

英语四、六级考试

阅读新题型 测试对策

徐锦芬 主编



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内 容 提 要

本书是针对大学英语四、六级考生而选编的阅读理解新题型模拟题集。选材广泛新颖,题目针对性强。全书共收集文章 80 篇,其中简答题练习和阅读理解与翻译练习各 40 篇。本书从理论上介绍了简答题的答题思路、方法和技巧,以及英译汉应试的步骤与技巧,并且在题后附有全部的答案及难点注释,以供参考。

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第一部分 简答题

I 简答题应试技巧

简答题是 1997 年 1 月全国大学英语四、六级考试中出现的新题型。简答题在四级考试中安排在“阅读理解”之后,取代“完形填空”(Cloze);在六级考试中安排在试卷 II 里,取代“改错题”(Error Correction)。每次考试为一篇 300~400 字的文章,文章后有 5 个问题或不完整的句子,每个问题为 2 分,要求考生在仔细阅读文章之后,用尽可能简短的英语(可以是句子,也可以是单词或短语)回答所提的问题或将不完整的句子补充完整。整个部分的考试时间为 15 分钟。简答题的目的主要是考核考生对英语书面材料的阅读理解能力,同时考核考生相应的书面表达能力。

简答题的提问方式有多种,归纳起来主要有以下几种类型:

1. 要点题(Main Idea Questions)

要点题旨在测试考生理解文章中心大意的能力,通常就文章的主题(Topic)、标题(Title)、中心思想(Main Idea)或作者的写作意图和目的提问。常见的提问方式如下:

- 1) What is the main idea of the passage?
- 2) What is the topic?
- 3) What is the subject?

- 4) What does the passage mainly discuss?
- 5) What is the author's main point in the passage?
- 6) What is the best title?

考生在答这类题之前, 往往要快读(skim)文章, 以确定文章的中心大意及了解文章的总体结构。

Example 1

There are two very common types of calendars, one determined by the sun and the other by the moon. The solar calendar is based on the solar year. Since the solar year is 365. 2422 days long, solar calendars consist of regular years of 365 days and have an extra day every four years, or leap year, to make up for the additional fractional(零碎的) amount. In a solar calendar, the waxing(变大) and waning(变小) of the moon can take place at various stages of each month. The lunar calendar is synchronized to the lunar month rather than the solar year. Since the lunar month is twenty-nine and thirty days, a twelve-month lunar year thus has 354 days, eleven days shorter than a solar year.

Question: What does the passage mainly discuss?

这篇短文的第一句话对文章的主题阐述得很清楚, 紧接着又各有 3 个句子叙述 solar calendar 和 lunar calendar。因此这个问题的答案应为 two types of calendar——the solar calendar and the lunar calendar。

2. 细节题(Detail Questions)

细节题主要测试考生对文章中所陈述的某些事实与细节的

理解能力。其提问形式一般为以特殊疑问词(when, where, what, why, which, how)等开头的特殊疑问句,或者填空题。要求考生对文章中所涉及到的时间、地点、人物、事件、原因、结果、方式、方法等内容有一个全面的理解,并能对文章的细节内容进行归纳或总结,给出正确答案。细节题在简答题中所占的比例较大,一般在6分或6分以上,以下面的短文为例。

Example 2

Winter has really taken hold on Everest. We have had bad weather ever since Christmas and our Camp I proved unusable as winds threatened to tear the tents from the mountain side. One was slashed open by a gust at six o'clock one morning and John Porter only saved his hands from frostbite by holding them in a pan of hot tea.

Questions: 1. Why was Camp I abandoned?

2. Who nearly got frostbite?

从上面短文中可以看出由于大风撕裂帐篷,因此 Camp I 被放弃,所以 Question 1 的答案为“Because of high winds”; Question 2 的答案在文中很明显,为“John Porter”。

3. 推理题(Inference Questions)

推理题是简答题中难度较大的一种题型。要求考生根据文章所给的信息进行推理、判断,得出合乎逻辑的结论。

推理题主要有下列4类:

1) 确定代词所指对象。这类题主要是测试考生确定 it, she, he, they, its, her, his, their, him, her, them, hers, his, theirs, this, that, these, those 以及 one(s) 等词的所指对象的

能力。

Example 3

For the first time that they can remember, farmers in Latin America are relieved of the constant fear of Vampire bats.

Question: What does "they" refer to?

不难看出, "they"在上文中指"farmers in Latin America"。

2) 确定某特定词的所指对象。

Example 4

Many educators now believe that students remember information that they learn on their own better than that presented formally by a teacher. This fact has led to methodological changes in many classrooms.

Question: What does "This fact" refer to?

从上文中可以看出, "This fact"所指对象是"Many educators... by a teacher."整句话。

3) 对文中所描述的人(物)的态度、心情、背景信息等进行推测。

Example 5

Once I worked as a clerk in an office and I grew thinner and my suits fell to bits and I watched the seagulls out of the window. The months passed and I knew that I had taken the wrong road.

Question: How did the writer feel as a clerk in an office?

从上面的段落中我们知道作者在做办公室职员时“人瘦了，并且不修边幅，注意力不集中”，因此推断出作者的感觉是“unhappy”。

4)对文章的前后内容进行推测。

Example 6

Another noteworthy trend in 20th music in the U. S. has been the use of folk and popular music as a base for more serious compositions...

Question: The paragraph preceding this passage most probably discusses _____.

答案为“one development in music of this century”。

考生在做这类题时，应注意文章首句和尾句中陈述的观点。另外，还有些题要求考生对作者的态度、语气等进行推理。

4. 词汇题(Vocabulary Questions)

词汇题的目的是测试考生通过上下文辨别某个单词或词组的意义的能力。

考生在做这类题时可以利用文中对该词的“definition”，“examples”，“restatements”，“synonyms”，“antonyms”或“common knowledge”作线索。同样以 Example 5 为例。

Question: What does the writer mean by the phrase “taken the wrong road”?

从这个段落的第一句话得知作者对办公室职员的感受是“unhappy”，因此不难推出“taken the wrong road”在这里的意思是“chosen the wrong job/career”。

考生在做词汇题时，一方面要注意该词或词组的基本含义，

另一方面要考虑上下文的含义。两者结合,才能正确推断出该词或该词组的含义。

简答题注意事项:

考生应在读懂文章的基础上,用正确、简短的语言回答问题。答题时,应同时考虑内容和语言两方面。只有对问题回答得全面,并且语言正确,才能得到满分(每题满分为2分,最低分为0分)。

答题时,切忌出现下列错误:

- (1)答案似是而非,不切要点,或表达不清;
- (2)语言错误(包括不可识别的拼写错误和句法错误);
- (3)涉及无关内容,或前后内容互相矛盾;
- (4)整句或整段原封不动照抄原文。

II 四级模拟训练

Directions: *In this part, there are 20 passages. In each passage there are five questions or incomplete statements. Read the passages carefully. Then answer the questions or complete the statements in the fewest possible words.*

Passage 1

The Indian cliff dwellings (住地) of the southwestern United States are a source of interest and mystery for archeologists (考古学家). Located in the Four Corners area of the U. S. , where Colorado, Utah, Arizona, and New Mexico meet, the cliff dwellings were constructed during the Great Pueblo period, from approximately 1 050 to 1 300. The cliff dwellings are whole series of contiguous rooms built in layers into the sides of cliffs. The sleeping rooms of the cliff dwellings were very tiny, often only one to two meters wide and little more than one meter high, and they were built in complexes of up to several hundred rooms together. The front rooms of the complexes were considerably larger. These larger rooms were apparently the rooms where daily life took place.

When the cliff dwellings were first found by explorers, they had been abandoned. Archeologists today are uncertain as to when or why they were abandoned and where the inhabitants went. There is some evidence, however, that the inhabitants left the cliff dwellings near the end of the

thirteenth century because of a serious drought that is known to have occurred in the area from 1276 to 1299. Archeologists believe that the inhabitants could have left the cliff dwellings to move southwest and southeast. Today the descendants of the cliff dwellers are probably members of the Indian tribes of that area.

1. What is this passage mainly about?
2. In what way were the sleeping rooms built?
3. Why were the front rooms much larger?
4. What do archeologists believe caused the Cliff dwellers to abandon their homes?
5. Where and when did the serious drought happen?

Passage 2

Talk to people who saw films for the first time when they were silent, and they will tell you the experience was magic. The silent film, with music, had extraordinary powers to draw an audience into the story, and an equally potent capacity to make their imagination work. They had to supply the voices and the sound effects, and because their minds were engaged, they appreciated the experience all the more. The audience

was the final creative contributor to the process of making a film.

The films have gained a charm and other-worldliness with age but, inevitably, they have also lost something. The impression they made when there was no rival to the moving picture was more profound, more intense; compared to the easily accessible pictures of today, it was the blow of a two-handed axe, against the blunt scraping of a tableknife.

The benefit of the moving picture to a care-worn populace was inestimable, but the sentimentality and charm, the easily understandable, black-and-white issues were not so much a reflection of everyday life as a means of escape from it. Again and again, in the publications of the time, one reads horrified reactions against films showing 'life as it is'.

You did not leave the problems of home merely to encounter them again at the movies. You paid your money, initially, for forgetfulness. As the company slogans put it: 'Mutual Movies Make Time Fly'... 'Selznick Pictures Create Happy Hours'. And if the experience took you out of yourself and excited you, you talked about it to your friends and fellow-workers, creating the precious 'word of mouth' publicity that the industry depended upon. You may have exaggerated a little, but the movies soon matched your hyperbole. They evolved to meet the demands of their audience.

Gradually movie-going altered from relaxation to ritual. In the big cities, you went to massive picture palaces, floating

through incenseladen air to the strains of organ music, to worship at the Cathedral of Light. You paid homage to your favourite star; you dutifully communed with the fan magazines. You wore the clothes they wore in the movies; you bought the furniture you saw on the screen. You joined a congregation composed of every strata of society. And you shared your adulation with Shanghai, Sydney and Santiago. For your favourite pastime had become the most powerful cultural influence in the world——exceeding even that of the Press. The silent film was not only a vigorous popular art; it was a universal language——Esperanto for the eyes.

6. Why did the audiences of silent movies appreciate them so much?
7. Why do modern audiences appreciate silent movies less than their original audiences did?
8. Why did people go to the cinema in the days of silent movies?
9. What influence did movies have on their fans' lives?
10. What kind of people went to see silent film?