



PRACTICE TESTS

下册

# 中高级英语考试

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## 阅读理解

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## 试题选编

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陈厚勤 朱月珍 编

华中理工大学出版社

# 中高级英语考试阅读 理解试题选编

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## 内 容 提 要

本书是《中高级英语考试阅读理解试题选编》下册，主要向读者介绍了大量的、各种题材的阅读理解方面的文章。该书完全取材于 TOEFL、EPT、VST 和研究生试题等，内容符合读者应考要求，在编排上，按其体裁不同、深浅程度不同排列，对于题中生词难点都作了简明注释，为便于读者学习，每篇文章后都有练习和答案。

### 中高级英语考试阅读理解试题选编

#### 下 册

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# 前 言

在中高级英语考试中，阅读理解占有较大的比例。阅读理解的重要性已为越来越多的人所认识。为了帮助广大读者了解、掌握阅读理解的基本技能，我们把平时教学中积累起来的资料加以综合整理，编成这本《中高级英语考试阅读理解试题选编》，希望它能给读者带来一些益处。

书中的练习题大都选自我国近年来研究生英语考试试题、英语水平考试试题、出国访问学者英语考试试题以及近年来的海外英语考试试题。这些材料题材丰富、体裁多样，体现了当前中高级英语测试中阅读理解题的各种要求。本书上下册共分三个部分：第一部分，介绍阅读理解的几种基本技能（上册）；第二部分，阅读理解练习题（上册，下册）；第三部分，参考答案。练习材料按文章体裁分类。选材时，我们注意了题材的多样性、趣味性和时代感。为了便于读者自我测试和扩大词汇量，材料中的生词都根据其具体内容注明中文词义，英语音标。此外，本书对语言难点也作了简明的注释，有的还作了汉译。本书适于作为准备大学英语四级、六级考试，研究生英语入学考试，EPT和TOEFL考试的阅读参考材料。本书为下册。

由于编者水平所限，缺点错误在所难免，恳切希望广大读者批评指正。

编 者

1988年5月于武汉华中理工大学

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### 一、阅读理解

### 二、参考答案

## 一、阅读理解

### 1. 其它题材 (Other Subject matters)

#### Exercise 127

##### Questions 1—3

The population of the world has increased more in modern times than in all other ages of history combined. World population totaled about 500 million in 1650. It doubled in the period from 1650—1850. Today the population is more than three billion. Estimates based on research by the United Nations indicate that it will more than double in the next twenty-five years, reaching seven billion by the year 2000.

1. By 1850, approximately what was the world population?  
(A) 500 million. (C) Three billion.  
(B) One billion. (D) Seven billion.
2. World population doubled in the years between  
(A) 500—1650. (C) 1650—today.  
(B) 1650—1850. (D) 1850—2000.
3. According to this passage, by the year 2000 the earth's population should exceed the present figure by  
(A) 500 million. (C) four billion.  
(B) three billion. (D) seven billion.

#### Exercise 128

##### Questions 1—2

All problems in interest may be solved by use of one general equation which may be stated as follows:

$$\text{Interest} = \text{Principal} \times \text{Rate} \times \text{Time}$$

Any one of the four quantities, that is, interest, principal, rate or time, may be found when the other three are known. The time is expressed in years. The rate is expressed as a decimal fraction. Thus, 6 percent interest means six cents charged for the use of \$1 of principal borrowed for one year.

1. At 4 percent interest for the use of \$1 principal, one would pay
  - (A) six cents per year
  - (B) twenty-five cents per year
  - (C) four cents per year
  - (D) one cent per year
2. Which of the following would be a correct expression of an interest rate as stated in the equation for computing interest?
  - (A) Four
  - (B) .04
  - (C) 4
  - (D) 4/100

## Exercise 129

### Questions 1—2

The Food and Drug Administration published regulations that will require about 500 U. S. laboratories to meet federal standards in the future when they test on animals the safety of new drugs and food additives for humans. When finally adopted, the agency's proposed "good laboratory practice" rules will govern everything from personnel and records to facilities and equipment.

1. New rules were offered for
  - (A) drugs and food additives for humans and animals.
  - (B) federal standards for laboratories that produce drugs and food additives.
  - (C) acceptability of new drugs and food additives.
  - (D) the testing of human drugs and food additives on animals.
2. The laboratories under discussion
  - (A) are for animals and humans.
  - (B) are in the U. S.

- (C) are owned by the Food and Drug Administration
- (D) require good laboratory practice

## Exercise 130

### Questions 1—2

One bright spot in the U. S. economy in 1979 was the surprising decline in gasoline use. Rising fuel costs are finally prodding Americans to cut back on consumption, and the need for this becomes more acute all the time.

1. How does the author view the decline in gas consumption?
  - (A) He is indifferent.
  - (B) He thinks it is a good sign.
  - (C) He doesn't see the need for it.
  - (D) He is unhappy about it.
2. Why are Americans using less gasoline?
  - (A) The economy is good.
  - (B) They don't need as much.
  - (C) They want to spend more time at home.
  - (D) Gasoline is becoming very expensive.

---

1. prod [prɒd] *vt.* 促使

2. cut back 缩减

## Exercise 131

### Questions 1—3

It is important to distinguish among communication, language, and speech. These terms may, of course, be used synonymously, but strictly speaking, communication refers to the transmission or reception of a message, while language, which is usually used interchangeably with speech, is here taken to mean the speech of a population viewed as an objective entity, whether reduced to writing or in any other form.

1. According to the author, which word could be best used to replace

“speech”?

- (A) communication.                      (C) language.  
(B) transmission.                      (D) reception.

2. The author understand “language” to mean

- (A) the totality of the way a given people expresses itself.  
(B) the giving or receiving of a message.  
(C) the exchange of words between two people.  
(D) the written works of a population.

3. In this passage what does “synonymously” mean?

- (A) interchangeably.                      (C) correctly.  
(B) erroneously.                      (D) objectively.

---

synonymously [si'noniməsli] *ad.* 同义地

## Exercise 132

### Question 1

Fuchsias are decorative flowers which add beauty to any suitable garden. If they are to grow well in Western gardens, they must have partial shade and plenty of water. They should also be fertilized frequently from May to October.

1. Which of the following statements is true?

- (A) Fuchsias should be exposed to no sunshine.  
(B) Fuchsias will die if watered too much.  
(C) Fuchsias will grow only in California.  
(D) Fuchsias should be fertilized frequently from late spring to early fall.

---

1. fuchsia ['fju:ʃə] *n.* 倒挂金钟属植物

2. decorative ['dekəreɪtɪv] *a.* 装饰的, 可作装饰的

## Exercise 133

### Questions 1—3

In the case of any person whose judgment is really deserving of

confidence, how has it become so? He has kept his mind open to criticism of his opinions and conduct. It has been his practice to listen to all that could be said against him; to profit by as much of it as was just, and expound to himself, and upon occasion to others, the fallacy of what was fallacious. He has felt that the only way in which a human being can make some approach to knowing the whole of a subject is by hearing what can be said about it by persons of every variety of opinion, and studying all models in which it can be looked at by every character of mind. No wise man ever acquired his wisdom in any mode but this; nor is it in the nature of human intellect to become wise in any other manner.

1. The title below that best expresses the ideas of this passage is:

- (A) Criticism of ill-formed opinion
- (B) How to form an opinion
- (C) Developing wisdom
- (D) Listen to everything

2. An intelligent person

- (A) should be slow to change his opinion
- (B) should get all views of a subject
- (C) can be certain that his conduct is sound
- (D) believes that an open mind guarantees wisdom

3. One may become worthy of confidence by

- (A) pretending to listen to everyone
- (B) expounding the falseness of every opinion
- (C) welcoming and studying criticism
- (D) accepting every variety of view

---

expound [iks'paund] *vt. & vi.* 解释; 陈述

## Exercise 134

Questions 1—3

Detroit reported that auto sales in the month of May fell 25 per cent below the year-ago level, the first substantial decline from the year-earlier figures this year. Until now, auto buying has been the only buoyant part of an otherwise soft consumer spending pattern. The best guess was that car sales fell because of uncertainty about the availability of gasoline.

1. The passage announces

- (A) an increase in the production of automobiles.
- (B) a rise in the sales of automobiles since April.
- (C) that fewer cars were sold in May of this year than in May of last year.
- (D) that fewer cars were sold in the first third of this year than in all of last year.

2. In what respect were automobile sales exceptional during the period before May?

- (A) They were in contrast to the general trend in the consumer goods market.
- (B) People spent more money on other large purchases.
- (C) Automobile prices increased sharply in relation to other goods.
- (D) More automobiles were sold than ever before.

3. The reason for the reported decline was probably

- (A) that buyers were dissatisfied with the quality of new cars.
- (B) that salesmen were unsure about the fuel requirements of their cars.
- (C) that consumers had overspent on automobiles during the previous year.
- (D) that prospective buyers were afraid of a fuel shortage.

---

1. buoyant ['bɔɪənt] *adj.* 趋于上升的; 上涨的

2. substantial decline 大幅度下降

## Exercise 135

### Questions 1—3

Economic expansion continued in May. Government reports showed gains in industrial production, personal income, and housing starts. Housing construction, however, remained sluggish, mainly because the cost of new homes has risen much faster than average incomes, but housing starts did show a small increase over those of April.

1. The author's claims concerning economic expansion seem to be based on
  - (A) government data in three areas
  - (B) government budgetary reports
  - (C) the author's own research
  - (D) the author's personal insight
2. According to the passage, which of the following is true of housing starts?
  - (A) They were the same as in previous months.
  - (B) They were lower in May than in April.
  - (C) They were slightly higher in May than in April.
  - (D) They were much higher in May than in April.
3. According to the passage, housing construction is recovering slowly because
  - (A) the cost of a new home is higher than the government's price guide lines
  - (B) new homes are being built at a faster rate than needed
  - (C) prices of new homes have been going up faster than increases in people's incomes
  - (D) new homes are selling faster than anticipated

---

sluggish ['slagi] a. 缓慢的

## Exercise 136

### Questions 1—4

Unemployment rose from 7.5 per cent in June 1976 to 7.8 per cent in July 1976, the highest rate since January of that year, the Labor Department reported. The main reason was a large increase—nearly 700,000—in the labor force, with a record 61.9 per cent of the population over sixteen years of age working or actively seeking work. That growth stemmed largely from an increase in the number of women in the labor force, an increase attributable partly to a continuation of long-term social and economic trends and partly to a reflection of pressure on families to increase their incomes.

1. According to the announcement, which of the following statements is correct?
  - (A) Unemployment in July was higher than it had been since January.
  - (B) Unemployment rose at a steady rate from January to July.
  - (C) Unemployment rose by about 7% from June to July.
  - (D) Unemployment rose above 7% for the first time in July.
2. Why did unemployment increase during the period discussed in the passage?
  - (A) There are fewer jobs in summer.
  - (B) Many companies had dismissed workers.
  - (C) The labor force had grown.
  - (D) Records have become more accurate.
3. Which of the following is said to be the main reason why more people are looking for work?
  - (A) Teen-agers start working younger.
  - (B) Recent graduates have entered the labor market.
  - (C) More people must have two jobs to make ends meet.
  - (D) More women have entered the job market.

4. It can be inferred that the labor force described in the passage is made up of
- (A) Persons whose jobs are not professional.
  - (B) Persons who work at both permanent and full-time jobs.
  - (C) Those over 16 years of age who work are looking for work.
  - (D) Approximately 60% of the country's population.
- 

stem [stem] vi. 起源, 导源; 发生

### Exercise 137

#### Questions 1—4

One of the most important weapons used during the Second World War was not a weapon used against people, but rather a drug used against disease. The wartime use of penicillin saved thousands of lives. In the First World War, for example, pneumonia was responsible for eighteen percent of all the deaths in the United States army. In the Second World War, the rate went down to less than one percent. In addition, penicillin was instrumental in keeping wounds from getting infected and in helping to speed the healing process of those wounds that did become infected.

1. Which of the following would be the best title for the passage?
  - (A) A Dangerous Weapon
  - (B) Guns in the Second World War
  - (C) An Epidemic of Pneumonia
  - (D) An Important Drug
2. According to the passage, one of the leading causes of death during the First World War was
  - (A) gas.
  - (C) disease.
  - (B) accidents.
  - (D) drugs.
3. Compared with the death rate from pneumonia in the First World War, the rate in the Second World War was

(A) much higher.

(C) slightly lower.

(B) the same.

(D) significantly lower.

4. According to the passage, penicillin was useful in the Second World War for all of the following purposes EXCEPT

(A) hurting the enemy.

(B) treating pneumonia.

(C) preventing infection.

(D) healing wounds.

---

pneumonia [nju: 'mounjə] *n.* 肺炎

### Exercise 138

#### Questions 1—2

Many people are quite familiar with the games of soccer and basketball, but relatively few know of the game of speedball which combines elements of the two. Teams of eleven men attempt to move the ball down the field by passing or kicking it. Although a player cannot run with the ball, he may take one step while kicking or passing it. Players score points by kicking or driving the ball through a goal post with a part of the body, by kicking the ball over the goal post crossbar or by catching a passed ball behind the goal line.

1. According to the reading passage, speedball

(A) draws its name from the special ball that is used.

(B) includes components of both soccer and basketball.

(C) is played at a faster pace than soccer or basketball.

(D) is frequently confused with the game of baseball.

2. A player in speedball would fail to score if he

(A) drove the ball through the goal post with his shoulder.

(B) kicked the ball over the crossbar of the goal post.

(C) ran with the ball before passing is over the goal post.

(D) caught a passed ball from behind the goal line.

---

speedball 一种类似足球但可用手接球和传球的运动

crossbar ['krɒsbɑ:] n. 球门横木

presence of mind 镇定, 沉着

### Exercise 139

#### Questions 1—3

It is common knowledge that ability to do a particular job and performance on the job do not always go hand in hand. Persons with great potential abilities sometimes fall down on the job because of laziness or lack of interest in the job, while persons with mediocre talents have often achieved excellent results through their industry and their loyalty to the interests of their employers. It is clear, therefore, that the final test of any employee is his performance on the job

1. The most accurate of the following statements, on the basis of the above paragraph, is that
  - (A) employees who lack ability are usually not industrious.
  - (B) an employee's attitudes are not so important as his abilities.
  - (C) mediocre employees are preferable to employees who possess great ability.
  - (D) superior capacity for performance should be supplemented with proper attitudes.
2. On the basis of the above paragraph, the employee of most value to his employer is not necessarily the one who
  - (A) best understands the significance of his duties.
  - (B) achieves excellent results.
  - (C) possesses the greatest talents.

(D) produces the greatest amount of work.

3. According to the above paragraph, an employee's efficiency is best determined by an

(A) appraisal of his interest in his work.

(B) evaluation of the work performed by him.

(C) appraisal of his loyalty to his employer.

(D) evaluation of his potential ability to perform his work.

mediocre ['mi:dioukə] a. 普普通通的; 平庸的

## Exercise 140

### Questions 1—3

Many British people like to travel to Spain, Italy and other warm countries for their holidays. They want to live in the sun for a few weeks and many of them like to take their cars on holiday with them. Then they can travel round the warm countries and see many places in a short time.

But there is a problem. It is only twenty-two miles from Dover in England to Calais in France, but between the two towns there is the English Channel. It is necessary to take the cars across the sea, and this is not easy.

Some passengers put their cars on a plane and fly across with them, but that is expensive. Others drive their cars onto large ferries. This is cheap, but the boats are slow and sometimes the sea is rough. These days, more and more people choose to travel by hovercraft.

1. Many British holiday-makers choose to travel

(A) by ferry.

(C) by car.

(B) by plane.

(D) by ship.

2. They like to spend their holidays in