

根据教育部制定的最新英语六级考试大纲编写

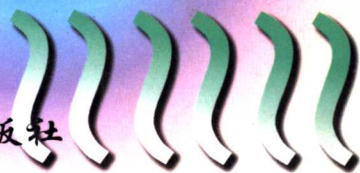
大学英语六级考试标准训练丛书

# 阅读理解

博雅 主编

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北京理工大学出版社



大学英语六级考试  
标准训练丛书

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## 内 容 简 介

本书是根据《大学英语教学大纲》的要求,并参照《大学英语六级考试大纲》和考试委员会颁布的最新六级题型而编写,主要为准备参加英语六级考试的考生考前强化训练之用。全书共分 17 套标准训练练习,每套练习由难易程度不同的 10 篇文章组成。按照大学英语六级考试要求,在每篇文章之后设置了相应的测试练习题,并且在每套练习之后给出了参考答案。

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# 前言

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大学英语六级考试是教育部(原国家教委)组织的全国性的标准化考试。自 1987 年以来已经进行了十几年。它成为科学地检查大学英语教学大纲落实情况和评估大学英语教学质量的重要手段,有力地促进了大学英语教学改革的深入发展和教学质量的稳步提高,得到了全社会的认可和重视,是衡量大学学生英语水平与能力的重要标准。

由于六级考试的权威性、规范性和其能够正确反映英语水平的客观性,因而受到大学学生以及社会上英语自学人员的普遍重视,有的高校甚至把六级的达标率作为学校教学质量的重要标志。基于这些原因,与十年前相比大学学生英语实际水平有了非常大的提高。虽然如此,通过英语六级考试并非一件容易的事。六级考试是一项综合工程,考生不但要重视英语基础知识的学习,而且要加强学习英语的实践环节。

长期从事大学英语教学与研究发现,学生掌握一定的英语基础知识之后,如语法知识、词汇知识、阅读知识、翻译知识和听力知识等,需要通过一定的实践来巩固和深化所学的东西。基于当前大学外语教学和学习的实际情况,我们认为实践的主要环节来自于有针对性的练习。通过一定量的标准化式题解训练,如词汇、语法训练、阅读理解训练、英译汉训练、改错训练和听力训练等,可以使学生理解、掌握和巩固所学的语法和词汇知识,加强阅读、翻译和听写水平,提高英语的综合运用能力,从而提高英语应试技能。本

丛书正是针对英语学习的实践环节需要而设置的,从而指导学生有的放矢地复习备考。

本系列丛书是根据《大学英语教学大纲》的要求,并参照《大学英语六级考试大纲》和考试委员会最新颁布的六级题型而编写。本套丛书共分五册,即《阅读理解》、《词汇与语法结构》、《改错》、《英译汉与问题简答训练》和《听力训练》。通过丛书各个分册学习,对六级考试的各个专项进行强化训练,从而巩固英语基础知识,提高运用英语的基本技能以及增强应试能力。同时,依据教育部考试通知精神,本丛书中的训练题力求有深度、有广度,强调了知识的覆盖面,丛书内容新颖,材料具体实用,充分体现了教学大纲对考试的基本要求,从而使考生达到整理和复习知识的效果。书中材料主要选自英、美报刊时文和各类试题与练习,同时吸收了国内一些有代表性的英语试题。

本丛书的主要读者对象为准备参加英语六级考试并掌握了一定的英语基础知识的考生,从事大学英语教学的教师和英语自学人员等。

本丛书由博雅主编,参加编写的人员有朱应夏、胡理、王子宽、曾究、贺文淘、章山韧、周远沛、赵宏明、严海、陈莉、罗珊珊、孙亘、彭师高、季风、盖昆升、陈寥幕、项华阳、夏田舟、纪飞谭、苏惠枚。

作者

于北京大学燕园

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# 标准训练 1

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## Passage 1—1

There are various ways in which individual economic units can interact with one another. Three basic ways may be described as the market system, the administered system, and the traditional system.

In a market system, individual economic units are free to interact among each other in the marketplace. It is possible to buy commodities from other economic units or sell commodities to them. In a market, transactions may take place via barter or money exchange. In a barter economy, real goods such as automobiles, shoes, and pizzas are traded against each other. Obviously, finding somebody who wants to trade my old car in exchange for a sailboat may not always be an easy task. Hence, the introduction of money as a medium of exchange eases transactions considerably. In the modern market economy, goods and services are bought or sold for money.

An alternative to the market system is administrative control by some agency over all transactions. This agency will issue edicts

or commands as to how much of each good and service should be produced, exchanged, and consumed by each economic unit. Central planning may be one way of administering such an economy. The central plan, drawn up by the government, shows the amounts of each commodity produced by the various firms and allocated to different households for consumption. This is an example of complete planning of production, consumption, and exchange for the whole economy.

In a traditional society, production and consumption patterns are governed by tradition; every person's place within the economic system is fixed by parentage, religion, and custom. Transactions take place on the basis of tradition, too. People belonging to a certain group or caste may have an obligation to care for other persons, provide them with food and shelter, care for their health, and provide for their education. Clearly, in a system where every decision is made on the basis of tradition alone, progress may be difficult to achieve. A stagnant society may result.

1. What is the main purpose of the passage?
  - A) To outline contrasting types of economic systems.
  - B) To explain the science of economics.
  - C) To argue for the superiority of one economic system.
  - D) To compare barter and money - exchange markets.
2. In the second paragraph, the word "real" in "real goods" could best be replaced by which of the following?
  - A) high quality
  - B) concrete
  - C) utter
  - D) authentic
3. According to the passage, a barter economy can lead to \_\_\_\_\_.
  - A) rapid speed of transactions

- B) inflation
  - C) misunderstandings
  - D) difficulties for the traders
4. According to the passage, who has the greatest degree of control in an administered system?
- A) individual households
  - B) major corporations
  - C) small businesses
  - D) the government
5. Which of the following is not mentioned by the author as a criterion for determining a person's place in a traditional society?
- A) family background
  - B) age
  - C) religious beliefs
  - D) custom

## Passage 1—2

The tap dancer, like the flamenco performer, is basically an improviser. Thus looking at tap one wants to savor the personality and inventiveness of the individual. When Bill Robinson danced in the movies, his technical skill and sophisticated rhythms could be heard as well as seen. The Nicholas Brothers ran up walls or the proscenium arch of the theater or jumped off platforms and landed in splits on the floor. Peg Leg Bates, who had lost a leg, made a specialty out of dancing with his wooden leg. Sandman Sims scattered sand on the floor (as Fred Astaire did in one of his films) and tapped ever so softly, slid and turned in dances as soothing as lullabies.

1. What does the passage mainly discuss?

- ☐ A) The styles of various tap dancers.
  - ☐ B) The structure of the modern dance theater.
  - ☒ C) The difference between flamenco and tap dancing.
  - ☐ D) The use of dance in certain movie productions.
2. According to the passage, in what way is a flamenco dancer similar to a tap dancer?
- A) Both perform the same kinds of steps.
  - B) Both rely on individual inventiveness.
  - C) Both are trained in classical techniques.
  - D) Both make very little noise.
3. An acrobatic style of dancing was most closely associated with which of the following performers?
- A) Peg Leg Bates
  - B) The Nicholas Brothers
  - C) Bill Robinson
  - D) Fred Astaire
4. Which two dancers used sand in their routines?
- A) Robinson and Sims
  - B) Bates and Robinson
  - C) The Nicholas Brothers
  - D) Sims and Astaire
5. The author implies which of the following about tap dancing ?
- A) It is more complex than flamenco dancing.
  - B) It is meant to be heard as well as seen.
  - ☒ C) It became popular primarily because of the movies.
  - D) It should be performed by at least two people.

### Passage 1—3

Elementary schools play a key role in the way children use

home computers, but the machines may stir up conflict between schools and parents, according to a study published last week by New York University. The study finds that children do a lot of programming on home computers when they are exposed to programming at school. Game playing is the most common home activity, while educational software is rarely used.

As computers tend to be more common in middle and upper income families, equality of education may become a sore point, according to the report. Families worry about educational opportunities for their own children; schools, on the other hand, try hard to ensure that all students have more or less the same educational opportunities. The study cites one case in which a teacher forbade a pupil to do homework on a computer because other students did not have them. The girl's parents told her to ignore the order. Traditional lines of authority for teachers and parents may be disrupted if children begin to learn more on home computers than they do at school.

The findings are based on observation of 20 middle and upper class families, most of them white and from the New York City area. Families were observed over a three-month period.

The schools that children in the sample attended had computer science courses that emphasized programming and influenced home computer use, notes the report. The researchers are not sure, however, why professionally prepared educational software was seldom used at home.

Nevertheless, families got a lot of use out of their computers on the whole. There was at least one active computer user in 17 of the 20 families, usually a child.

The study also concludes that computers tend to strengthen the

existing family structure rather than to alter it in any fundamental way. Close expressive families tend to remain close and use the computer together, which individualistic, reserved families use the machine separately.

Although most parents hope computer experience will place their children at an advantage in school and later in college, parents also worry that they may pay far too much attention to computers. A majority of families laid down rules to limit computer use at home.

1. According to the study published at New York University, \_\_\_\_\_.  
A) computers may cause disagreement between schools and parents  
B) computers may bring happiness to schools and parents  
C) computers are unpopular with schoolchildren  
D) the parents of schoolchildren disapprove of computers
2. As computers tend to be more common in middle and upper income families, equality of education may become \_\_\_\_\_.  
A) a main point                      B) a source of disagreement  
C) a cause of illness                D) an interesting matter
3. Families and schools \_\_\_\_\_.  
A) worry about the same thing  
B) focus on different things  
C) have taken some actions  
D) want to adopt measures
4. Regarding changes in family life, the conclusion of the study is \_\_\_\_\_.  
A) homcomputers tend to alter the existing family structure  
B) home computers tend to strengthen the existing family

structure

C) home computers have no effect on family structure

D) home computers frequently lead to strain in marriages

## Passage 1—4

The producers of instant coffee found their product strongly resisted in the market places despite their product's manifest advantages. Furthermore, the advertising expenditure for instant coffee was far greater than that for regular coffee. Efforts were made to find the cause of the consumers' seemingly unreasonable resistance to the product. The reason given by most people was dislike for the taste. The producers suspected that there might be deeper reasons, however. This was confirmed by one of motivation researcher's classic studies, one often cited in the trade. Mason Haire, of the university of California, constructed two shopping lists that were identical except for one item. There were six items common to both lists; hamburger, carrots, bread, baking powder, canned peaches, and potatoes, with the brands or amounts specified. The seventh item, in fifth place on both lists, read "1 lb. Maxwell House Coffee" on one list and "Nestle Instant Coffee" on the other. One list was given to each one in a group of fifty women, and the other list to those in another group of the same size. The women were asked to study their lists and then to describe, as far as they could, the kind of women ("personality and character") who would draw up that shopping list. Nearly half of those who had received the list including instant coffee described a housewife who was lazy and a poor planner. On the other hand, only one woman in the other group described the housewife, who had included regular coffee on her list, as lazy; only six of that group suggested that she was a



poor planner. Eight women felt that the instant — coffee user was probably not a good wife! No one in the other group drew such a conclusion about the housewife who intended to buy regular coffee.

1. According to the passage, most people said they didn't like instant coffee because \_\_\_\_\_.
  - A) it had many disadvantages
  - B) they didn't want to be lazy housewives and poor planners
  - C) they didn't like its taste
  - D) it was spoiled by too much advertising
2. Which of the following was confirmed by the motivation studies?
  - A) Instant coffee was strongly resisted in the market places.
  - B) The advertising expenditure for instant coffee was far greater than that for regular coffee.
  - C) There might be deeper reasons in the resistance to instant coffee.
  - D) It was a lazy housewife who used instant coffee.
3. How many items were included in each shopping list?
  - A) 6
  - B) 7
  - C) 12
  - D) 14
4. Which of the following statements is true about the result of the test?
  - A) Nearly half of the women tested described the instant coffee user a lazy housewife and a poor planner.
  - B) About fifty percent of the women were lazy.
  - C) 25% the women tested believe that wives who used instant coffee were lazy.
  - D) Wives who used regular coffee were good planners.
5. According to the passage, many women preferred regular coffee.