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前 言

——代序(选自新浪网)

近年来考研英语大纲的变化主要体现在对 B 题型的调整上。为使这一题型能够更加客观地检测考生的阅读能力,有很强的科学性,最近的考试大纲在往年的选择搭配题的基础上,对其进行了扩充和完善。但考研英语各部分的权重没有改变,考研英语仍然是阅读和写作之争,下面笔者重点讲解阅读和写作的题型特点和备考方法:

一、阅读

阅读分为三节:

A节: 共四篇文章,主要考察考生理解主旨要义、具体信息、概念性含义,进行有关的判断、推理和引申,根据上下文推测生词的词义等能力。

在本书中,A型题文章选材新颖,超纲词控制在大纲允许的3%以内,特别突出选项的干扰性,尽可能杜绝弱智试题。其中第四篇难度最大,对考生的理解能力是一种挑战,对于该篇文章可适当延长做题时间。本书纠正了目前考研阅读书普遍存在的缺点:文章选材陈旧;超纲词多,有的甚至多达20~30个;选项的设置简单、幼稚,无须看懂文章也能做对题目。笔者考虑到学生的实际需要,为每篇文章提供了详细和完整的译文。

B节:包括四种备选题型。备选题型一,选择填空题(原选择搭配题);备选题型二,排序题;备选题型三,例证题;备选题型四,标题题。其中选择搭配题和排序题主要考察考生把握篇章整体结构和推测作者写作意图的能力。例证题和标题题考察学生分辨论点和论据的能力。

应该注意的是,虽然很多考生对 B 题型感到比较陌生,但这种题型的测试思想和实践在国内外其他考试中存在已经有一段比较长的历史了。根据笔者这些年对于这类试题的教学研究,在应对这种题型时考生切忌盲目轻信所谓的技巧,而应该重视科学的试题和科学的训练。以往这方面出现的问题比较多,应该吸收的教训也不少。很多同学由于平时训练难度不够,或者训练材料科学性不强,不能适应考场上高难度实考题。本书试题严格按照最新大纲编写,具有很高的信度和效度,具有很强的科学性。

C节: 主要考察考生准确理解概念或结构较复杂的英语文字材料的能力。

英译汉一直是难度比较大、得分比较低的一项。本书的可贵之处是在提供译文的基础上, 诠释了翻译的思维过程。

阅读理解的提高是一个非常令人头疼的问题。在词、句、篇中,句子理解是关键。考研英语的文章 30 或者 40 个单词长度的句子俯拾即是,考研阅读要想提高就必须能够读懂 40 个单词长度的句子。在阅读方面,多年来我们在国内进行了很多的教学活动,并且专门安排了有关难句的训练,同学们反映阅读能力在较短的时间内确有明显的提高。在这些教学成果的基础上,我们编写了《硕士研究生英语人学考试阅读基本功 难句过关》("考试虫"体系)一书。该书出版后深受广大考生的喜爱,目前已经成了考研英语应试的手边书。

基本功夯实后,另一个问题就显得比较突出。尽管市场上阅读材料并不少见,但要找到真正适合考研英语阅读训练的材料(除实考试题外)并不容易。认为在这方面可用的书很多,往往是缺乏鉴别力的表现。出版一本真正与真题命题思路接近的阅读专项训练题集是广大考生的心愿,更是我们的心愿。作为《难句过关》的姊妹篇,本书正是基于这样的考虑,历时三载,编写完成的。很多同学使用后,尤其是考试后的反馈,使我们感到自己的辛苦是值得的。"会当凌绝顶,一览众山小"是考生"消化"了本书参加考试的真实感受,也是对本书的最高评价。

二、写作

目前作文考两篇,一篇是 100 词左右的应用文,包括私人和商务信函、备忘录、摘要、报告和便笺,满分 10 分。一篇是 160-200 词的短文 (标点符号在内),包括描述性、叙述性、说明/议论性的文章,满分 20 分。两篇总分共 30 分。

作文从 15 分,增加到 20 分,进一步增加到目前的 30 分,再也不是考试中可以忽视或弱化的部分了。目前作文的这些变化非常强调对考生基本写作素质、基础写作能力的测试。而我们的同学写出的作文常见的问题有两个:一是句式极其简单,有的同学用一个系词 be 能够写出一篇文章;第二是语法错误太多。对此众多的阅卷老师都有抱怨。

至于提高写作能力的方法,很多同学有明显的错误认识。其一,认为只要把考研阅读提高上去,写作自然会提高,这是一种致命的误解。根据我这些年的教学经验,非常多的考生即使他们考研阅读能力练到很强的程度,写出的作文也非常差。这在语言学上就是著名的理解力和产出力的差异。同学们一定要注意不能用考研难度的阅读代替写作练习。其二,认为每天写一篇英语作文或英文日记会彻底提高自己的写作水平。对于汉语的确如此,因为你的汉语能力实在是很强。但英语则不然,在没有高明老师修改的情况下,基础不好的同学每天练习写作文也不见得是好的提高方法,因为同学们反复写的是过于简单的英语,如主系表,水平难以提高,或者反复写错误的英语,就更不好,不断重复犯同一错误,久而久之,就成了习惯性错误。

"解决问题比指出问题更重要!"这才是同学们的心声。那么什么才是考生作文的解决方案?记住:写作考的是简单英语的运用能力,读难的英语不能解决简单英语的写作问题。现在都不认识的或生僻的单词,即使记住了,它很可能是,或者直截了当地讲,一定是消极词汇(阅读中认识的单词),而不可能是积极词汇(写作、口语中自由使用的词汇)。不要忘了我们是怎样彻底学会"自由"使用系词 be 的,见到的次数太多了!一个单词不在阅读中见过一千遍,你是没有把握正确使用的。正确的道路是要重视简单英语运用能力的培养。

根据我这些年的教学经验,非英语专业的同学运用简单英语的能力是相当糟糕的。最有效的解决方法是"狂读"简单英语读物,"考试虫"学习体系中有一套读物《床头灯英语学习读本》,是美国作家用 3300 个基础单词写成的英语小说系列,包括《飘》《红与黑》《吸血鬼》《简·爱》等世界名著,3300 词读遍天下书。3 天就能看一本,每天看 0.5~1 小时。读 30~40 本 = 100 万词的英语输入 = 获得英语写作能力。小说里有人物描写(2002年考美国女孩穿着中国服装,2004年考一个小男孩跑步,2005年考四个子女虐待老人),有景物描写(2003年考温室花朵),有书信、便条(未来考试的方向),有事件发展过程

的描述,有人物丰富的内心世界描写,有……,这些都是考试所迫切需要的。阅卷人非常讨厌 beautiful, big, great 等单调、乏味的用语,能够对情景或图画进行有一定深度的叙述和描写往往是作文高分必须具备的。应用文更是需要语言的表达能力,是仅背几篇范文所绝难获得的。切记:没有 100 万词的英语输入,无法练出写作能力。这更是英语课本和普通的作文书所无法提供的!请同学们思考一下:就这 3000 个词,你还没有信心用熟!只要语法不出错,用熟 3000 个基础词汇,作文考 20~25 分,易如反掌,那考研英语就轻松多了。人最难能可贵的是洞察力:不要为商业炒作所误导,不要急功近利,这是你们的"前辈们"用时间和金钱换来的宝贵经验教训。作文之路就在脚下,看你怎么走了。

在考前冲刺阶段,背一些写作套路,乃明智之举。

同学们,考研的路还很长,让我们跟上新的考试形势,以冷静而务实的态度面对它,成功就一定会到来。

五苦平 于北京

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Unit 1

Part A

Directions:

Read the following four texts. Answer the questions below each text by choosing A, B, C or D. Mark your answers on ANSWER SHEET 1. (40 points)

Text 1

To Ladan and Laleh Bijani, 29-year-old twin sisters joined at the head, a chance to live separate lives was more important than life itself. Despite 50-50 odds of dying from surgery and doctors' best efforts to talk them out of it, the twins never wavered in their determination to be separated. They lost the gamble. Last week, both women bled to death on the operating table at Raffles Hospital in Singapore after 50 hours of surgery. The operation was the first known attempt to separate adult twins joined at the head. The women's bodies, separate at last, were sent to their home country, Iran, for burial.

Now, opinion is divided as to whether doctors should have even tried to operate, and whether a patient's wishes, however desperate, are enough to justify a risky and experimental procedure.

Supporters of the surgery say the sisters, intelligent and well-educated law school graduates, understood the risks and had every right to take them. Critics argue that the risks were too high and that doctors had an ethical obligation to say no.

The decision to operate was defended by Dr. Benjamin S. Carson, who was part of the team of doctors to work on the Bijanis. Dr. Carson was called in by doctors in Singapore because he had separated several sets of infants joined at the head. At a press conference in Singapore shortly after the women died, Dr. Carson said they were so determined to be separated that he felt compelled to try to help them, adding, "I was convinced they would seek separation no matter who performed the surgery."

Dr. Mark Siegler, director of the MacLean Ethics Center at the University of Chicago, said that even though the twins consented to the operation, it violated ethical standards for experimental surgery and should not have been done. What made him oppose the surgery was the 50 percent risk of death. "You need responsible judgment on the part of the surgeon." he said. "For an operation that was not medically necessary, a 50 percent risk of death was too high. Such high risks are acceptable when a patient is likely to die without surgery. But that wasn't the case here, where the surgery was done not to save lives but primarily to meet the psychological needs of the twins." Dr. Siegler said it was also troubling that the team in Singapore had decided to go ahead with the operation even though other surgeons had declined on at least two occasions, saying it was too dangerous and likely to kill one or both twins. And he ques-



tioned the surgeons' decision to proceed at the representative's request when their medical judgment seemed to suggest a different course.

- 1. According to the passage, which of the following is TRUE?
 - [A] The doctors tried hard to persuade the twins not to take the operation.
 - [B] Risky operations like this should not have been performed.
 - The twins had great confidence in the doctors performing the operation.
 - [D] The twins died 50 hours after the operation.
- 2. The twin sisters insisted on taking the operation because
 - [A] the doctor had separated several sets of infants at the head.
 - B they would rather die than live unseparated.
 - [C] there was 50-50 odds of success for the separation operation.
 - [D] they were likely to die without the operation.
- 3. The doctors who performed the operation defended the decision on the ground that
 - [A] they had experiences in doing operations like this.
 - [B] the twins were likely to die without the operation.
 - the twins had made up their mind to seek separation at any cost.
 - [D] the hope of success of the operation was as great as the risk it might take.
- 4. Doctors who are opposed to the operation argue that
 - [A] the twin sisters did not understand the risk the operation might have.
 - (B) the risky operation was not medically necessary.
 - [C] the twins were not physically healthy enough for the operation.
 - [D] operations should not be done to meet psychological needs.
- 5. The author's attitude towards the operation can be described as
 - [A] supportive.
 - [B] critical.
 - [C] sympathetic.
 - [D] neutral.

Text 2

"It's turning into a summer of discontent on Wall Street," says Commerzbank Securities chief economist Robert Gay. "Rocketing oil prices and anemic job gains delivered a one two punch last week that unnerved financial markets and left the White House scrambling to put a sunny spin on current economic conditions. The double blows are closely related. The price of oil has disrupted the smooth transition from economic stimulus to job and wage gains."

The possibility that the economy's soft patch" is spreading sent the Dow Jones industrial average down 3.2 percent for the week ending August 6. That left it below the psychologically important 10,000 mark. The technology laden Nasdaq composite dropped 5.8 percent. Wor-



ries that higher oil prices will crimp corporate earnings aggravate fears already heightened by warnings of terror plots against financial institutions in Washington, New York, and Newark, N.J.

Though economists are still trying to unravel the job numbers, which came in far below expectations, rapidly rising oil prices, which reached a record-high \$44.77 a barrel for September delivery, were easier to explain, if not to resolve. The world petroleum market is as tight as, well, a drum. Thus every possible disruption, no matter how small, sends prices through the roof. "The cushion of spare capacity, usually very ample, is very small right now," says Jim Burkhard, director of global oil markets. "That cushion is not nearly enough to prevent sharp price movements."

The latest disruption comes from Supreme Court of Mother Russia, where last week authorities inexplicably threatened to kill the goose that daily lays them a golden, oil-filled egg. The Justice Ministry seized assets of oil giant Yukos in an attempt to collect billions of dollars in unpaid taxes. Such an action could take Yukos — which accounts for 2 percent of world supply — off the market for a week, or possibly much longer.

Although only Russian President Vladimir Putin seems to know what will happen to Yukos — many analysts suspect that he is pursuing a personal crusade against the company — the situation will probably be resolved in the near future. But don't breathe easy yet, cautions Philip Verleger, energy economist and senior fellow at the Institute for International Economics. "There's not enough refining capacity, demand is strong, and with a cold winter it could get ugly. We could see \$ 50 a barrel by November."

That's bad news for the economy, as the higher cost of energy was behind weak consumer spending in June and poor July sales reports from major retail chains. High Frequency Economics says that every \$10 increase in the price of a barrel of oil lowers its GDP growth expectations by six tenths of a percentage point. All of which feeds back into increased nervousness on Wall Street — and perhaps at 1600 Pennsylvania Avenue.

- 6. It can be learned from Paragraph 2
 - [A] higher oil prices aggravate fears about corporate earnings.
 - [B] the economy's "soft patch" is spreading out.
 - [C] cautions about terrorism seem to precede the sharp rise of oil prices.
 - [D] the Dow Jones industrial average plays an important role in psychoanalysis.
- 7. What can be inferred from the passage?
 - [A] Job numbers are now lower than the same period a year ago.
 - B) There is little hope of solving the job problems in the near future.
 - [C] Rising oil prices do not seem to be the only reason for dismal job numbers.
 - [D] The investigation of the job issue has turned out to be fruitless.
- 8. The word "cushion" (Line 5, Para. 3) refers to
 - [A] bearable range of fluctuating oil prices for petroleum markets.



- [B]/additional oil storage in world petroleum market.
- [C] effect of global oil markets on the oil prices.
- [D] flexible output of oil producers.
- 9. What conclusion can be drawn about Russia from the passage?
 - [A] Things could not be worse for Russians.
 - [B] Yukos' financial crisis would end soon.
 - [C] Destruction of Yukos was not necessarily a wise decision.
 - D The government was centered on reclaiming its unpaid tax.
- 10. Which of the following figure might account for current tight petroleum market?
 - [A] 5.8% decrease in Nasdaq composite.
 - [B] 2% cut in world oil supply.
 - [C] 0.6% drop in GDP growth.
 - [D] 50 dollars per barrel oil.

Text 3

Faded star finds new happiness with samurai; James Bond will soon be in bed with Charlie's Angels; Rocky Balboa will team up with Spider-Man; MGM will cease to be Hollywood's last big independent movie studio; and, at the age of 87, Kirk Kerkorian, who holds 74% of MGM's shares, will add another \$2.1 billion to his existing billions. Such are the immediate consequences of the tentative agreement reached on September 14th by Sony Corporation of America, owner of the lissom Angels and the amazing wall-climber, to buy MGM. Assuming approval by the MGM board on September 27th, and no antitrust objections, a Sony-led consortium will pay about \$2.94 billion in cash and assume about \$1.9 billion of MGM debt.

The deal ends months of wrangling, with Mr. Kerkorian — who has now bought and sold MGM three times — dangling the prize of its library of 4,100 film titles and 10,000 TV episodes before not just Sony but Time Warner. Until just hours before the deal with Sony, it had seemed that Time Warner, ready to bid \$4.6 billion (counting in the debt), was the front-runner. But then its chairman announced that it could not reach agreement with MGM"at a price that would have represented a prudent use of our growing financial capacity." Even after three years, the bruises of Time Warner's merger with AOL are yet to fade.

So is the Sony consortium paying too much? Sony itself is putting up some \$300m. The rest will come from banks and private equity. The key may be the last-minute involvement of Comcast, a cable company, as a programming and distribution partner with cash maybe to come later. Comcast is linked to 22m American households; that will ensure some reassuring cashflow to the consortium. Indeed, Sony, which already owns the Columbia and TriStar studios, expects to buy out its partners, except for Comcast, within five years. For Comcast, which last year cast an eye over Universal and this year made an abortive bid for Disney, the at-



traction is a mass of new content, from both the MGM and the Sony film libraries, to sell as video-on-demand.

Some MGMpathists — the kind who swooned over "Gone with the Wind", blubbed over "Brief Encounter", sang with Elvis in "Jailhouse Rock" and giggled at the Pink Panther — will grieve for the loss of MGM's independence. But the roar of the MGM lion is not what it was: exploiting the library has for some years counted for more than adding to it. And 007 will surely not complain.

- 11. It can be learnt from Paragraph 1 that
 - [A] Faded stars will be better treated in the new corporation.
 - Kirk Kerkorian will add more to his MGM shares.
 - [C] No big Hollywood movie studio will be independent.
 - [D] Sony Corporation of America will owe MGM about \$1.9 billion.
- 12. What can be inferred from paragraph 2?
 - [A] MGM's films and TV episodes won more prizes than those of Time Warner.
 - [B] Time Warner abandoned the deal because MGM wasn't a valuable asset.
 - [C] Kerkorian has often been selling and buying MGM for maximum margin.
 - [D] Negative effect of the merger with AOL is still haunting Time Warner.
- 13. Which of the following is NOT true?
 - [A] Kerkorian might bring in about \$2.1 billion through the deal with Sony.
 - [B] Whether the MGM board will approve the deal is still unknown.
 - [C] The attraction of the deal for Comcast lies in the steady cashflow into the consortium.
 - [D] The last thing MGM pathists hope for is loss of MGM's independence.
- 14. It is implied in the last paragraph that
 - [A] MGM will not be as glorious as several years ago.
 - [B] 007 will return to silver screen in the near future.
 - [C] making new films was less profitable for MGM.
 - [D] there will not be the brand of MGM any longer.
- 15. The author's attitude toward MGM's deal with Sony seems to be
 - [A] opposed.
 - [] approving.
 - suspicious.
 - [D] enthusiastic.

Text 4

Surprisingly enough, modern historians have rarely interested themselves in the history of the American South in the period before the South began to become self-consciously and distinctively "Southern" — the decades after 1815. Consequently, the cultural history of Britain's



North American empire in the seventeenth and eighteenth centuries has been written almost as if the Southern colonies had never existed. The American culture that emerged during the Colonial and Revolutionary eras has been described as having been simply an extension of New England Puritan culture. However, Professor Davis has recently argued that the South stood apart from the rest of American society during this early period, following its own unique pattern of cultural development. The case for Southern distinctiveness rests upon two related premises: first, that the cultural similarities among the five Southern colonies were far more impressive than the difference, and second, that what made those colonies alike also made them different from the other colonies. The first, for which Davis offers an enormous amount of evidence, can be accepted without major reservations; the second is far more problematic.

What makes the second premise problematic is the use of the Puritan colonies as a basis for comparison. Quite properly, Davis disfavors the excessive influence attributed by historians to the Puritans in the formation of American culture. Yet Davis himself adds weight to such attributions by using the Puritans as the standard against which to assess the achievements and contributions of Southern colonials. Throughout, Davis focuses on the important, and undeniable, differences between the Southern and Puritan colonies in motives for and pattern of early settlement, in attitudes toward nature and Native Americans, and in the degree of receptivity to metropolitan cultural influences.

However, recent scholarship has strongly suggested that those aspects of early New England culture that seem to have been most distinctly Puritan, such as the strong religious orientation (and the shared impulse), were not even typical of New England as a whole, but were largely confined to the two colonies of Massachusetts and Connecticut. Thus, what in contrast to the Puritan colonies appear to Davis to be peculiarly Southern — acquisitiveness, a strong interest in politics and the law, and a tendency to cultivate metropolitan cultural models — was not only more typically English than the cultural pattern exhibited by Puritan Massachusetts and Connecticut, but also almost certainly characteristic! of most other early modern British colonies from Barbados north to Rhode Island and New Hampshire. Within the larger framework of American colonial life, then, not the Southern but the Puritan colonies appear to have been distinctive, and even they seem to have been rapidly assimilating to the dominant cultural patterns by the late Colonial period.

- 16. The author is primarily concerned with
 - [A] refuting a claim about the influence of Puritan culture on the early American South.
 - B refuting a thesis about the distinctiveness of the culture of the early American South.
 - [C] refuting the two premises that underlie Davis' discussion of the culture of the American South in the period before 1815.
 - [D] challenging the hypothesis that early American culture was homogeneous in nature.
- 17. The text implies that the attitudes toward Native Americans that prevailed in the Southern colonies



- [A] developed as a response to attitudes that prevailed in Massachusetts and Connecticut.
- [B] derived from Southerners' strong interest in the law.
- C were modeled after those that prevailed in the North.
- [D] differed from those that prevailed in the Puritan colonies.
- 18. According to the author, the description of American culture during the Colonial and Revolutionary eras as an extension of New England Puritans culture reflects the
 - [A] fact that historians have overestimated the importance of the Puritans in the development of American culture.
 - [B] fact that early American culture was deeply influenced by the strong religious orientation of the colonists.
 - [C] extent to which Massachusetts and Connecticut served as cultural models for the other American colonies.
 - [D] extent to which colonial American resisted assimilating cultural patterns that were typically English.
- 19. In Davis's opinion, which is NOT the difference between the Puritan and Southern colonies?
 - [A] Attitudes towards Native Americans.
 - [B] Motives for early settlement.
 - [C] Pattern of culture development.
 - [D] Pattern of early settlement.
- 20. Which of the following could most logically follow the last sentence of the text?
 - Thus, convergence, not divergence, seems to have characterized the cultural development of the American Colonies in the eighteenth century.
 - [B] Thus, without the cultural diversity represented by the American South, the culture of colonial America would certainly have been homogeneous in nature.
 - [C] Thus, the contribution of southern colonials to American culture was certainly overshadowed by that of the Puritans.
 - [D] Thus, the culture of America during the Colonial period was far more sensitive to outside influences than historians are accustomed to acknowledge.

Part B

Directions:

In the following article, some sentences have been removed. For Questions 21—25, choose the most suitable one from the list A—G to fit into each of the numbered blanks. There are two extra choices, which do not fit in any of the gaps. Mark your answers on ANSWER SHEET 1. (10 points)

If you become infected with even a single cold or flu virus, it quickly within minutes will enter one of your nose or lung cells, make many copies of itself and then the copies burst out of



the damaged cell carrying with them a covering made from the old cell wall material. 21)

________. But since the new viruses are covered with cell wall material made from your own body, the white blood cells of your immune system can't see them. These many new viruses also within minutes invade other nearby healthy cells and repeat the process. 22)

________. But that very first infected cell, when it became destroyed by the infecting virus sent out a hormonal signal created by bursting the cell wall which causes two things to occur. First, the white blood cells stored in your lymph nodes are sent out to seek and find the cause of the damaged cell. Second, a fever is induced.

In order to raise your body temperature to create a fever the heat losses through your extremities, such as the hands, feet and skin are reduced by slowing down and constricting the peripheral blood flow. This causes your hands, feet and skin to feel cold. You may even shiver. This occurs within several minutes of the first viral damage. This is called "catching a cold" and the cold feeling is the first step to raising your core body temperature to above 101 degrees to stop any further viral reproduction and infection. 23)

The medical term "rhino virus" is from the Greek word "rhino" meaning the "nose" and refers to a viral infection of the nasal membranes which we normally call a cold. 25)

________. This comes from the times of the Crusades in the middle ages when armies of knights from western Europe, mostly England, France, Spain and Germany, first came into contact in the Middle Eastern Holy Land with merchant camel caravans, carrying with them not only trade goods but many cases of pig-goose viral infections. The viral infections were probably in dried form on the cloth and trade goods, which only needed to be moistened to become re-activated.

- [A] Humans have genetically developed a natural method to defeat viral infections called a fever.
- [B] Without anything to stop it, within several hours that one single virus will have copied itself many millions of times quickly overwhelming your body.
- [C] The medical term "influenza" comes from the Spanish word "influence".
- [D] This covering is to protect the virus from attack since your body will attack and destroy all "foreign" invaders.
- [E] By surrounding and swallowing up the infected cells and using chemicals to "eat" or break apart all the material inside, the big macrophages effectively destroy the virus and stop the viral reproduction and infection.
- [F] The two are separate types of viruses. Whether you have a rhino or flu virus determines whether you begin to sneeze, with a runny nose from a cold, or begin to cough with lung

