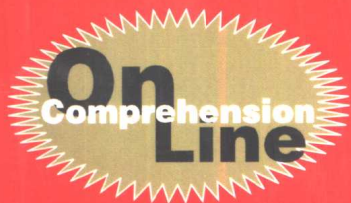


英语考试阅读在线系列 — Comprehension On-Line



大学英语 四级考试阅读在线

乔旭 主编

Comprehension

根据新大纲精心挑选
名师名家的悉心点拨
典型题解析解题技巧
强化训练与备考测试

新时代出版社

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英语考试阅读在线系列
Comprehension On Line

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· 北京 ·

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前 言

鉴于大学英语四级考试中阅读理解部分一向是复习的重点和难点,我们严格依据《大学英语教学大纲》和《大学英语四级考试大纲》中关于阅读理解部分的要求,根据同学们准备阅读理解部分会遇到的困惑和不解,以精益求精、严肃认真的态度编写了本书。

本书共分三个部分:第一部分,应试技巧;第二部分,阅读全真模拟题;第三部分,阅读全真模拟题答案及详解。

其中第一部分详细介绍了大学英语四级考试中阅读理解部分的应试技巧。依据不同的出题类型主要介绍了五种解题方法,每一种解题方法又分三个步骤来讲解:第一步,首先介绍了此类题型的概况及一般的出题方式;第二步,介绍了主要的几种命题方式,并对每种命题方式以举例的方式进行了详细的分析、解说,其中所用的例题绝大部分是历届四级考试的真题;第三步,安排了几套本类题型的练习题并附有相应的答案。

第二部分,编排了 34 套全真阅读理解模拟试题。试题完全按照大纲中阅读理解部分的样题文章的长度与难易程度设计,文章题材广泛,题材多样,包括叙述文、说明文、议论文等。对其中超出教学大纲词汇表范围的关键词,文中用汉字加以注明。

第三部分,对第二部分的阅读理解模拟试题注以答案及详细的解说。其中,对有助于理解的关键字、句加以翻译,以帮助读者更加深刻地理解文章。

该书是《英语考试阅读在线》系列丛书中的一册,该套丛书的共同特点是:

时效性强:书中所选取的内容均为最新的文章,并随时进行

更新。我们期望该套丛书能够与读者之间建立起真正的桥梁,与读者的成长同步,为读者对知识的需求而时时在线,随时准备与读者进行有益的探讨和交流!

针对性好:所选的文章和题目的难度至少等于或略高于相应英语考试阅读理解部分的文章和试题的难度。

题材广泛:涉及科普、经济、社会生活、教育、人文等各个方面。

注释详尽:对文章的阅读理解做了详尽的注释。注释中不仅指出了试题的类型,而且阐明了解题思路。

难句分析:对原文中的部分难句进行了句法分析并给出了汉语译文。

本书的主要对象是大学英语四级考生,同时也适用于所有大学英语学习者和爱好者,以及参加其他各类外语考试(如 EPT、TOEFL、研究生入学考试等)的考生,有助于提高他们的阅读水平和阅读速度,并可以同时开阔同学们的视野及知识面。

全书由乔旭主编,丁妍、张伟、高永、王华、刘建斌、赵伟明、杜涛、吴琪、周静静、宁强等同志参与了本书的编写和审读工作。由于作者水平有限,修订时间仓促,书中难免有疏忽和错误之处,敬请广大读者指正。

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《英语考试阅读在线》系列

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第一部分 应试技巧

一、确定主题思想

1. 概述

确定主题思想需要读完全文后才能做出判断,但这并不意味着要掌握中心思想就必须对全文的每个细节都能深刻理解。我们知道,一篇文章往往是由多个段落构成的。因此,我们在阅读的时候,要采用快速阅读法浏览全文,首先抓住每个段落的主题,然后把每个段落的主题归纳起来,便可得出整个文章的中心思想。同时,文章的开头句以及结尾句也常常起着举足轻重的作用,阅读时应给予足够的重视。段落主题往往出现在各段的段首或段尾,因此,阅读时也应着重注意对这两部分的阅读。

关于主题类问题常见的命题方式有:

- (1) What is the main idea/subject of this passage?
- (2) What does this passage mainly/primarily concern?
- (3) The main theme of this passage is _____.
- (4) The main point/central idea of the passage is _____.
- (5) Which of the following is the best title for the passage?
- (6) The title that best expresses the theme of the passage is _____.
- (7) On which of the following subject would the passage most likely be found in a textbook?
- (8) The purpose of the writer in writing this passage is _____.
- (9) Which of the following best describes the passage as a whole?
- (10) The point the writer is making in the passage is that _____.
- (11) The purpose of this passage is to _____.
- (12) The author probably intended this selection to _____.

2. 命题类型及对策

1) 主题型

主题型就是找中心思想(Main Idea),前面已经介绍得很详细,这里不再赘述,现在我们来 看一个例子:

Example 1 (from CET 1995.6):

Researchers have established that when people are mentally engaged, biochemical changes occur in the brain that allow it to act more effectively in cognitive (认知的) areas such as attention and memory. This is true regardless of age.

People will be alert (警觉的) and receptive (接受能力强的) if they are faced with information that gets them to think about things they are interested in. And someone with a history of doing more rather than less will go into old age more cognitively sound than someone who has not had an active mind.

Many experts are so convinced of the benefits of challenging the brain that they are putting the theory to work in their own lives. "The idea is not necessarily to learn to memorize enormous amounts of information," says James Fozard, associate director of the National Institute on Aging. "Most of us don't need that kind of skill. Such specific training is of less interest than being able to maintain alertness." Fozard and others say they challenge their brains with different mental skills, both because they enjoy them and because they are sure that their range of activities will help the way their brains work.

Gene Cohen, acting director of the same institute, suggests that people in their old age should engage in mental and physical activities individually as well as in groups. Cohen says that we are frequently advised to keep physically active as we age, but older people need to keep mentally active as well. Those who do are more likely to maintain their intellectual abilities and to be generally happier and better adjusted. "The point is, you need to do both." Cohen says, "Intellectual activity actually influences brain-cell health and size."

What is the passage mainly about?

- A. How biochemical changes occur in the human brain.
- B. Why people should keep active not only physically but also mentally.
- C. How intellectual activities influence brain-cell health.
- D. Why people should receive special mental training as they age

本题的正确答案是 B。本题问及全篇的中心思想,通过快读我们知道这是一篇论述有关“脑力活动”(mental activity)的文章。首先开篇第 1 段总领

全文, 点出“脑力活动有助于大脑更高效地运转”这一重要观点; 第2段具体阐述长期脑力活动锻炼对人的作用; 第3段举例说明专家们对此的态度及做法; 最后一段具体指出老年人更应该脑力活动与体力活动相结合。由此可见, 全文围绕着进行脑力活动的必要性展开讨论, 所以正确答案是 B“为什么人们不仅要坚持体力活动, 而且还要坚持脑力活动”。答案 A“生化变化是如何在人脑内产生的”, 在文中并没有提及。答案 C“脑力活动如何影响脑细胞的健康”, 以及答案 D“老年人为什么需要接受特殊的脑力训练”仅仅是细节, 不可能是文章的中心思想。

2) 标题型

标题型就是为文章选择标题(Title), 寻找标题的题目实际上是衡量考生对文章中心思想的理解程度。合适的标题必须具备的特点: 能够高度概括文章各段的主题句, 且力求深刻表达文章的内容。通常标题的义域须不宽不窄, 立论具体, 却论面广阔。只有这样, 标题才能够容纳通篇所阐述的主要思想内容。

现在, 我们来介绍几个可以帮助考生确定标题的步骤:

- (1) 浏览全文以确定主题思想;
- (2) 扫描定位关键词;
- (3) 检验各个选项, 将文章已定位的关键词与选项中的词比较, 看两者是否吻合;
- (4) 排除明显错误的选项;
- (5) 从剩下的各个选项中确定最佳答案。

Example 2:

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 com-

panies to build lines from Nebraska west-ward 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 laborers. 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 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.

The best title for this passage would be _____.

- A. Settlements Spread Westward
- B. The Coast-to-Coast Railroad: A Vital Link
- C. American Railroad History
- D. The Importance of Trains in the American Economy

本题的正确答案是 B。本题是给文章选标题,实际上也是问及全文的主旨。文章第 1 段的第 1 句虽然提到“settlement spread ever farther westward”,但这不是本文论述的中心,故选项 A 是错的。选项 D 也不合适,因为作者在第 3 段第 2 句里谈的是在美国起重要作用的 transcontinental railway,而不是泛指美国的铁路。本文只是从一个侧面反映了美国铁路的历史,故选项 C 也是错的。本文的第 3 段点出了文章的主旨,即这条横贯美国的铁路在开发西部、发展工农业生产和统一美国等方面起到了非常重要的联系作用,因此答案应该是选项 B

3) 写作意图型

每一篇文章,都是为了陈述一个事实,解释一个问题,或者是论证一个道理,以上这些都是作者(或文章)的写作意图。那么,如何解答四级中关于写作意图型的问题呢?最值得我们注意的是分析文章的思路,分析作者是怎样加工素材的。

下面我们来看一篇文章:

Example 3 (from CET 1990. 1):

We find that bright children are rarely held back by mixed-ability teaching. On the contrary, both their knowledge and experience are enriched. We feel that there are many disadvantages in streaming (把……按能力分班) pupils. It does not take into account the fact that children develop at different rates. It can have a bad effect on both the bright and the not-so-bright child. After all, it can be quite discouraging to be at the bottom of the top grade!

Besides, it is rather unreal to grade people just according to their intellectual ability. This is only one aspect of their total personality. We are concerned to develop the abilities of all our pupils to the full, not just their academic ability. We also value personal qualities and social skills, and we find that mixed-ability teaching contributes to all these aspects of learning.

In our classrooms, we work in various ways. The pupils often work in groups; this gives them the opportunity to learn to co-operate, to share, and to develop leadership skills. They also learn how to cope with personal problems as well as learning how to think, to make decisions, to analyze and evaluate, and to communicate effectively. The pupils learn from each other as well as from the teacher.

Sometimes the pupils work in pairs; sometimes they work on individual tasks and assignments, and they can do this at their own speed. They also have some formal class teaching when this is appropriate. We encourage our pupils to use the library, and we teach them the skills they need in order to do this efficiently. An advanced pupil can do advanced work: it does not matter what age the child is. We expect our pupils to do their best, not their least, and we give them every encouragement to attain this goal.

The author's purpose in writing this passage is to _____.

- A. argue for teaching bright and not-so-bright pupils in the same class
- B. recommend pair work and group work for classroom activities
- C. offer advice on the proper use of the library
- D. emphasize the importance of appropriate formal classroom teaching

本题答案为 A。这篇文章讨论了是否应该把孩子们按智力好坏分开教学的问题。仔细分析一下作者的思路,作者开篇第 1 段便提出自己的观点,否定分开教学。这一观点总领全文;第 2 段指出除了智力因素外,还有品

德、性格等其他因素;第3段指出学生之间互相学习的重要性;第4段指出教育学生的目的。因此,我们可以看出作者的写作目的便是选项A“论证聪明的学生应该与智力平平的学生共同学习、同在一个班”。而选项B“建议课堂中开展一对一活动和小组活动”。选项C“建议合理使用图书馆”。选项D“强调适当的正式课堂教学的重要性”,仅在第4段提及,并不是本文的主旨,也不是作者的写作目的。可见,在解答此类问题时,和前面一样,还是要设法抓住文章的主旨,掌握文章的中心思想。

3. 练习与答案

1) Magnesium is another mineral we now obtain by collecting huge volumes of ocean water and treating it with chemicals, although originally it was derived only from brines or from the treatment of such magnesium-containing rocks as dolomite of which whole mountain ranges are composed. In a cubic mile of sea-water there are about four million tons of magnesium. Since the direct extraction method was developed about 1941. Production has increased enormously. It was magnesium from the sea that made possible the wartime growth of the aviation industry. For every airplane made in the United States (and in most other countries as well) contains about half a ton of magnesium metal. And it has innumerable uses in other industries where a lightweight metal is desired, besides its longstanding utility as an insulating material, and its use in printing inks, medicines, and toothpastes.

What is the main topic of this passage?

- A. Derivation and uses of magnesium
- B. Treatment of seawater
- C. Uses of seawater
- D. Chemical properties of magnesium

2) The early settlers who came from the eastern United States were used to having lots of trees around. They found it hard to adapt to a treeless place like Nebraska. And they needed trees for building and for fuel. So they started many tree-planting programs that went on for years and years. Finally, in 1872 a newspaperman named J. Sterling Morton had an idea. Why not have a special day set aside for planting trees? So Arbor Day was born, and on April 10, 1872. The first Arbor Day was celebrated. The government announced that it would give prizes to individuals and groups who planted the most trees. On that first

day, more than one million trees were planted in Nebraska.

With what topic is the passage mainly concerned?

- A. The Nebraskan terrain.
- B. Arbor Day.
- C. Some uses for trees.
- D. Early settlements.

3) During the American War of independence, women were involved in the active fighting in three ways. First, as members of a distinct branch of the Continental Army, referred to as "women of the Army," women staffed field hospitals and acted as military support in such roles as water carriers. In an emergency, women water carriers, who had plenty of opportunity to observe the firing of cannons, could replace a wounded comrade. The second way that women were involved in active fighting was as regular troop members who wore men's uniforms and fought side by side with their male counterparts. Theoretically, women were not supposed to be recruited into the Continental Army, but if a woman was a good soldier, no one made an issue of sex at a time when the army was so short of soldiers that boys not yet in their teens were also being recruited in violation of rules. Third, women were occasional fighters affiliated with local militia companies or committees of safety formed to protect the local community.

What is the main idea expressed in the passage?

- A. The services of women on committees of safety were crucial in winning the war.
- B. The Continental Army was successful in teaching women to fire cannons.
- C. The services of women on committees of safety were crucial in winning the war.
- D. Women were active in combat during the Revolutionary War.

4) Pollution spoils our environment in many ways. The air we breathe, for instance, is constantly polluted by smoke and by chemicals such as carbon monoxide in the exhaust fumes of car and other kinds of motor vehicles. For wild life, however, there are even greater dangers in the pollution of water — of rivers, for example, or lakes and seas. A good illustration of this is the oil released from tankers at sea. It kills all kinds of sea animals, including birds,

whose feathers become covered with oil so they cannot fly, as well as fish and other forms of marine life, other causes of water pollution include power station, which release warm water into rivers. This kills the fish and plants that live there. These are only a few examples; there are many more.

What is the central idea of the passage?

- A. It tells what are polluted in the nature.
- B. It tells in what ways the world becomes dirty and unsafe for living things.
- C. It tells how the air we breathe is polluted.
- D. It tells what constitutes the air and the sea.

5) Connective flow should be familiar to anyone who has noted the boiling of a heated liquid. The most elementary type of convection can be explained by the fact that heat rises. In the simplest cases, connective flow begins when a fluid is heated from below. As the bottom layer of the fluid is heated, it expands and thus becomes less dense than the layers above. The warmer and lighter bottom layer then tends to rise and the cooler layer tends to sink in a continuous cycle. The same mechanism of connective flows responsible for the great ocean currents and for the global circulation of the atmosphere. In an ocean, the water is warmed by the sun to a depth of perhaps thirty meters, and evaporation near the water's surface is responsible for the cooling effect.

The main purpose of this passage is to _____.

- A. explain the basic principle of convection
- B. describe regular changes in the Earth's atmosphere
- C. explain the boiling temperatures of liquids
- D. state the principles of ocean current

6) In modern society, it is often difficult to people to meet one another. Men and women of similar interests or needs may be separated from one another by their jobs or by great distances. As a result, they must advertise. Open any newspaper, and you will find personal ads of all sorts. Lonely men and women advertise for husbands, wives, lovers, traveling companions, and partners both in business and in personal relationships. There are also ads for services that provide computer-chosen dates or escorts. Are you looking for someone new in your life? Try looking in the personal ad section of your newspaper. It is filled with

opportunity.

Choose the best title for the above passage.

- A. Difficulty for people to meet
- B. Functions of newspaper
- C. Knowing other people through the newspaper
- D. The relationship between People and Ads

答案:1) A 2) B 3) D 4) B 5) A 6) A

二、了解用以说明中心思想的事实及细节

1. 概述

一般来说,事实及细节是作者为了说明中心思想所列举的例证,是支持细节的问题。因此,只要考生能够把握好各段的主题,解此类问题就会很容易。解决此类问题首先要通过略读找出主题,然后进一步掌握阐述和发展主题的主要事实,或按要求找出特定细节。在回答此类问题时,应采用查读法,因为这些具体内容是用来说明、论证或分析文章中心的。这类题目常以“wh-”形式来提问,如 who、what、when、where、why 及 how 等形式。这些问题的表达常不采用文章中的原话提问,而是使用同义词语等。因此,在选择答案前应首先看准题干,看清问题所问究竟,然后在查读时注意寻找与题目相关的关键词语。最后,在充分理解原文、原题的基础上确定正确答案。

事实及细节性问题所涉及的面是很广的。具体说来有三大种,他们的解题方法也有所不同:① 数字计算问题,比如问时间、距离、次数、数量等,此类问题不需要什么技巧,只需注意有的要求的是精确数字,有的则是粗略值或近似值,认真计算后方可选定正确答案;② 正误判断题,要先看选项,根据选项提供的线索,寻找文中相应部分,最后选出正确答案;③ 询问事实、原因、结果、目的等问题,先读题干,注意题干中的关键词语,比如人物、时间、事件等,然后带着问题去阅读文章,在原文中找到相关信息时,把这一信息与选项进行比较,从而选出正确的答案。

总之,做细节题切忌通过自己对某类知识的主观了解和认识做出想象判断,一定要紧扣文章内容,不可随心所欲。

细节类问题的命题方式有以下几种:

(1) Which of the following is NOT true according to the information in the passage?

(2) Which of the following is mentioned in the passage?

- (3) What is the example of ... as described in the passage?
- (4) The author mentions all of the following except ...
- (5) The reason for ... is ...
- (6) The author states that ...
- (7) According to the passage, when (where, why, how, who, etc.) ...
- (8) In this passage, all of the following statements are mentioned except ...
- (9) What is true according to the information given in the reading passage?

Example 4 (from CET 1990.1):

We find that bright children are rarely held back by mixed-ability teaching. On the contrary, both their knowledge and experience are enriched. We feel that there are many disadvantages in streaming (把……按能力分班) pupils. It does not take into account the fact that children develop at different rates. It can have a bad effect on both the bright and the not-so-bright child. After all, it can be quite discouraging to be at the bottom of the top grade!

Besides, it is rather unreal to grade people just according to their intellectual ability. This is only one aspect of their total personality. We are concerned to develop the abilities of all our pupils to the full, not just their academic ability. We also value personal qualities and social skills, and we find that mixed-ability teaching contributes to all these aspects of learning.

In our classrooms, we work in various ways. The pupils often work in groups: this gives them the opportunity to learn to co-operate, to share, and to develop leadership skills. They also learn how to cope with personal problems as well as learning how to think, to make decisions, to analyze and evaluate, and to communicate effectively. The pupils learn from each other as well as from the teacher.

Sometimes the pupils work in pairs; sometimes they work on individual tasks and assignments, and they can do this at their own speed. They also have some formal class teaching when this is appropriate. We encourage our pupils to use the library, and we teach them the skills they need in order to do this efficiently. An advanced pupil can do advanced work: it does not matter what age the child is. We expect our pupils to do their best, not their least, and we give them every encouragement to attain this goal.

Which of the following is NOT mentioned in the third paragraph?

- A. Group work gives pupils the opportunity to learn to work together with others.
- B. Pupils also learn to develop their reasoning abilities.
- C. Group work provides pupils with the opportunity to learn to be capable organizers.
- D. Pupils also learn how to participate in teaching activities.

本题答案为 B。NOT mentioned 题型首先要注意其否定的性质,即选择文中没有提到的内容。在做题时,首先阅读各选项:A“小组活动给学生以学习与他人合作的能力”,B“学生也从中增强了其推理能力”,C“小组活动培养了同学们的领导能力”,D“同学们也从中学习如何参加教学活动”。阅读第3段后,很明显文中根本没有提到推理能力,因此 B 为该题答案。

我们再来看一个例子:

Example 5 (from CET 1991.6):

Just seven years ago, the Jarvik-7 artificial heart was being cheered as the model of human creativeness. The sight of Barney Clark-alive and conscious after trading his diseased heart for metal-and-plastic pump convinced the press, the public and many doctors that the future had arrived. It hadn't. After monitoring production of the Jarvik-7, and reviewing its effects on the 150 or so patients (most of whom got the device as a temporary measure) the U S Food and Drug Administration concluded that the machine was doing more to endanger lives than to save them. Last week the agency cancelled its earlier approval, effectively banning (禁止) the device.

The recall may hurt Symbion Inc., maker of the Jarvik-7, but it won't end the request for an artificial heart. One problem with the banned model is that the tubes connecting it to an external power source created a passage infection. Inventors are now working on new devices that would be fully placed, along with a tiny power pack, in the patient's chest. The first sample products aren't expected for another 10 or 20 years. But some people are already worrying that they'll work and that America's overextended healthcare programs will lose a precious \$2.5 billion to \$5 billion a year providing them for a relatively few dying patients. If such expenditures (开支) cut into funding for more basic care, the net effect could actually be a decline in the nation's health.

The new models of artificial hearts are expected _____.