# 大学英语阅读理解指要

主编





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#### 内容提要

阅读理解是各种标准化英语考试的重要内容,也是考生普遍感到难度较 大的项目。本书旨在帮助读者攻克这一难关。全书共分三篇,第一篇为大学英 语阅读理解考试概况,介绍了大学英语四、六级考试中阅读理解部分的要求。 各种命题形式以及解题方法。第二篇为大学英语阅读技巧,本篇介绍了7种 阅读技巧;并精选了30篇阅读短文进行详细的分析,难度由浅入深;每种技 巧后面还设计了相应的阅读理解练习。第三篇为阅读理解模拟题,设计了难 度和容量相当于大学英语 1~6 级阅读理解考试的模拟题各两套。书末附有 全部模拟题的参考答案,供读者自学自测。

#### 大学英语阅读理解指要

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## 前 言

阅读理解是各项标准化英语考试的重要内容,是考生普遍感到难度较大的项目,本书旨在帮助广大考生攻克这一难关。本书是根据国家教委批转的理工科和文理科用的两份《大学英语教学大纲》、《大学英语四级考试大纲及样题》以及《大学英语六级考试大纲及样题》编写的。全书共分三篇,第一篇为大学英语阅读理解考试概况,介绍了阅读理解的考试要求、测试范围、命题形式、应考步骤及注意事项。第二篇为大学英语阅读技巧,从7个方面详细地讨论了阅读理解技能,并加以范例说明。第三篇为阅读理解模拟题,按照考试大纲的规定为大学英语1~6级各编写了数套阅读理解的模拟题,供读者自测和训练阅读技巧之用,书末还配有全部答案。

本书针对性强,理论结合实践,注重实用,是广大在校的大学生及英语爱好者必备的复习资料。

本丛书由乔英主编,刘路喜和俞美君负责本书的编写工作。由于编者水平有限,疏漏之处恳请读者批评、指正。

编著者 1995 年 12 月

# 目 录

٠,	第一篇	大学英语阅读理解	解考试概况······	. (1)
	→,5	考试要求	•••••	• (1)
	二、}	则试范围	•••••	• (1)
	三、角	命题形式		• (2)
	四、万	立考步骤及注意事项	ĺ ·····	• (3)
	第二篇	大学英语阅读技巧	፟ጛ·····	• (5)
	<b>→</b> 、₹	角定中心思想	•••••	• (5)
	二、幹	序认重要事实	•••••	• (9)
	三、犭	青测生词词义		(11)
	四、	导出合乎逻辑的结论	***************************************	(19)
	五、作	作出合理的判断	••••••	(24)
	六、违	世行正确的推论	***************************************	(28)
	七、追	性行综合概括	***************************************	(33)
	第三篇	阅读理解模拟题	••••••	(36)
	一级	模拟题	***************************************	(36)
	二级	模拟题	***************************************	(59)
	三级	模拟题	••••••	(82)
	四级	模拟题	(	(108)
			· ·	(147)
	六级	模拟题······		(177)
	Keys	•••••••••••		(220)

# 第一篇 大学英语阅读理解考试概况

#### 一、考试要求

国家教委在印发理工科和文理科本科用的两种《大学英语教学大纲》中指出"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;可见,大纲较重视阅读能力的训练,因为阅读是英语使用中最主要的一种能力。同样,阅读能力的重要性在大学英语四、六级考试大纲中也能反映出来,这部分共 20 题,占全部考分的40%,考试时间 35 分钟。要求考生阅读若干篇文章(一般都是4篇),总阅读量四级不超过1000词,六级不超过1400词。每篇短文后有若干个问题(一般都是5 道题)。考生应根据文章内容从每题4个选择项中选出一个最佳答案,由于阅读理解主要是测试学生通过阅读获取信息的能力,因此,这部分的考试既要求答题准确,也要求有一定的阅读速度。

#### 二、测试范围

考试大纲规定,大学英语阅读理解主要测试下述能力:

- 1. 掌握所读材料的主旨和大意。
- 2. 了解说明主旨和大意的事实和细节。
- 3. 既能理解字面意思,也能理解隐含的意思。
- 4. 既理解个别句子的意义,也理解上下文的逻辑关系。
- 5. 能就文章的内容进行判断、推理和信息转换。
- 以上各项阅读理解技能具体地体现在以下 7 个方面:

1

- 1. 确定中心思想(Determining the Main Idea)。
- 2. 辨认重要事实(Recognizing Important Facts)。
- 3. 猜测生词词义(Guessing Unknown Words)。
- 4. 得出合乎逻辑的结论(Drawing Logical Conclusions)。
- 5. 作出合理的判断(Making Sound Judgements)。
- 6. 进行正确的推论(Making Accurate Inferences)。
- 7. 进行综合概括(Making Generalizations)。

### 三、命题形式

围绕着阅读理解技能的7个方面,可以给出多种题目形式。常见的题型为:

1. This passage is mainly about
2. The main idea of this passage is
3. This passage centers on
4. The best title for this passage might be
5. What is the writer talking about?
6. What is the point the writer is making about the topic?
7. By using the word "××", the writer means
8. The word in Line $\times \times$ , Para. $\times \times$ can be replaced by
•
9. We can conclude from this passage that
10. The writer seems to
11. The passage supports which of the following conclusions?
12. This passage is probably taken from
13. Which of the following statements is (NOT) TRUE ac-
cording to the passage?
14. It can be known/inferred from this passage that

15. The writer of the passage suggests that
16. The writer's purpose in writing this passage seems to be
·
17. This passage is intended to
18. This passage is probably taken from
19. This passage is written for
20. It is implied, but not directly stated in the passage that
·
21. It can be understood from the passage that
22. The writer implies that

如果再将以上 23 种题型进行分类的话,可以分成两大类:一是局部性问题(Local Questions)。主要考核理解句子水平的意义,如:猜测词义、辨认重要事实或细节。这类题目在 1~4 级考试中,所占比例较大,约 60%,也就是说,每篇文章后面的 5 道题目中,有 3 题左右属于这种类别,比较容易答对。二是总体性问题(global Questions)。这类题目必须在看完全文后才能作答,主要考核理解上下文逻辑关系、隐含意义、中心思想、判断、推理、结论以及综合概括,在 5~6 级考试中占的比例较大,约占 60%,考生在做题时必须反复推敲,全面衡量。

23. The main purpose of this passage is to \_\_\_\_.

#### 四、应考步骤及注意事项

#### 1. 应考步骤

首先,看一下每篇文章后面的问题,初步了解题目属于哪种类型,是总体性问题,还是局部性问题。

其次,迅速浏览全文,了解文章主题,得出一个初步印象。

第三,细心阅读全文,在主要短语、主题句、论据以及有关事实的地方轻轻划线作标记。

最后,认真阅读每个问题,然后根据文章内容找出答案。

#### 2. 注意事项

先了解文章主题,依段次阅读,找出每段中的主题句。

对某句不甚理解时,不应该反复多次阅读,而应对整段迅速再读一遍,以了解其大意,并通过上下文线索得到启示。

时间有限,要眼疾手快,细读全文,在涉及主要思想、论据和有关事实的句子下面作些标记。

选择答案时,一定要根据文章所提供的情况,消除个人对问题的成见。

有时,问题的顺序没有按文章内容发生的先后排列,考生不得 不在文章中各个不同的地方找来找去。

答题时应先易后难,如果被某个问题难住,可以先在其旁边做个记号,待有时间时再来处理。

对待这种难题,可以采用"排除法",把不可能成为答案的选择 项逐一排除,剩下的一个可能就是答案。

阅读速度要快,以争取时间再次阅读不懂之处或再考虑前面没有把握的题目。

# 第二篇 大学英语阅读技巧

#### 一、确定中心思想

1. 找出主题句(Locating the Topic Sentence)

文章由众多的句子围绕某一主题而成。我们写文章时,先要确定写什么,这就是要确定主题;围绕着主题,我们可以表达自己的思想、观点,这就成了文章的中心思想;文章的中心思想是由一些具体事实、细节来说明的。段落中的主题句可以表达文章的中心思想,它常常出现在文章的首句或尾句中;有时也可能在第二或第三句中。因此,快速寻找主题句就成了阅读理解的一项重要解题技巧。

例 1 You can improve your concentration by controlling your study environment, the space you have chosen to study. First, choose a study area that is quiet. Then make sure you have adequate work space and good lighting. Finally, remove from the area any distractions (干扰) such as pictures or books that might draw your attention away from your studies.

这段文章的主题句是: You can improve your concentration by controlling your study environment. 这句主题句也就反映了这段文章的中心思想。

例 2 Students learn in different ways. Some students learn best by writing out the information to be learned. Other students need to hear the information and learn best by reciting or saying the information aloud. Still other students learn through a combination of first writing the information and then reciting.

这段文章的主题句是:Students learn in different ways. 后面的句子都是用来说明这一中心思想的。

2. 确定隐含的中心思想(Determing the Implied Main Idea)

Í.

然而,主题句并非总是出现在段落的第一句话中。有时,段落中根本就找不到主题句。这是否表明没有主题句就没有中心思想呢?回答是否定的。这时,中心思想是隐含的,没有直接表达出来(implied, not directly stated)。这种情况可能因为作者认为文章的中心思想非常明显,有意让读者自己考虑。因此,在阅读过程中,读者始终应该保持提问的态度,即:What is the point being made here?(作者在谈论什么主题?);抓住文中一些重要事实,并且自问:What can these details prove?如果读者对以上两个问题能找到答案,说明他根据已有事实推断出了隐含的中心思想。

例 3 "When telling a story, a writer may choose to write about the events in the order that they actually happened, or in a straight chronological order. The use of flashbacks, however, is also effective. Flashbacks interrupt the forward flow of the story to take the reader backward: to an earlier time."

这段文章的主题是: Telling a story. 重要事实: ①A writer can use straight chronological order. ②The use of flashbacks is effective.

由此我们可以推断出中心思想应该是:There are two ways a writer can tell a story.

Offers a narrow range of products, such as a camera store. Another type is the department store that has a variety of products such as clothing, small appliances, jewelry, and luggage. A third type of retail business is the convenience store that offers a variety of products but a limited selection of each product."

文章的主题:Retail business.

重要事实:①One type of retail business is the speciality store.②Another type is the department store.③A third type is

the convenience store.

我们可以推断出文章的中心思想:There are three different types of retail business.

另外,有时作者也常用一些信号词(signal words)来表达文章的中心思想,读者可以根据这些词来帮助找到文章的中心思想,这些常用的词或短语有:in conclusion, to conclude, the point is …, it is important that …, in summary, to sum up, to summarize, thus, therefore, in short, on the whole, consequently, as a result, in other words, it can be seen that ….

#### 练习1

Few can deny the strange coincidences (巧合) in the deaths of John F. Kennedy and Abraham Lincoln. For example, Kennedy was elected in 1960 while Lincoln assumed the Presidency in 1860. Both men were assassinated (谋杀) from behind, on a Friday, and in the presence of their wives. The two men were born exactly one hundred years apart, as were their assassins, Lee Harvey Oswald and John Wilkes Booth. Perhaps the strangest coincidence is that Kennedy's secretary, whose name was Lincoln, advised him not to go to Dallas where he was shot. Lincoln's secretary, whose name was Kennedy, advised him not to go to the Ford Theater where he met his death.

- 1. Which sentence best expresses the main idea?
  - A) Few can deny the strange coincidences in the deaths of John F. Kennedy and Abraham Lincoln.
  - B)Both men were assassinated from behind, on a Friday, and in the presence of their wives.
  - C)The two men were born exactly on hundred years apart, as were their assassins, Lee Harvey Oswald and John Wilkes

Booth.

- D) Lincoln's secretary, whose name was Kennedy, advised him not to go to the Ford Theater where he met his death.
- 2. The circumstances surrounding the two deaths were \_\_\_\_\_.

A)mysterious

C)controversial

5

B)similar

D)unrelated

- 3. Which statement expresses the central thought?
  - A) Fame is something which must be won; honor only something which must not be lost.
  - B) The course of life is like the sea; men come and go; tides rise and fall.
  - C) Time brings not death, it brings but changes.
  - D)It is no great wonder if, in long process of time numerous coincidences should occur.

#### 练习2

If you were planning to buy a television set, the following advertisement would certainly attract your attention: "Color TV, only \$79. Two day sale. Hurry." However, when you go to the store ready to buy, you may discover that the advertised sets are sold out. But the salesman is quick to reassure you that he has another model, a more reliable set which is "just right for you." It costs \$359. This sales tactic (策略) is called "bait and switch." Buyers are baited (引诱) with a sales offer, and then they are switched to another more costly item. Buying item on sale requires careful consideration of the merchandise and the reasons for the sale.

- 4. Which sentence best expresses the main idea?
  - A) The customer must be on his guard when purchasing items

on sale.

- B) Color television sets which sell for \$79,00 are sold out quickly.
- C) Many stores use the "bait and switch" technique to attract customers.
- D) Anyone planning to buy a television set should look for a sale.
- 5. The paragraph could be entitled

A)Buyer Beware

C)Crime Pays

B)Close Sale

D)Buying a TV Set

- 6. Which of the following supports the main idea?
  - A)A good lie is always pleasing to honest men.
  - B) You may prove anything by figures.
  - C) Words of his tongue can no man trust.

    For in his heart there is deceitful thought.
  - D)The creative genius of the salesman is rarely matched on the stage.

答案:1.A 2.B 3.D 4.A 5.A 6.C

### 二、辨认重要事实

在大学英语  $1\sim6$  级阅读理解测试题中,"辨认重要事实"属于"局部性问题",即:Local Questions;它主要考核考生是否掌握文中重要的事实或细节,能否猜测出某一生词或短语的意义。这类题目比较容易,在  $1\sim4$  级阅读理解题目中所占比例较高,而  $5\sim6$  级则较少出现这类考题。可见"辨认重要事实"是阅读理解测试中最基本的一项要求。常出现的一些"信号词"可以帮助考生迅速找到文中的重要事实。这些词是:first, second/then, third/finally, next, last, other, another, also, in addition, additionally, besides, moreover, further, furthermore, equally important, like-

wise, lastly etc.

for Good concentration will make your study time more effective. You can improve your concentration by controlling your study environment, the place you have chosen to study. First, choose a study area that is quiet. Then, make sure you have adequate work space and good lighting. Finally, remove from the area any distractions such as pictures or books that might draw your attention away from your studies."

让我们来分析这段文章:第一句话"Good concentration will make your study time more effective,"看上去很像是主题句。但是,下文例举的三点事实说明了它的中心思想应该是:how to improve your concentration by controlling the study environment.信号词"first, then, finally"引出了3个事实。

M 6 As these studies show, human infants need more than just food and shelter if they are to grow and develop normally. Every human infant needs frequent contact with others who demonstrate affection, who respond to attempts and to interest, and who themselves initiate interactions with the child. Infants also need coctact with people who find ways to interest the child in his or her surroundings and who teach the child the physical and social skills and knowledge that are needed to function. In addition, in order to develop normally, children need to be taught the culture of their society—to be socialized into the world of social relations and symbols that are the foundation of the human experience.

本文的中心思想是:Human infants need more than just food and shelter if they are to grow and develop normally.

主要事实是:①Every human infant needs frequent contact with others ……. ②Infants also need contact with people …….

<u>③In addition</u>, children need to be taught the culture of their society......

#### 三、猜测生词词义

1. 利用上下文线索(Using Contextual Clues).

在阅读文章时,人们常常碰到生词,对此会产生不同的反应。有些人马上去查词典,但很快发现查词典要占用不少时间,而且词典上给出每个词的释义很多,难以判断该选用哪条释义。不久,可能就感觉阅读是项枯燥乏味的工作。另有一些人对生词采取跳过不看的方法,但如果跳过去的生词太多,文章中留下太多的空白,等阅读完全文以后,或许会觉得不知文章所云,这样肯定会影响对文章的理解程度。那么,合理的解决方法应该是通过生词的上下文或其前后句子来猜测其词义。然而,猜测词义却应遵守如下规则.

- 第一,句子的意义决定某个单词的意义,词的上下文确定了它的词义。
- 第二,词在句中,句在段落中,不能孤立地猜测某个单词的词 义。
- 第三,必须根据已有的信息或线索来推断词义,不能凭空乱 猜。
- 第四,利用上下文线索仅能大致上猜测词义,不能够对某词下 一个准确定义。

#### 例 7

- ①The drinks before dinner should be served with <u>nuts</u> and other snacks.
- ②Choosing the correct <u>nuts</u> for the type of bolts (螺栓) used and the particular job to be done is very important.

分析:第一个句子整句都在谈论饮食方面,因此"nuts"一词可能指"吃的东西";而第二句整句都与工作有关,肯定不是什么吃的东西了。经查阅词典,前句中"nuts"指"硬壳果,坚果";后句中

"nuts"指"螺母、螺帽。"由此可见,一个词出现在不同的语境中,其词义相差甚远。下面将着重讨论根据上下文线索猜测词义的几种方法。

#### ①直接定义法。

在阅读过程中,我们发现有时作者对某些专业或技术词汇采用直接给出定义的方法,即使读者不熟悉这些专业词汇,但至少可以从所给的定义中推断出这个专业词汇大致上指的是什么,这种方法叫做"直接定义法"。常用的信号词如:"is defined as ·····", "refers to ·····", "means ·····", "is ·····"等等。

- 例 8 A right angle is an angle of 90 degrees formed by two lines perpendicular to each other. 直角就是 90°的角,由两条线垂直而成。
- 例 9 In socialogical research, a <u>sample means</u> a group of persons selected from the larger population. 在社会学研究中,<u>样</u>本是指从较多的人中挑选出来的一组人。
- 例 10 Capital is defined as the funds necessary to finance the operation of a business. 资本是指用于资助企业运转的资金。
  - ②标点符号的作用。
- 一个词的上下文线索指该词出现的句子或语境,包括标点符号,都可以帮助读者推断词义,这对于理解文章起着重要作用。常用的标点符号如下:",""——"":""()""[]". 标点符号后面的内容或括号内的内容正是解释前面的生词。
- 例 11 She was interested in studying **psychokinesis**—— the ability to move an object without touching it. 她对研究**心理动力** 很感兴趣,心理动力就是不用碰触物体就能移动它的一种能力。
- 例 12 Essential hypertension [high blood pressure] must be carefully controlled. 原发性高血压必须谨慎控制。
- 例 13 Another layer of the earth's crust is formed of metamonphic rocks: rocks that have been changed, usually by high

temperature and pressure within the crust. 另一层地壳由**变形岩**构成。变形岩是由于地壳中的高温、高压而变了形的岩石。

#### ③对照关系。

在阅读过程中,我们还可以参照一些连接词或短语的作用来猜测词义,这些连接词往往表示前后意义对照,常用的词或短语如下:unlike, but, while, although, though, however, not, eventhough, instead, rather than, nevertheless, on the other hard, on the contrary 等等。

- **例** 14 Mary was guilty, **unlike** John who was **innocent**。(连接词"unlike"说明 Mary 和 John 是两种不同的人;"guilty"是"有罪的",那么"innocent"则可能是"无罪的,清白的"的意思。)
- **例** 15 **While I love** the film, my husband **loathes** it. (连接词 "while"说明两人爱好相反,那么"loathe"则等于"not love"或 "hate"的意思。)
- 例 16 Although Marsha is fastidious, her twin Marilyn is very careless. (连接词"although"表明两人性格相反,形成对照,因此,"fastidious"的意思则是"very careful."

综上所述,语言并非千篇一律,在实际阅读中,读者还可以利用别的手段来猜测词义,比如:定语从句、过去分词短语、并列连接词 or 等等。

- 例 17 There are a number of so-called "mind-reading" tricks in which the magician claims to tell a person what he is thinking about. (定语从句解释了"mind-reading" tricks)
- 例 18 What happens is that most companies pay regular small amounts of money, called the <u>premium</u>, to insurance groups and so a large fund of money builds up. (生词"premium" 的意思就是"regular small amounts of money.)
- 例 19 Spectacles, or glasses, are used by people who can not see perfectly, or by people who want to protect their eyes