

根据教育部最新考试大纲调整范围编写

大学英语六级

考试教程

(阅读与翻译)

◎编写 大学英语六级考试命题研究组

◎主编 北京大学英语系 齐乃政



College English Band Six

大学英语辅导教材系列丛书

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前 言

一、本教程是根据最新《大学英语教学大纲》、《大学英语四级考试大纲》和《大学英语六级考试大纲》编写的系列丛书。所选材料为最新材料,如:美国总统访华时与北大学生对话,亚洲金融风暴等等。它不但直接帮助和指导应试者顺利通过大学英语四、六级考试,也可作为 TOEFL, GRE, EPT 和研究生入学考试等的应试参考书。本教程含有大量和全面的英语知识与学习技巧,每一位英语学习者都能通过本教程全面地学习英语,大幅度提高英语水平。英语教学工作者也可以从中获取丰富的教学资料。

二、本教程包括下列系列丛书:

1. 大学英语六级考试教程

- (1) 大学英语六级考试教程(最新模拟试题及解析)(配有磁带)
- (2) 大学英语六级考试教程(词汇突破)
- (3) 大学英语六级考试教程(改错与简答)
- (4) 大学英语六级考试教程(阅读与翻译)
- (5) 大学英语六级考试教程(听力训练)(配有磁带)

2. 大学英语四级考试教程

- (1) 大学英语四级考试教程(最新模拟试题及解析)(配有磁带)
- (2) 大学英语四级考试教程(词汇、语法、完形填空)
- (3) 大学英语四级考试教程(阅读、翻译、简答)
- (4) 大学英语四级考试教程(写作与范文)
- (5) 大学英语四级考试教程(听力训练)(配有磁带)

3. 大学英语(精读)课文辅导(1~4分册)

4. 大学英语1~6级词汇考点记忆手册

三、本分册共有四大部分:第一部分介绍阅读理解的解题思路和应试技巧。我们希望读者能认真阅读这一部分,通过本书众多的练习熟练掌握各种阅读技巧,并在此基础上加以运用。阅读部分历来被认为是六级考试的难点,同学们在答题时出错的概率相当高,希望同学们能够在认真研读和具体运用、反复体会的练习过程中切实地提高自己的阅读水平。

第二部分为英译汉的标准、常用方法和技巧。由于“英译汉”部分是四、六级考试采用的新题型,同学们在这方面接触不多,做题的时候经常心中无底,即使明白句子的意思,也不知道该如何翻译,翻译出来的句子是否合乎标准。所以我们特别介绍了翻译的标准和一些常见的技巧,希望帮助同学们攻下这道难关。

第三部分为60篇阅读理解文章。难度、体裁、篇幅均符合六级考试要求。60篇文章共分为15个单元,每单元由4篇文章组成,相当于一套六级阅读理解试题,供同学们练习之用。读者也可根据六级考试规定的阅读时间(35分钟)来检测自己的阅读水平。

第四部分为英译汉练习,这一部分的练习均按照六级考试要求出自阅读理解的篇章,并提供了参考译文。

四、本书采用小5号字及紧缩式排版,每一个页码比其它书字数更多。目的是让读者在相同页码、相同价格内,学到更多知识。

五、本书参编者均为北京大学英语系专业人员,对大学英语四级和六级测试很有研究。听力部分录音者均为美籍专家。

六、在编写过程中,北京大学英语系李莉春和吕珺两位同志及本书策划胡东华同志做了大量组织联络及体例策划工作,特此致谢。

编 者

于北京大学燕北园

目 录

第一部分 “阅读、英译汉”应试指导	(1)
第一节 阅读理解测试形式及应试技巧	(1)
1. 六级考试阅读文章的特点	(1)
2. 应试技巧	(1)
3. 阅读过程(答题步骤)	(2)
第二节 “英译汉”应试技巧	(16)
1. 概述与解题方法	(16)
2. 翻译的基本技巧	(22)
第二部分 训练与提高	(29)
Unit 1	(29)
Keys	(40)
Unit 2	(43)
Keys	(53)
Unit 3	(56)
Keys	(66)
Unit 4	(69)
Keys	(80)
Unit 5	(83)
Keys	(93)
Unit 6	(96)
Keys	(106)
Unit 7	(109)

Keys	(118)
Unit 8	(121)
Keys	(132)
Unit 9	(136)
Keys	(146)
Unit 10	(148)
Keys	(158)
Unit 11	(161)
Keys	(171)
Unit 12	(174)
Keys	(185)
Unit 13	(188)
Keys	(198)
Unit 14	(201)
Keys	(211)
Unit 15	(215)
Keys	(225)

第一部分 “阅读、英译汉” 应试指导

第一节 阅读理解测试形式及应试技巧

1. 六级考试阅读文章的特点

1.1. 题材

阅读理解材料题材很广泛,包括一般科技、社会、文化、政治、经济、史地、人物介绍等。体裁可以是说明文、记叙文、议论文、应用文等,其中说明文、议论文的比重偏大。

1.2. 考查特点

阅读理解部分对考生掌握阅读材料的考查主要可归纳为以下几种:

- 1). 对语言点进行考查:测试考生对词语的掌握程度,要求考生能依据上下文判断词汇和短语的意义。
- 2). 对句子的理解:要求考生运用已学过的英语语言和语法知识理解单句并且理清上下文的逻辑关系。
- 3). 在规定时间内把握阐述主旨的事实和细节。
- 4). 理解文章主旨和大意,要求考生能把握全文。
- 5). 对所读材料进行判断、推理和预测。要求考生在把握全篇的基础上,对行文风格和字里行间隐含意义进行归纳和综合。

2. 应试技巧

我们可以根据阅读理解的考查特点谈一谈相应的应试技巧。

(1) 词(偶尔考短语)

在阅读理解中,规定要猜的词的词义绝大多数是由其上下文的意思决定的,与我们所知道的词典上的意义未必完全相同,这就要求考生较好理解上下文。涉及的上下文范围的不同,所以要掌握相关部分、段落或者全篇的内容。另外还可以用已知的构词知识来猜测词语的意思。英语单词中的前缀和后缀都有助于猜出该词的意义。

(2)句

理解句子基于对词语的正确理解,但语法知识也同样重要,如定语从句、宾语从句的知识在理解科普说明文和小品文时很有帮助,它能帮我们辨别文中指示代词所指代的具体内容以及相关的层次和逻辑关系。对段落的理解一是要注意段首句,二是要理清逻辑。

(3)篇

理解全篇时应注意概括各段的主要意思,尤其要注意开头和结尾部分,对议论性的文章,这一点尤其重要。中间部分可能有分论点。正面论证和反面论证有的篇章兼而有之,这一点读者也应注意。对篇章的考查有时间文章的主要思想或主要内容(main idea),有时是问文章的基调(tone),也有时是给文章加标题(title)。

概括段落大意可以帮助考生理解全文主旨。

3. 阅读过程(答题步骤)

有些同学习惯上先看文章后面的问题,然后再看文章,这对于那些考查细节的问题可能很有帮助,但对于那些议论性很强的文章,混淆选项的可能性也比较大,此外,先看题比较费时间。考生应根据自己的实际情况选择适合自己的方法,平时应进行一些适应性练习。

下面举例说明解答阅读理解题的方法与技巧。

例 1

The nobler and more perfect a thing is, the later and slower it is in arriving at maturity. A man reaches the maturity of his reasoning powers and mental faculties hardly before the age of twenty-eight; a woman at eighteen. And then, too, in the case of woman, it is only reason of a sort—very niggard in its dimensions. That is why women remain children their whole life long; never seeing anything but what is quite close to them, cleaving to the present moment, taking

appearance for reality, and preferring trifles to matters of the first importance. For it is by virtue of his reasoning faculty that a man does not live in the present only, like the brute, but looks about him and considers the past and the future; and this is the origin of prudence, as well as of that care and anxiety which so many people exhibit. Both the advantages and the disadvantages which this involves, are shared in by the woman to a smaller extent because of her weaker power of reasoning. She may, in fact, be described as intellectually shortsighted, because her field of vision is narrow and does not reach to what is remote; so that things which are absent, or past, or to come, have much less effect upon women than upon men.

This is the reason why women are more inclined to be extravagant, and sometimes carry their inclination to a length that borders upon madness. In their hearts, women think it is men's business to earn money and theirs to spend it—if possible during their husband's life, but at any rate, after his death. The very fact that their husband hands them over his earnings for purposes of house-keeping strengthens them in this belief.

However many disadvantages all this may involve, there is at least this to be said in its favor; that the woman lives more in the present than the man, and that if the present is at all tolerable, she enjoys it more eagerly. This is the source of that cheerfulness which is peculiar to women, fitting her to amuse man in his hours of recreation, and, in case of need, to console him when he is borne down by the weight of his cares.

1. According to the author, the major difference between a man's and a woman's intellect is that _____.
 - A. men mature much later than women
 - B. men have a broader view of things
 - C. women are more cheerful than men
 - D. a man's intellect is nobler than that of a woman
 - E. women are frivolous and extravagant
2. The cause of women's frivolity and cheerfulness is that _____.
 - A. men do not challenge their intellect
 - B. they are irresponsible by their very nature

C. they live more in the present

D. they want to console men

E. they reach maturity too fast

3. The author is probably a _____.

A. philosopher

B. gossip columnist

C. happily married man

D. biologist

E. communist

第一个问题实际上是考对第一段的主要思想的概括,题目问的是男女智力上的主要区别在什么地方,问的是实质上的东西。选项(A)、(C)、(E)显然停留在表面上,作者强调的是女人只活在现在,而男人考虑的不仅仅是现在,还有过去和将来,即选项(B)所概括的“男人看问题更全面”。需要注意的是在这类论说性质较明显的文章,在对文章的主旨进行提问时,只对某个事实进行复述的选项往往不是正确答案。

第二个问题考细节,考查的是第三段中第二句话“This is the source of that cheerfulness which is peculiar to women”中的代词“this”指代的内容。上句中提到“the woman lives more in the present than the man”, this 指代的即是这句话包含的内容,由此可知(C)是正确选项。

第三个问题考查的是对整篇文章内容及行文风格的理解。比较容易排除的是选项(D)和(E),因为文章的内容与科技意识形态等没有关系。选项(B)中的“gossip”一词过于严重,因为从作者的观点及论证过程来看,他是非常严肃和严密的。选(C);见最后一段。

例 2

Fried foods have long been frowned upon. Nevertheless, the skillet is about our handiest and most useful piece of kitchen equipment. Stalwart lumberjacks and others engaged in active labor requiring 4,000 calories per day or more will take approximately one-third of their rations prepared in this fashion. Meat, eggs, and French toast cooked in this way are served in millions of homes daily. Apparently the consumers are not beset with more signs of indigestion than afflict those who insist upon broiling, roasting, or boiling.

Some years ago one of our most eminent physiologists investigated the digestibility of fried potatoes. He found that the pan variety was more easily broken

down for assimilation than when deep fat was employed. The latter, however, dissolved within the alimentary tract more readily than the boiled type. Furthermore, he learned, by watching the progress of the contents of the stomach by means of the fluoroscope, that fat actually accelerated the rate of digestion.

Now all this is quite in contrast with "authority". Volumes have been written on nutrition, and everywhere the digum has been accepted—no fried edibles of any sort for children. A few will go so far as to forbid this style of cooking wholly. Now and then an expert will be bold enough to admit that he uses them himself, the absence of discomfort being explained on the ground that he possesses a powerful gastric apparatus.

We can of course sizzle perfectly good articles to death so that they will be leathery and tough. But thorough heating, in the presence of shortening, is not the awful crime that it has been labeled. Such dishes stimulate rather than retard contractions of the gall bladder. Thus it is that bile mixes with the nutriment shortly after it leaves the stomach.

We don't need to allow our foodstuffs to become oil soaked, but other than that, there seems to be no basis for the widely heralded prohibition against this method. But notions become fixed. The first condemnation probably arose because an "oracle" suffered from dyspepsia which he ascribed to some fried item on the menu. The theory spread. Others agreed with him, and after a time the doctrine became incorporated in our textbooks. The belief is now tradition rather than proved fact. It should have been refuted long since, as experience has demonstrated its falsity.

1. This passage focuses on _____.

- A. why the skillet is a handy piece of kitchen equipment
- B. the digestibility of fried foods
- C. how the experts can mislead the public in the area of food preparation
- D. why fried foods have long been frowned upon
- E. methods of preparing foods

2. The author's main idea is that _____.

- A. fried foods have long been frowned upon

- B. contrary to popular opinion, fried foods are more easily assimilated than boiled foods
- C. fried foods are more easily digested than boiled or broiled foods though many authorities believe the opposite to be true
- D. the public should eat more fried foods since they are as easily digested as boiled foods
- E. despite the traditional condemnation of fried foods, they are as easily digested as foods cooked in other ways
3. Apparently much fried food is eaten because _____.
- A. it is easily prepared
- B. people engaged in active labor need the calories that fat supplies
- C. it is healthful
- D. it is easily digested
- E. people do not read about nutrition
4. The author strongly implies that the public should _____.
- A. avoid fried foods if possible
- B. prepare some foods by frying
- C. fry foods intended for adults but not for children
- D. prepare all foods by frying
- E. avoid deep fat frying but otherwise fry selected foods
5. When the author says that an "oracle suffered from dyspepsia which he ascribed to some fried item on the menu", he is being _____.
- A. bitter
- B. factual
- C. humorous
- D. inventive
- E. sarcastic
6. The selection was probably taken from _____.
- A. a medical journal
- B. a publication addressed to the general public
- C. a speech at a medical convention
- D. an advertisement for cooking oil
- E. a laboratory report

第一个问题考查的是文章的主旨,这可以通过概括各段的大意来判断。第一段说的是消费者现在仍然大量食用油炸食物,但没有消化不良的反应。第二段则用生理学家的调查结果说明油中的脂肪能促进消化。第三段则提出传统的观点,即油炸食品不宜食用,并对此进行批判,实际上是进一步说明“fried foods are edible”即油炸食品可食用。第四段和第五段做进一步阐述,同时也批判了传统观点对油炸食品的指责。由此可见,全篇都围绕着油炸食品可食用”这个观点展开,因此正确答案应是(B)。第二题与第一题相似,考的也是主旨,应选(E)。第三题与第四题考的都是细节。第三题的正确答案为(A),依据是第二句话“Nevertheless, the skillet is about our handiest and most useful piece of kitchen equipment.”。第四题应为(B):作者的主要目的是为油炸食物申辩。(A)、(C)、(D)明显错误。(E)作者并未提及。第五题出自最后一段作者对油炸食品有害健康这种谬论进行攻击。“oracle”一词显示出极强的讽刺意味,应选(E)。最后一题是对全文行文风格的考查,文章介绍的是科学方面的东西,但并没有什么医学上的术语,因此(A)、(C)、(D)都可排除。(D)也许有可能,但作者并没有明确地说明。(B)为正确选项。

例 3

Policymakers must, of course, respond to changes in society that reflect the needs and wishes of their constituents. In the United States, one vehicle which brings about important changes in domestic policies is the constitutional amendment. One of the greatest strengths of the U. S. Constitution has been its flexibility; it was written to accommodate change. But owing to the basic soundness of the original document and constant clarifications by the judiciary, relatively few amendments have been added to the Constitution since it was adopted almost 200 years ago.

The framers of the Constitution made the amendment process a long and difficult one. Those amendments which do survive the procedure usually involve hard-fought issues that have been debated extensively in the U. S. Congress and in the state legislatures. Before an amendment becomes law, legislators must have expressed strong arguments supporting its passage. Usually the amendment which does become a law has a great impact on the American citizen.

The Constitution provides two methods of proposing an amendment. One is

by vote of two-thirds of the members present in both houses of Congress; the other is by a convention summoned by Congress at the request of the legislatures of two-thirds of the states. Only the first of these methods has ever been used.

One striking feature of the amendments that have been ratified, is that the majority—18 out of 26—are devoted to protecting or extending the rights of citizens. Most of the remaining amendments deal with the mechanics of government, either correcting flaws that became evident after the Constitution went into effect or changing some aspect of government to respond to changing perceptions of government's role.

Thomas Jefferson, writing in 1816 about a proposed change in the constitution of the State of Virginia, epitomized the value of the amending process. His statement applies equally to the constitution of the United States: "I am certainly not an advocate for frequent and untried changes in laws and constitutions. I think moderate imperfections had better be borne with. . . . But I know also, that laws and institutions must go hand in hand with the progress of the human mind."

22. It can be inferred from the passage about the constitutional amendments that

- _____.
- A) the amendments usually express the urgent needs and strong wishes of the general public at the time when they become laws
 - B) it is fairly easy to amend the Constitution
 - C) every year there are amendments proposed
 - D) the Constitution was intentionally made with flaws and imperfections for future amendments

25. The author cited the remark of Thomas Jefferson in order to _____.

- A) strengthen his idea of this passage
- B) demonstrate the importance of amending the Constitution
- C) show that laws and Constitutions can not be perfect
- D) show that Jefferson was so conservative that he opposed the constitutional amendments

第一题问的是“*What can you infer from the passage. . .*”(你从文中能推断出什么), 属推理型题。答案(A)将本文头两句并成一句: “*Policy makers*

must, of course, respond to changes in society that reflect the needs and wishes of their constituents. In the United States, one vehicle which brings about important changes in domestic policies is the constitutional amendment.”(制定政策的人必须对社会变化做出反应。这些变化反映了他们的选民的要求和愿望。在美国,使国内政策发生重大改变的一个重要途径就是宪法修正案。)

第二题:注意一般引文都是作者要用它来说明自己的观点,通常与说这话的人无关。(D)显然是离题了。另外,看引文的时候,一定要注意看它的上下文,即它的语境。这句话紧承前两句:第一句话说的是 Thomas Jefferson 很好地概括了修改的重要性;第二句话说 Jefferson 的话同样适用于美国宪法。那么接下来就应该是修改美国宪法也是很重要的(B),只是作者没有明说,而是用 Jefferson 的原话作结。

例 4

In a popular TV show of the late 1970s, a human-looking visitor from another planet was sent to observe earth culture. This visitor, called Mork, made countless blunders in his interactions with earthlings. In one episode, Mork was told that because Americans value assertiveness he should stop complying with every request made of him. When a Girl Scout selling cookies came to the house shortly thereafter, Mork screamed “No!” and abruptly slammed the door in her face. In another episode, Mork violated social conventions by describing out loud the non-verbal reactions expected of him. When someone described a serious personal problem Mork replied: “Choke! Gasp! Look of sincere empathy!” Needless to say, the listener was very put off.

When Mork practiced assertiveness by refusing to buy Girl Scout cookies, he was working at adopting one of many American values. A *value* is a general idea that people share about what is good or bad, desirable or undesirable. Values go beyond any one particular situation. If you value assertiveness, for example, you think it is appropriate in many different social contexts. Mork's problem was that he generalized values to absurd extremes. No value applies in every situation. There are always exceptions. Nevertheless, the values people hold tend to color their overall way of life.

Values are reflected even in seemingly trivial day-to-day behaviors. Consider

the games people play. The Tangu of New Guinea, for example, play a game called *taketak*. It involves two groups of coconut stakes that look like bowling pins and a toplike object made from a dried fruit. The players divide into two teams, and the members of the first team take turns throwing the top at their group of stakes. Every stake they hit is removed. Then the members of the second team toss the top at their stakes. The object of the game, surprisingly, is not to knock over as many stakes as possible. Rather, the game continues until both teams have removed the same number of stakes. To Americans, who value competition so highly, such a game seems senseless. But to the Tangu, this game makes perfect sense. The Tangu value equivalence, not competition. They are bothered by the idea of one group winning and another losing, for they believe this situation causes ill will.

1. By showing the example that Mork slammed the door in the face of a Girl Scout, the author tries to say _____.

- A) Mork was quick in learning American value
- B) it was foolish of Mork to show assertiveness in any situation
- C) no value can be applied to any situation
- D) people should learn more values to be adjusted to society

这道题问的是文中的某一例子说明了什么, 隐含的意义是问作者借这个例子要表达的观点是什么。因此描述性的选项(A)可以排除。根据上下文可知 Mork 摔门的动作实际上是他在学习运用一种从人类那儿学来的 *value*, 只是运用得不太恰当罢了, 并不是说他学的 *value* 还不够多。(D) 不对。(B) 正确, 但相对于(C)来说太浅显, 有点就事论事。由下文的进一步论述可知(C)为最佳答案。

例 5

A recent phenomenon in present-day science and technology is the increasing trend towards "directed" research; i. e. research government organizations rather than researchers themselves. Any scientist working for such organizations and investigating in a given field therefore tends to do so in accordance with a program designed beforehand.

At the beginning of the century, however, the situation was quite different.