



学苑考研考级系列

恩波学校考研系列辅导教材

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硕士研究生入学考试 英语阅读理解

400题 详解

学苑出版社

SHUOSHIYANJIUSHENGGRUXUEKAOSHIFYINGYUYUEDULIJIE400TIXIANGJIE

图书在版编目 (CIP) 数据

硕士研究生入学考试英语阅读理解 400 题详解/吴嘉中主编. -
北京:学苑出版社,2000.6
ISBN 7-5077-1548-5

I. 硕… II. 吴… III. 英语-阅读-研究生-入学考试-解题 IV. H31

中国版本图书馆 CIP 数所据核字 (2000) 第 07883 号



学苑出版社出版发行

北京市万寿路西街 11 号 100036

北京新丰印刷厂印刷 新华书店经销

850 × 1168 32 开本 14 印张 360 千字

2000 年 6 月北京第 1 版 2000 年 6 月北京第 1 次印刷

印数:00001 - 15000 册 定价:16.00 元

前 言

阅读理解是研究生入学英语考试中的重要部分,占总分的40%。考生阅读理解能力的高低在很大程度上直接影响考生英语考试的成败。根据近几年考研英语阅读理解试题的特点,我们有针对性地编写了这本《硕士研究生入学考试英语阅读理解400题详解》。全书含二十套模拟试题,共一百篇英语阅读文章。本书的宗旨是:为考生提供一套内容新颖及命题逼真的阅读理解素材,供考生训练自测之用,以提高考生阅读理解能力与应试能力。

本书具有以下几个特点:

一、选题精确

本书所选的文章大多为社会科学、文化教育、经济、科普和心理学等近几年考研试题中的热点题材。体裁以议论文和说明文为主;题型以文章主旨大意、作者观点态度、深层理解、推理结论为主。本书所选的文章无论在难度和长度上,还是在命题思路和题型上,都与研究生入学英语考试的阅读理解部分的试题相仿。

二、解析精细

本书对每道试题都作了详细的分析解答,对文章的理解要点进行归纳说明,对易错的干扰项进行辨析指正。本书突出解题思路与技巧,着重分析重点与难点,能帮助考生熟悉和掌握阅读理解考试的内容和解题规律。本书对超纲词汇做了注释以方便考生阅读。

三、针对性强

本书编者对考研试题有深入的研究,并在长期的考研英语辅导实践中积累了极丰富的教学经验。编者既熟悉考研阅读理解试题的命题特点,又了解考生在阅读理解方面所存在的困难和问题,因此无论是选材还是命题,针对性都很强。我们相信,只要考生能

认真地完成本书的模拟阅读理解题,并仔细阅读和真正理解本书对每道题的解析,一定能提高自身的英语阅读能力和研究生入学考试英语考试的成绩。

由于编者的学识水平和时间有限,本书难免有疏漏之处,恳请广大读者批评指正。

编者

二〇〇〇年四月

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Unit 1

Passage 1

The collaboration among scientists, universities and industry is not new. Both the university administration and the industry play a role in developing the scientific knowledge in the academic environment. The university is usually responsible for obtaining patents and for licensing the rights for its professors' inventions. The company, having licensed the product, must provide the considerable financial backing required for its development and marketing.

In the best of all possible worlds, the inventors, the university administrators and the company executives work as a well-oiled machine that creates a beneficial product and generates capital to support the academic lab, the scientist, the university and the company's shareholders¹. In the real world, however, each of these component parts has its own agenda. The goals may not entirely overlap.

When a university stands to gain financially from the commercialization of one of its professors' inventions, for example, the professors may hesitate, out of conflict-of-interest issues, to participate in the trials of the new product. Such a policy causes friction and frustration in the relationship between the university administration and the faculty members. Distrust can be heightened if the negotiations with companies are handled by an official who represents the university but not the interest of the faculty.

Universities themselves have faced the frustration of licensing their

inventions to companies that have then sublicensed² them to other firms for enormous fees. Because these "fees" can be disguised by a variety of accounting procedures, there is no way for the university or the inventor to participate in the profits of the sublicensing agreement. Thus, unless the invention becomes a product, the profits made by the company are not shared by the university or the inventor.

Meanwhile it is the company who writes the checks. Of the three parties involved, it compromises the least. As a rule, the company shows more concern over new ideas and new products which can be used to benefit itself and the public good as well.

So the scientist, the university and the industry find themselves on a three-way street where ideas from the academic laboratory move into the realm of application. Because the use of this highway has increased dramatically in recent years, traffic jams and collisions have been unavoidable. And, increasingly, basic research is diverted³ from its path. Inevitably, such sidetracking⁴ will slow the movement of basic science discoveries into technical products.

Preventing this slowdown requires some new rules of the road. Increased government funding for research is necessary to restore order by redirecting lab efforts back toward basic research — the wellspring⁵ of all applied technologies.

The scientist and the university must cease regarding companies as money-providers with deep pockets and learn from the business world how economic reality are integrated into idealistic goals. And the company's attitude that "the scientist has done the easy work" has to give way to adapting to a more inclusive approach that permits participation by the scientist and the university in deciding on the best road to development. Without these accommodations on all sides, the flow of ideas into products will be slowed, and all parties, including society at large, will suffer from the gridlock⁶. (523 words)

1. The main purpose of the author in writing this passage is the .
- [A] to emphasize the role of the university and the industry in developing scientific knowledge in the academic environment
 - [B] to present the problems in the collaboration among scientists, universities and companies
 - [C] to point out the necessity of redirecting laboratory efforts back towards basic research
 - [D] to argue for more financial support from the industry for new products' development and marketing
2. What do the universities worry about before the invention becomes a product?
- [A] They cannot share the profits if the company sublicenses the invention to another firm.
 - [B] They cannot find financial backing required for its development and marketing.
 - [C] They are not certain whether the product would be beneficial to themselves and the public as well.
 - [D] They are afraid that there will be conflict-of-interest issues arising between them and the faculty.
3. What has directly caused the slowdown of basic science discoveries into technical products according to the author?
- [A] Lack of sufficient financial support.
 - [B] Unavoidable traffic jams and collisions.
 - [C] Diversion of basic research from its path.
 - [D] Reduction of interest in basic research.
4. The author of this passage suggests in the passage that the .
- [A] the industry should provide more financial backing to encourage the university to offer more patents
 - [B] the university should formulate reasonable policies to motivate the

scientist to produce more inventions

[C] the scientist should take an more active attitude towards the creation of new ideas and new products

[D] the scientist, the university and the industry should change their attitudes towards each other

Notes

- | | |
|-----------------|----------|
| 1. shareholder | n. 股东 |
| 2. sublicense | v. 转让许可权 |
| 3. divert | v. 使转向 |
| 4. sidetracking | 偏离正轨道 |
| 5. wellspring | n. 源泉 |
| 6. gridlock | n. 停滞 |

Passage 2

World Trade Organization director-general Renato Ruggiero predicted that the WTO would boost¹ global incomes by \$ 1 trillion in the next ten years. The pact² paves the way for more foreign investment and competition in telecom markets. Many governments are making telecom deregulation³ a priority and making it easier for outsiders to enter the telecommunications business.

The pace varies widely. The U.S. and Britain are well ahead of the pack⁴, while Thailand won't be fully open until 2006. Only 20% of the \$ 601 billion world market is currently open to competition. That should jump to about 75 % in a couple of years — largely due to the Telecom Act in the U.S. last year that deregulated local markets, the opening up of the European Union's markets from Jan. 1, 1998 and the deregulation in Japan. The WTO deal now provides a forum for the inevitable disputes along the way. It is also symbolic: the first major trade agreement of the

post-industrial age. Instead of being obsessed with⁵ textile quotas, the WTO pact is proof that governments are realizing that in an information age, telecom is the oil and steel of economies in the future. Businesses around the world are already spending more in total on telecom services than they do on oil.

Consumers, meanwhile, can look forward to a future of lower prices — by some estimates, international calling rates should drop 80% over several years — and better service. Thanks in part to the vastly increased call volume carried by the fibre-optic cables that span the globe today, calling half a world away already costs little more than telephoning next door. The monopolies can no longer set high prices for international calls in many countries. In the U.S., the world's most fiercely competitive long distance market, frequent callers since last year have been paying about 12 cents a minute to call Britain, a price not much more than domestic rates.

The new competitive environment on the horizon means more opportunities for companies from the U.S. and U.K. in particular because they have plenty of practice at the rough-and-tumble⁶ of free markets. The U.S. lobbied⁷ hard for the WTO deal, confident that its firms would be big beneficiaries⁸ of more open markets. Britain has been deregulated since 1984 but will see even more competition than before: in December, the government issued 45 new international licenses to join British Telecom so that it will become a strong competitor in the international market. However, the once-cosseted⁹ industry will get rougher worldwide. Returns on capital will come down. Risks will go up. That is how free markets work. It will look like any other business. (441 words)

5. Which of the following statements can best describe the main theme of the passage?

- | | | |
|---------------------|------|-------------|
| 3. deregulation | n. | 撤销管制规定,解除控制 |
| 4. pack | n. | 一群,一帮 |
| 5. be obsessed with | | 对……着迷,对……入迷 |
| 6. rough-and-tumble | | 混乱,乱斗 |
| 7. lobby | v. | 游说,劝说 |
| 8. beneficiary | n. | 受益人,受俸牧师 |
| 9. once-cosseted | adj. | 一度受宠的 |

Passage 3

School authorities often refuse to face the problem; government drug-abuse agencies have done all too little to inform the public about it; many physicians still seem unaware of it when they examine teen-agers. As a result, parents may still be the last to know that their children have fallen victim to the drug epidemic that has been raging for more than a decade among American's youth. In a survey of a middle-income Cincinnati suburb, 38 percent of the sixth grade and 89 percent of the senior class said they used drug and/of alcohol; 48 percent of the parents thought their children used alcohol, but only 8 percent thought their children used drugs.

Fortunately, there is a new force at work against this epidemic — a nationwide movement of more than 400 parent groups formed to expose and battle drug use among teen-agers and preteens. The groups have different approaches and widely varying rates of success. Yet this parental crusade¹ is the only major force in the country to have taken active, organized and effective steps aimed at stopping marijuana² use.

Why the concentration on marijuana? Marijuana is the illegal drug most used by kids. According to a National High School Survey, 44 percent of U.S. high-school seniors had smoked pot³ during their school years, and one out of seven of these were daily or near daily smokers.

There was a close-related connection between pot smoking and subsequent use of cocaine and heroin by young men. Of those who had smoked pot fewer than 100 times, seven percent had graduated to cocaine, four percent to heroin. But of those who had smoked pot at least 1,000 times, 73 percent had gone on to cocaine, and one out of three had graduated to heroin.

Parent groups have found that by stopping their kids from smoking pot, they almost automatically stop all other illegal drugs, and cut down on alcohol use as well. The High School Senior Survey's statistics show that heavy pot smokers tend to be heavy drinkers, while those who do not use pot tend not to drink heavily.

Since virtually all over the country teen-age "partying" has come to mean "getting smashed and getting stoned" — on anything from pot to pills to hashish⁴, LSD, and alcohol, some parent groups home in on⁵ the partying aspect. Parents Who Care (PWC) was started in 1979 by 15 Palo Alto, Calif., parents who were upset by stories of serious drug problems at parties. They held talk sessions with their children and learned that most of their children had never been to a party where the main activity was not getting high. The parents' solution: workshops showing kids how to give successful drug-and-alcohol-free parties. Says, Margery Ranch, PWC director, "We've seen a change in attitude. Young people are feeling more comfortable saying no." (469 words)

9. The passage is primarily concerned with .

- [A] why the drug-abuse problem has become so serious among school-age children
- [B] why parents are concerned over the children drug-abuse problem
- [C] how parents try to free their children from drug addiction
- [D] what has caused the serious problem of children drug-abuse

10. Why do the parents focus their efforts on stopping their children from

pot smoking?

[A] Marijuana is comparably easier for children to get rid of.

[B] Pot smoking is the most popular form among school-age children.

[C] The withdrawal from pot smoking may contribute to abandoning other illegal drugs.

[D] Pot smoking affects school-age children's performances more than cocaine and heroin.

11. Which of the following statements is true according to the information given in the passage?

[A] Most children never go to the party where the main activity is getting high.

[B] Teen-age parties are the popular places for children to get high.

[C] Virtually all teen-age parties have become involved with illegal drugs.

[D] PWC has succeeded in persuading children not to get high at teen-age parties.

12. What does the author think of the parents' efforts to combat illegal drugs among high-school children?

[A] There are some effects but their efforts are a little bit isolated and lonely.

[B] There will be no substantial effects since drug-abuse problems deserve social attention.

[C] Their efforts are worthwhile and supported by school authorities and the government.

[D] Their efforts will ultimately lead to the public concern on the serious problem of children drug-abuse.

Notes

1. crusade n. 十字军

- | | | |
|---------------|----|------------|
| 2. marijuana | n. | 大麻 |
| 3. pot | n. | 大麻(俚语) |
| 4. Hashish | n. | 大麻醉剂 |
| 5. home in on | | 移向;把注意力集中于 |

Passage 4

Internet, E-mail and similar electronic connections offer a far wider ground for scholarly communication, because a researcher can post the beginnings of a theory, receive comments on it from peers¹, incorporate new ideas and alter the details over and over until it is right. Electronic networks enable scholarly publishing to imitate the intellectual process more closely. The unit of transaction will become the idea, not just a collection of articles.

This dynamic, fluid progression of an idea — which is known as “scholarly skywriting” — is possible, Hamad says, because the speed and reach of electronic messaging “more closely match the natural biological speed of human thought.” When he writes a paper, says Hamad, he is able instantly to incorporate the forces of the Net into the creative process. In one part of his computer will be E-mailed comments from colleagues, in another will be his own notes, in yet another his previous papers — and at any time, he can launch into the Net to find a new resource or paper, send off a thought to a commentator² or ask a question, all as if they were in the same room. This new form of scholarship could cause problems with copyrights, however. With so many voices involved in production of a new idea, it is more difficult than ever to pin down exactly who should receive cred it for it.

Some scholars believe that the storage of documents as disembodied³ electronic signals will gradually alter the structure of knowledge. “Manuscripts” will increasingly be “live”, changing from day to day as

the author returns to the computer and other scholars offer their comments in the margins. It will be possible to update and massage documents without increased cost, so that — in some fields, at least — the notion of a bound book could become obsolete. Even the idea of authorship could change.

In the long run, the new information technologies may fundamentally alter creativity itself. Nowadays, much of the process of scholarship — the testing of an idea and the subsequent peer commentary — takes place in private; only the publication of a final manuscript is a public event.

Then, what about scientific journals? At a wider level, there seems to be growing acknowledgment that the main role of journals in future will be to provide research papers with a guarantee of quality and added editorial value — in terms of making the science more readable, and placing it within a wider perspective for example — while their traditional role as a distribution outlet will become less important. (419 words)

13. By “scholarly skywriting”, the author means scholars .
- [A] get new ideas from discussions through electronic networks
 - [B] have their scientific papers openly published on the Net
 - [C] are free to express their ideas on the Net
 - [D] create, polish and publish their ideas on the line
14. “Scholarly skywriting” has all the following advantages except .
- [A] avoidance of copyright problems
 - [B] swift transmission of thought
 - [C] utilization of other individuals’ wisdom
 - [D] easy updating of manuscripts
15. According to the passage, we can reasonably conclude that .
- [A] electronic publishing will eventually take the place of