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英语学位
课程考试指导丛书

丛书主编 裴 文

阅读分册
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本册主编 吴艾玲

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前 言

江苏省硕士研究生英语学位课程考试指导丛书

《江苏省硕士研究生英语学位课程考试指导丛书》是江苏省第一套全面指导硕士研究生(非英语专业)通过英语学位课程考试的丛书。《丛书》共包括六个分册:《听力分册》《阅读分册》《完形填空分册》《翻译与写作分册》《模拟试题分册》《词汇分册》。《丛书》作者为南京大学、东南大学、南京师范大学、南京林业大学等高校非英语专业研究生教研室的教授及副教授。他们都具有丰富的教学经验和多方面的应试技巧。《丛书》立足大纲,总结考点,注重技巧,强化模拟训练,旨在使考生在较短时间内熟悉题型,掌握方法,顺利而从容地通过江苏省硕士研究生英语学位课程考试。

《丛书》编写过程中得到南京大学研究生院副院长童星教授和研究生教学与学位管理办公室处长张小明教授、卞青老师、吴小曼老师的实实在在的支持与帮助,在此表示诚挚的感谢。

由于时间仓促,《丛书》定有不足之外,请各位老师和同学多提宝贵意见。

编 者

编写说明

江苏省硕士研究生英语学位课程考试指导丛书·阅读分册

按照 1992 年原国家教委制定的《非英语专业硕士研究生英语学位课程考试大纲(试行稿)》的要求,非英语专业的硕士研究生必须通过相关的英语考试才能结束这门课程的学习。江苏省所有的高校自 1992 年以来一直实行全省统考。这对全省非英语专业硕士研究生英语教与学规范化方向起了积极的推动作用,为英语教学水平进行横向对比提供了科学的依据,学生提供了学习的目标和准绳。教有目标、学有目的,它越来越引起了全省有关老师和同学的关注和重视。

12 年的光阴弹指一挥间,统考的功勋自然不言而喻,但是时代的车轮总是在不断地向前推进,考试的形式不可能永远地墨守成规、一成不变。江苏省非英语专业硕士研究生研究英语学位考试委员会经过讨论和审议,准备于 2004 年 12 月份的统考开始采取新的题型。为了让学生尽早理解和熟悉题型,不因题型的改变而影响考试的成绩,南京大学出版社及时地组织一批多年从事非英语专业硕士研究生英语教学的老师来编写一系列指导丛书。急为考生所急、想为考生所想。但愿本套丛书不仅能为学生顺利通过考试助上一臂之力,而且对其英语实际水平的提高也大有裨益。

阅读理解是考试的一个大项目,其难度最大,分值最高。考试分数的高低从某种程度上来说取决于阅读理解部分的得分。阅读理解能力的重要性还体现在日后的运用上。很多在校的硕士研究生将来会成为国家科技领域的带头人,他们要想把我国建设成为一流的国家靠的就是科技和交流,而这两项都离不开英语,所以他们的英语水平一直关系到事业的成败。阅读理解在体现英语水平方面首当其冲,所以如何提高英语的阅读水平就显得尤为的重要,它也一直困扰着很多学生。这本应运而生的书将手把手地教授学生如何提高英语阅读能力。它将从两个方面入手:一是从理论和经验上帮助学生认识阅读理解的本质;二

是从实践上向学生提供 40 篇精选的文章,让学生身临其境地去感受书里所介绍的理论和技巧。

如何让本书成为“活生生的老师”陪伴每位读者着实让编者费了一番脑筋。所谓的“活生生的老师陪伴你身边”就是想做到:当学生做完题目之后他们不仅仅能够知道正确答案,而且还能够知道自己的错误在哪里;不仅仅能够理解设问的内容,而且能够理解全文的内容,甚至每一句话的含义,所以本书在每篇文章以及问题之后开辟了“答案详解”、“单词和词组的中文含义”、“难句翻译”这 3 个栏目。在此,编者建议学生在做阅读的时候分 4 步走:第一步,把它们当成考试,腾出整块的时间去做,按照半个小时完成 4 篇文章的速度去阅读,然后校对答案。第二步,不要立即看解释,先看单词,特别是看当时没能理解的句子所包含的单词。确切地说,在有单词解释的帮助下看看你是否能弄清楚原来没懂的句子。第三步,如果还有不懂的句子,就看答案详解。到此为止,你应该对全文都能理解了。第四步,如果此时还有不懂的地方,或想更充分地学习该篇文章,请再看难句翻译。这 4 个步骤是一种由难到易的渐进过程,一直帮你把所有的问题都解决。这样,你就会觉得仿佛有一位“活生生的老师”在你身边帮你解决问题。

本书的第三部分是“阅读与评论”,此项是新增的题型。本部分内容是依据《江苏省非英语专业硕士研究生英语学位课程考试样题》而编写的。该部分是对这项新题型的尝试,其目的是帮助考生尽快适应此类题型。

最后,预祝考生考试成功!衷心希望你能喜欢这本书。

编者 吴艾玲

2004 年 7 月 1 日写于东南大学

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第一部分 概述

一、阅读理解的重要性

阅读是人们获取信息、进行交流的重要途径。在当今信息时代,我国专业技术人员要想从英语资料中获取国外科学技术发展的新成果,必须具有较强的英语阅读能力。阅读能力包括速度和理解两个方面,较强的阅读能力表现在能迅速、准确地从资料中获取大量的信息。

在各类英语测试中,无论是全国统考,还是各省、各校的英语考试,阅读理解能力的考查不但作为测试的重点,而且阅读理解部分所占的比重最大、分值最高。可以说,英语考试的成绩在很大的程度上取决于阅读理解部分的成绩。阅读理解得分高,总分就不会低。对于考生而言,这部分内容也是难中之难,可见阅读理解是很重要,也值得重视。

二、造成阅读理解困难的因素以及对策

(一) 词汇量不够

虽然很多种英语考试都提供词汇大纲,但是要想考得好,考生必须做到词汇量越大越好。就拿在校非英语专业硕士研究生来说,虽然大纲要求掌握 6 000 个单词,可是有多少学生能真正做到这一点呢?虽然从单词统计的角度来说,一个单词的不同词性可算为不同的单词,可是又有几位学生能说出某一个单词有几个词性呢?还有,一些词组、固定说法、习惯用语是由二个或更多的简单单词组合而成的,但其意并非是所有单词意思的总和,这种现象照样会影响学生的阅读理解。最后还有一个现象——任何考试都会有超纲的单词。按规定超纲的词是要给出中文意思的,可是在现实当中,除了全国性统考可能会做得如此标准外,其他的考试就很难说了,这同样会造成学生词汇量的不够。

如何扩大词汇量呢? 这里提供 5 个方法: 一是反复复习旧课本,

做到“温故而知新”，把所有沉睡的单词激活，使它们永远处于待用状态。二是对一本词典从头到尾反复地看上几遍，直到某个单词一出现，眼前就会立即出现该词在词典里的页面。三是在不同的语境中记忆单词和词组。比如说，在课文里去记忆，然后从课文后的单词表里去记忆。课本的最后往往还有一个总词汇表(glossary)，总词汇表是按照字母顺序排列的，再从总词汇表记忆。如果说你能在这3种不同语境中都能认出这个单词，才可以说你“认识”或“基本认识”该词了。四是通过大量泛读文章。“通过阅读大量的文章来记忆单词”可能已经是老生常谈了，有的同学会说“道理我懂，可是就是没有多少时间，也不能保证每篇文章看得懂。如果文章都看不懂，还谈什么记住单词呢？”不可否认，此话不无道理，但是同学们有没有注意到：现在的学习条件较之以前有了很大的改善，“双语文章”可以为你们提供一个省时省力的英语学习方法。在双语杂志、网站和书籍都可以找到双语文章。选一些代表性的文章采用以下两种阅读方法来阅读。① 如果你有时间，就先看英文(原文)后看中文(译文)；② 如果没有时间，就先看中文(译文)后看英文。第一种阅读顺序可以帮助养成阅读英文的习惯，译文只是在你对原文某个地方看不懂的情况下阅读。从这个意义上来说，中文译文成了你的“外教”，随时在帮助你。这种方法适合用整时间的人。如果你没有整时间，可以在零散的时间里采用第二种阅读顺序，先看中文(译文)，后看英文(原文)，这样可以减少你对英文的恐惧感，因为你已经知道了文章的意思，不怕看不懂了。这样做还有一个好处就是，你阅读的重点会在潜意识当中不自觉地放到语言的表达上，从而提高你对英语结构和词语用法的认识。五是把词汇分为3类对待。第一类是“会用的”词，这些词必须会读、会写、会听、会说、会用。这样的词约3 000~4 000个。第二类是“会认的”词。这类词可以理解为半生不熟的词。具体地说，在阅读中，如果遇上这些词你能只要通过上下文或一定的语境回想或猜出该词的意思就行了；或在平时需要用到时，通过查词典能够找到就可以了。这类词越多越好。第三类“坚决不要记的”词。比如说，某段文章是关于埃及金字塔的，它里面会出现法老名称以及与其有关的单词，这些单词不必记住，学完就拉倒。这样做的目的是

让你腾出不该被占的记忆空间去记那些该记的单词。如何判断哪些单词属于这一类的呢？判断的方法是，你问自己：我一辈子还会再用到这个单词吗？如果答案是否定的，就属于这一类。

（二）语法规则不够熟悉

词汇是房子的砖瓦，语法则房子的框架。它们相辅相成、缺一不可。虽说有时一个句子只要看上一两个关键词就可以知道全句的意思了，但是对于较长、结构较复杂的句子是不可能不进行语法分析的。英语和汉语是两大不同的语言系统，句法结构不尽相同，不同点主要表现在三个方面：① 句子过长；② 有插入成分使得中文句子里的自然顺序成分分开；③ 成分颠倒。这些在阅读中直接影响阅读者的逻辑思维。下面用实例来分别叙述汉英两种语言在这三个方面的不同：

1. 句子过长

(1) There are also people who object to fairy stories on the grounds *that* they are not objectively true, *that* giants, witches, two-headed dragons, magic carpets, etc., do not exist; and *that*, instead of indulging his fantasies in fairy tales, the child should be taught how to adapt to reality by studying history and mechanics. (由三个并列定语从句导致句子过长)

(2) You have all heard it repeated *that* men of science work by means of induction and deduction, *that* by the help of these operations, they, in a sort of sense, manage to extract from Nature certain natural laws, and *that* out of these, by some special skill of their own, they build up their theories. (由三个宾语从句导致句子过长)

(3) This trend began during the Second World War, *when* (状语从句) several governments came to the conclusion *that* (同位语从句) the specific demands *that* (定语从句) a government wants to make of its scientific establishment cannot generally be foreseen in detail. (由多从复合句导致句子过长)

(4) Behaviorists suggest *that* (宾语从句) the child who (定语从

句) is raised in an environment *where* (定语从句) there are many stimuli *which* (定语从句) develop his or her capacity for appropriate responses will experience greater intellectual development. (由多重复合句导致句子过长)

2. 成分分开

(1) *The marriage* (主语和谓语分开), celebrated in Leipzig, gave him a useful link with the prices of the Holy Roman Empire.

(2) *The two nobles* (主语和谓语分开), as knights of the Golden Fleece, *could be tried* only by their peers.

(3) I find such *people* (宾语和宾语补足语分开), I must confess, *so unsympathetic and peculiar* that I don not know how to argue with them.

(4) But there is a sphere of action in which *society* (主语和谓语分开), as distinguished from the individual, *has* (谓语和宾语分开), if any, *only an indirect interest*, comprehending all that portion of a person's life and conduct which affects only himself, or if it also affects others, only with their free, voluntary, and undeceived consent and participation.

3. 成分颠倒

There will be television chat shows hosted by robots, and cars
1 2 3
with pollution monitors that will disable them when they offend.
4 5 6

届时, 将出现 由机器人主持的 电视谈话节目, 以及 装有污染
2 1
监控器的汽车, 一旦 这些汽排污招标(违规), 监控器就会使其停止.
4 3 6 5

从上可以看出, 如果不掌握英汉两种语言的结构的区别, 在阅读中必然会导致阅读者的思维紊乱、甚至思维停顿。

如何解决这个问题? 一是记住英语句子的 3 大基本结构句型: 简单句, 并列句和复合句。或者说 12 大句型, 因为简单句要通过 5 大句

型来体现:主谓句,主谓宾句,主谓宾宾句,主谓宾补句和主谓表句。复合句又分 6 大句型:主语从句,宾语从句,表语从句,同位语从句,定语从句和状语从句。再加上并列句这就是 12 大基本结构句型。二是弄清并熟悉这 12 大句型与中文的对应关系。三是在阅读时,快速把英语的结构在大脑里转换为中文的对应结构,这样你不仅感到句子容易懂了,而且觉得信息层次更清楚了。比如说“句子过长”里的第二个例子。如果你分析出它是由 3 个并列句子组合的宾语从句,不但概念和层次很清楚,而且可以暂时只记 3 个 that,也就是说,你只需记住“他听到三件事情不断有人在说”。考试时,在第一遍阅读中并不要把 3 个 that 后面的内容全部搞清楚,而只需记住这是三件事情。如果答题时有问题涉及它们的内容,你再看也不迟;但如果没有,那就意味着你的阅读速度将大大地提高了。还有,形式主语和形式宾语,在阅读时完全也可以忽略。具体地说,如果你把“I find it important to study English”看成“I find study English important”,就会少看没有意思的单词,从而更好地记住有意思的单词。

(三)不熟悉文章的主题

笔者以前时常遇见这样一件尴尬的事情,有人请我翻译一本“使用手册”,便轻松地对说“这个小东西对你来说是小菜一碟”。听后心里总觉得不是滋味,因为我知道这不是语言本身的问题,而且专业知识的问题。如果我要帮他翻译,我得花掉许多时间,而且不一定翻译很准确,但是别人却认为我不需花多少时间。后来再遇到这类情况,我就直截了当地回绝,说:“对不起,这个手册如果是中文的,我也看不懂。”

学生在考试中同样会遇到这样的问题,因为出卷子的老师要考虑到采用不同主题和类型的文章来考察学生,虽说不会太偏,但也不能保证每个同学对每个主题都很熟悉。

其实,这个问题说到底还是知识面的问题。要想解决这个问题就得平时多读些文章,不一定是英语的文章,你只要做到对所看过的知识点记住就行了。

三、文章体裁与类型

(一)了解文章的体裁

说英语的国家和中国一样,把文章分成4种类型:“叙事文、描述文、说明文和议论文。了解文章的体裁也能有助于理解文章。“叙事文”主要以时间为红线来叙说一个故事,它比较容易懂,读者只要弄清楚什么人在什么地方、什么时间做了什么,或什么时间发生了什么事就行了。“描述文”指的是作者对人物、风景等进行描述。掌握它的技巧是掌握描述的空间逻辑顺序。“说明文”指的是交代一件事情如何做,它主要靠动作的先后顺序。“议论文”指的是反驳某一种观点,提出自己的观点,或直接提出自己的某个观点。它主要靠论点加论句来完成。下面就拿江苏省非英语专业硕士研究生学位英语考试历年全真试题里的文章为例来,分别介绍什么叫做“叙事文”、“描述文”、“说明文”和“议论文”。

1. 叙事文

The Pony Express is an outstanding example of courage, endurance, and determination in the westward expansion of the United States. Caught between warring soldiers and Indians, the Pony Express carried important communications 2 000 miles from St. Joseph, Missouri, to Sacramento, California, in ten days.

The Pony Express made its first historic run in April 1860. Despite its long-lived reputation, it lasted only 18 months, until October 1861. The Pony Express was a fast, efficient operation, but even with its high prices (averaging \$ a to \$ 5 an ounce and sometimes totaling \$ 1 000 in receipts. Even though the Pony Express was credited with helping to keep California in the Union at the outbreak of the Civil War, the organization never received any financial assistance from Congress.

More than 190 stations were built for the Pony (as it was familiarly called). Five hundred horses and 80 riders were used. Most

rider changed horses three times in his 90-mile shift per day, covering some of the most dangerous territory in the West. The ponies were usually half-breed California mustangs, quick and full of endurance.

The basic equipment of the Pony Express—a leather vest, or mochila, containing the mail—was placed over the saddle of the animal. Designed for its lightness and ability to be transferred quickly from horse to horse, the mochila had four leather cantinas, or boxes, sewn to it onto another saddled, fresh horse, and he was no his way. To ensure the privacy of the mails, the four pockets containing the letters, which were wrapped in oiled silk for protection, were locked from St. Joseph to Sacramento. (2002 年 6 月)

2. 描述文

The Gulf Stream, which runs like a friendly blue river across the cold green Atlantic Ocean, is one of the mightiest powers in the world. By comparison, the Mississippi and the mighty Amazon are but small rivers. Two million tons of coal burned every minute would not equal the heat that the Stream gives forth in its Atlantic crossing. Without the Stream's warmth England's pleasant green countryside would be as cold as Labrador, which is no farther north than England. If this "river of blue" were cooled as much as 15 degrees, England, Scandinavia, northern France and Germany would probably become a region for the Eskimos.

The general course of the blue river has never been known to change. From Florida north the Stream follows the curve of the coast but stays well away from the shore. When the warm waters meet the icy Labrador currents, the Stream loses some speed and heat, but even with icebergs at its margin it stays warm enough for tropical sea life.

As the Stream nears Europe it divides north and south. The northern drift mixed with the Arctic Ocean. The southern drift comes

again into the path of Africa's hot trade winds, and the waters hurry back to the Gulf of Mexico, gathering again their store of heat. The complete course of the Stream, therefore, is like a tremendous 12 000-mile whirlpool.

Scientists think that it takes three years for the Stream to make a complete trip. Their belief is based on the courses of bottles that have been thrown into the Stream to drift. These bottles contain papers, printed in many languages, requesting the finders to note the places and dates of finding and mail them back. Government experts on ocean currents have records of thousands of these "bottle papers".

Other oceans have such currents. In the North Pacific, for example, the Japanese Current makes the climate of coastal Alaska and America's west coast mild. Science is still not satisfied with what it knows about these currents. But for most of us it is enough to know that the Gulf Stream and similar currents give warmth to countries that would otherwise be very cold indeed. (2002 年 6 月)

3. 说明文

Large companies need a way to reach the savings of the public at large. The same problem, on a smaller scale, faces practically every company trying to develop new products and create new jobs. There can be little prospect of raising the sort of sums needed from friends and people we know, and while banks may agree to provide short-term finance, they are generally unwilling to provide money; on a permanent basis for long-term projects. So companies turn to the public, inviting people to lend them money, or take a share in the business in exchange for a share in future profits. This they do by issuing stocks and shares in the business through The Stock Exchange. By doing so they can put into circulation the savings of individuals and institutions, both at home and overseas.

When the saver needs his money back, he does not have to go to

the company with whom he originally placed it. Instead, he sells his shares through a stockbroker, to some other saver who is seeking to invest his money.

Many of the services needed both by industry and by each of us are provided by the Government or by local authorities. Without hospitals, roads, electricity, telephones, railways, this country could not function. All these require continuous spending on new equipment and new development if they are to serve us properly, requiring more money than is raised through taxes alone. The Government, local authorities, and nationalized industries therefore frequently need to borrow money to finance major capital spending, and they, too, come to The Stock Exchange.

There is hardly a man or woman in this country whose job or whose standard of living does not depend on the ability of his or her employers to raise money to finance new development. In one way or another this new money must come from the savings of the country. The Stock Exchange exists to provide a channel through which these savings can reach those who need finance. (1998 年 12 月)

4. 议论文

(1) Is happiness proportional to income — to the money a person has? Is a man with two rooms and loaves of bread happier than a man with only one of each? Clearly poverty and destitution (that is, having no room and no bread) do produce unhappiness. Obviously, men need money to buy the necessities of life.

But this presents another question. How many rooms and how many loaves of bread (and thus how much money) does a man need? Most people in the Western world can satisfy a minimal requirement for the necessities of life, but they still desire to increase their incomes to buy more and more material possessions and status symbols. Why?

The answer may be that as things are today, if a man is not rich, admiration and respect are not given him by other people. Accordingly this may be the chief reason why people wish to be richer and richer, as the actual goods or possessions play a secondary part to the envy or admiration that this wealth brings them. This veneration from other people may be a greater source of happiness than the money or possessions themselves.

This has not, however, always been true. In aristocratic ages men were admired for their birth and breeding. In other ages men would not have been respected if they had not proved their artistic excellence or learning. In India, for example, poor and saintly men are respected, and in China, the old and wise. In such circles many men are, as long as they have enough to live on, indifferent to money. They value more and are happier with the respect they merit for other reasons.

The modern desire for wealth is not inherent in human nature, and varies with social values. If, by law, we all had exactly the same income, we should have to find some other way of being superior to our peers, as most of our craving for material possessions would cease. Thus a general increase of wealth gives no competitive advantage to an individual and therefore brings him no competitive happiness. (1997 年 6 月)

(2) Some people are accustomed to think that facts must either be believed or they must be disbelieved—as if belief were like a light switch with only two positions, on or off. My use of the bathtub hoax is intended to illustrate that belief does not have to operate as a simple yes or no choice, all or nothing. Belief can be more conditional; it can be something that we decide to have “up to a point” or “to a degree”. And so, the question we might ask ourselves while reading does not have to be “Should I believe it or not?” but

instead can be “How much should I believe it?” This latter question implies that the belief we have in any given fact, or in any given idea, is not determined by whether it sounds right or whether the source is an authority. It means that our beliefs are determined by the reasons that justify them. Belief is not a mechanical action, brought about by invariable rules of nature. It is a human activity, the exercise of judgment. With this in mind, we might say that we perform this action better when we know what the reasons are that have led to our belief, and why they are good reasons.

These observations do not deprive us of our ability to believe in what we read. They are not intended to transform you from credulous believers into stubborn doubters. The process of weighing beliefs against the quality of reasons is one that you already go through all the time, whether you are aware of it or not. We all do. The practice of critical reading is the exercise of this kind of judgment on purpose. By doing it, we protect ourselves from being led into belief for inadequate reasons, but at the same time we open up our minds to the possibility of arriving at belief for adequate ones. If we decide to grant or withhold consent based on the quality of the reasons that we are given, we admit at the same time that two things are possible. We admit that we might consent less in the future if we discover that the reasons are not so good after all; and we admit that we might. (2002年6月)

(二)了解文章的类型

所谓的“显形结构文章”指的是文章的发展结构清晰可见，一目了然。全文的主题思想往往放在第一段的第一句，每一段的段落大意也往往是该段的第一句或最后一句。换句话说，该句可以原封不动地作为该篇或该段的中心意思，无需再用自己的话来组织。“隐形结构文章”指的是当你读完全文后找不到哪一句能概括全文，只有通过自己的理解用自己的话来概述。我们把文章进行这样的分类，目的是让学生