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四级考试新高点

大学英语阅读理解

(阅读·翻译·简答·填充)

总主编 张鑫友
主 编 赵淑梅

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前 言

四级考试新高点是根据新的《大学英语教学大纲》和新的《大学英语通用词汇表(1—4级)》以及大学英语四、六级考试委员会最近几年公布的各种新题型而设计、编写的一套综合考试丛书。全套丛书共五册,包括《大学英语听力理解》、《大学英语阅读理解》、《大学英语词汇与结构》、《大学英语写作与范文》以及《大学英语模拟试题及详析》,前四册分别为大学英语四级考试几种题型的单项训练,最后一册是综合模拟试题。

本册为《大学英语阅读理解》,是根据四级考试中出现的阅读理解、翻译、简短回答和完形填空四种题型而设计、编写的。从测试目的和内容来看,这四种题型实际上均属于阅读理解的范围,都是测试考生对一篇文章的理解,只是测试的程度和题目的表现形式各不相同。本书共分三个部分:第一部分是应试指导,简要地介绍了各类题型的解题技巧;第二部分为十套模拟训练题,每套题包括四篇阅读理解、五句翻译、一篇简短回答和一篇完形填空;第三部分为答案与解析,给出了第二部分十套模拟训练题的答案,并进行了细致的分析。值得一提的是,模拟训练题中的短文全部来自英美的报刊杂志,其长度和难易度均与四级考试的要求相当,部分内容曾用于考前强化训练,效果良好。因此,我们相信本书对广大学生提高阅读理解能力和应试能力一定会有很大的帮助。

张鑫友

1999年4月

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第一部分 应试指导

本书名为《大学英语阅读理解》,实际上包括大学英语四级考试中的阅读理解、翻译、简短回答和完形填空四种题型。这四种题型从内容和测试目的来看均属阅读理解的范围,都是测试考生对一篇文章的理解,只是所测试的程度和题目的表现形式不同罢了。正是基于这一点,本书从实际出发,把它们广义地统称为“阅读理解”,即学生阅读一篇文章或一段短文后,对文章意义进行一般的或深层次的理解,并据此完成一定形式的试题。下面就如何在大学英语四级考试中解答这四种题型作一简要的介绍。

一、阅读理解的解题技巧

狭义的“阅读理解”是指大学英语四级考试中的 Reading Comprehension 这种题型。这种题型主要测试考生通过阅读获取信息的能力,具体包括:掌握所读材料的主旨和大意的能力;了解表明主旨和大意的事实与细节的能力;理解字面意思,并进行推理和判断的能力;掌握上下文逻辑关系的能力等。在考试中,该题型一般有 4 篇短文,总阅读量为 1000 词左右,文后共有 20 个多项选择题,考生必须在 35 分钟内读完短文并完成全部试题。因此,这就要求考生具有较强的阅读能力,阅读时既有质量又有速度。阅读能力的培养并非一朝一夕之事,考生应在平时多下功夫。如不断扩大自己的词汇量,词汇量大,阅读时遇到的生词就少,理解起来也就相对容易;又如,应养成良好的阅读习惯,熟悉并掌握一些基本的阅读技巧,只有这样才能提高阅读的速度和理解的准确性;此外,大量的阅读实践也是十分必要的。就考试而言,平时的学习和积累至关重要,同时对出题思路、题目类型和解题技巧的了解以及考试前的强化训练也是非常重要的。下面我们就来谈谈阅读理解的考题类型和解题要点。

1. 有关主题思想的考题

这类考题主要考核学生在语篇水平上进行归纳、综合与分析的能力,要求学生在阅读中抓住主要信息,把握文章的中心思想或段落大意,题目通常采用以下形式:

- 1) This passage is mainly about ____.
- 2) The author's purpose in writing the passage is to ____.
- 3) The major point discussed in the passage is ____.
- 4) The best title for the passage would be ____.
- 5) The passage tells us ____.
- 6) What is the passage mainly about?
- 7) Which of the following best explains the main idea of the passage?

在解这类题目时,我们应先把文章迅速地浏览一遍,找出各段的主题句。主题句往往概括了该段落的基本内容。在英语文章中,主题句经常出现在段首,当然有时也会出现在段中或段尾。如果该短文没有主题句或者无法确定主题句,考生则应根据文章中提到的人物、地点、事

件、有关观点等确定文章的话题范围,从而进一步归纳出文章的主题。确定主题之后,考生就应仔细阅读每个选项。有些选项的说法与文章不相符,肯定不是正确答案。有些选项概括得太泛,有些又太窄,太泛或太窄的说法也都不可能是正确答案,因为反映文章主题思想的句子一定是既有概括性又不失具体。

2. 推理、判断题

这类考题要求学生在理解文章字面意思的基础上进行一定的推理和判断,理解文章字里行间的含义。常见的题目形式有:

- 1) It can be inferred from the passage that ____.
- 2) It can be concluded from the passage that ____.
- 3) We can safely conclude from the passage that ____.
- 4) The author implies that ____.
- 5) We can safely say from the passage that ____.
- 6) The passage suggests that ____.
- 7) What does the author imply by saying...?
- 8) The author believes that ____.
- 9) It can be seen from the passage that ____.
- 10) The passage is most likely a part of ____.

这类题目一般无法在文章中直接找到答案,难度稍大,但只要仔细推敲、分析还是可以正确解答的。考生需注意的是一定要根据原文提供的信息来进行推理和判断,不能想当然地以个人的想法为依据。

3. 有关事实、细节的考题

这类题目在四级考试中占有相当大的比例,旨在考查学生对重要事实与细节的辨认能力。题目形式多种多样,常见而典型的有:

- 1) Which of the following statements is NOT TRUE?
- 2) Which of the following is NOT mentioned in the passage?
- 3) All of the following are true except ____.
- 4) The reason for...is ____.
- 5) What...?
- 6) Why...?

一般说来,解这类题目时,考生只要针对题目查找原文,找到相关的句子,即可解决问题,但选择项一般不是文中的原话。有时也需要进行综合判断,一些有关数字的题目还需要进行推算。另外,对问何者为 true 或者 not true 之类的是非题,首先要注意审题,不要把题目看错了。

4. 有关作者的态度、语气等的考题

这类题目主要考查学生对作者的态度、语气等的把握是否正确,即在语篇水平上对文章内容的理解是否正确,通常采用以下问法:

- 1) The author's attitude towards...is ____.
- 2) The tone of the author is ____.
- 3) What is the general tone of the article?

4) The tone of the author is one of ____.

5) The attitude of...towards...is generally one of ____.

这类题目的选择项中常出现下列单词: approving, concerned, critical, defensive, disappointed, disgusted, doubtful, enthusiastic, friendly, hostile, humorous, indifferent, indignant, ironic, light-hearted, matter-of-fact, negative, neutral, objective, optimistic, pessimistic, positive, questioning, sarcastic, satirical, serious, subjective, suspicious, sympathetic 等,考生应理解其确切含义。

考生在解这类题目时,要注意作者的措辞,从整体上把握文章的基调。有时文章中的某一句话就能提供足够的解题信息。

5. 有关词汇和长句、难句的理解题

词汇及长句、难句的理解也是常考的内容。常考的词主要有三种类型:一是考生不认识但可以通过上下文猜出意思的词;二是考生曾经学过但在特定的上下文中有特定解释的词;三是代词,即要求考生正确理解某个指代关系。长句和难句结构复杂,生词较多,理解上有一定的困难,所以也经常成为出题的对象。这类考题典型的提问方式有:

1) The word “...” probably means ____.

2) The word “...” could best be replaced by ____.

3) What does the word “...” refer to?

4) By saying “...”, the author means ____.

5) When the author says “...”, he means ____.

6) Which of the following is closest in meaning to the sentence“...”?

解词汇题时,考生可以依据构词法进行猜测,也可根据上下文所提供的信息寻找答案。代词的指代关系也应在上下文中确定。在理解长句和难句时,应首先找出句子的主干部分,弄清句子结构。其中的生词,若影响理解,就要设法猜测其含义;若无关紧要,不影响理解,则可弃之不理。

以上我们对阅读理解中的考题进行了粗略的分类。需要说明的是这几类题目并不是各自独立、互不相干的,所以考生在解题时要根据实际情况,灵活地运用各种阅读方法和解题技巧。

下面我们以大学英语四级考试全真试题中的两篇阅读理解为例,来具体地看看这种题型的解题方法。

Passage One

A rapid means of long-distance transportation became a necessity for the United States as settlement (新拓居地) spread ever farther westward. The early trains were impractical curiosities, and for a long time the railroad companies met with troublesome mechanical problems. The most serious ones were the construction of rails able to bear the load, and the development of a safe, effective stopping system. Once these were solved, the railroad was established as the best means of land transportation. By 1860 there were thousands of miles of railroads crossing the eastern mountain ranges and reaching westward to the Mississippi. There were also regional southern and western lines.

The high point in railroad building came with the construction of the first transcontinental system. In 1862 Congress authorized two western railroad companies to build lines from Nebraska

westward and from California eastward to a meeting point, so as to complete a transcontinental crossing linking the Atlantic seaboard with the Pacific. The Government helped the railroads generously with money and land. Actual work on this project began four years later. The Central Pacific Company, starting from California, used Chinese labor, while the Union Pacific employed crews of Irish labourers. The two groups worked at remarkable speed, each trying to cover a greater distance than the other. In 1869 they met at a place called Promontory in what is now the state of Utah. Many visitors came there for the great occasion. There were joyous celebrations all over the country, with parades and the ringing of church bells to honor the great achievement.

The railroad was very important in encouraging westward movement. It also helped build up industry and farming by moving raw materials and by distributing products rapidly to distant markets. In linking towns and people to one another it helped unify the United States.

- 1) The major problems with America's railroad system in the mid 19th century lay in _____.
 - A) poor quality rails and unreliable stopping system
 - B) lack of financial support for development
 - C) limited railroad lines
 - D) lack of a transcontinental railroad
- 2) The building of the first transcontinental system _____.
 - A) brought about a rapid growth of industry and farming in the west
 - B) attracted many visitors to the construction sites
 - C) attracted labourers from Europe
 - D) encouraged people to travel all over the country
- 3) The best title for this passage would be _____.
 - A) Settlement Spread Westward
 - B) The Coast-to-Coast Railroad: A Vital Link
 - C) American Railroad History
 - D) The Importance of Trains in the American Economy
- 4) The construction of the transcontinental railroad took _____.
 - A) 9 years
 - B) 7 years
 - C) 4 years
 - D) 3 years
- 5) What most likely made people think about a transcontinental railroad?
 - A) The possibility of government support for such a task.
 - B) The need to explore Utah.
 - C) The need to connect the east coast with the west.
 - D) The need to develop the railroad industry in the west.

第1题答案为A。这是一个有关细节的问题。针对该问题,考生迅速地浏览全文便可发现,第一段的第三句话已告诉我们,当时最严重的问题是没有能承载重负荷的铁轨和安全、有效的制动系统,所以正确答案是A。

第2题答案为A。该题要求考生辨认文中的一个重要细节,问的是第一条横贯美国大陆的铁路的建成起了什么作用。我们带着问题找到文章的第三段就可以知道,这条铁路在鼓励人们向西部迁移方面起了很重要的作用,它解决了原材料和产品的运输问题,促进了西部工农

业的发展,所以正确答案为 A。

第 3 题答案为 B。该题考的是文章的主旨,即中心思想。综观全文我们可以发现,文章用很大的篇幅描写了第一条横贯美国大陆的铁路的建设情况并指出了它在经济等方面所起的作用,因此最合适的题目应该是 B。A 项只是原文第一句话中提到的一点,根本不是文章的中心话题。C 项也不对,因为文章尽管与美国铁路的发展有关,但并不是全面地论述美国铁路的发展史。D 项也欠妥,因为文章只着重谈了 transcontinental railroad 这一条铁路对西部发展所起的作用,并不是总述铁路对美国经济发展的重要性。

第 4 题答案为 D。这道题要求考生仔细阅读原文并进行推算。文章第二段指出,美国国会于 1862 年授权两家铁路公司建设该铁路,实际的建造工作 4 年后才开始,并于 1869 年结束,故正确答案为 D。

第 5 题答案为 C。该题是一道推理题,考查考生根据上下文作出正确推断的能力。A 项和 B 项在文中找不到依据,D 项也明显不是正确的推论,只有 C 项正确。文章第一句话已指出,随着新的居住地不断向西扩展、延伸,快捷的长途运输工具成为急需解决的问题,由此可推出正确答案是 C。

Passage Two

Where do pesticides (杀虫剂) fit into the picture of environmental disease? We have the power to make our streams fishless and our gardens and woodlands silent and birdless. Man, however much he may like to pretend the contrary, is part of nature. Can he escape a pollution that is now so thoroughly distributed throughout our world?

We know that even single exposure to these chemicals, if the amount is large enough, can cause extremely severe poisoning. But this is not the major problem. The sudden illness or death of farmers, farm workers, and others exposed to sufficient quantities of pesticides are very sad and should not occur. For the population as a whole, we must be more concerned with the delayed effects of absorbing small amounts of the pesticides that invisibly pollute our world.

Responsible public health officials have pointed out that the biological effects of chemicals are cumulative (累积的) over long periods of time, and that the danger to the individual may depend on the sum of the exposures received throughout his lifetime. For these very reasons the danger is easily ignored. It is human nature to shake off what may seem to us a threat of future disaster. "Men are naturally most impressed by diseases which have obvious signs," says a wise physician, Dr Rene Dubos, "yet some of their worst enemies slowly approach them unnoticed."

- 1) Which of the following is closest in meaning to the sentence "Man, however much he may like to pretend the contrary, is part of nature." (Para. 1)?
- A) Man appears indifferent to what happens in nature.
 - B) Man acts as if he does not belong to nature.
 - C) Man can avoid the effects of environmental pollution.
 - D) Man can escape his responsibilities for environmental protection.
- 2) What is the author's attitude towards the environmental effects of pesticides?
- A) Pessimistic.
 - C) Defensive.

B) Indifferent.

D) Concerned.

3) In the author's view, the sudden death caused by exposure to large amounts of pesticides ____.

A) is not the worst of the negative consequences resulting from the use of pesticides

B) now occurs most frequently among all accidental deaths

C) has sharply increased so as to become the centre of public attention

D) is unavoidable because people can't do without pesticides in farming

4) People tend to ignore the delayed effects of exposure to chemicals because ____.

A) limited exposure to them does little harm to people's health

B) the present is more important for them than the future

C) the danger does not become apparent immediately

D) humans are capable of withstanding small amounts of poisoning

5) It can be concluded from Dr Dubos' remarks that ____.

A) people find invisible diseases difficult to deal with

B) attacks by hidden enemies tend to be fatal

C) diseases with obvious signs are easy to cure

D) people tend to overlook hidden dangers caused by pesticides

第1题答案为B。学生解题时应首先抓住该句的主干部分——Man is part of nature。这个句子的主谓语之间插入了一个让步从句,理解 pretend the contrary 中的 contrary 是相对什么而言的是解题的关键。这个从句的意思是“however much he may like to pretend that he is not part of nature”。理解了整个句子的意思后我们就可确定B项为正确答案。

第2题答案为D。作者没有在文中直接表明自己的态度,但综观全文我们不难断定,作者对杀虫剂污染环境这一问题是很关心、很担忧的。作者在文中描写了杀虫剂对环境的破坏,并且指出人们不仅要看到大剂量杀虫剂的危害,更应该关注小剂量杀虫剂进入人体后累积起来所造成的更大的危害。显然正确答案是D。

第3题答案为A。针对问题查找原文,我们可以很快发现,文章的第二段讲的是一次性接触大剂量的杀虫剂可以引起严重后果,但这并不是最主要的问题,人们更应该关注小剂量杀虫剂对人体潜在的危害及对世界的慢性污染。这也就是说,作者认为一次性接触大剂量杀虫剂而引起的死亡并不是最严重的问题。B、C、D 三项所述内容在文中都找不到依据。

第4题答案为C。这是一个有关文章的细节并要求学生作出适当推断的问题。文章第三段的前半部分告诉我们,化学制品的生物作用是长期积累的结果,它们对人体的危害取决于人在一生中所接受的剂量的大小,正因为如此它们的危害性往往被人们所忽略。这也就是说,人们通常忽略接触化学制品所带来的慢性后果是因为它们是长期积累的结果,不是立刻就能显现出来的。这正是答案C所表达的内容。

第5题答案为D。这是一道推理题。Dubos博士告诫我们:“人们往往对那些症状明显的疾病印象深刻,但是有些最凶恶的敌人正慢慢向他们靠近,人们却浑然不知。”其中“最凶恶的敌人”指的就是因长期接触化学制品而产生的疾病。作者引用 Dubos 博士的话是为了说明自己的观点,提醒人们不要忽视杀虫剂的慢性危害。所以正确答案为D。A、C 两项都不是正确的推论,B项更是与原文不符。根据原文,致命的是一次性接触大剂量的化学制品,而非B项中的“不断接触小剂量的化学制品”(hidden enemies),因此B项是不符合原文的错误

推论。

二、翻译题的解题技巧

这里所说的“翻译”是指大学英语四级考试中的一种新题型。这种题型实际上是对一篇阅读材料的更深层次的理解,所以我们也把它看作“阅读理解”的一种表现形式,统归于本书之中。这一题型通常出现在阅读理解部分之后,有4~5道题,分别由阅读理解部分4篇文章中的1或2个句子组成,考试时间为15分钟。解这种翻译题必须以阅读理解题的解题技巧为前提,同时掌握翻译本身的技巧,才能应对自如。下面针对考生的实际情况及四级考试中翻译部分的测试目的,简要谈谈这种题型的解题方法和技巧。

1. 翻译的过程和方法

目前,大学英语四级考试中的翻译为英译汉,主要考核考生对英语书面材料的确切理解能力,所以考生首先需要注意翻译过程中的第一步——理解。所谓理解指的是理解原文中的词汇、短语、句子结构及上下文逻辑关系。只有理解原文、吃透原文才能保证译文的忠实、准确,否则就容易出现误译。例如:

1) In the 1990's 二十世纪九十年代

有的考生误译为“十九世纪九十年代”。

2) He looked alright to me. 在我看来,他气色不错/身体挺好。

不少考生把这句话误译为“他安详地看着我。”

3) This knowledge of himself was what helped a man to be courageous. 正是这种对自身的了解帮助一个人勇敢无畏。

这句话常被误译为“他的知识帮助一个人勇敢无畏。”

4) “Maybe that's what's wrong with these employees,” I said. “They take too much time.”
“或许这正是这些雇员的毛病所在,”我说。“他们太不着急了。”

很多考生把后面一句译成“他们花费太多时间了。”

5) Daddy was in a high bed that was folded in half some way. I couldn't understand it, but I sure wished I could have one like that. 爸爸躺在一张以某种方式半折叠着的高床上。对此我不能理解,但我确实希望我也能有这样一张床。

第二句的后半部分也常被误译成“但我确信我希望有这样一张床”。

显然,以上五例误译都是由理解错误而造成的。

除了理解之外,翻译的另一个重要方面是表达。理解正确并不意味着就一定能表达准确。在表达方面,考生经常出现的问题是拘泥于原文的句子结构生搬硬套,使译文极不通顺,甚至很难理解。例如:

I tried to answer in a way that would let him know that I would try to be worthy of what he was doing.

许多考生把这句话译成“我尽力以一种能让他知道我会尽力值得他那样做的方式回答他。”他们对原文的理解是正确的,但表达却很不到位,听起来很拗口,不符合汉语的语言习惯。如果我们把它译成“我尽量回答得让他明白,我会竭尽全力不辜负他为我们所做的一切。”既明了又忠实于原文。可见,表达也是翻译的一个重要环节。

在表达方面有许多方法和技巧,其中最基本的方法就是直译和意译。直译是一种既保持

原文内容又保留原文形式的翻译,如将 be armed to the teeth 翻译成“武装到牙齿”。一般说来,在翻译时能直译的就直译,但直译不是死译、硬译,如果采用直译的方法译出的句子不通顺或不能表达清楚则应采用意译的方法。所谓意译指的是能正确表达原文的意思,但不拘泥于原文形式的翻译。例如将 You can't have your cake and eat it. 译成“你不可能两样好处都捞。”

考生在翻译中应根据具体情况灵活地运用直译和意译这两种方法。好的译文中往往既有直译也有意译,在一句中兼用两种方法的也很常见。例如:

Ruth was upsetting the other children, so I showed her the door. 露丝一直在骚扰别的孩子,所以我把她撵了出去。

这句话的前半部分采用的是直译,后半部分是意译。如果我们把后半部分也直译成“我把门指给她看”,就没能表达原句的确切含义。

总之,翻译的过程包括理解和表达两大环节,二者缺一不可。翻译的基本方法是直译和意译,在具体的翻译实践中两者应结合起来使用。

2. 翻译的基本技巧

英语和汉语分属印欧语系和汉藏语系,在语法、词汇等方面差别较大,因此我们常需要运用一些具体的翻译技巧来帮助实现两种语言的转换。下面我们就将介绍四级考试中学生特别需要掌握的一些翻译技巧。

1) 词类转译

在翻译中转换原文中某些词的词类可以使译文自然通顺。能够转译的词类很多,通常有名词、形容词、副词转译成动词;动词、形容词转译成名词;名词转译成形容词;形容词和副词,副词和名词相互转换等。例如:

Rockets have found application for the *exploration* of the universe. 火箭已被用来探索宇宙。(名词转译成动词)

The *sight* of Hans irritated her. 看见汉斯她就生气。(名词转译成动词)

What *characterizes* the current world situation is the danger of war. 当前世界局势的特点就是人类面临战争的危险。(动词转译成名词)

She was no *stranger* to this place; she was educated here. 她对这个地方并不陌生,她曾在这里上过学。(名词转译成形容词)

This is *sheer* nonsense. 这完全是一派胡言。(形容词转译成副词)

2) 增补法

在翻译中为忠实、通顺地再现原文,增加一些原文中虽无其形却有其意的词语就是增补法。根据意义的需要和上下文,我们可在名词前后增加动词,名词前增加形容词,动词前增加副词,不及物动词后增加名词,形容词前增加名词,还可以增加量词、表时态的词、语气助词及原文中省略的部分等。例如:

Please knock before entering. 进来之前请先敲门。(动词后增加名词)

a bad dream 一场噩梦; a truck/typewriter 一辆卡车/一台打字机(增加量词)

the United States and England 美英两国(增加数词)

The footmen were as ready to serve her as to their own mistress. 仆人们愿意服侍她,就像愿意服侍自己的女主人一样。(增补原文中省略的部分)

增补法还包括对原文中的某些词进行重复。例如:

Is it green or blue? 是绿色还是蓝色?

3) 省略法

省略法是指原文中的某些词在译文中不译出来。由于英汉两种语言在词类和语法结构上的差异,英语中的冠词、代词、连接词在汉译时常可省略。另外,从修辞角度来讲,为使译文更流畅、简洁,也可将原文中某些重复出现和可有可无的词省略掉。例如:

He put up *his* hand in a salute. 他举手致敬。(省略物主代词)

He studied in the college for two years, *and* then he went to join the army. 他在大学念过两年书,后来参军去了。(省略并列连词)

If winter comes, can spring be far behind? 冬天来了,春天还会远吗?(省略从属连词)

4) 正文、反文表达法

原文中从正面表达的词或句子,译文可从反面来表达;同样,原文中从反面表达的词或句子,译文亦可从正面来表达。例如:

Aim carefully or you will miss. 仔细瞄准,否则你会击不中的。

Don't worry. Father is quite above trying to influence your choice in this matter. 别着急。在这件事上父亲是不会来影响你的选择的。

以上两例都是原文从正面表达,译文从反面表达。再看另外两例:

Don't lose time in posting this letter. 赶快把这封信寄出去。

I must say that he did the work very carelessly. 我不得不说他工作做得很马虎。

这两例则均为原文从反面表达,译文从正面表达。

5) 分句、合句法

分句法和合句法是改变原文句子结构的两种重要的翻译技巧。分句是指把一个简单句译成两个或两个以上的单句或一个复合句,合句则是指将两个或两个以上的简单句或一个复合句用一个单句来表达。例如:

Jack made an unsuccessful attempt to stop the thief. 杰克曾试图抓住盗贼,但没有成功。(分句)

The Chinese seemed justifiably proud of their economic achievements. 中国人为他们的经济成就而自豪,这是合乎情理的。(分句)

If we do a thing, we should do it well. 要干就要干好。(合句)

It was half past ten. Mother watched the path anxiously. 已经十点半了,母亲焦急地注视着那条小路。(合句)

6) 被动句的译法

被动句在英语里很普遍,汉语虽然也有被动句,但远不及英语那么普遍。翻译时考生一定要注意汉语的语言特点。英语中的被动句有些可通过“被……”、“给……”、“遭(受)……”、“为……所……”等表达方式译成汉语的被动句,有些则需要译成主动句。总之,考生要依据汉语的语言习惯和句子的具体情况灵活处理。例如:

They were surrounded immediately by small boys wearing school uniforms. 他们立刻就被一群身穿校服的小男孩们围住了。(译成被动句)

Pumpkin pie is often served in remembrance of the Indians' gift to the first settlers. 南瓜

馅饼通常是要吃的,以纪念印第安人给第一批定居者的礼物。(译成主动句)

考生还需特别注意英语里有一类用 it 作形式主语的被动句,在翻译时一定要译成主动句,而且有时需在前面加上“有人”、“大家”、“我们”等词。例如:

It is reported... 据报道……

It is believed... 有人相信……

It must be admitted that... 必须承认……

It is stressed that... 有人强调……

7) 定语从句的译法

英语里的从句有好几种,在翻译上较难处理的是定语从句。一般说来,定语从句有以下几种译法:

① 如果定语从句不很长,可译成“……的”,位于被修饰的名词之前。例如:

Socrates taught that: “The man who is master of himself is truly free.” 苏格拉底曾教导我们说:“能主宰自己的人才真正自由的。”

② 如果从句结构复杂或是一个非限制性定语从句,一般可译成后置的并列分句。例如:

They are striving for the ideal which is close to the heart of every Chinese and for which, in the past, many Chinese have laid down their lives. 他们正在为实现一个理想而奋斗,这个理想是每个中国人所向往的,在过去曾有许多中国人为实现它而牺牲了自己的生命。

③ 有些定语从句在翻译时可和句中主语结合在一起形成一个简单句。例如:

There are some metals which possess the power to conduct electricity. 某些金属具有导电的能力。

④ 有些定语从句兼有状语从句的功能,表示原因、结果、目的、让步、假设等。翻译时考生要注意发现这些关系,并把它们译成相应的汉语。例如:

I began to compose the words in which, immediately on the departure of Mr Nixon after supper, I would break to my mother the news of my engagement. 我开始琢磨措辞,因为等晚饭后尼克松先生一走我就要把我订婚的消息告诉母亲。

He wishes to write an article that will attract public attention to the matter. 他想要写篇文章以引起公众对这件事的关注。

以上我们简要地介绍了翻译中的一些基本技巧。需要进一步说明的是运用翻译技巧是为了使译文更加准确、通顺,要达到这一目标,考生必须灵活地选择和综合地运用各项翻译技巧,切忌生搬硬套。此外,考生平时还应该多进行翻译练习,在实践中提高自己的翻译技能;考试时要注意上下文,力求理解正确、充分,译文忠实、流畅。

三、简短回答题的解题技巧

简短回答题是大学英语四、六级考试委员会于1996年8月公布的一种新题型。考试内容为一篇文章后面附有5个问题或不完整的句子,要求考生在阅读文章之后用简短的英语(可以是句子、短语或单词)回答问题或补足句子,考试时间为15分钟。

简短回答题也是考查学生对英语书面材料的理解能力,但和阅读理解题相比,简短回答题对考生的要求更高,考生必须自己写出答案,而不是对已给出的答案进行选择。要做好这类题目,考生除了平时注意阅读理解方面的问题并勤动笔之外,考试中还特别需要注意以下

几点：

1. 答题要尽量简短，不要啰唆。
2. 要针对问题进行回答，回答要全面。
3. 不要全盘照抄原文。
4. 注意语言的准确性，避免出现语言错误。

下面我们将以两篇阅读材料为例进一步说明怎样做简短回答题。

Passage One

Several controversial studies have suggested that people who experience bouts of depression run a greater risk of developing all sorts of cancers, possibly because depression weakens the immune system's ability to control the spread of cancerous cells.

Now, a long-term investigation conducted in Finland casts doubt on those sweeping conclusions. Overall, new cases of cancer do not arise disproportionately among people who have endured moderately to severe depression, investigators report in the Dec. 15 *AMERICAN JOURNAL OF EPIDEMIOLOGY*. However, lung cancer does develop more frequently in depressed men, the scientists find. The underlying link in some cases may be that the mood disturbance encourages depressed men to smoke more cigarettes rather than that it depresses the immune system or has some other biological effect.

Paul Knekt, an epidemiologist (流行病学家) at the National Public Health Institute in Helsinki, directed the study of 7,018 men and women. Participants, who entered the project between 1978 and 1980 showing no signs of any cancer, filled out medical and psychiatric questionnaires. In late 1991, the investigators calculated the cases of cancer that had been diagnosed in volunteers.

Men who initially reported that in the weeks before they enrolled in the study they had experienced symptoms of depression, such as feelings of hopelessness or loss of interest in daily activities, displayed a markedly higher lung cancer rate 11 to 14 years later than nondepressed men did. This finding held when the researchers controlled statistically for age, weight, amount of exercise, and use of cigarettes, alcohol, and antidepressant drugs.

Moreover, lung cancer rates were highest among the severely depressed men who smoked cigarettes, Knekt's group finds.

Lung cancer troubled too few women in the study to allow for a comparable statistical analysis, the researchers add.

Other studies indicate that depressed cigarette smokers tend to smoke heavily and find it especially difficult to kick their habit, remarks epidemiologist Gary D. Friedman of Kaiser Permanent Medical Care Program in Oakland, Calif. in an accompanying editorial. Their attachment to cigarette smoking, rather than mood-inspired immune breakdowns, most likely accounts for the link between depression and lung cancer, Friedman argues.

1. What harm does depression possibly do according to several controversial studies?
2. In what kind of people does lung cancer develop more often?

3. How many people were studied by Paul Knekt's group?
4. Why couldn't the researchers have a comparable statistical analysis in their study?
5. According to the passage, depressed men tend to suffer lung cancer most likely because

第1题答案为: It weakens people's immune system's ability to control the spread of cancerous cells. 文章第一段告诉我们, 一些颇有争议的研究认为忧郁的人比一般人更有可能得癌症, 原因是忧郁削弱了人体免疫系统控制癌细胞扩散的能力。因此, 根据这些研究, 忧郁的危害在于它能使人体免疫系统控制癌细胞扩散的能力减退。

第2题答案为: In depressed men. 文章第二段已说明, 科学家们发现肺癌的确更经常地发生在忧郁的人身上。

第3题答案为: 7018. 该细节出现在文章第三段的第一句话中。

第4题答案为: Because too few women in the study suffered lung cancer. 文章倒数第二段告诉我们, Paul Knekt 小组的研究人员补充说, 在他们的研究中患肺癌的妇女太少, 以至无法做比较性的统计分析。由此可见, 研究人员没法做比较分析是因为女性研究对象中很少有人得肺癌。

第5题答案为: they smoke more cigarettes / heavily. 整篇文章要说明的是: 忧郁的人更容易得肺癌, 与其说是因为忧郁削弱了人的免疫功能, 倒不如说是因为忧郁的人抽烟较多。文章最后一句话还重申了这一观点。

Passage Two

Icebergs are among nature's most spectacular creations, and yet most people have never seen one. A vague air of mystery envelops them. They come into being — somewhere — in faraway, frigid waters, and thunderous noise and splashing turbulence, which in most cases no one hears or sees. They exist only a short time and then slowly waste away just as unnoticed.

Objects of sheerest beauty, they have been called. Appearing in an endless variety of shapes, they may be dazzlingly white, or they may be glassy blue, green or purple, tinted faintly or in darker hues. They are graceful, stately, inspiring in calm, sunlit seas.

But they are also called frightening and dangerous, and that they are — in the night, in the fog, and in storms. Even in clear weather one is wise to stay a safe distance away from them. Most of their bulk is hidden below the water, so their underwater parts may extend out far beyond the visible top. Also, they may roll over unexpectedly, churning the waters around them.

Icebergs are parts of glaciers that break off, drift into the water, float about awhile, and finally melt. Icebergs afloat today are made of snowflakes that have fallen over long ages of time. They embody snows that drifted down hundreds, or many thousands, or in some cases maybe a million years ago. The snows fell in polar regions and on cold mountains, where they melted only a little or not at all, and so collected to great depths over the years and centuries.

As each year's snow accumulation lay on the surface, evaporation and melting caused the snowflakes slowly to lose their feathery points and become tiny grains of ice. When new snow fell on top of the old, it too turned to icy grains. So blankets of snow and ice grains mounted layer