

硕士研究生入学考试 英语阅读详解及自测

王监龙 李庆明 刘睿 叶飞飞

西安交通大学出版社

硕士研究生入学考试

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英语阅读详解及自测

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内容提要

本书是根据《全国硕士研究生入学考试英语考试大纲》编写的,旨在帮助考生提高阅读理解能力和解题能力。

全书由短文详解(共40篇)、短文自测(共四十篇)和词汇自测(共25套题)三部分组成。短文详解包括短文、问题、内容提要、注释和答案及详解。40篇短文供考生自测阅读理解能力。词汇练习供考生自测掌握词汇和句子层面的理解能力。本书可供参加非英语专业硕士研究生入学考试的考生复习之用。

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前 言

阅读理解是研究生入学英语考试的重点,其目的在于测试考生综合运用英语语言知识和阅读技能来理解书面材料的能力。与其它考试项目相比,阅读理解项目所占篇幅最长,分数比例最大。因此,阅读理解能力的高低在很大程度上是考生开启成功之门的一把钥匙。基于此,我们根据全国硕士研究生入学考试《英语大纲》(非英语专业)编写此书,旨在帮助考生提高阅读理解能力与应试能力。

全书由短文详解,短文自测和词汇自测三部分组成,各部分相互联系,互为依托,构成一个有机的整体。短文详解部分 40 篇文章题材广泛,体裁多样,文体各异,风格互补。编者针对考研阅读试题测试重点难点、解题思路与方法,对每篇文章进行详尽的注释、深入的剖析和合情合理的解释,并采用内容提要的方式为考生提供文章内容、主题等提纲挈领性的介绍,引导考生了解文章全貌,从整体上把握文章。短文自测部分共筛选文章 40 篇,其体裁、文风与第一部分相近,文章难易程度适中,供考生自测阅读理解能力。经过第一部分 40 篇阅读理解练习训练并通读文章内容提要,领悟解题思路,内化做题方法,在此基础上考生进行第二部分阅读理解实战演练,以进一步巩固和提高阅读理解能力。词汇自测部分共选配 25 套词汇练习,每套练习 20 道选择题,供考生自测掌握词汇和句子层面的理解能力,进而加强阅读综合能力。同时,所选词汇试题句子长,难度大,针对性强,体现了目前研究生入学英语词汇试题的发展趋势,因而具有极大的参考意义,有助于考生在词汇项目上获取理想的成绩。

编者

1999 年 7 月于西安

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阅读技巧与解题方法

硕士研究生入学英语阅读理解测试要求考生在短时间内快速阅读并对短文有一定的理解。这就要求考生熟练地掌握阅读技巧,采用相关的解题方法,迅速准确地对题项做出判断和选择。下面向考生简明扼要地介绍阅读技巧和解题方法。

一、阅读技巧

1. 意群阅读法(Reading in sense groups)

意群阅读法指以意群为单位进行阅读,而不是逐词(word for word)阅读的一种方法。每个意群都有关键词,考生通过意群阅读法可快速识别这些关键词,并准确地理解文章,获取所需信息,做出正确的判断。例如:

When a young man || starts to earn his own living, || he becomes free from || the disciplines of school and parents, || but at the same time || he is forced to accept responsibility. || He can no longer expect others || to pay for his food, his clothes and his room, || but has to work || if he wants to live comfortably.

2. 猜测词义法(Guessing word meaning)

词汇理解类型词在阅读理解测试中占有重要的地位,该类试题主要考查考生利用所学语言知识和构词知识,通过上下文猜测生词词义或确定常用词汇在特定语境中的确切含义的能力。例如:

There was once a sweet little maid, much beloved by everybody, but most of all by her grandmother, who never knew how to

make enough of her. Once she sent her a little cap of red velvet, and as it was very becoming to her, and she never wore anything else, people called her Little Red Riding Hood.

假设文中三个划线词是未曾学过的生词,但仍可从上下文推测它们的意思。maid 这个词的前面有 a sweet little, 后面有 her grandmother, 由此可见 maid 的意思应该是“姑娘”。velvet 前面是 cap of red, 这说明 velvet 是做帽子的某种红色材料。Hood 是一组大写词中的一个,是专有名词的一部分。在它前面的词的意思是“她不戴别的帽子,所以人们叫她小红(?)”。显然,Hood 是“帽子”的意思。

猜测词意通常可从以下几个方面入手:

(1)定义(Definition)。所谓定义就是对文章中出现的生词、词组或术语进行解释,可用单词、短语或句子来表示。经常出现在定义性的句子中,使已知与未知文字之间建立起联系的词语有:be, mean, in other words, that is, or, namely 等,有时也用同位结构或标点符号来表示这种关系。例如:

(a) Pantomime refers to a short drama in which no words are spoken.

从定义性的解释可知,“pantomime”的意思是“哑剧”。

(b) Elephants have very long noses which we call “trunk”.

句中,“very long noses”是对“trunk”的具体解释。

(c) He played a love game (a game in which his score was 0).

括号里的词语解释“love game”的意思,即“比分为零对零的比赛”。

(2)重述(Restatement)。重述是作者对某些生词作出重新陈述的一种手段,在各类文章中司空见惯。重述部分通常文字浅易、意义明晰,有助于考生猜测和判断生词的词义。例如:

(a) Japan is now in recession. Its economic growth is slowing down, business profits are declining, and more and more people are

out of work.

从重述部分(经济增长减缓,利润下降,越来越多的人失业)可知,“recession”的意思是“(经济)衰退”。

(b) His car is a piece of junk. It is always breaking down.

从后面所表达的意思,我们可猜测出“junk”的意思是“旧的无价值的东西”。

(3) 举例(Examples)。阅读文章时,考生通过 such as, like, for example, for instance, or 等词所列举的例子及所表示的前后同位性的关系,可猜测出生词的词义。例如:

(a) Many ships leave land and disappear completely; the U. S. Cyclops, for example, vanished in 1918.

由“for example”可以看出,“vanish”与“disappear”是同义词。

(b) Doctors recommended that everyone exercise every day, particularly those who spend many hours doing sedentary activities like reading, typing, or sewing.

句中“sedentary”的意思可以从跟在 like 后面的 reading, typing or sewing 中猜出,即“坐着做的”意思。

(4) 对比(Contrast)。文章中经常出现前后两句或两部分在意义上对立或截然相反的用法,其揭示的是词义或句义的对立或相反关系。因此,通过反义词或转折词,如 but, yet, however, instead, rather than, on the contrary, while, whereas 等,考生可猜出生词的意思。例如:

(a) Motion is absolute while stagnation is relative.

在此对比句中,“motion/stagnation”和“absolute/relative”分别是两对反义词,考生知道“motion”的意思也就知道“stagnation”的词义。

(b) The apple appeased my hunger temporarily, but I could still eat a bigger meal.

“but”引导的分句表示的意思是前一分句意思的转折,由此可

以猜出“appease”的意思是“缓解”。

(5)语义逻辑关系。有时,某一词语的意义较难确定,因为句中既无定义线索,又无重述、反义等线索。因而只有通过句子或文章中其他部分的内容与词语之间内的逻辑关系来进行推测。例如:

(a)How dare you offer me this pittance when the law guarantees at least a minimum hourly wage!

句中“how dare you”明显显示表现出一种不满情绪;再根据下文意思“法律确保每小时的最低报酬”,可以断定“pittance”的意思为“过少的报酬”。

(b)Just before the exam, Bill's heart beat fast and his hands shook so much that he could not hold a pen. He really had a phobia about taking tests.

根据“heart beat fast”,“his hands shook...could not hold a pen”这些线索,考生可猜出“phobia”的意思是“恐惧”。

(6)构词法。运用构词法,如前缀、后缀或词汇复合等,考生可猜测生词词义。例如:

(a)Antibiotics such as penicillin will not cure of the flu.

前缀 anti-表示“反”,“抗”之意,又根据 penicillin 一词,可以推断“antibiotics”的意思是“抗生素”。

(b)Canada is a federation of ten provinces.

“federation”是“federal”(联邦)一词的派生词。借助“federal”来理解“federation”,就可准确猜出后者的词义。

3. 略读法(Skimming)

略读的关键是以尽可能快的速度阅读,其主要目的是寻找和领会文章大意,了解文章主题和细节分布情况。略读时,考生应注意以下几方面问题:

(1)注意首尾段落;

(2)寻找段落主题句;

(3)了解文章体裁和语篇结构。

4. 查读法(Scanning)

查读是对文章有了一定的了解(即略读)后在文中查找具体的信息的一种方法。查读通常无需阅读整篇文章,只需找出所需信息即可。查读与略读差别很大,前者是为了获取具体的信息,回答具体的问题(细节题);后者的目的是了解文章大意。考生查读时应注意以下几点:

- (1)查阅信息明确;
- (2)与所查信息无关的内容可一扫而过;
- (3)注意阅读的速度和效率。

二、解题方法

研究生入学考试阅读理解项目主要测试考生以下几个方面的能力:

- (1)迅速准确地掌握阅读材料的主旨和大意;
- (2)快速准确地找出与主题有关的事实和细节;
- (3)根据阅读材料进行一定的判断、推理和引申;
- (4)根据上下文线索和暗示判断生词或短语的意思;
- (5)既理解个别句子的意义,也理解上下文之间的逻辑关系;
- (6)领会作者的观点和态度。

综而述之,上述几项实际是指考生阅读时应具备的认知能力、概括能力、判断和推理能力。考生的认知能力、概括能力、判断和推理能力越强,做题的准确率越高;反之,准确率越低。要想提高准确率,增强上述各项能力,除了进行有关的阅读技能的大量训练外,还需了解和熟知阅读理解解题方法。

1. 主旨类型题

主旨题测试考生概括文章主旨大意,确定段落大意或选定最佳标题的能力,是阅读理解部分的一项重要技能测试。

考生要正确解答主旨题,需要注意两种情况:第一种是短文有

概括主旨的主题句。考生可从四个选项中寻找哪一项含有这一信息,该项即为答案;第二种情况是短文中没有出现主题句。因此,考生必须通读全文,然后经过仔细推敲、合理推断才能得出答案。例如:

Example 1

Although great natural barriers hindered east-west development in Canada, this circumstance was mitigated by the mighty river and lake systems that provided avenues for the fur trader, missionary, soldier, and settler. Canada's rivers and lakes allowed and, indeed, invited venturesome pioneers to explore the interior of the continent and, in spite of natural barriers, to tap its great wealth. The rivers and lakes were essential to the great fur empire; people in canoes brought furs from the farthest extremity of the Canadian Shield to Montreal for exportation to Europe. The first settlements spread along the rivers, since only the rivers provided transportation and communication. Militarily, rivers and lakes were of prime importance. Whoever controlled the St. Lawrence and its entrance also controlled Canada.

What is the main subject of the passage?

- [A] The barriers to east-west communication in Canada.
- [B] The role of rivers and lakes in Canadian development.
- [C] The adventures of Canadian settlers.
- [D] The development of the Canadian fur empire.

通读全文后可知,第一句是说明全文内容的主题句,因此答案应是B项。

Example 2

It is generally understood that a ballad is a song that tells a story, but a folk song is not so easily defined. A ballad is a folk song, but a folk song is not a ballad unless it tells a story. Folk song,

then, has come to be the inclusive word, covering many varieties of music. For instance, the chanty, a sailor's song of the sea, is a folk song. A spiritual is a religious folk song. The blues, a predominately melancholy type of jazz popular in New Orleans, may be a folk song. In fact, there are folk songs for every occupation - railroad-ing, herding cattle, and so on. To be considered genuine traditional folk songs, they must have oral transmission, continuity, variation, and selection.

"Home on the Range" illustrates how a popular song may become a folk song. It was first picked up as a folk song in 1910 by Tohn A Lomax in San Antonio, Texas. Lomax heard the song from an old man who had been a camp cook many years before on the old Chisholm Tril. The song was apparently known all over the mid-west, though it did not come to national attention until the early 1930's. Careful research by Kirke Mechem established that a Dr. Brewster Higley wrote the words in 1873 and a Mr. Daniel E. Kelley composed the music. By 1947 "Home on the Range" was so popular that it was adopted as the official state song of Kansas.

The main topic of the passage is the _____.

- [A] variety in folk song
- [B] development of popular music
- [C] definition of a ballad
- [D] importance of folk songs in American life

本篇文章没有主题句,因而只有通读全文才能得出答案。文中第一、二句话告诉读者民歌与民谣之间所存在的差异。接着第三句里,作者具体说明民歌种类多,题材广、变化多。例如:船歌是民歌,灵歌是宗教民歌,兰调是一种风格忧郁的爵士乐,也可算是民歌。事实上,各行各业都有民歌。第一段最后一句谈及真正传统的民歌应具有连续性、多样性和选择性三个特性。而作者在第

二段里主要阐明“牧场上的家园”这首流行歌曲是怎样成为民歌的。作者只对民歌的多样性这一特性进行了详尽的说明。因此本文的主题应是 A(民歌的多样性)。

2. 细节类型题

大多数文章都有主旨和细节两部分。细节是对主旨的补充说明,或用来回答或阐述主旨的有关理由、证拓和过程。细节题通常可分为两大类。第一类只是简单地就说明主旨的某一事实、数据等提问,可用 When, Who, Where, Why, Which 等 WH-questions 及 How 的方式提出。第二类是正误判断,即询问某一事实的真实性和非真实性,或询问某一事实被提及与否。无论涉及何种细节题,考生只需迅速在文中查找与问题相关的关键词和关键句,然后以此为核心在其周围寻找与问题相关的信息并作出选择。例如:

Example 3

The Stone Age was a period of history which began in approximately 2 million B. C. and lasted until 3000 B. C. Its name was derived from the stone tools and weapons that modern scientists found. This period was divided into the Paleolithic, Mesolithic and Neolithic Ages. During the first period (2 million B. C. to 8000 B. C.), the first hatches and use of fire for heating and cooking were developed. As a result of the Ice Age, which evolved about 1 million years into the Paleolithic Age, people were forced to seek shelter in caves, wear clothing, and develop new tools.

During the Mesolithic Age (800 B. C. to 600 B. C.), people made crude pottery and the first fish hooks, took dogs hunting, and developed a bow and arrow, which was used until the fourteenth century A. D.

The Neolithic Age (6000 B. C. to 3000 B. C.) saw humankind domesticating sheep, goats, pigs, and cattle, being less nomadic than in previous eras, establishing permanent settlements, and cre-