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大学<mark>英语试题解析系列丛书</mark>Focus Scanning of College English

大学英语解析

Focus
Scanning of
College
English
Writing

中国书籍出版社

CHINA BOOK PRESS

H3,5 W55A

大学英语试题解析系列丛书 Focus Scanning of College English

大学英语写作拟规解析

王 蓓◉编著

Focus Scanning of College English Writing

图书在版编目(CIP)数据

大学英语词汇模拟试题解析/李兆平,钟锡编.—北京:中国书籍出版社, 2002.2

(大学英语试题解析系列丛书)

ISBN 7 - 5068 - 0996 - 6

I.大··· □.①李··· ②仲··· □.英语—词汇—高等学校—水平考试—自学参考资料 Ⅳ. H313

中国版本图书馆 CIP 数据核字(2002)第 00295 号

书 名 / 大学英语词汇模拟试题解析

书 号 / ISBN 7-5068-0996-6/H·249

责任编辑 / 张 立

责任印制 / 王大军 刘颖丽

封面设计 / 恳垦工作室

出版发行 / 中国书籍出版社

地 址 / 北京市丰台区太平桥西里 38 号(邮编: 100073)

电 话/(010) 63455164(总编室) (010) 63454858(发行部)

经 销/全国新华书店

印 刷/北京地矿印刷厂

开 本 / 850 毫米 × 1168 毫米 1/16 15.5 印张 368 千字

版 次/2002年2月第1版 2002年2月第1次印刷

定 价 / 21.00元(册)

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第一章 大学英语统考四级作文概要

第一节 大学英语四级考试对写作的要求

英语写作作为大学英语四六级统考的重要组成部分,日益受到人们的重视。1996 年秋国家教委考试中心颁布规定:在今后的大学英语四六级考试中,考生作文如果得零分,即便在听力、阅读、语法、词汇、完形填空或简短回答等测试项目中均得满分,也不能拿到合格证书。同时,四六级考试作文部分设立最低分(至少6分)制度,考生作文若低于6分,其他测试部分的总分至少要达到74分以上方可给予合格证书。作文在四六级统考中的重要地位是显而易见的。本书对于四级英语写作作出评析。

四级考试写作部分的目的是测试学生用英语书面表达自己思想的能力。要搞好四级英语写作,首先要明确什么是四级英语写作,四级写作有什么要求,有什么样的命题类型,评分的标准是什么。

一、写作能力的要求

《大学英语教学大纲》规定:四级写作要求学生运用学到的语言知识和写作方法,按照规定的题目和提示,在半个小时内写出 100~120 词的短文,内容连贯,无重大语法错误。

二、写作内容的要求

1.1995年6月至1999年6月四级作文考题

根据大学英语四六级考试大纲的规定,英语四级写作内容包括日常生活和一般常识。 纵观近几年英语四级考试所涉及的写作内容,尽管内容涉及面较广,但都没有超越两大范围。现将近几年的考试题目、试题要求及写作内容提供于下,以供参考。

Advantages of a Job Interview (1995.06)

Directions: For this part, you are allowed thirty minutes to write a composition on the topic **Advantages of a Job Interview**. You should write at least 100 words and you should base your composition on the outline (given in Chinese) below:

- 1)现在找工作都要面试,通过面试,面试者和应试者可以相互了解情况。
- 2)面试者可以向应试者介绍情况,如工作性质、条件待遇等。
- 3)应试者也有机会给对方留下一个好印象,如可以表现出自信心,可以介绍教育背景、工作能力等。

The Two-Day Weekend (1996.01)

Directions: For this part, you are allowed thirty minutes to write a composition on the topic **The Two-Day Weekend**. You should write at least 100 words and you should base your composition on the outline (given in Chinese) below:

- 1)双休日给大学生带来的好处。
- 2)双休日可能给大学生带来的问题。

3)我应当怎样过好双休日?

Global Shortage of Fresh Water (1996.06)

- **Directions:** For this part, you are allowed thirty minutes to write a composition on the topic **Global Shortage of Fresh Water**. You should write at least 100 words and you should base your composition on the outline (given in Chinese) below:
 - 1)人们以为淡水是取之不尽的。 (提示:雨水、河水、井水……)
 - 2) 实际上淡水是非常有限的。 (提示:人口增加、工业用水增加、污染……)
 - 3)我们应当怎么办?

Practice Makes Perfect (1997.01)

- **Directions:** For this part, you are allowed thirty minutes to write a composition on the topic **Practice Makes Perfect**. You should write at least 100 words and you should base your composition on the outline (given in Chinese) below:
 - 1) 怎样理解"熟能生巧"?
 - 2) 例如:在英语学习中……
 - 3) 又如……

Getting to Know the World Outside the Campus (1997.06)

- Directions: For this part, you are allowed thirty minutes to write a composition on the topic Getting to Know the World Outside the Campus. You should write at least 100 words and you should base your composition on the outline (given in Chinese) below:
 - 1) 大学生了解社会的必要性。
 - 2) 了解社会的途径(大众媒介、社会服务等)。
 - 3) 我打算怎么做?

Harmfulness of Fake Commodities (1998.01)

- **Directions:** For this part, you are allowed thirty minutes to write a composition on the topic **Harmfulness of Fake Commodities**. You should write at least 100 words and you should base your composition on the outline (given in Chinese) below:
 - 1) 目前社会上有不少假冒伪劣商品(fake commodities)。为什么会有这种现象?
 - 2) 举例说明假冒伪劣商品对消费者个人、社会等的危害。

Do "Lucky Numbers" Really Bring Good Luck? (1998.06)

- Directions: For this part, you are allowed thirty minutes to write a composition on the topic Do "Lucky Numbers" Really Bring Good Luck? You should write at least 100 words and you should base your composition on the outline (given in Chinese) below:
 - 1) 有些人认为某些数字会带来好运。
 - 2) 也有些人认为数字和运气无关。
 - 3) 试说明你的看法。

Don't Hesitate to Say "No" (1999.01)

Directions: For this part, you are allowed thirty minutes to write a composition on the topic **Don't Hesitate to Say "No".** You should write at least 100 words and you should base your composition on the outline (given in Chinese) below:

- 1) 别人请求帮助时,在什么情况下我们会说"不"。
- 2) 为什么有些人在该说"不"的时候不说"不"。
- 3) 该说"不"时不说"不"的坏处。

Reading Selectively or Extensively? (1999.06)

Directions: For this part, you are allowed thirty minutes to write a composition on the topic **Reading Selectively or Extensively?** You should write at least 100 words and you should base your composition on the outline (given in Chinese) below:

- 1) 有人认为读书要有选择。
- 2) 有人认为应当博览群书。
- 3) 我的看法。
- 2.1995年6月至1999年6月四级作文考题点评

通过对 1995 年 6 月至 1999 年 6 月四级作文考题的分析,可以归纳出以下三个方面的特点:

① 作文选材均为热门话题并贴近生活。

作文选题范围均为当今社会的热门话题,从找工作的面试到双休日,从大学生了解社会到读书,从全球性的缺水到盛行一时的伪劣商品,无不反映了当今社会公众最为关注的问题。

② 文体多为议论文。

议论文用途较广泛。我们平时接触到的文章、报刊等多为议论文。议论文不但语言丰富多彩,而且内容富有思想性、针对性。因而这种体裁的写作比较符合实际需要。

③出题形式多为提纲式的命题作文。

1995年至1999年6月的作文试题一直呈一种模式:带有中文提纲的命题作文。这种题型不仅要求考生注重审题,而且在段落构思和语言表达方面都要求根据所给的提纲自己完成。这说明了国家教育部对提高考生实际运用语言能力的重视,同时也要求考生要在多写多练上下功夫,这样才能在作文考试中得高分。

三、写作题型的要求

1. 给出中心句作文

Example:

Directions: For this part, you are allowed thirty minutes to write a composition on Living in a Big City in three paragraphs. You are given the first sentence of each paragraph. Your part of the composition should be no less than 100 words, not including the words given. Remember to write clearly.

Living in a Big City

Each year thousands upon thousands of people rush into big cities.

People	enjoy city life chi	efly for its co	nveniences.		
				1.1	
Howeve	er, big cities are	confronted w	nth many pr	oblems.	

这种命题类型是 1986 年实行全国四级英语统考以来最常见的一种。所给出的中心句 多为段首句。要求考生根据中心句在规定的半个小时内写出 100~120 词的短文。

2. 用汉语给出各段中心思想并据此作文

Example:

Directions: For this part, you are allowed thirty minutes to write a composition on **Choosing Careers** in three paragraphs. Your composition should be based on the situation given below in Chinese. Your composition should be no less than 100 words. Remember to write clearly.

Choosing Careers

- 1) 一些人的观点是家长有责任为孩子计划将来的职业。
- 2) 另一些人则认为应当让孩子自己决定将来从事的工作。
- 3) 谈谈你的看法。

这种出题方式是第一种出题方式的变形。与第一种出题方式不同之处是考题只用汉语 提供各段的中心思想,让考生自己组织每段的中心句。目前这种出题方式在全国英语四级 统考中最为常见。

第一、第二种类型的作文是带有中文或英文提纲的命题作文,考生看到这样的作文题目,一定要注意认真审题。审题时要将题目与提纲内容结合起来,对其涉及的内容和范围进行分析,切不可只注意题目而忽视提纲。

3. 只给出作文题目

Example:

Directions: For this part, you are allowed thirty minutes to write a composition **The Game**I Like Best about 120 words. Remember to write it clearly.

The Game I Like Best

这种出题方式对考生的限制较少,考生写作时在准确理解题意的基础上,筹划全文。例如阐述哪几个方面的内容才能紧扣题目,如何安排各个段落等。

4. 图表作文

Example:

Directions: For this part, you are allowed thirty minutes to write a composition on the information shown in the following table. Write down the conclusions you draw from the figures about the various ways in which people spent their holidays in

1989 as compared with 1980. Attempt to explain the reasons for differences.

Changes in the Ways People Spent Their Holidays

	1980	1989
Travelling abroad	12%	24%
Going to seaside	38%	31%
Camping	10%	36%
Staying at home	40%	9%
Total	100%	100%

You could begin your writing like this:

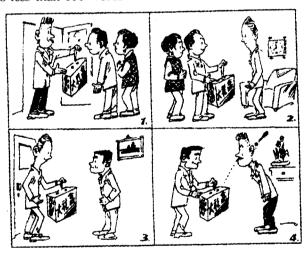
The way people spent their holidays changed a great deal in the 1980s . . .

图表可以有多种变化,目的都是为考生提供统计数字和必要的信息。考生需从中加以提炼,抓住重点概括成篇。

5. 看图作文

Example:

Directions: For this part, you are allowed thirty minutes to write a composition based on the following pictures and make comments on them. Your composition should be no less than 100 words.



年 礼

看图作文要求将一幅或几幅画面的内容转换成文字的形式,准确地表达图中的思想内容。 这就要求考生有较强的文字表达能力。

这种出题方式灵活多样,考生能够更多地发挥自己的想象力。另一方面,考生遇到这种 题型,必须审清题意,明确主题思想,方可落笔。

6.根据所规定的情景作文

Example:

Directions: For this part, you are allowed thirty minutes to write a composition on the topic **More Freedom**, **Less Interference**. Your composition should be based on the situation above with no less than 120 words.

Situation:在青少年的成长过程中是否需要家长过多的操心与干涉呢?设想一下你正处于十几岁的青少年时期,你对这个问题的意见如何?

这种题型要求考生根据所给的情景确定中心思想,还要注意段落划分,确定各段的核心,以便共同阐述这一问题。

这种出题方式限制比较少,考生可以根据情景自拟提纲,但必须根据规定的情景展开思路,切不可自由发挥。

7. 用所给的关键词作文

Example:

Directions: For this part, you are allowed thirty minutes to write a composition with the title **Functions of a Newspaper** according to the given key words. You should write at least 100 words.

Key words: inform the public, warn the public of dangers, approaching storms, instruct, inexpensive, life-long, teacher, entertain, humorous stories, advertising space, benefit to the public.

这种题型要求考生必须利用所给的关键词作文。这些词或词组都是能反映全文中心思想的关键词,通过对这些词的分析,归纳出全文的主要内容,这也是命题作文的一种形式。

8. 根据要求写信

Example:

Directions: Suppose your friend has recently gained admittance as a graduate student. Write a letter about 120 words congratulating him.

这种题型属于书信体写作,即应用文的写作。四级英语考试中虽未出现过,但出现的可能性是存在的。

第二节 全国四级统考作文评分标准

一、评分原则

四级统考是检查考生是否达到大学英语教学大纲规定的四级教学要求,对作文评判以下列要求为准则。

- ① 四级统考作文题采用总体评分方法。阅卷人就总的印象给出奖励分,而不是按语言点的错误数目扣分。
- ② 从内容和语言两个方面对作文进行综合评判。内容和语言是一个统一体。作文应表达题目所规定的内容,而内容要通过语言来表达。要考虑作文是否切题,是否充分表达思想,也要考虑是否符合英语表达习惯。
 - ③ 避免趋中倾向。该给高分的给高分,包括满分;该给低分的给低分,包括零分。一名

阅卷人员在所评阅的全部作文试卷中不应只给中间的几个分数。

二、评分标准

本题满分为 15 分。阅卷标准共分为五等: 2 分、5 分、8 分、11 分和 14 分。阅卷人员根据阅卷标准,对照样卷评分。若认为与某一分数(如 8 分)相似,即定为该分数(8 分);若认为优于或稍劣于该分数,则可加 1 分(即 9 分)或减 1 分(即 7 分),但不得加或减半分。

评分标准如下:

- 2分:条理不清,思路紊乱。语言支离破碎或大部分均有错误,且多数为严重错误。
- 5分:基本切题,表达思想不清楚,连贯性差。有较多的严重语言错误。
- 8分:基本切题,有些地方表达思想不够清楚,文字勉强连贯。语言错误相当多,其中有一些是严重错误。
 - 11分:切题。表达思想清楚,文字连贯,但有少量语言错误。
- 14分:切题。表达思想清楚,文字通顺,连贯性较好,基本上无语言错误,仅有个别小错。

注:白卷、作文与题目毫不相关、或只有几个孤立的词而无法表达思想,则给 0 分。 另外,字数不足的应酌情扣分,具体如下:

累计字数	90~99	80~89	70~79	60~69	50~59	<49
扣分	1	2	3	5	7	9

注:

- ① 如题目中给出主题句、起始句、结束句,均不得计入所写字数。
- ② 只写一段者,0~4分;只写两段者,0~9分(指规定三段的作文)。

三、评分标准实例分析

Sample 1. Practice Makes Perfect

Do more and you do best. It is a everyone know word. But, how should we to understand it better? Let I show several examples for you. The first example, in during of learning English, we must have many difficult in it. How can we solve it? The best way is learn it again and again, Until we can control it very good and it maybe deeply in our head for good. It is do more and you do best. The another example, many things in our lives, we all can't do them once yet we should control them best. Such as driving bus, cooking, study and so on. Let we all remember this word when we are doing everything. It will give us success.

我们都知道评分的首要标准是内容切题,语言表达要清楚。从样题 1 中我们可以看到语言表达拙劣,根本不能体现主题。样题 1 从开头到结尾全篇未分段落,语言支离破碎,因而也谈不到切题。内容表达不清。最多评为 2 分。

Sample 2. Practice Makes Perfect

Why practice makes perfect? Because practice help you developing the knowledge and experience about what you do. The more practice you do the more skill you improve. So you will be perfect.

For example. In the English studying, practice will make you a progress. More listening practice help you hear more fast rate, and help you hear more clearer. If you keep up reading

about one hour in the morning every day, you will improve your speaking-ability. And reading more novels will probably help you read more faster, more understandable. And writing practice could make you be more familiar with the English.

For another example, such as in basketball sports. More practice help you know how to pass ball, how to throw a ball, and how to help others to play.

At all, I think practice makes perfect.

样文 2 中虽然有很多严重的语言错误,但仍然可以看到文章内容基本切题,段落划分也 比较清楚,字数基本达到 120 词,可评为 5 分。

Sample 3. Practice Makes Perfect

As we all known, "Practice Makes Perfect" is an old saying. It means that the more you practice, the more you know and get. The saying can be found in every respect.

For example, we learning English. We have studied English for more than nine years. At the beginning of the study. Our word vocabulary is so limited increasing. We practise speaking English, writing in English, listening English, and so on. Now we Participate in the CET-4 to show our English standard.

On the other hand, besides in learning English, practice is useful to others. when we are learning the new subject. At first, we all find it difficult to master it. But after hard working and practice, we gradually learn it well. Practice is main method of learning everything.

According to this, we all know that the more you practise, the more you will know and get. If you want to success, you should have practice for a long time. Because hard work, practice, and chances due to success. Let's try our best to practise more and more.

样文3中有些句子很好,比如第一段前两句,第三段后两句。文章中还运用了一些过渡词。鉴于文章基本切题,有些句子表达清楚,可评为8分。

Sample 4. Practice Makes Perfect

There is good saying in China: Practice makes perfect. That is to say, when we learn a skill, we should practice it from time to time, and thus we will gradually master it and do it perfectly.

For example, English study requires reading, listening, speaking and writing. In a word, it needs much practice ever day. If you want to improve your listening comprehension ability, you must listen to the type frequently. Then after a short time, you will find you can catch what was said. Keep up it, you will improve it greatly.

Practice leads to perfect. To master almost every skill, you can't but practise. If you want to become a singer, you could not always listening to the others' song. You should practise by yourself under the direction of a teacher. Diligence and hard work leads to success. If you encounter difficulty in your study, don't be discouraged. Keep up it, remember: practice makes perfect.

样文4的表述比较符合英语的表达习惯,比如第一段第一句写出中心句之后,立即对其含义进行了适当的解释,使语句显得流畅、自然,内容切题。第三段第一句对命题的刻画颇有深度,结尾句使首尾呼应,浑然成为一体,给人以深刻印象。考虑到文中有少量错误,此文

评为11分。

Sample 5. Practice Makes Perfect

It is a famous saying that practice makes perfect. The truth of it is self-evident. The more you practise, the more skillful you will be. Moreover, you will find better ways of doing things. As everyone can see practice helps us to be efficient.

When we study English, we have so much to learn such as grammar, vocabulary. In order to learn it well, we need much practice. We must read a lot, write a lot. Only through practice can we have a good command of it. Do remember to practise if you want to speak English fluently and express yourself freely.

Another case in point is typing. A good typist can type fast and accurately. But you will not be surprised at her performance if you know how much time she has spent practising. Through practice, she has both her typing speed and accuracy to be improved.

It goes without saying that practice makes perfect. Since all of us have realized the importance of practice, why not put it into practice?

样文 5 内容切题,语言规范,条理清楚,第一段先解释"熟能生巧"的含义,用了 self-evident, skillful, efficient 等非常贴切达意的词汇,还使用了 The more…, the more 的句型。第二段以学英语为例论证"熟能生巧"的深刻意义。其中句型变化多样,令读者体会到其作者语言掌握的熟练程度。第三段作者又举一例进一步说明"熟能生巧"的意义,最后一段总结全文。此文被评为 14 分。

一篇作文,表达要清楚,首要是理清思路,需要引用哪些事实论证主题,使用的事例能否说明主题,然后要把每一句写正确,这样才能表达清楚。从对上述 5 篇样文评分标准的分析,读者可以看出什么样的作文好,什么样的作文不好。那么,要写出较好的文章来,需要从哪些环节人手呢?讲明这点,就是编写本书欲达到的目的。

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第二章 短文写作的基本方法

第一节 审 题

从四级作文的评分原则和评分标准我们可以看到,四级英语写作主要有两方面的问题,一个是切题,另一个是表达。其中审题是做到切题的第一步。所谓审题就是要看清题意,确定文章的中心思想和主题,并围绕中心思想组织材料,仔细琢磨能确定写作大方向或中心思想的任何线索,如标题、主题句、体现支配思想的关键词等。这样才能做到抓住重点,落笔成文。

大学英语四级作文考试,无论出题方式有何种变化,都可以归纳为三段式的作文形式。包括开头、正文和结尾三大部分。下面我们分别以近几年四级的出题方式为例,说明如何审题。

一、给出中心句作文

Example:

Directions: For this part, you are allowed 30 minutes to write a composition on **Can Road Accidents Be Avoided?** in three paragraphs. You are given the first sentence of each paragraph. Your part of the composition should be no less than 120 words, not including the words given. Remember to write clearly.

Can Road Accidents Be Avoided?

	,
 hat traffic accidents can hardly be cut	
nd accidents can be avoided.	

这是一种典型的给出中心句(topic sentence)的三段式作文。由于作文题目已经给出,这就提示考生:文章的内容已经限定,是写关于交通事故的。这种命题类型的写作要领是将给出的中心句加以解释和说明,也就是围绕中心句扩展为一段文章。如何围绕中心句作文呢?要点就是抓住中心句中的关键词或关键词组。如第一段的关键词是 more and more road accidents, 所以第一段应该这样写:

There are more and more road accidents in our cities. For example, every time you are traveling in the street, you are likely to see one or more accidents involving cars or bikes. For another example, news of road accidents has become common topics for newspaper reports. In a word, traffic accidents have increased at such a rate that people are showing growing concern for this problem.

第二段的关键词是 can hardly be cut down. 作者列举了三个不安全因素以说明交通事故是不可避免的,这就是切题。

Some people say that accidents can hardly be cut down. For one thing, the rapidly increasing population has made the city a very crowded place. Besides, each day a lot of new cars are produced and put onto the road. Finally, the road condition is poor for back of repairs. All this makes it difficult for people to travel safely on the street.

第三段的关键词是 can be avoided,这就要求第三段说明如何避免交通事故。

In fact, most road accidents can be avoided. A large number of traffic accidents are related to carelessness. Therefore, they can be greatly reduced if people take care while traveling on the street. Of course, traffic conditions also needs improving so as to meet the demand of the increasing population and vehicles.

评析:

本文第一段运用举例法支持中心句的论点,提出问题。第二段列举事实分析问题(即交通事故不能避免的原因)。第三段提出了避免交通事故的办法。在第二段、第三段,作者从正反两个方面列举事实证明论点,非常切题。这就说明作者审题时,注意到了题目"Can Road Accidents Be Avoided?"是个疑问句,对此问题有两种回答:Yes 或 No。作者正是抓住了这个要点,才确定了文章的中心思想,继而围绕着中心思想,组织材料,落笔成文。

二、用汉语给出各段中心意思并据此作文

Example:

Directions: For this part, you are allowed 30 minutes to write a composition on Reading -

The Best Means To Acquire Knowledge in three paragraphs. You are required to write it with reference to the following hints in Chinese. Write about 120 words.

Reading—The Best Means To Acquire Knowledge

提示:

- 1. 在诸多获取知识的途径中读书是最佳的方法。
- 2. 与其他学习知识的方法相比,阅读有许多优点。
- 3. 读书时要注意的问题。

这种出题方式实际上是第一种出题方式(给出段首句作文)的变形,所以审题要领与第一种形式相类似:

- (1) 以所给的汉语意思为该段的中心内容,根据内容概括出每段的中心句(topic sentence)。句子要围绕中心句展开,构成段落。
- (2) 注意每段段首句之间的关系。段落之间过渡要自然,可以使用某些连词。如 however, but, therefore, first of all, second, finally 等。