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前言

《大学英语教学大纲》规定,语言测试要“着眼于考核学生的语言能力和交际能力,准确性和流利程度。”教学大纲指出:大学英语教学的目的是培养学生具有较强的阅读能力,一定的听的能力和译的能力,以及初步的写和说的能力,使学生能以英语为工具,获取专业所需要的信息,并为进一步提高英语水平打下较好的基础。为此,大学英语考试主要考核学生运用语言的能力,同时也考核学生对语法结构和词语用法的掌握程度。

对于标准化考试来说,每次考试的试卷不同,但所考核的内容(语言知识和能力)总体保持不变,试卷形式相对稳定。主要包括以下几部分:

一、听力理解部分

听力理解部分的目的是测试学生获取口头信息的能力,包括理解主旨大意、重要的事实细节、理解隐含的意义、语言的交际功能、理解谈话人的观点态度等。听力理解部分主要考核的是语言能力,避免了测验智力、记忆力或背景知识等语言外的能力。

听力理解部分目前分为对话和短篇听力材料两部分,所选材料是学生熟悉的对话、讲话、叙述、解说等,语言比较口语化,避免了采用书面语言太强的材料。所用词语不超出教学大纲词汇表规定的范围。

二、阅读理解部分

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。包括掌握所读材料的主旨和大意;了解说明主旨和大意的事实和细节;既理解字面的意思,也能根据所读材料进行一定的判断和推论;既理解个别句子的意义,也理解上下文的逻辑关系,理解文章的深层含义。阅读理解不但要求准确,而且要有一定的速度。

阅读材料的特点是:

(1) 题材广泛,包括人物传记、社会、文化、日常知识、科普常识等,但是所涉及的背景知识都能为学生所理解;

(2) 体裁多样,包括叙述文、说明文、议论文等,体现了学术英语(English for Academic Purposes)的特点;

(3) 语言难度及词汇量符合教学大纲规定的范围。

三、词语用法和语法结构部分

词语用法部分主要测试学生对词和短语的意义、搭配和用法的掌握程度,语法结构部分则主要测试正确使用语法结构的能力,词语用法和语法结构题在四、六级中各占有一定的比例。

四、完形填空部分

完形填空部分的目的是测试学生综合运用语言的能力。完形填空部分的选材原则与阅读理解部分相同,要求学生在全局理解内容的基础上答题,填入的词项中虚词和实词各占一定比例。

五、综合改错部分

综合改错部分的目的是测试学生综合运用语言的能力,不但要求学生能够识别错误而且能够写出正确的语言形式,因此是一种对语言表达能力的测试。综合改错部分的选材是:题材熟悉,没有背景知识方面的困难,文章难度略浅于阅读理解材料,文章内容有一定的逻辑展开。短文中有 10 个错误(不含拼写错误或标点错误),要求学生改正。错误分三种类型,一种是需要改正某个词,一种是需要增添某个词,一种是需要删除某个词。需要改正的错误有的是局部性的,有的是全局性的,涉及篇章结构;两者有一定比例,要求考生在全面理解内容的基础上改正错误,使短文的意思完整、语言正确。

六、短文写作部分

短文写作部分的目的是考核学生运用英语书面表达思想的能力,四级要求学生在 30 分钟内写出一篇短文,不少于 100 词,六级不少于 120 词[注:自 2002 年 6 月起,四级不少于 120 词;自 2002 年 12 月起,六级不少于 150 词]。试卷上可能给出题目、或要求看图作文、或根据所给文章(英语或汉语)写成摘要或大意、或给出关键词或提纲要求写成短文等等。

为了使考生熟悉四、六级考试题型,本书汇集了历年考试的全真题,并对其进行了详细的解释。四级、六级考试题各 16 套,并分别配有四盘磁带。

由于时间仓促,疏漏之处在所难免,欢迎广大师生批评指正。

大学英语四、六级考试研究中心

2005 年 2 月

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1997 年 6 月六级试题

Part I

Listening Comprehension

(20 minutes)

Section A

Directions: In this section, you will hear 10 short conversations. At the end of each conversation, a question will be asked about what was said. Both the conversation and the question will be spoken only once. After each question there will be a pause. During the pause, you must read the four choices marked A), B), C) and D), and decide which is the best answer. Then mark the corresponding letter on the Answer Sheet with a single line through the centre.

Example: You will hear:

You will read:

A) 2 hours.

C) 4 hours.

B) 3 hours.

D) 5 hours.

From the conversation we know that the two were talking about some work they will start at 9 o'clock in the morning and have to finish at 2 in the afternoon. Therefore, D) "5 hours" is the correct answer. You should choose [D] on the Answer Sheet and mark it with a single line through the centre.

Sample Answer [A][B][C][D]

1. A) On Thursday night. C) On Friday morning.
B) On Monday night. D) On Thursday morning.
2. A) Try to help him find rooms in another hotel.
B) Check to see if there are any vacancies in her hotel.
C) Let him move to a room with two single beds.
D) Show him the way to Imperial Hotel.
3. A) Robust. C) Generous.
B) Brave. D) Dangerous.
4. A) He loves his present job. C) He is about to retire.
B) He is to open a store. D) He works in a repair shop.
5. A) She has confidence in him. C) She is surprised at the news.
B) She has also won a scholarship. D) She is not interested in the news.
6. A) His only son is dying. C) He didn't look after his sick wife.
B) His mother died some time ago. D) He hasn't taken good care of his son.
7. A) At the airport. C) In a hotel.
B) In a travel agency. D) At the reception desk.
8. A) He is not equal to the job.
B) He doesn't think the job is challenging enough.

- C) He is not well paid for his work.
 - D) He cannot keep his mind on his work.
9. A) The talks haven't started yet.
- B) The talks have produced a general agreement.
 - C) The talks haven't achieved much.
 - D) The talks broke down and could go no further.
10. A) Help him to carry some luggage.
- B) Tell him the way to the left-luggage office.
 - C) Get some travel information.
 - D) Look after something for him.

Section B

Directions: *In this section, you will hear 3 short passages. At the end of each passage, you will hear some questions. Both the passage and the questions will be spoken only once. After you hear a question, you must choose the best answer from the four choices marked A), B), C) and D). Then mark the corresponding letter on the Answer Sheet with a single line through the centre.*

Passage One

Questions 11 to 13 are based on the passage you have just heard.

11. A) Crowded air traffic.
- B) The large size of airplanes.
 - C) Mistakes by air traffic controllers.
 - D) Bad weather.
12. A) They bumped into each other over a swimming pool.
- B) They avoided each other by turning in different directions.
 - C) They narrowly escaped crashing into each other.
 - D) One plane climbed above the other at the critical moment.
13. A) To show the key role played by air traffic controllers.
- B) To show the great responsibility shouldered by the pilots.
 - C) To give an example of air disasters.
 - D) to show that air travel is far safer than driving a car.

Passage Two

Questions 14 to 17 are based on the passage you have just heard.

- | | |
|-------------------------------------|----------------------------------|
| 14. A) Her unique experience. | C) Her favourite job. |
| B) Her future prospects. | D) Her lonely life. |
| 15. A) Authority. | C) Good luck |
| B) A good relationship. | D) Independence. |
| 16. A) She will live an empty life. | C) She will remain single. |
| B) She will work in a bookstore. | D) She will earn a lot of money. |
| 17. A) She should find a good job. | |

- B) She should open a small restaurant.
- C) She should have more control over her life.
- D) She should get married.

Passage Three

Questions 18 to 20 are based on the passage you have just heard.

18. A) In day-care centres where little children were taken care of.
B) In areas in Chicago where poor people lived.
C) In places where hot lunch was provided for factory workers.
D) In schools where free classes were organized for young people.
19. A) For young people and adults. C) For factory workers.
B) For immigrants. D) For poor city children.
20. A) Jane Adams' contributions to society.
B) Jane Adams' struggle for women's liberation.
C) Jane Adams' life story.
D) Jane Adams' responsibility for the poor.

Part II Reading Comprehension (35 minutes)

Directions: *There are 4 passages in this part. Each passage is followed by some questions or unfinished statements. For each of them there are four choices marked A), B), C) and D). You should decide on the best choice and mark the corresponding letter on the Answer Sheet with a single line through the centre.*

Questions 21 to 25 are based on the following passage:

It is said that the public and Congressional concern about *deceptive* (欺骗性的) packaging *rumpus* (喧嚣) started because Senator Hart discovered that the boxes of cereals consumed by him, Mrs. Hart, and their children were becoming higher and narrower, with a declining of net weight from 12 to 10.5 ounces, without any reduction in price. There were still twelve biscuits, but they had been reduced in size. Later, the Senator rightly complained of a store-bought pie in a handsomely illustrated box that pictured, in a single slice, almost as many cherries as there were in the whole pie.

The manufacturer who increases the unit price of his product by changing his package size to lower the quantity delivered can, without undue hardship, put his product into boxes, bags, and tins that will contain even 4-ounce, 8-ounce, one-pound, two-pound quantities of breakfast foods, cake mixes, etc. A study of *drugstore* (杂货店) and supermarket shelves will convince any observer that all possible sizes and shapes of boxes, jars, bottles, and tins are in use at the same time, and, as the package journals show, week by week, there is never any hesitation in introducing a new size and shape of box or bottle when it aids in product differentiation. The producers of packaged products argue strongly against changing sizes of packages to contain even weights and volumes, but no one in the trade comments unfavorably on the huge costs incurred by endless changes of package sizes, materials,

shape, art work, and net weights that are used for improving a product's market position.

When a packaging expert explained that he was able to multiply the price of hard sweets by 2.5, from 1 dollar to 2.50 dollars by changing to a fancy jar, or that he had made a 5-ounce bottle look as though it held 8 ounces, he was in effect telling the public that packaging can be a very expensive luxury. It evidently does come high, when an average family pays about 200 dollars a year for bottles, cans, boxes, jars and other containers, most of which can't be used for anything but stuffing the garbage can.

21. What started the public and Congressional concern about deceptive packaging rumpus?
 - A) Consumers' complaints about the changes in package size.
 - B) Expensive packaging for poor quality products.
 - C) A senator's discovery of the tricks in packaging.
 - D) The rise in the unit price for many products.
22. The word "undue" (Line 2, Para. 2) means "_____".
 - A) improper
 - B) adequate
 - C) unexpected
 - D) excessive
23. Consumers are concerned about the changes in the package size, mainly because _____.
 - A) they hate to see any changes in things they are familiar with
 - B) the unit price for a product often rises as a result
 - C) they have to pay for the cost of changing package sizes
 - D) this entails an increase in the cost of packaging
24. According to this passage, various types of packaging come into existence to _____.
 - A) meet the needs of consumers
 - B) suit all kinds of products
 - C) enhance the market position of products
 - D) introduce new products
25. The author is critical mainly of _____.
 - A) dishonest packaging
 - B) inferior packaging
 - C) the changes in package size
 - D) exaggerated illustrations on packages

Questions 26 to 30 are based on the following passage:

If sustainable competitive advantage depends on work-force skills, American firms have a problem. Human-resource management is not traditionally seen as central to the competitive survival of the firm in the United States. Skill acquisition is considered an individual responsibility. Labour is simply another factor of production to be hired-rented at the lowest possible cost-much as one buys raw materials or equipment.

The lack of importance attached to human-resource management can be seen in the corporate hierarchy. In an American firm the chief financial officer is almost always second in command. The post of head of human-resource management is usually a specialized job, of at the edge of the corporate hierarchy. The executive who holds it is never consulted on major strategic decisions and has no chance to move up to Chief Executive Officer(CEO). By way of contrast, in Japan the head of human-resource management is central-usually the second most important executive, after the CEO, in the firm's hierarchy.

While American firms often talk about the vast amounts spent on training their work forces, in fact they invest less in the skills of their employees than do either Japanese or German firms. The money they do invest is also more highly concentrated on professional and managerial employees. And the limited investments that are made in training workers are also much more narrowly focused on the specific skills necessary to do the next job rather than on the basic background skill that make it possible to absorb new technologies.

As a result, problems emerge when new breakthrough technologies arrive. If American workers, for example, take much longer to learn how to operate new flexible manufacturing stations than workers on Germany(as they do), the effective cost of those stations is lower in Germany than it is in the United States. More time is required before equipment is up and running at capacity, and the need for extensive retraining generates costs and creates bottlenecks that limit the speed with which new equipment can be employed. The result is a slower pace of technological change. And in the end the skills of the bottom half of the population affect the wages of the top half. If the bottom half can't effectively staff the processes that have to be operated, the management and professional jobs that go with these processes will disappear.

26. Which of the following applies to the management of human resources in American companies?
- A) They hire people at the lowest cost regardless of their skills.
 - B) They see the gaining of skills as their employees' own business.
 - C) They attach more importance to workers than to equipment.
 - D) They only hire skilled workers because of keen competition.
27. What is the position of the head of human-resource management in an American firm?
- A) He is one of the most important executives in the firm.
 - B) His post is likely to disappear when new technologies are introduced.
 - C) He is directly under the chief financial executive.
 - D) He has no say in making important decisions in the firm.
28. The money most American firms put in training mainly goes to ____.
- A) workers who can operate new equipment
 - B) technological and managerial staff
 - C) workers who lack basic background skills
 - D) top executives
29. According to the passage, the decisive factor in maintaining a firm's competitive advantage is ____.
- A) the introduction of new technologies
 - B) the improvement of workers' basic skills
 - C) the rational composition of professional and managerial employees
 - D) the attachment of importance to the bottom half of the employees
30. What is the main idea of the passage?

- A) American firms are different from Japanese and German firms in human-resource management.
- B) Extensive retraining is indispensable to effective human-resource management.
- C) The head of human-resource management must be in the central position in a firm's hierarchy.
- D) The human-resource management strategies of American firms affect their competitive capacity.

Questions 31 to 35 are based on the following passage:

The biographer has to dance between two shaky positions with respect to the *subject* (研究对象). Too close a relation, and the writer may lose objectivity. Not close enough, and the writer may lack the sympathy necessary to any effort to portray a mind, a soul—the quality of life. Who should write the biography of a family, for example? Because of their closeness to the subject, family members may have special information, but by the same token, they may not have the distance that would allow them to be fair. Similarly, a king's servant might not be the best one to write a biography of that king. But a foreigner might not have the knowledge and sympathy necessary to write the king's biography—not for a readership from within the kingdom, at any rate.

There is no ideal position for such a task. The biographer has to work with the position he or she has in the world, adjusting that position as necessary to deal with the subject. Every position has strengths and weaknesses to thrive, a writer must try to become aware of these, evaluate them in terms of the subject, and select a position accordingly.

When their subjects are heroes or famous figures, biographies often reveal a democratic motive; they attempt to show that their subjects are only human, no better than anyone else. Other biographies are meant to change us, to invite us to become better than we are. The biographies of *Jesus* (耶稣) found in the Bible are in this class.

Biographers may claim that their account is the “authentic” one. In advancing this claim, they are helped if the biography is “authorized” by the subject; this presumably allows the biographer special access to private information. “Unauthorized” biographies also have their appeal, however, since they can suggest an independence of mind in the biographer. In book promotions, the “unauthorized” characterisation usually suggests the prospect of juicy gossip that the subject had hoped to suppress. A subject might have several biographies, even several “authentic” ones. We sense intuitively that no one is in a position to tell “the” story of a life, perhaps not even the subject, and this has been proved by the history of biography.

31. According to the author, an ideal biographer would be one who ____.
- A) knows the subject very well and yet maintains a proper distance from him
 - B) is close to the subject and knows the techniques of biography writing
 - C) is independent and treats the subject with fairness and objectivity
 - D) possesses special private information and is sympathetic toward the subject

32. The author cites the biographies of Jesus in the Bible in order to show that _____.
A) the best biographies are meant to transform their readers
B) biographies are authentic accounts of their subjects' lives
C) the best biographies are those of heroes and famous figures
D) biographies can serve different purposes
33. Which of the following statements is true, according to the passage?
A) An authentic biography seldom appeals to its readers.
B) An authentic biography is one authorized by the subject.
C) No one can write a perfect biography.
D) Authorized biographies have a wider readership.
34. An unauthorized biography is likely to attract more readers because _____.
A) it portrays the subject both faithfully and vividly
B) it contains interesting information about the subject's private life
C) it reveals a lot of accurate details unknown to outsiders
D) it usually gives a sympathetic description of the subject's character
35. In this passage, the author focuses on _____.
A) the difficulty of a biographer in finding the proper perspective to do his job
B) the secret of a biographer to win more readers
C) the techniques required of a biographer to write a good biography
D) the characteristics of different kinds of biographies

Questions 36 to 40 are based on the following passage:

Whether the eyes are "the windows of the soul" is debatable; that they are intensely important in interpersonal communication is a fact. During the first two months of a baby's life, the stimulus that produces a smile is a pair of eyes. The eyes need not be real; a mask with two dots will produce a smile. Significantly, a real human face with eyes covered will not motivate a smile, nor will the sight of only one eye when the face is presented in profile. This attraction to eyes as opposed to the nose or mouth continues as the baby matures. In one study, when American four-year-olds were asked to draw people, 75 percent of them drew people with mouths, but 99 percent of them drew people with eyes. In Japan, however, where babies are carried on their mother's back, infants do not acquire as much attachment to eyes as they do in other cultures. As a result, Japanese adults make little use of the face either to *encode* (把……编码) or *decode* (理解) meaning. In fact, Argyle reveals that the "proper place to focus one's gaze during a conversation in Japan is on the neck of one's conversation partner."

The role of eye contact in a conversational exchange between two Americans is well defined; speakers make contact with the eyes of their listener for about one second, then glance away as they talk; in a few moments they re-establish eye contact with the listener or reassure themselves that their audience is still attentive, then shift their gaze away once more. Listeners, meanwhile, keep their eyes on the face of the speaker, allowing themselves

to glance away only briefly. It is important that they be looking at the speaker at the precise moment when the speaker reestablishes eye contact: if they are not looking, the speaker assumes that they are disinterested and either will pause until eye contact is resumed or will terminate the conversation. Just how critical this eye maneuvering is to the maintenance of conversational flow becomes evident when two speakers are wearing dark glasses: there maybe a sort of traffic jam of words caused by interruption, false starts, and unpredictable pauses.

36. The author is convinced that the eyes are _____.
A) of extreme importance in expressing feelings and exchanging ideas
B) something through which one can see a person's inner world
C) of considerable significance in making conversations interesting
D) something the value of which is largely a matter of long debate
37. Babies will not be stimulated to smile by a person _____.
A) whose front view is fully perceived C) whose face is seen from the side
B) whose face is covered with a mask
D) whose face is free of any covering
38. According to the passage, the Japanese fix their gaze on their conversation partner's neck because _____.
A) they don't like to keep their eyes on the face of the speaker
B) they need not communicate through eye contact
C) they don't think it polite to have eye contact
D) they didn't have much opportunity to communicate through eye contact in babyhood
39. According to the passage, a conversation between two Americans may break down due to _____.
A) one temporarily glancing away from the other
B) eye contact of more than one second
C) improperly-timed ceasing of eye contact
D) constant adjustment of eye contact
40. To keep a conversation flowing smoothly, it is better for the participants _____.
A) not to wear dark spectacles C) not to glance away from each other
B) not to make any interruptions D) not to make unpredictable pauses

Part III

Vocabulary and Structure

(20 minutes)

41. By _____ computation, he estimated that the repairs on the house would cost him a thousand dollars.
A) coarse C) crude
B) rude D) rough
42. Your story about the frog turning into a prince is _____ nonsense.
A) sheer C) shield

- B) shear D) sheet
43. I could see that my wife was _____ having that fur coat, whether I approved of it or not.
A) adequate for C) short of
✓ B) intent on D) deficient in
44. The _____ runner can run 2 miles in fifteen minutes.
A) common C) average
B) usual D) general
45. One of his eyes was injured in an accident, but after a _____ operation, he quickly recovered his sight.
A) delicate C) precise
B) considerate ✓ D) sensitive
46. As an excellent shooter, Peter practised aiming at both _____ targets and moving targets.
A) standing C) still
B) stationary ✓ D) stable
47. In American universities, classes are often arranged in more flexible _____ and many jobs on campus are reserved for students.
A) scales C) grades
✓ B) patterns D) ranks
48. The insurance company paid him \$10,000 in _____ after his accident.
A) compensation C) substitution
✓ B) installment D) commission
49. The political future of the president is now hanging by a _____.
A) thread C) string
B) cord D) rope
50. The statue would be perfect but for a few small _____ in its base.
A) mistakes C) flaws
✓ B) weaknesses D) errors
51. Why should anyone want to read _____ of books by great authors when the real pleasure comes from reading the originals?
A) themes C) digests
B) insights D) leaflets
52. Parents have a legal _____ to ensure that their children are provided with efficient education suitable to their age.
A) impulse C) obligation
B) influence D) sympathy
53. Most nurses are women, but in the higher ranks of the medical profession women are in a _____.

- A) scarcity C) minimum
 B) minority D) shortage
54. David likes country life and has decided to _____ farming.
 A) go in for C) go through with
 B) go back on D) go along with
55. Jack was about to announce our plan but I _____.
 A) put him through C) give him up
 B) turned him out D) cut him short
56. I am sure I can _____ him into letting us stay in the hotel for the night.
 A) speak C) talk
 B) say D) tell
57. Last year, the crime rate in Chicago has sharply _____.
 A) declined C) descended
 B) lessened D) slipped
58. The republication of the poet's most recent works will certainly _____ his national reputation.
 A) magnify C) enlarge
 B) strengthen D) enhance
59. Recently a number of cases have been reported of young children _____ a violent act previously seen on television.
 A) modifying C) accelerating
 B) duplicating D) stimulating
60. This kind of material can _____ heat and moisture.
 A) delete C) constrain
 B) compel D) repel
61. Reading _____ the mind only with materials of knowledge; it is thinking that makes what we read ours.
 A) rectifies C) minimizes
 B) prolongs D) furnishes
62. If the fire alarm is sounded, all residents are requested to _____ in the courtyard.
 A) assemble C) crowd
 B) converge D) accumulate
63. The work in the office was _____ by a constant stream of visitors.
 A) confused C) reversed
 B) hampered D) perplexed
64. The joys of travel, having long _____ the disabled, are opening up to virtually anyone who has the means.
 A) omitted C) neglected
 B) missed D) discarded

