

新编大学英语四级考试

过关丛书

READING TRANSLATION
SHORT ANSWERS

阅读 翻译与简答

曾凡贵 主编

湖南大学出版社

新编大学英语四级考试过关丛书

——阅读、翻译与简答

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《新编大学英语四级考试过关丛书》

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前 言

《新编大学英语四级考试过关丛书》是参照国家教育部1999年5月25日新颁布的《大学英语教学大纲(修订本)》的基本要求以及相关的词汇表编写的,由长期从事英语教学且经验丰富的教师集体完成。本丛书主要面向即将参加大学英语四级考试的在读大学本、专科学生及具有同等水平的读者。目的是帮助读者尽早了解《大学英语教学大纲(修订本)》在语言基础和应用能力上的新要求,尽快熟悉四级考试中的各种题型,提高考前学习效率,顺利通过四级考试。

丛书之一的《阅读、翻译与简答》体现了《大学英语教学大纲(修订本)》“着重考核语言基础和语言能力”的精神,对该大纲的语法结构表、语言技能表和词汇表实现了较全面的覆盖。全书包括四级考试中所有涉及阅读理解技能的题型,共分为16单元,每单元由阅读理解、英译汉、简短回答和完形填空四部分构成。阅读理解部分由高桂萍、张珂完成;英译汉部分由刘飞兵完成;简短回答部分由蒋小平完成;完形填空部分由程玉珍、刘玉珍完成。曾凡贵负责全书统稿工作。

由于时间紧迫,错漏之处,敬请读者批评指正。

编者

2000年2月

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I Reading Passages

Unit One

Part A Reading Comprehension

Directions: *There are four passages in this part. Each passage 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 mark the corresponding letter on the Answer Sheet with a single line through the centre.*

1

Scientists discovered the atoms of some substances are radioactive. This means that they are unstable and can be split. The chain of splitting atoms releases great destructive energy and it was this discovery that led scientists to develop the idea of an atomic bomb. The American government secretly worked to produce such a bomb and the first version was finished by 1945, and tested in the desert near Los Alamos, New Mexico. The bomb was much more powerful than anyone had thought.

By this time, the Second World War had ended in Europe. But the Japanese refused to surrender. The Americans decided that by dropping an atomic bomb on Japan, they could end the war quickly and save more of their soldiers' lives. Soon after midnight on 6 August 1945, a bomb was dropped on the city of Hiroshima, a civilian target. No warning was given and there was total devastation (破坏). Almost all the buildings were destroyed and more than 100 000 people died or were horribly wounded.

The Japanese military still did not want to surrender, so three days later, the Americans dropped a second atomic bomb on the city of Nagasaki, killing 45 000 people. The Japanese government was discussing ending the war when they heard the news of Nagasaki. Finally, they surrendered and the Second World War came to an end.

At first, the scientists who had built the bomb were pleased that it had helped to end the war. However, many would come to realize that they had helped to create the most terrible weapon known to man.

1. The first atomic bomb _____.
A) was a failure
B) was dropped in Nagasaki
C) was less powerful
D) was tested in a desert
2. "Surrender" in Paragraph 2 means _____.
A) give up B) give off
C) surround D) surpass
3. The Americans dropped an atomic bomb _____.
A) in order to destroy Japanese military forces
B) in order to end the war and save their soldiers' lives
C) for the purpose of killing 100 000 people
D) to see if the bomb was powerful enough
4. The Americans dropped a second bomb in Japan _____.
A) because the Japanese military had not surrendered
B) because they wanted to kill more Japanese people
C) because they wanted to show off the new weapon
D) because the atomic bomb was the best weapon
5. The best title of the passage might be _____.
A) Hiroshima B) Atomic Bomb
C) Japan D) the Second World War

During the Christmas shopping rush in London, the intriguing story was reported of a tramp who, apparently through no fault of his own, found himself locked in a well-known chain store late on Christmas Eve. No doubt the store was crowded with last-minute Christmas shoppers and the staff were dead beat and longing to get home. Presumably all the proper security checks were made before the store was locked and they left to enjoy the three-day holiday untroubled by customers desperate to get last-minute Christmas presents.

However that may be, our tramp found himself alone in the store and decided to make the best of it. There was food, drink, bedding and camping equipment, of which he made good use. There must also have been television sets and radios. Though it was not reported if he took advantage of these facilities when the shop re-opened, he was discovered in bed with a large number of empty bottles beside him. He seems to have been a man of good humor and philosophic temperament — as indeed vagrants very commonly are. Everyone else was enjoying Christmas, so he saw no good reason why he should not do the same. He submitted, cheerfully enough, to being taken away by the police. Perhaps he had had a better Christmas than usual. He was sent to prison for seven days. The judge awarded no compensation to the chain store for the food and drink our tramp had consumed. They had, in his opinion, already received valuable free publicity from the coverage the story received in the newspapers and on television. Perhaps the judge had had a good Christmas too.

6. The tramp was locked in the store _____.

- A) for his mistakes
- B) due to a misunderstanding
- C) by accident

- D) through an error of judgment
7. The staff were "dead beat" means they were _____.
A) half asleep B) exhausted
C) irritable D) forgetful
8. What action did the tramp take? He _____.
A) looted the store
B) made himself at home
C) went to sleep for 2 days
D) had a Christmas party
9. When the tramp was arrested, he _____.
A) laughed at the police
B) looked forward to going to prison
C) took his bottles with him
D) didn't make any fuss
10. Why didn't the judge award compensation to the chain store?
A) The tramp had stolen nothing of value.
B) The store had profited by the incident.
C) The tramp deserved a happy Christmas.
D) The store was responsible for what happened.

3

Sporting activities are essentially modified forms of hunting behavior. Viewed biologically, the modern footballer is in reality a member of a hunting group. His killing weapon has turned into a harmless football and his prey into a goalmouth. If his aim is accurate and he scores a goal, he enjoys the hunter's triumph of killing his prey.

To understand how this transformation has taken place we must briefly look back at our forefathers. They spent over a million years evolving as cooperative hunters. Their very survival depended on success in the hunting-field. Under this pressure their whole way of life, even their bodies, became greatly changed. They became chasers, runners,

jumpers, aimers, throwers and prey-killers. They cooperated as skillful male-group attackers. Then about ten thousand years ago, after this immensely long period of hunting their food, they became farmers. Their improved intelligence, so vital to their old hunting life, was put to a new use — that of controlling and domesticating their prey. The hunt became suddenly out of date. The food was there on the farms, awaiting their needs. The risks and uncertainties of the hunt were no longer essential for survival.

The skills and thirst for hunting remained, however, and demanded new outlets. Hunting for sport replaced hunting for necessity. This new activity involved all the original hunting sequences but the aim of the operation was no longer to avoid starvation. Instead the sportsmen set off to test their skill against prey that were no longer essential to their survival. To be sure, the kill may have been eaten but there were other much simpler ways of obtaining a meaty meal.

11. The author believes that sporting activities _____.
A) are forms of biological development
B) have actually developed from hunting
C) are essentially forms of taming the prey
D) have changed the ways of hunting
12. In a football game what is equal to the prey in hunting is _____.
A) any member of the opposing team
B) the goal keeper
C) the goal-mouth
D) the football
13. For over a million years, our forefathers were basically _____.
A) successful farmers
B) co-operating hunters

- C) runners and jumpers
D) skillful sportsmen
14. The word "operation" (Para. 3, Line 3) refers to _____.
A) sports activities B) hunting
C) prey killing D) domesticating animals
15. Which of the following best summarizes the main idea of the passage?
A) It is farming that gives human beings enough leisure time for sporting activities.
B) Farming is very important in human civilization because it saves human beings from risks and uncertainties of hunting for survival.
C) It is hunting that provides human beings with much simpler ways of obtaining meaty meals.
D) Sporting activities satisfy the desire of modern man to exercise hunting skills which his forefathers developed for survival.

4

Banks are not ordinarily prepared to pay out all accounts; they rely on depositors not to demand payment all at the same time. If depositors should come to fear that a bank is not sound, that it cannot pay off all its depositors, then that fear might cause all the depositors to appear on the same day. If they did, the bank could not pay all accounts. However, if they did not all appear at once, then there would always be funds to pay those who wanted their money when they wanted it. Mrs. Elsie Vaught has told us of a terrifying bank run that she experienced. One day in December of 1925 several banks failed to open in a city where Mrs. Vaught lived. The other banks anticipated a run the next day, and so the officers of the bank in which Mrs. Vaught worked as a teller had enough funds on hand to pay off as many depositors as might apply. The officers simply instructed the tellers to pay on demand. Next morning a crowd

gathered in the bank and on the sidewalk outside. The length of the line convinced many that the bank could not possibly pay off everyone. People began to push and then to fight for places near the teller's windows. Clothing was torn and limbs broken, but the jam continued for hours. The power of the panic atmosphere is evident in the fact that two tellers, though they knew that the bank was sound and could pay out all depositors, nevertheless, withdrew the funds in their own accounts. Mrs. Vaught says that she had difficulty restraining herself from doing the same.

16. A bank run occurs when _____.
A) a bank is closed for one or more days
B) too many depositors attempt to draw out their money at one time
C) there is not enough money to pay all of its depositors at one time
D) employees of a bank take their own funds out of the bank
17. The crowd in Mrs. Vaught's bank and on the sidewalk gathered because of _____.
A) curiosity B) greed
C) doubt D) anger
18. The essential cause of a run on a bank is _____.
A) loss of confidence B) lack of sufficient funds
C) crowds of people D) inefficient tellers
19. Which of the following did Mrs. Vaught say?
A) She knew that the bank was not sound.
B) She feared that too many withdrawals would close the bank.
C) She was not able to draw out her money.
D) She was tempted to draw out her money.
20. According to the passage, the actions of the customers of Mrs. Vaught's bank were influenced chiefly by the _____.
A) ease with which they could obtain their money

- B) confidence demonstrated by other customers of the bank
- C) confidence that Mrs. Vaught demonstrated
- D) failure of several other banks to open

Part B Translation from English into Chinese

Directions: *In this part, there are four items which you should translate into Chinese, each item consisting of one or two sentences. These sentences are all taken from the Reading Passages you have just read in the First Part of this unit. You are allowed 15 minutes to do the translation. You should refer back to the passages so as to identify their meanings in the context.*

1. (Passage 1, Para. 1, Lines 2—4)

The chain of splitting atoms releases great destructive energy and it was this discovery that led scientists to develop the idea of an atomic bomb.

2. (Passage 2, Para. 1, Lines 5—8)

Presumably all the proper security checks were made before the store was locked and they left to enjoy the three-day holiday untroubled by customers desperate to get last-minute Christmas presents.

3. (Passage 3, Para. 1, Lines 3—5)

His killing weapon has turned into a harmless football and his prey into a goalmouth. If his aim is accurate and he scores a goal, he enjoys the hunter's triumph of killing his prey.
