

English Tests - 4 with Precise Explanations

大 学 英 语
级 考 试 精 解

张四友 廖 译 主编



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大学英语四级考试精解

College English Test-4

With Precise Explanations

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前 言

大学英语四级考试自 1987 年在全国大专院校举行以来历时五年，已届十次。随着形势的不断发展，全国高等院校大学英语教与学的水平有了长足的进展，各院校的统考通过率越来越高。为了配合广大英语教师加强学生的应试能力，增强学生的应试水平，提高四级统考通过率，中南财经大学、武汉钢铁学院、武汉工学院、武汉水运工程学院等高校组成编写组，编写了《大学英语四级考试精解》一书。

本书与同类模拟试题集不同。它既重试题精选，更重试题精解。旨在通过详而精的解题说明，使学生对每道试题答案（听力除外）的选择不仅知其然，且知其所以然，达到举一反三的效果，从而提高应试能力。

本书收入了近年来已公开的全真 CET-4 部分试题，并严格按照 1985 年国家教委颁布的《大学英语教学大纲》选题，因而难易适中，针对性强，具有可信度。

本书分为五大部分。Part I 和 Part II 包括精心选编的 10 套四级模拟试题和听力原文，并配有盒式录音带。Part III 精解，对每套试题中的 Reading Comprehension、Vocabulary and Structure 以及 Cloze 三大考试内容中的每道试题进行详而精的解题说明。Part IV 作文精解及范文，简要阐明了应付四级作文考试可能出现的各种题型的三大解题技巧，并附有各套作文题范文。Part V 为参考答案。

本书各套试题自成一体，使用便利。既便于学生自测自学，又利于教师课堂测试和讲解。可供大学英语四级考试强化训练之用，也可供报考硕士研究生，TOEFL 人员培训之用。

由于我们水平有限，兼以时间仓促，书中难免出现疏漏，甚至错误，衷心希望广大读者批评指正，更盼高校外语界专家、同行不吝赐教。

作者赠书

编 者

1992 年元月

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Test 1

Part I Listening Comprehension (20 minutes)

Section A

Directions: *In this section, you will hear 10 short conversations. At the end of each conversation, a question will be asked about what was said. The conversation and the question will be spoken only once. After each question there will be a pause. During the pause, you must read the four choices marked A), B), C) and D), and decide which is the best answer. Then mark the corresponding letter on the Answer Sheet with a single line through the centre.*

Example: You will hear:

You will read:

- A) At the office.
- B) In the waiting room.
- C) At the airport.
- D) In a restaurant.

From the conversation we know that the two were talking about some work they have to finish in the evening. This is most likely to have taken place at the office. Therefore, A) "At the office" is the best answer. You should choose answer (A) on the Answer Sheet and mark it with a single line through the centre.

Sample Answer (A) (B) (C) (D)

1. A) 3 hours. B) 4 hours. C) 5 hours. D) 6 hours.

2. A) Mrs Jones.

C) Mrs Johnson.

B) Dr Baker.

D) Mr Jones.

3. A) He has no tools.

A. He has no tools.

B) He can't afford it.

B. He can't afford it.

C) He wants to wait until next day.

D) He doesn't need one.

4. A) Tuesday and Thursday.

B) Tuesday and Saturday.

C) Saturday and Sunday.

D) Monday, Wednesday and Friday.

5. A) The wind stopped, but it's still raining.

B) The rain stopped.

C) It's still raining and the wind is blowing.

D) Both the rain and wind stopped.

6. A) He enjoys it.

B) He is indifferent toward it.

C) He hates it.

D) He minds all the overtime.

7. A) \$1.

B) \$2.

C) \$3.

D) \$4.

8. A) She is really an unlucky person.

B) She likes to tell sad stories.

C) What she said is not always true.

D) What she said is believable.

9. A) It's more direct. C) It's less expensive.
B) It's quicker. D) There's a traffic jam.
10. A) In bed. C) At the office.
B) In the hospital. D) At her mother's.

Section B

Directions: In this section, you will hear 3 short passages. At the end of each passage, you will hear some questions. Both the passage and the questions will be spoken only once. After you hear a question, you must choose the best answer from the four choices marked A), B), C) and D). Then mark the corresponding letter on the Answer Sheet with a single line through the centre.

Passage One

Questions 11 to 13 are based on the passage you have just heard.

11. A) The majority of Americans voted for it.
B) Large trucks were causing many accidents.
C) There was a big increase in highway deaths.
D) There was an acute shortage of fuel.
12. A) 75 percent. C) 55 percent.
B) 23 percent. D) 73 percent.
13. A) Trucks do not use much fuel.
B) Trucks run better at higher speeds.
C) Trucks have better engines.
D) Few trucks are involved in highway accidents.

Passage Two

Questions 14 to 16 are based on the passage you have just heard.

14. A) Every day. C) Twice a month.
B) Twice other day. D) Twice a year.
15. A) When it is between five and six years old.
B) When it is a few inches tall.
C) When it has some disease.
D) When it changes its leaves.
16. A) Three pounds. C) Twenty pounds.
B) Ten pounds. D) Twenty-five pounds.

Passage Three

Questions 17 to 20 are based on the passage you have just heard.

17. A) on the radio. C) at the supermarket.
B) from the manager. D) from their friends.
18. A) To meet the manager.
B) To get a free basket of goods.
C) To get a free basket.
D) To fill all her cupboards.
19. A) To shake hands with Mrs Edwards.
B) To carry her basket.
C) To give her some money.
D) To take away her shopping.
20. A) embarrassed. C) disappointed.

B) delighted.

D) proud.

Part II Reading Comprehension (35 minutes)

Directions: *There are 4 passages in this part. Each passage is followed by some questions or unfinished statements. For each of them there are four choices marked A), B), C) and D). You should decide on the best choice and mark the corresponding letter on the Answer Sheet with a single line through the centre.*

Questions 21 to 25 are based on the following passage:

Man has become master of the earth's surface. He is constantly probing into the earth's depths and into the atmosphere's upper reaches. Yet it is doubtful whether man, with all of his intelligence and vigor, holds his planetary seat with greater assurance than a vast tribe of small, many-legged animals that pass their lives at his feet—the spiders.

Spiders are among the marvels of science. They dwell at higher altitudes than any other creature their size or larger. On the slopes of Mount Everest, at an altitude of twenty-two thousand feet—five thousand feet above the vegetation line—lives a species of black spider only a quarter of an inch long. This is an incredible environment for creatures so delicately constructed. To protect themselves from the chill of night, they take shelter in cracks where the twenty-four-hour on the outside.

Spiders inhabit other unlikely places—rabbit burrows, flowers, anthills, and the desolate, drafty aeries of eagles. They have been

found soaring through the air five miles above the earth. One species has been discovered in an African cavern more than two thousand feet underground.

21. The author thinks that spiders

- A) rival man as master of earth.
- B) are as firmly established on the earth as man.
- C) are more vigorous than man.
- D) are more firmly established on the earth than man.

22. The writer is amazed by the black spider's

- A) delicate construction.
- B) ability to live in such varied environments.
- C) unusual intelligence.
- D) ability to withstand extreme cold.

23. Spiders "hold their planetary seat with assurance" because they are

- A) more numerous than any other species.
- B) able to adapt to hostile environments.
- C) masters of the earth's surface.
- D) all of the above.

24. The species of black spiders discovered on Mount Everest is

- A) the smallest species of spiders.
- B) the highest-altitude dweller among creatures of that size or larger.
- C) the only creature that lives at that altitude.
- D) capable of surviving in any environment.

25. That these spiders survive is remarkable because

- A) They live above the vegetation line.

B) the 24-hour variation in temperature is 44 degrees.

C) the total environment is so hostile.

~~D) they live at an altitude of 2200 feet.~~

Questions 26-30 are based on the following passage:

Simple stated, computational linguistics is no more than the use of electronic digital computers in linguistic research. These machines are employed to scan texts and to produce, more rapidly and more reliably, than is possible without their aid, such valuable tools for linguistic and stylistic research as word lists, frequency counts, and concordances. But more interesting and theoretically much more difficult than the compilation of lists, is the use of computers for automatic grammatical analysis and translation. A considerable amount of progress was made in the area of machine translation in the United States, Great Britain, the Soviet Union, and France between the mid-1950's and the mid-1960's, but much of the original impetus for this work has now disappeared, due in part to the realization that the problems involved are infinitely more complex than was at first envisaged. Thus, translation continues to remain as much an art as a science, if not more so.

26. According to the passage, computational linguistics involves

A) a reliance on computers.

B) a simplified computer language.

C) making electronic tools.

~~D) research into electronics.~~

In what way have the machines referred to proven to be helpful to researchers?

A) They can produce accurate lists of what a text contains.

- B) They can translate texts more reliably than that was possible in the past.
- C) They can validate the theories of linguists and stylists.
- D) They have been used to improve grammatical analysis.

28. How does the author describe the present state of machine translation?

- A) It has been recognized as an art.
- B) It has largely been abandoned.
- C) It has received new impetus from a more artistic approach.
- D) The complex problems previously envisaged have recently been solved.

29. According to the passage, which of the following problems is the most difficult to solve?

- A) Compilation of word lists and frequency counts.
- B) Developing a theoretical approach to list compilation.
- C) Grammatical analyses and translations.
- D) Coming up with concordances which are useful for stylistic research.

30. According to the passage, when approximately was significant progress made in translations by computer?

- A) Between 1950 and 1960.
- B) Before 1950.
- C) After 1965.
- D) Between 1955 and 1965.

Questions 31-35 are based on the following passage:

Although the architects Samuel McIntire and Charles Bulfinch

designed notable buildings in Salem and Boston, respectively. Asher Benjamin, a carpenter from Greenfield is credited with having exerted more direct influence than any other single person on architecture in New England. In 1979 he published a book called The Country Builder's Assistant. It was not the first book on architecture printed in the United States, but it was the first genuinely American treatment of the subject. It was very much a "how-to-do-it" book since it contained plans and detailed drawings for various private and public structures. Carpenters through the Northeast were a literate breed. They acquired Benjamin's book and began to pattern their construction work on his plans. The First Congregational Church in Bennington, Vermont, one of the most admired of all New England churches, was built by the carpenter Lavinus Fillmore and closely resembles one of the designs in Asher's book. Like Fillmore, most local carpenters had souls of their own and were not given to automated reproductions from the book. But the total result is a pervasive pattern that continues to give New England its distinctive flavors.

31. The emphasis in Benjamin's book could best be described as

A) religious.

C) practical.

B) rural.

D) continental.

32. Who built the first Congregational Church in Bennington?

A) McIntire.

C) Benjamin.

B) Bullfinch.

D) Fillmore.

33. Benjamin's relation to the carpenters of his day could best be compared with that of

A) a teacher to students.

B) a commander to troops.

C) an enemy to adversaries.

D) an idol to worshippers.

34. Which of the following would be the best title for this passage?

A) Architects Versus Carpenters in New England

B) How Bennington's Church was built

C) The Influence of Asher Benjamin on New England Architecture

D) The Colonial Buildings of Salem and Boston

35. Which of the following sentences is not true?

A) Carpenters then across the Northeast got certain education.

B) Carpenters like Benjamin's book, but they don't follow the directions automatically.

C) Buildings in New England look the same.

D) Asher Benjamin has great influence on architecture in New England.

Questions 36-40 are based on the following passage:

Can trees talk? Yes—but not in words. Scientists have reason to believe that trees do communicate with each other. Not long ago, researchers learned some surprising things. First, a willow tree attacked in the woods by Caterpillars changed the chemistry of its leaves and made them taste so awful that the caterpillars got disgusted and stopped eating them. Then, even more astonishing, the tree sent out special vapors—an alarm signal stimulating its neighbors to change the chemistry of their own leaves and make them less tasty.

Communication, of course, doesn't need to be in words. We can talk each other by a smile, frown, a shrug of our shoulders—a gesture with our shoulders, a gesture with our hands. We know that birds and animals use a whole vocabulary of songs, sounds, and

movements. Bees dance their signals, flying in certain patterns that tell other bees where to find nectar for honey. So why shouldn't trees have ways of sending messages?

36. It can be inferred from the passage that caterpillars do not feed on leaves that

A) have an offensive taste.

B) are lying on the ground.

C) have an unfamiliar shape.

D) are located near beehives.

37. The willow tree described in the passage protected itself by

A) growing more branches.

B) changing its leaf chemistry.

C) communicating with birds and bees.

D) providing shelter for caterpillars.

38. According to the passage, the willow tree was able to communicate with other trees by

A) waving its branches.

B) dropping its leaves.

C) giving off a special vapor.

D) changing the color of its trunk.

39. According to the passage, bees communicate by

A) touching one another.

B) smelling one another.

C) making unusual sounds.

D) making special movements.

40. The author states that bees are able to tell each other the location