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CET-4

阅读攻坚 200 篇

王中一 主编

姜荷英 陈明阳 陈琦 王中一 编著

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内 容 提 要

本书是以《大学英语四级考试大纲》为依据编写的,旨在指导学生在英语四级考试阅读理解中能够准确理解篇章结构,命中要点得分,不断积累经验,以突破难点。

本书使用的200篇文章均选自近年来英美出版的原著、报纸、杂志或公认的范文。文章内容新颖、题材广泛,遍及文化教育、社会生活、天文地理、风土人情、科普知识等诸多领域。本书不仅适合参加四级统考的高校学生使用,对于有志通过自学,提高英语阅读能力,参加类似水平考试的学生也不失为是一本实用的英语阅读指导用书。

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前 言

目前,在全国四级英语考试中,阅读理解部分的试题占总题量的近一半。显然提高应试者的阅读能力,是在CET-4中取胜的关键。但这也正是学生感到棘手的问题。准确理解篇章结构、命中要点得分确非易事。笔者通过多年大学英语的教学实践和对历届学生统测结果的分析,得出的经验是:

一、平时要加大训练量。只有在大量的阅读过程中,才能逐步培养出语感和临场冷静、专心地解题,发挥正常的应试能力。

二、在相当一段时间里,坚持连续地阅读。在不间断的阅读实践中,扎实地打好语言基础。改变靠一时突击,碰运气猜题的被动局面。

三、坚持广阅。力求扩大各种背景知识,拓宽文化视野。

基于上述考虑,笔者编著了本书。旨在指导学生在阅读过程中把握住文章的篇、章、段、句的重点,提高对英语书面材料的确切理解能力。

全书共分两部分:第一部分包含200篇短文或段落,共40个单元。每单元前4篇文章的平均词汇量为250左右,个别超纲的单词注出中文。每单元有20道选择题和5道问答题,问答题供第5篇短文使用。同时依据国家教委关于从1996年1月起在CET-4中增加英译汉新题型的决定,特在阅读理解的一篇文章中用下划线划出了1个句子或短语,供英译汉练习使用。第二部分为练习答案。

本书使用的200篇文章均选自近年英美编辑出版的原著、报纸、杂志或者公认的范文,力求不与已出版的同类书籍、文章有所重复。文章内容新颖,题材广泛,遍及文化教育、社会生活、天文地理、风土人情、科普知识等领域,难度适当、趣味性强。练习的编排和设计均以《大学英语四级考试大纲》为依据。本书不仅适合将参加四级统考的高校学生使用,对有志通过自学,提高英语阅读能力,参加类似水平英语考试的考生也不失为一本实用的英语阅读指导用书。

本书由王中一主编。全书由楼荷英、陈明阳、陈琦、王中一共同完成,每人负责编写10个单元。由于编者水平有限,时间仓促,不妥之处在所难免,敬请读者批评指正。

编 者

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Reading Comprehension

Directions: There are 5 passages in each unit. Except the fifth one each 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 translate the sentence or phrase underlined. Finally, answer the questions given according to the last passage.

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Unit 1

The kinds of teachers that children have greatly influence whether their school experience will develop or will simply increase difficulties and disappointments. The teacher's general attitudes and actions may appear to the child to be similar to those of the child's parents. This is particularly true if they are from the same social class. Many young children therefore react to the teacher as though he/she were a substitute parent. The motives, attitudes, fears, and overt or obvious behavior that children have developed in relation to their parents are likely to be generalized to the teacher. Because most elementary-school teachers are women, children, especially boys, sometimes view school activities as more related to femininity than to masculinity (男性) and therefore as more appropriate for girls than for boys.

In this country, the teacher's values are usually middle class. He or she rewards neatness, obedience, cooperation, and cleanliness; he or she punishes waste, lack of responsibility, lying, and aggression. Many teachers feel that stealing, cheating, lying, and disobedience are most serious offenses that a young child can commit.

Most children respond to the beginning of school with favorable anticipation, and these feelings are usually maintained by most children, at least through the earliest school years. Young children exposed to warmer, more encouraging teachers were found to be more constructive when faced with possible failure and to be more involved in classroom activities. Most children seem to do best under well-trained teachers who are authoritative but not either authoritarian or permissive. The authoritative teacher, unlike the authoritarian teacher, encourage individual initiative, self-esteem (自我评价), and social responsibility. Unlike the permissive teacher, the authoritative teacher provides guidance, ultimate direction, and sets standard and goals.

1. According to the passage, most children seem to do best under the teachers who

- A. teach them more than they expected
- B. treat them with motherly behavioral expressions
- ☒ C. have the appearance of power
- D. come from the same class with themselves

2. School children

- A. assist the teachers to encourage their individual initiative
- B. are appreciated not to do the most serious offenses

欣赏、感激、认识、表扬

- C. respond to the beginning of school with favorable expectation
 D. prefer to be exposed to the authoritarian teacher rather than the permissive teacher
3. The author holds that in the earliest school years the teacher's influence upon pupils are _____.
- A. impressionable B. normal
 C. agreeable D. inflexible
4. An authoritative teacher _____.
- A. comes from the middle-class
 B. is kind and more socially active
 C. is powerful and substitute
 D. is experienced and constructive
5. The best title of the passage is _____.
- A. The Early Days in School
 B. The School Teacher's Role
 C. Motherly Education
 D. Children's Expectation

The successful repair mission carried out by US astronauts on the Hubbell space telescope last December highlighted(使突出) a big performance by the robotic Canadarm.

The arm reached out from the spaceship(also called shuttle) Endeavor and saved the faulty Hubbell satellite, it carried astronauts back and forth between the shuttle cargo bay(货舱) and the telescope, and it chased loose screws. And when the repairs were completed, it deployed Hubbell back into orbit.

For its builders, Spar Aerospace Ltd. of Toronto, the repair mission was a triumph.

"Hubbell was a classic case where the Canadarm was used in all its designed modes for the space shuttle program. They could not have done without it," said Savvy Sachdev, director of engineering for Spar's advanced technology systems group, which oversees robotic arm development for Spar.

"There are bigger and smarter arms to come, born of the Canadarm," he said. They are being built by Spar for the Canadian Space Agency and will be used on the international space station freedom.

As well, arms have been built and are being developed for applications such as inspecting nuclear reactors and handling radioactive and hazardous material.

The main arm element for the space station is the Mobile Servicing System

Manipulator, a 17-meter long arm with seven joints, (compared with Canadarm's six), which will be used to build and maintain the station in space, when work begins in the late 1990s.

The new arm will move about the station platform on a mobile transporter or, it will walk to work in an inchworm-like fashion, swinging end-over-end to catch on to different areas.

"During assembly the arm, which will have gone up on the early space flights, will reach into the shuttle load bay from its location on the station truss, pull out the payload in the orbiter, and attach it to another part of the station," Mr. Sachdev said.

6. Canadarm is in fact AB
- A. a human arm
B. a robotic arm
C. a robot
D. a company manufacturing robot
7. "Deployed" (para. 2) can be explained as AB
- A. put quickly
B. immediately made (it) work in order
C. immediately return
D. let (it) come
8. "They" (para. 4) refers to CB
- A. the repairing
B. those astronauts in charge of repairing
C. builders in Aerospace Ltd. of Toronto
D. the designed modes
9. According to Savi Sachdev, bigger and smarter arms AB
- A. are being built with the help of Canadarm
B. are being built with reference to the design of Canadarm
C. are built at the same time Canadarm is built
D. are coming to work more efficiently than Canadarm
10. Which of the following statement is TRUE? C
- A. When the astronauts are assembling the arm, the arm will attach the orbiter to the station.
B. When the astronauts are putting the arm together, the arm will reach into the orbiter.
C. The arm will attach the orbiter to the station during assembling the station.
D. The arm will reach into another part of the station during its assembling.

Factors that affect price are both long and short range. Consider the long-range first. The price of any single commodity (商品) is bound to be influenced by the general level of all commodity prices. There are periods of gradual rises

and periods of slowly sinking prices.

Another long range factor is the value of money. Any change naturally affects commodity price levels. As money declines in value, commodity prices tend to rise, more money has to be used to make a purchase because the intrinsic(内在的) value of the commodity itself has not changed. People have "hedged"(躲避) by exchanging their money for something with more stability.

A change in a foreign exchange rate may cause the volume of exports or imports to vary. Population increase is a factor ---- the greater demand for goods *bolsters* prices. Government price activity has tremendous long-range effects. We have had farm price support programs of some sort since the 1930's. Then there is reducing cost of production. Changes take place ---- new methods of transporting, new agricultural techniques ---- tending to reduce the price of the final produce. This briefly covers some long-range factors affecting commodity prices. But most daily activity at the Chicago Board of Trade concerns itself with short-range factors. For instance, the short term trader will be very concerned about weather, insect damage, and so on, that might affect the supply of a crop being traded right now. Price rises when the crop is small, but this would only last until a normal crop is produced or to the point that another commodity can be economically substituted for the one in short supply.

11. According to the passage, which of the following is not a long-range factor that affects price?
- A. The reduction of the cost of the final produce.
 - B. The interference of the government.
 - C. The production of commodities.
 - D. The change of the value of money.
12. What did people do to avoid the decrease of the value of money, according to the passage?
- A. To make a purchase before the price goes up.
 - B. To buy goods as many as possible.
 - C. To put the money in the bank.
 - D. To exchange their money for something with more stability.
13. Which of the following is closest in meaning to the word "*bolster*" (para. 3)?
- A. decrease
 - B. influence
 - C. support
 - D. reduce
14. Which of the following is one of the short-range factors that affect price?
- A. the insect damage
 - B. population increase
 - C. the value of money
 - D. a change in a foreign exchange rate.
15. What's the passage mainly talking about?

- A. The long-range factors that affect price.
- B. The factors that affect prices.
- C. The changing value of money.
- D. The changing price of the commodities.

Although they may not die from lack of love, adults also need a great amount of affection and companionship. In the past, many people spent their entire lives in the communities in which they were born and raised. Many more people continued to live with their parents, brothers and sisters after they were married and had children of their own. By remaining in familiar communities with relatives nearby, families had abundant opportunities for friendly contact and for support in times of trouble.

Recent studies suggest that family arrangements in Western societies have not changed as much in the last few centuries as is generally believed. Yet most sociologists agree that in modern societies, there are fewer opportunities for friendship and support from relatives outside the immediate family. Parents and children often live apart from other relatives, and visit them only occasionally. Also, the family moves when a parent accepts a job in another location or when it decides to live in a better neighborhood. Together, isolation and mobility force immediate family members to depend heavily on one another for affection and companionship.

Because the family is one of the few on-going sources of affection and companionship in modern societies, a high percentage of people continue to marry, even though an active intimate life has become possible for single men and women without marriage. On the other hand, because affection and companionship have become so important, families are more likely to break up if a spouse(配偶)'s emotional needs are not met within the family circle ---- even if all other family functions are being satisfactorily performed. In this sense, affection and companionship have become the *touchstone* of the modern family.

16. What is most probably discussed in the preceding paragraph?

- A. Human beings cannot live without food and shelter.
- B. A major function of the family is to provide security.
- C. Human love and affection are important to the communities.
- D. Adults may be harmed in emotional growth from lack of affection.

17. It is generally believed that

- A. many people spend their lives in familiar communities
- B. a person can easily get in touch with relatives in times of difficulty

- C. the organization of the family has changed a great deal
 - D. western societies have not changed much in the past few years
18. Sociological studies indicate that _____.
- A. the chance of support from distant relatives doesn't seem in proportion to stability of family arrangements
 - B. parents and children live together to make up for the lack of relatives outside the family
 - C. family arrangements have changed and so there is little need for companion of relatives
 - D. family members are isolated from each other because of the lack of support from relatives
19. The growing dependence on family affection and companionship results from the fact that _____.
- A. they help family move together and adapt themselves to the new location
 - B. they help family to overcome remoteness and loneliness caused by mobility
 - C. they help family to keep in contact with their relatives
 - D. they help family to find more opportunities for support from relatives
20. The word "touchstone" in the last paragraph may be replaced by _____.
- A. foundation
 - B. barrier
 - C. function
 - D. standard

Who knows how long ago the strong desire came into my heart to go to China "one day". It always had to be phrased in that way, "one day". Would it ever occur in my lifetime and how? What's a small American boy like me going to do over there anyway? I'm only 10 years old, insignificant. No one understands the way I feel, possibly my friends, maybe my family, surely God. At this age, storing your dreams is all you can do at the time.

"Your going where? Why?" Not the kind of reaction you expect when you tell some of the closest of kin(亲戚) that you've decided to move to the other side of the world. We were always told growing up that if you dig a hole deep enough in the earth, you will come out in China. I doubt that's true, I'm 22 years old now and even my cousin Michael knows that the fastest way to China for an American citizen is by airplane. Also, it's much easier than digging a hole, you just sit there.

My thoughts did race as we flew across the Pacific Ocean and said "good-bye" to American soil. Strangely, there were very few fears that captured my thoughts. There was more peace down there in my heart than there is peace talked about at a Superpowers Summit.

By now I was exposed to a little bit of that dreaded thing they call "culture shock". The real shock to me was that I felt very much at home when I arrived in China. Feelings of expectation and wonder flooded my soul until I was ready to jump off the plane after it landed of course. The combination of joy and peace in my heart made me forget the fact that I was 5,000 kilometers from home.

Strange? No, I can answer that too. What is so strange about giving up everything you have: home, family friends, occupations or material things to me. I count it all a loss. It's a loss in which I gain. Don't you think that since I came all the way over here I would be rewarded with homes, families and friends simply because I was willing to leave a few things behind. Important and dear things.

21. When did the author have the desire to go to China?
22. For many Americans, it is not easy to go to China because _____
23. How did the author feel as he reached China?
24. The sentence "It's a loss in which I gain" in the last paragraph indicates that _____
25. Did the author experience culture shock in China?

Unit 2

At the entrance of the World Square stand the six world-famous statues, and around the Square there're 108 giant pillars of different styles and the large relief(浮雕) on a wall of 2,000 sq.m. or so, what's more, the six huge gates representing the birthplaces of the ancient civilization proper. On the stage, artists from every part of the world will offer a number of wonderful performances so as to ease and comfort the holiday-makers to their hearts' content.

Amid the forest of the fruits erect the 50 more sculpturesque(雕塑) figures *exquisitely* modeled on the celebrated statues in the world. In the vast open space of this scenic center, there're different means of traffic such as the elevated single-track car with a circular route, golf cart, ancient Europe-style carriage, old-fashioned car, which are all equipped with modern technology and will afford tourists the great delight!

Church, market and streets are there together in the comprehensive service area of the International Street which is mainly formed by the residential architecture of European, Asian and Islamic styles, where tourists can outset and also have a taste of the delicious food of France, Italy, Australia, Russia, Japan, Thailand and Korea as well as the German beer and the Hawaii ice-cream. Besides, a variety of handicrafts and souvenirs(纪念品) with consummate skills from different countries await your choice, and they interest visitors from Hong Kong as well, who live in the city next to it. A charming atmosphere is prevailing over this center as soon as evening lights are lit up at nightfall. The art procession composed of multinational songs and dances as well as folklore performances at the "Carnival Night" highlights the recreational activities.

1. If you want to enjoy the performances and get some souvenirs for your family and friends, you'll go _____ .
 - A. to the Monument To John Statues and the International Street
 - B. to the World Square and International Street by the six huge gates
 - C. to the comprehensive service area of the International Street
 - D. to the International Street and the World Square
2. The word "*exquisitely*" (para. 2) means _____ .
 - A. variously
 - B. perfectly
 - C. interestingly
 - D. ☒ exclusively
3. The second part of the last paragraph tells us _____ .
 - A. when is the most wonderful time in the spot of the day
 - B. the atmosphere in the spot is charming

- C. all the holiday-makers enjoy leisure at nightfall
- D. what performances are given in the spot
- 4. From the passage we know that _____ have been assembled in the scenic spot.
 - A. the marvelous sites of historical interest in the world
 - B. the ancient and modern natural landscapes and attractions
 - C. sculptures, drawings and traditional performances from all parts of the world
 - D. All of the above
- 5. The most difficult thing to pay a visit to the spot is _____.
 - A. to get your visa to America successfully
 - B. to get a two-way flight ticket with a big discount
 - C. hardly to express yourself in English
 - D. None of the above

A police helicopter is using a new high-definition(高分辨力) thermal(热的) imaging system that improves the chances of locating suspects hiding on the ground, by day or night. The Thermovision 1000 Forward Looking Thermal Image(FLIR) can locate a person from 1,000 meters up and at distances of at least 3 km.

Aerial surveillance(监视) helps the police to fight car crime, including joy-riding. Tracking a suspect car from the air by helicopter reduces the need for high-speed chases. Joyriders and thieves frequently abandon cars in rural areas and make off across country, where they can shake off pursuing police.

FLIR, produced by Agema Infrared System of Leighton Buzzard, Bedfordshire, has a lens(透镜) with a double field of view, which enables the operator to pan an area up to 500 meters wide at dead of night. The fully computerized system enables the camera to be programmed to seek out any heat source at, say 35 °C ---- the temperature of a human being. When the suspect is located it takes less than half a second for the camera to take a close-up picture automatically and focus on a smaller target area.

Agema's system comprises a normal video camera for daytime use, fitted alongside the thermal-imaging camera in a so-called leg mounted on an anti-vibration platform, which absorbs the helicopter's moving up and down. The observer can lock the camera on a target area, and it will automatically remain pointing in that direction.

Because vibration is virtually eliminated, the images, in color, are rock steady and almost broadcast quality. Both thermal and daylight images can be monitored on a screen and recorded or transmitted to the ground.

- 6. Joyriders and thieves abandon cars in rural areas because _____.

- A. they can easily escape the chase of pursuing police there
 - B. they have nowhere to hide those stolen cars
 - C. they are afraid of being accused
 - D. they can easily shake the pursuing police there
7. "Pan"(para. 3) can be best replaced by _____.
- A. find easily
 - B. see very clearly
 - C. take pictures of
 - D. search for
8. Which of the following statement is TRUE according to the text?
- A. A normal video camera is fitted into the thermal-image camera.
 - B. A normal video camera is for daytime use, while the thermal-image camera is for night use.
 - C. A normal video camera is fitted beside the thermal-image camera in Agema's system.
 - D. A specially made video camera is fitted in Agema's system.
9. When the vibration is virtually eliminated, _____.
- A. the images are not influenced by vibration and are very clear in color
 - B. the images are not influenced by vibration and very vivid
 - C. the images are steady like rock and the quality can be broadcast
 - D. the images are steady like rock in color
10. The main idea of the passage is that _____.
- A. cameras help the police
 - B. after seeking out heat source, the police found the suspected criminal
 - C. thermal imagery aids police in hot pursuit
 - D. thermal imagery pans a wide area

A study of education in 45 countries found that 13-year-old girls were not very good at science and students in Asian nations were the best.

While gender(性) differences were minimal in mathematics, they were common in science. Boys outperformed girls, particularly in physics, chemistry and earth science. The study focused on students of three age groups and released the results dealing with 13-year-olds.

Singapore performed best in both science and mathematics. South Korea and Japan also did very well. The United States, England and New Zealand finished in the bottom-half of the 45 nations in mathematics though England and the United States did better in science. South Africa performed worst in both mathematics and science.

"I wish, I could say it was as simple as saying give all the kids calculators,