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编著 王湘云

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大学英语四级

阅读理解

 世界图书出版公司

征服大学英语四级考试系列

征服大学英语四级阅读理解

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世界图书出版公司

西安·北京·广州·上海

图书在版编目 (CIP) 数据

征服大学英语四级阅读理解/王湘云编. —西安: 世界图书出版西安公司, 2002. 3

ISBN 7-5062-5343-7

I. 征…

II. 王…

III. 英语-高等学校-水平考试-习题

IV. H319.6

中国版本图书馆 CIP 数据核字 (2002) 第 000694 号

征服大学英语四级考试系列 征服大学英语四级阅读理解

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出版发行 世界图书出版西安公司
地 址 西安市南大街 17 号 邮编 710001
电 话 029-7279676 7233647(发行部)
传 真 029-7279675
E-mail xian wpc@ public. xa. sn. cn
经 销 各地新华书店
印 刷 西北大学印刷厂
开 本 850×1168 1/32
印 张 27
字 数 550 千字

版 次 2002 年 3 月第 1 版 2002 年 3 月第 1 次印刷
书 号 ISBN 7-5062-5343-7/H·362
定 价 36.00 元(共三册) 本册定价:12.00 元

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前 言

目前,大学英语四级考试越来越普及,其权威性被越来越多的专业人士所认同。考生在准备这类考试中,往往感到自己的整体水平尚可,但总在某一两个方面相对薄弱些,有很大的提高余地,因此也非常需要针对某个专项进行模拟、辅导和讲解的书籍。为满足广大师生的这一迫切需求,我们编写了这套征服大学英语四级考试系列。本系列包括:阅读理解、词汇与结构、听力理解等三个专项。

本书作者自参加工作来,一直从事大学英语的教学工作以后,积累了丰富的教学和辅导经验。作者的这些经验和经历也决定了本书的高质量。与其他大学英语四级方面的图书相比,本系列有以下突出特点:

本书中收录的所有材料均经过作者以 10 年来的对四级考试真题的潜心研究和辅导经验为参照精选出来的,难度与真题高度一致,有相当数量的材料直接来自于以往的四级考试真题,材料的涵盖面广且重点突出,命题的思路、难度、题量、形式亦与真题保持高度一致。这样就能使考生在使用本书后能对自己的水平有一个正确的评估,能使自己的应试能力朝一个正确的方向发展,使自己能够在大学英语四级考试中做到应付自如、胸有成竹。

本书讲解时力求重点突出,难点讲解透彻,覆盖面广。本书

的讲解不仅给出答案,指出选择该答案的依据,而且还不时穿插解题方法、诀窍,以便能使学生举一反三,不仅知其然,而且知其所以然,在四级考试中真正做到以不变应万变。

由于编写时间仓促,编者水平有限,书中难免有不当之处,敬请读者谅解。

王 湘 云

2002年1月18日

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阅读理解应试技巧

阅读理解 (Reading Comprehension) 共 20 题, 考试时间为 35 分钟。要求考生阅读若干篇短文, 总阅读量四级不超过 1 000 词。每篇短文后有若干个问题。考生应根据文章内容从每题四个选择项中选出一个最佳答案。选材的原则是:

1. 题材广泛, 包括科技、社会、文化等方面, 但是所涉及的背景知识应能为学生所理解。

2. 体裁多样, 可以包括叙述文、说明文、议论文等。

3. 文章的语言难度以教学大纲中规定为准, 无法猜测而又影响理解的关键词, 如超出教学大纲词汇四级的范围, 用汉语或英语注明词义。

阅读理解主要测试下述能力:

1. 既能理解个别句子的意义, 也能理解上下文的逻辑关系;

2. 既能理解字面的意思, 也能理解隐含的意思;

3. 既能理解事实细节, 也能理解所读材料的主旨或大意;

4. 能就文章的内容进行判断、推理和信息转换。

阅读理解部分的目的是测试学生通过阅读获取信息的能力, 既要求准确, 也要求有一定的速度。

在大学英语四级考试中, 阅读理解占 40 分, 如果学生在这部分得到高分, 就基本上可以保证考试的成功, 下面就根据考试的题型, 分四个方面探讨一下阅读理解应试的技巧与方法问题, 以期望对考生有所帮助。

1) 确定中心思想

确定中心思想是阅读理解中考查的一项重要技能, 它要求

考生能够正确地确定文章或者段落的主题或大意,能够辨别作者的意图,能够为文章选择适当的标题。

(1) 常见的题目形式有:

The author's purpose in writing this passage is _____.

The best title for the passage would be _____.

The main argument of the passage is that _____.

The main idea of the passage _____.

The main purpose of this passage is _____.

The main topic of the passage is _____.

The most proper title for the passage would be _____.

The passage deals with _____.

The passage is mainly about _____.

The principal idea of the article is _____.

What does the passage mainly discuss?

What should be the best title for the passage?

What is the main idea expressed in the passage?

What is the main subject of the passage?

What is the main topic of the passage?

Which of the following is the best title for the passage?

Which of the following is the main idea of the passage?

With which of the following topics is the passage primarily concerned?

With what title is the passage primarily concerned?

(2) 应试技巧:

做这类题目时,重点要找准文章的主题句(topic sentence)或中心思想句(thesis statement)。下面我们就根据主题句或中心思想句在段落或文章中的位置,分四种情况来探讨一下做这类题目的技巧:

I. 一般来说,段落的主题句就是段落的第一句话。作者一

开始便开门见山地指出文章的主题,然后以具体的事例(examples)或支持句(supporting sentences)来加以阐述,这就是所谓的演绎法(deduction):

例-1:

It is natural for young people to be critical of their parents at times and to blame them for most of the misunderstandings between them. They have always complained, more or less justly, that their parents are out of touch with modern ways; that they are possessive and dominant; that they do not trust their children to deal with crises; that they talk too much about certain problems—and that they have no sense of humor, at least in parent-child relationships.

Q: The paragraph is mainly about _____.

- A) the teenagers' criticism of their parents
- B) misunderstandings between teenagers and their parents
- C) the dominance of the parents over their children
- D) the teenagers' ability to deal with crises

在这里作者首先给出了本段落的主题:It is natural for young people to be critical of their parents at times and to blame them for most of the misunderstandings between them,然后,作者给出了几个细节,来具体说明年轻人在那些方面埋怨父母对他们的不理解,可见 A)为正确答案。而 B)和 C)只是年轻人抱怨的内容,是文章的细节。另外,D)与原文不符。

II. 有时候,作者先通过具体的陈述,然后归纳总结出主题,将段落的主题句置于段落的最后,这样作者通过层层推理,使其文章更具有说服力,更易于为读者所接受,这种方法叫做归纳法(induction):

例-2:

If you were planning to buy a television set, the following advertisement would certainly attract your attention: "Color TV, only \$ 79.

Two-day sale. Hurry.” However, when you go to the store ready to buy, you may discover that the advertised sets are sold out. But the salesman is quick to assure you that he has another model, a more reliable set which is “just right for you.” It costs \$ 359. This sales tactic is called “bait and switch”. Buyers are baited with a sales offer, and then they are switched to another more costly item. Buying items on sale requires careful consideration of the merchandise and the reasons for the sale.

Q: Which sentence best expresses the main idea?

- A) The customer must be on his guard when purchasing items on sale.
- B) Color television sets which sell for \$ 79 are sold out quickly.
- C) Many stores use the “bait and switch” technique to tract customers.
- D) Anyone planning to buy a television set should look for a sale.

在这里作者首先从一则推销电视的广告入手,介绍了所谓的降价销售只不过是引诱人们去购买更贵的商品,最后,作者说出了他写本文的意图即文章的主题句: *Buying items on sale requires careful consideration of the merchandise and the reasons for the sale*, 由此,可见答案应为 A)。B)只是文中例子的一个细节,构不成主题;C)虽然是事实,但不是作者写本文的意图;D)所以错误,是因为这个结论句对文章的理解过于狭隘。

III. 有时候,作者也会在段落的开始给出主题句,然后,紧接着给出具体的事例或支持句,最后作者通过对具体事例或支持句的归纳总结,再一次重复主题句的内容,这样,首尾呼应,更能给读者留下深刻的印象,这种写作方法在篇章中使用得更为经常,当然在篇章中主题句就不再被称为主题句了,而应称之为中心思想(thesis statement):

例-3:

Three passions, simple but overwhelmingly strong, have governed my life: the longing for love, and search for knowledge, and unbearable pity for the suffering of mankind. These passions, like great winds, have blown me hither and thither, in a wayward course, over a deep ocean of anguish, reaching to the very verge of the despair.

I have sought love, first because it brings ecstasy—ecstasy so great that I would often have sacrificed all the rest of life for a few hours of this joy. I have sought it, next, because it relieves loneliness—that terrible loneliness in which one shivering consciousness looks over the rim of the world into the cold unfathomable lifeless abyss. I have sought it, finally, because in the union of love I have seen, in a mystic miniature, the prefiguring vision of the heaven that saints and poets have imagined. This is what I sought, and thought it might seem too good for human life, this is what—at last—I have found.

With equal passion I have sought knowledge. I have wished to understand the hearts of men. I have wished to know why the stars shine. And I have tried to apprehend the Pythagorean power by which number holds sway above the flux. A little of this, but not much, I have achieved.

Love and knowledge, so far as they were possible, led upward toward the heavens. But always pity brought me back to earth. Echoes of cries of pain reverberate in my heart. Children in famine, victims tortured by oppressors, helpless old people a hated burden to their sons, and the whole world of loneliness, poverty, and pain make a mockery of what human life should be. I long to alleviate the evil, but I cannot, and I too suffer.

This has been my life. I have found it worth living. and would gladly live it again if the chance were offered me.

Q: The best title for the passage would be _____.

- A) I Have Lived for Seeking Love
- B) I Have Lived for Seeking Knowledge
- C) I Have Lived for the Pity on the Suffering of Mankind
- D) What I Have Lived for

作者在第一段给出了文章的中心思想句(thesis statement): Three passions, simple but overwhelmingly strong, have governed my life: the longing for love, and search for knowledge, and unbearable pity for the suffering of mankind,接着在第二、三、四段对该主题进行进一步的阐述,需注意的是,在这三段中,每段的第一句话,就是所在段落的主题句(topic sentence)。在最后一段,作者又给出了文章的结论(concluding statement),来和第一段的主题句相呼应。

根据本文中心思想句,就可肯定答案为 D),而 A),B)和 C)则分别为第二、三、四段的主题句,不能概括全文。

IV. 但有时候,作者并不给出主题句或中心思想句,这就要求我们根据文章的事例或支持句来概括、归纳、总结出文章的主题:

例-4:

How can you find out what is going on inside a person's body without opening the patient up? Regular X-ray can show a lot. CAT scans can show even more. They can give a three-dimensional view of body organs.

What is CAT scan? CAT stand for Computerized Axial Topography (层面 X 线照相术). It is a special X-ray machine that obtains a 360-degree picture of a small area of a patient's body.

Doctor's use X-rays to study and diagnose diseases and injuries within the body. X rays can locate foreign objects inside the body or take pictures of some internal organ—if special substances as dyes or

special liquids are added to the organs to be X-rayed.

A CAT scanner, however, uses a beam of X rays to give a cross-sectional view of a specific part of the body. A fine beam of X-rays is scanned across the body and rotated around the patient from many different angles. A computer analyzes the information from each angle and produces a clear cross-sectional image on a screen. This image is then photographed for later use. Several cross-sections, taken one after another, can give clear "photo" of the entire body organs. The newest CAT scanners can even give clear images of active, moving organs, just as a fast-action camera can "stop the action", giving clear images of what appears only mistily to the eye. And because of the 360-degree pictures, CAT scans show 3-dimensional views of organs in a manner that was only revealed during surgery or autopsy (examining a dead patient).

Too much exposure to X-rays can cause skin burns, cancer or other damage to the body. Yet CAT scans actually don't expose the patient to more radiation than conventional X rays do. CAT scans can also be done without injecting dyes into the patient. so they are less risky than regular X-ray procedures.

CAT scans provide accurate, detailed information. They can detect such a thing as bleeding inside the brain. They are helping to save lives.

Q: The best title for the passage might be _____.

- A) The New Medical Invention
- B) Advantages and Disadvantages of CAT Scanners
- C) How to Avoid Exposure to X-rays
- D) A New Type X-ray Machine to Save Lives

本文为说明文。介绍说明了一种新型的医疗仪器——CAT 扫描仪。作者首先介绍了该仪器的特点：它是一种特殊的 X 光

机,它可以全方位诊断人体很微小的器官,并为之拍照。甚至还可以使活动的器官的画面定位在仪器上,以便进一步的观察。它可以使人看到以前做外科手术或剖尸才能看到的情况。然后作者将该仪器与 X 光机进行了对比,并在对比中说明了 CAT 的优点。总之,CAT 是一种能提供准确的资料,以帮助医生对病人实施诊治的一种新型医疗仪器。

据此我们可以看出 A)太笼统;B)不符合文章内容,因为文中只讲了 CAT 的优点,并没有提到其缺点;C)根本不是本文所介绍的问题,文章只介绍了 CAT 的优点之一是可以减少辐射,并没有介绍如何避免辐射。只有 D)才比较全面地概括了文章的中心思想,文章通过对 CAT 的优点的介绍,使我们了解到它是一种帮助医生挽救病人生命的仪器。

(3) 应试中需要注意的问题:

I. 动笔选择之前,一定要通读全文,以把握文章的主题。

II. 注意要将文章的主题与支持句、主题与细节区别开来,要切记:主题不是支持句,更不是细节。

III. 面对选择项,要将那些与文章内容相矛盾的叙述排除掉,然后,再将那些概括范围太广的选择项排除掉。

IV. 在理解的基础上,适当地提高阅读的速度,以便于形成对篇章整体的理解,而不是对篇章支离破碎的理解。

2) 识别重要细节

细节是用来说明或支持主题句的,在内容上与主题密切相关,有时,只有把握好了重要细节才能正确归纳、总结出主题思想。

(1) 常见的题目形式有:

According to the passage, what is true about _____?

According to the passage, which of the following statements is NOT true?

What does the passage say about _____?

What is the author's opinion of _____?

When did scientists discover that _____?

Which of the conclusions is supported by the third paragraph?

Which of the following is discussed in the passage?

Which of the following is NOT clearly an example of _____?

Which of the following is NOT referred to by the author as _____?

Which of the following points is made in the passage to show _____?

(2) 应试技巧:

细节题,我们一般总能从文章中找到答案,因此要做好这类题目并不很难,重要的是我们怎样才能更快更好地做这类题目,以便于节省出更多的时间去做其他题目。这就要求我们在做第一遍阅读时,在把握文章重点的同时,也要弄清楚文章的结构特点,以便于在做细节题时,能够尽快地找到该细节的内容所在。

英语文章,尤其是说明文,一般都是按照一定的方式将其细节排列出来,排列方式有以下几种:

I. 简单的列举

II. 时间顺序

III. 空间关系

IV. 因果关系

V. 对比关系

VI. 事件的重要性

下面我就举两个例子加以说明

例-5:

Most growing plants contain much water than all other materials combined. C. R. Barnes has suggested that it is as proper to term the plant a water structure as to call a house composed mainly of a brick building. Certain it is that all essential processes of plant growth and

development occur in water. ①The mineral elements from the soil that are used by plant must be dissolved in the soil solution before they can be taken into the root. ②They are carried to all parts of the growing plant and are built into essential plant materials while in dissolved state. ③The carbon dioxide from the air may enter the leaf as a gas but it dissolves in water in the leaf before it is combined with a part of the water to form simple sugars—the base material from which the plant body is mainly built. ④Actively growing plant part are generally 75 to 90 percent water. ⑤Structural parts of plants, such as woody stems no longer actively growing, may have much less water than growing tissues.

Q: A growing plant needs water for all of the following EXCEPT

- A) forming sugars
- B) sustaining woody stems
- C) keeping green
- D) producing carbon dioxide

文中划线部分就是文章的主题句,接下来便是几个用来支持该主题的细节。这些细节大体上是按照空间的顺序排列的:

细节-1:只有溶解于水中之后,矿物质才能被植物的根所吸收。

细节-2:只有处于溶解状态,矿物质才能被输送到植物的各个部分。

细节-3:二氧化碳进入植物的叶子之后,只有溶于水后,才能够与一部分水结合成 simple sugars,这是一种能构成植物体的主要成分。

细节-4:生长旺盛的植物中 75 ~ 90%是由水组成的。

细节-5:植物中不再继续旺盛生长的木质部分,含水量要比那些正在继续生长的组织的含水量要少得多。

在我们第一遍阅读时,把握了这种排列顺序,就可以很快地在文中找到有关问题的信息。A)在细节-3 中被提及;B)在细节-3 中被提及;C)在细节-4 中被提及。只有 D)在文中未被提及,为正确答案。

接下来,我们再看一篇以时间为序来排列细节的文章:

例-6:

In modern society, ceremonies for adolescence have lost their formal recognition and symbolic significance and there no longer is agreement as to what constitutes initiation ceremonies. Social ones have been replaced by a sequence of steps that lead to increased recognition and social status. For example, grade school graduation, high school graduation and college graduation constitute such a sequence, and while each step implies certain behavioral changes and social recognition, the significance of each depends on the socio-economic status and the educational ambition of the individual. Ceremonies for adolescence have also been replaced by legal definitions of status roles, rights, privileges and responsibilities. It is during the nine years from the twelfth birthday to the twenty-first that the protective and restrictive aspects of childhood and minor status are removed and adult privileges and responsibilities are granted. The twelve-year-old is no longer considered a child and has to pay full fare for train, airplane, theater and movie tickets. Basically, the individual at this age loses childhood privileges without gaining significant adult rights. At the age of sixteen the adolescent is granted certain adult rights which increase his social status by providing him with more freedom and choices. He now can obtain a driver's license; he can leave public schools; and he can work without the restrictions of child labor laws. At the age of eighteen the law provides adult responsibilities as well as rights. The young man can now be a soldier, but he also can marry without parental permission. At the