling does not alter the fact that man has become powerless, that he does not whole-heartedly participate in his work and that he is bored with it. In fact the blue-collar and the white-collar workers have become economic puppets who dance to the tune of automated machines and bureaucratic management.

The worker and employee are anxious, not only because they might find out of a job, they are anxious also because they are unable to acquire any real satisfaction or interest in life. They live and die without ever having confronted the fundamental realities of human existence as emotionally and intellectually independent and productive human beings.

Those higher up on the social ladder are no less anxious. Their lives are no less empty than those of their subordinates. They are even more insecure in some respects. They are in a highly competitive race. To be promoted or to fall behind is not a matter of salary but even more a matter of self-respect. When they apply for their first job, they are tested for intelligence as well as for the right mixture of submissiveness and independence, from that moment on they are tested again and again—by the psychologists, for whom testing is a big business, and by their superiors, who judge their behavior, sociability, capacity to get along, etc. This constant need to prove that one is as good as or better than one's fellow—competitor creates constant anxie-