College English Reading Ability and Skills

学英语阅读技能与技巧

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山东大学出版社

图书在版编目(CIP)数据

大学英语阅读技能与技巧/张殿玉,李万军主编.一济南:山东大学出版社,2003.8
ISBN 7-5607-2629-1

- I. 大...
- Ⅱ. ① 张...
- Ⅱ.②李...
- Ⅲ. 英语—阅读教学—高等学校—教学参考资料
- N. H319.4

中国版本图书馆 CIP 数据核字(2003)第 071202 号

山东大学出版社出版发行
(山东省济南市山大南路 27 号 邮政编码:250100)
山东省新华书店经销
安丘市九州印刷包装有限公司印刷
787×1092毫米 1/16 15 印张 346 千字
2003年8月第1版 2003年8月第1次印刷
印数:1-6000册
定价:17.00元

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前 言

(大学英语阅读技能与技巧)是专为大学本、专科学生和具有同等英语水平的人员编写的教材辅助性读物。

(大学英语教学大纲)把阅读能力的培养放在最重要的位置,提出要"培养学生具有较强的阅读能力"。在四级考试中,阅读技能不仅关系到学生在占试卷分数比重最大的阅读理解题上的发挥,而且直接影响到对阅读技能要求很高的英译汉和简答题上的表现。我们知道,要提高学生的英语阅读能力,单纯地通过教科书的课文教学是远远不够的。因此,我们根据(大纲)所规定的英语四级考试学生应掌握的词汇量,编选了80篇阅读文章、80处英译汉句子和10篇简答题。

(大学英语阅读技能与技巧)具有以下特点:

- 1. 特 80 篇文章设计在 20 个单元里,每个单元有 4 篇文章,每篇文章后有 5 个问题需要回答。通过用考试的方式编排阅读篇章将 80 篇文章化整为零,以便使学生能够在 35 分钟的时间里完成一个相对独立的单元,强化了时间概念和阅读质量。
- 2. 尽量做到使篇章的长度和难度与四级考试篇章的长度和难度相同或相近,以便达到提高阅读技能和检验阅读水平高低的双重目的。
- 3. 从每篇文章中挑选出一处在语义、句法和词汇等方面比较有特点的句子进行英译 汉练习。学生可以在自行翻译的基础上,再看附在后面的参考译文,进行比较,以利提高 翻译技巧。
- 4. 除了用四级考试中传统的简答题形式设计简答题外,还附上了 2003 年 6 月才开始使用的简答题样题和参考答案,以帮助学生了解和适应新题型。

本书的顺利出版得益于山东大学威海分校校领导,特别是王吉法校长和陈金钊校长的支持和关心, 裁务处陈章通和刘海两位处长及其他相关人员对本书的出版也提供了诸多帮助。另外, 在编写过程中, 大学外语教学部领导和全体教师对本书的出版也给予大力支持和帮助, 并付出了辛勤劳动, 在此一并表示衷心的感谢。

本书在内容和编写上未必都尽如人意,不妥之处敬请读者批评指正。

编者 2003年7月

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第一部分阅读理解

概 论

教育部颁布的《大学英语教学大纲》指出,大学英语教学的目的是培养学生具有较强阅读能力和一定的听、说、写、译能力,使他们能用英语为工具交流信息。阅读能力仍为几项基本技能之首。新大纲还具体规定了学生经过大学英语基础阶段的学习,在阅读能力(阅读速度和阅读理解)方面要达到的基本要求,即四级要求:能顺利阅读语言难度中等的一般性题材的文章,掌握中心大意以及说明中心大意的事实和细节,并能进行一定的分析、推理和判断,领会作者的观点和态度,阅读速度达到每分钟70词。在阅读篇幅较长、难度略低、生词不超过总词数3%的材料时,能掌握中心大意,抓住主要事实和有关细节,阅读速度达到每分钟100词,阅读理解的准确率以70%为合格。

大学英语四级考试阅读理解部分是众多考生最为担心的部分,因为这部分得分高低,对整个考试的成功与否起着决定性作用(占总分的 40%)。阅读理解不仅考查学生的词汇量、语法知识、阅读速度等基本功,而且还考查学生判断、推理、归纳、总结等综合能力。想要在这部分获得高分,考生除了平时要进行大量的阅读实践来提高自己的阅读能力外,还要掌握必要的应试技巧。本篇是在对四级考试阅读理解历届真题进行分析研究的基础上,侧重阐述真题题型的规律、特点和答题技巧,并为考生精选了阅读文章 80 篇,分编成20 个单元,每个单元就是一套四级考试的阅读理解题。考生在熟悉了考试题型的规律和特点之后可将其作为实践及自测之用。考生在做完一套题后要善于对自己的错误进行分析,而不要一味地只顾多做习题,不求甚解。另外,建议大家在做题时不要将答案直接写在题上,以备日后对做错的题进行重做。四级考试阅读部分的总时间为 35 分钟,因此每篇文章所占用的时间不能超过 9 分钟。不论大家采用快读一看题一查找,还是采用看题一查找,或是细读一看题的阅读方式,在看题时都要能够辨明题型,然后充分利用题型的特点去进行查找及解答。

第一章 阅读理解各类题型及答题技巧

由于四级考试大纲具体规定了学生经过大学英语基础阶段的学习,在阅读能力方面要达到的基本要求,因此,阅读理解题的题型也就自然要与这些要求保持一致。请看以下要求与题型的对应关系:

- (1) 掌握所读材料的主旨和大意——主旨大意题。
- (2) 了解用以阐述主旨的事实和有关细节——事实细节题。
- (3) 根据上下文或构词法判断某些超纲词汇和短语的意义——(超纲)词义/语义判断题。
- (4) 既理解个别句子的意义, 也理解上下文之间的逻辑关系——细节推断题。
- (5) 根据所读材料进行一定的判断、推理和引申——综合推断题。
- (6) 领会作者的观点和态度——观点态度题。

第一号 主旨大意题

一、出题方式

阅读理解首先是对文章的主旨和大意的理解,这也是四级大纲对阅读理解的最基本要求。因为文章的主旨大意是对全文内容的概括,考查并确定文章的主旨大意是正确理解文章的关键。文章的主旨大意或中心思想可以从段落的中心思想中归纳出来,而段落的中心思想又可以从段落主题句中反映出来。对于没有明确主题句的文章或段落,则只能从具体细节中去总结。因此我们可以这样讲:只会有无明确主题句的文章或段落,而决不会有无主题的文章或段落。虽然作者表达主题思想的方式各不相同,但命题人员通常的提问方式却可概括为如下几种:

- 1. What's the main idea/subject/topic of the passage?
- 2. The main idea of the passage/The best summary is _____.
- 3. Which of the following best reflects the main idea of the passage?
- 4. The passage mainly discusses _____.
- 5. The best title for this passage is/might be _____.
- 6. The author's main purpose of writing this passage is _____. 归纳起来说,也就是围绕文章的主题、标题及写作目的而出题。

二、确定主题句

为了使读者能直接了解语篇的主旨大意,作者通常会用一句或几句话来阐述主题。 主题句通常在意义上具有概括性,句法上具有简明性,篇章结构上具有统帅性,文章的其 他各部分都要围绕主题句展开。由于作者的个人喜好和文章的体裁不同,因此文章的主 题句出现的位置也不尽相同。一个段落的主题句常在段首,其次在段末,有时在段中,当然还有首尾呼应和隐含主题句的情况。与此相类似,一篇文章的主题句也多在篇首或篇末,也有时在篇中,还有首尾呼应和隐含主题句的情况。由于篇章是由段落所构成,因此篇章的主题便可由各个段落的主题来确定。下面就分别讲述段落主题句通常出现的位置以及确定主题句的方法。

1. 段首主题句

主题句位于段落的开头,一开始就明确主题,然后展开讨论或说明,也就是采用演绎法,由一般到个别,由总到分,由概述到详述。这种主题句会使人一看就明白段落所要阐述的内容,简单明了。段落中的其他句子都受其约束。判断段首句是不是主题句的关键,要看它后面的句子是不是它的支持句(supporting details),即是不是对它进行说明、论述或描述,如果是,那它就是主题句。四级考试阅读篇章的段首句多为主题句。

2. 段中主题句

有些段落开头几句都是铺叙,其目的是为了引出主题。在主题句之后仍有相当数量的句子来对它进行陈述或论述。通常来说,这类段落包括三个层次,但重心在中层。

3. 段尾主题句

主题句位于段落的末尾,以加强段落的说服力。此类文章的作者通常采用的是归纳法,即先进行细节性的描述、叙述或论述,再进行概括,并依次结束该段。因此,这类主题句往往是依据上文的细节推出的结论、归纳的要点或得出的结果。

4. 首尾呼应主题句

有些段落的开头和结尾都是概括性的句子,也就是主题句,我们且称其为首尾呼应主题句。作者之所以前后两次点明主题,往往是为了突出主题思想。但大家要注意的是,作者虽然两次点明主题,但却很少是完全的重复,在句子结构和用词上往往会有所不同。

5. 隐含主题句

有的文章的主题思想并不是直接由一两个句子来表述,而是通过阐述句暗示出来,我们就称其为隐含主题句。这种情况就需要考生根据文章中的细节进行概括和归纳,也就是将不同细节所集中论述的要点概括出来或者将整篇文章的所有内容进行综合,得出结论,作为主题思想。

第二号 (事实)细号题

一、出题方式

四级考试大纲除了要求考生掌握文章的主旨大意外,还要求他们了解用以阐述主旨的事实和有关细节。我们知道,文章中的具体内容都是用来阐明主旨大意的,因此只有真正理解了全部细节才能深刻地领会文章的主题。一篇文章通常只有一个主题思想,但为其服务的事实细节却会很多,因此这类题便成了命题者大做文章的地方。为了准确把握为主题思想所服务的事实和细节,考生在阅读时应该注意它们之间的辨证关系,即只有抓住文章的主题思想才能确定为其服务的事实和细节;同样,理解了具体的事实和细节,也有助于更好地判明主题。另外还要判明哪些细节是为中心思想服务的,因为这些细节才

是重要的,也是常出考题的地方。由于这类考题是针对文章的具体事实和细节而出,因此通常都能在文章中直接或间接地找到答案。

此类要求查找某些重要事实和细节的试题通常以下列形式提出:

- 1. Which of the following statements is (NOT) TRUE according to the passage?
- 2. Which of the following is (not) discussed/mentioned in the passage?
- 3. According to the passage, what/where/which/who/why/when/how...?
- 4. All of the following are (not) true/mentioned/discussed except ______.
- 5. How does the author/writer feel about _____?

二、解题技巧

根据以上提问形式及历届真题的特点,我们总结出以下三点技巧:

1. 逐一排除法

可运用这种方法解答的细节题的特点是四个选项中有三项是/不是真实的/讨论到的/提到的,剩下的一项便是正确答案,即有"一正三误型"和"一误三正型"两种类型,这其中的"一正"或"一误"便是问题所要求的正确答案。这类问题的作法很简单,但却很耗时,因为考生需要在文章中逐一排除三个正确/不正确或真实/不真实的选项,才能得出答案。

2. 同义替换法

虽然许多细节题在文章中能够找到答案,但正确选项往往与阅读材料的原句在所用词语或句型结构上不同,这也正是命题者常用的手法。也就是说原文中作者表达具体事实细节的信息值与正确选项的信息值虽然在选词或句子结构上不同,但表达的意义却是相同的,即"形不同而义同"。考生明白了这一点,便不难排除形式上的干扰,找到正确答案。

3. 长句分解法

为了增加阅读理解题的难度,命题者在出事实细节题时,经常会针对句子结构比较复杂的长句来设计问题。针对这种情况,考生首先要找出这个长句,对其结构进行分解,分出主句和从句,或者分出主、谓、宾语和定语、状语和补语来,再看四个选项中哪一个是对该长句的某个部分的正确表述。

第三爷 (超纲)词义/语义判断题

一、出题方式

在阅读理解测试中,考生遇到的一个很大的难题就是生词。一方面,考生很难百分之百地将四级大纲所要求的词汇全部掌握;另一方面,阅读篇章中又允许有适当的生词出现。因此考生必须要学会根据上下文或词的构成来判断其含义的能力。虽然这类题也是针对细节进行提问,但不同之处是它是惟一针对词或短语表达而设计的,因此我们将其单独列出。这类考题常见的提问方式有以下几种:

- 1. According to the author, the word "..." means _____.
- 2. The word "..." (in Line...Para...) most probably means _____.

3. From the passage, we can infer that the word "" is				
4. The term "" (in LinePara) can be best replaced by				
5. As used in the line, the word "" refers to				
6. What does the author probably mean by "" (in LinePara)?				
7. By "", the author means that				
二、解题技巧				
1. 根据上下文判断词义或语义				
确定生词在文章中的含义,一种方式就是对其所在的上下文进行理解,在此基础上推				
测词义或语义。此类方式又可具体分为五种:				
侧问义或语义。此类方式又可共体力为五行: (1) 利用定义(definition)或重述(restatement)				
在一篇文章中,作者有时候估计到某个词或短语为一般读者所不熟悉,就会采用直接				
定义法或重述法来给出一种变相的解释。例如:				
A. Such experiences are usual for the amateur conchologists, people who collect shells.				
根据后面类似定义的解释可知,该词的含义为"拾贝壳的人"。				
B. Smith used to be a <i>florist</i> , keeping a shop for selling flowers in our town.				
根据后面的重述解释可知,该词的含义为"花店店主"。				
(2) 利用常识(general knowledge)				
有些生词或短语考生常常可以通过自己的经验或某一领域的常识来判断。例如:				
The door was so low that I hit my head on the lintel.				
根据常识, lintel 的含义为"门楣"。				
(3) 利用比较、对照关系(comparison/contrast)				
例如:				
In the northern regions the winters are normally cold and humid, and the summers hot				
and dry.				
前后对照,可知 humid 的含义为"潮湿的"。				
(4) 利用举例(examples/instances)				
例如:				
Today young couples who are just starting their households often spend lots of their				
money on appliances, for instance, washing machines, refrigerators and color TVs.				
根据后面的例子可知, appliances 的含义为"家用电器"。				
(5) 利用相关信息(related information)				
例 1:				
It is, everyone agrees, a huge task that the child performs when he learns to speak, and				
the fact he does so in so short a period of time challenges explanation.				
Question: By "challenge explanation" the author means that				
A) no explanation is necessary for such an obvious phenomenon				

▶ 5 ◀

B) no explanation has been made up to now

C) it's no easy job to provide an adequate explanation

D) it's high time that an explanation was provided

单独看这一短语"challenge explanation",很难作出准确的解释,但根据前面的信息,就不难判断出正确答案为 C。

例 2:

"She went to school for 12 years and she can't write a sentence?" Timken said. "They made an *illiterate* out of my daughter!"

由上一句的信息可知, illiterate 在此处的含义为: a person who can't read and write。

2. 根据构词法判断词义或语义

英语词汇,许多都是由拉丁语和希腊语词根、词缀构成,因此,我们只要能掌握那些常用词根、词缀,又懂得构词的方法,阅读中的许多生词就可迎刃而解。例如:

A. They overestimated the difficulty and finally decided to give up.

根据前缀 over 和词根 estimate 可知该词的含义为"高估"。

B. The room is spacious enough to hold a party.

根据词根 space 和后缀 jous 可知,该词的含义为"宽敞的"。

词缀包括前缀(prefix)和后缀(suffix)。前缀通常能改变一个单词的含义,但有时也改变一个词的词类,如"en"作为前缀构成 enable, enlarge 等,将原来的形容词变成了动词。后缀通常改变一个词的词性,如"ious/ous"为形容词后缀,"ize/ise"为动词后缀,"tion/sion/ment"为名词后缀等。

第四号 综合推断题

一、出题方式

推断题是阅读理解题中难度较大,出题量也较大的一类题型。与其他题型相比,这类题的答案通常不能从原文中直接找到,而要经过分析、推理、判断才能获得。这类题型要求考生能够通过表面的文字叙述"读出"隐藏在字里行间的深层含义,捕捉作者提供的暗示,追踪作者写作时的发展思路,从而悟出作者的言外之意。这类题的提问句中常有 suggest, imply, infer, appear, conclude 等词,常见的提问方式如下:

	.p.y,, uppour, common 1. 17, 18 - 18 - 18 - 18 - 18 - 18 - 18 - 18
1.	The author suggests in the passage that
2.	The passage implies that
3.	We can infer/deduce/assume from this passage/paragraph that
4.	Bythe author implies/suggests/indicates that
5.	We can learn fromthat
6.	It can be concluded from the passage/paragraph that
7.	The paragraph/passage preceding this one most probably discusses
8.	The paragraph/passage following this one would most likely deal with
401	显示米斯利的发生中枢 可以公书细节推断斯/日季一处细节 就可推断出正确

根据这类题型的答案出处,可以分为细节推断题(只需一处细节,就可推断出正确答案)和综合推断题(需要从几处细节或综合考虑,才能得出正确答案)两种情况。

二、解题技巧

- 一篇文章往往包含两个方面的内容,即字面内容(literal meaning)和隐含内容(implied meaning)。作者有时没有必要把一切内容都明确地告诉读者,而是通过字里行间暗示自己的态度和想法。解答此类题要注意以下几点:
- 1. 根据已知信息推断未知信息。尽管推断题的正确答案在文章中不能直接找到,但 仍有相关文字可作为推理的前提和依据,应该按照题意(包括问题和选项)的提示去原文 中寻找相关的文字部分。
- 2. 在找到据以推理的有关文字后,对于诸如数字、时间等方面的考题,可进行简单的推算;对于知识性的考题,则取决于作者对有关背景知识的了解;对于需要逻辑推断的考题,则必须忠于作者的意愿,不能把自己的或其他人的观点当做作者的观点来推理。
- 3. 根据修饰关系进行判断。有时作者使用一些形容词或副词,对某些概念加以限定,而在选项中却用一些意义相近但不完全相同的修饰词;有时原文中作者用定语或定语从句限定了范围,而在选项中却故意不提。考生应注意这一点。

第五号 观点态度题

一、出题方式

阅读理解的最后一题常常提问作者对文章中某一问题的态度(attitude)、全文的基调 (tone)、文章的出处(source)以及对文章前后续接内容的判断等。本节专门讨论关于作者的态度或基调类问题。回答这类问题应从篇章的体裁着手。一般来说,在说明文中作者的态度是客观的(objective)或中立的(neutral);而在议论文中,作者的观点才会显得多种多样。常见的问及态度的词语有:positive(肯定的),negative(否定的),neutral(中立的),approval(赞同的),disapproval(不赞同的),indifferent(冷淡的),sarcastic(讽刺的),critical(批评的),optimistic(乐观的),pessimistic(悲观的),authoritative(有权威的),objective(客观的),subjective(主观的),doubtful(怀疑的),compromising(妥协的),等等。此类问题的提问方式常有如下几种:

- 1. What's the author's/writer's attitude to ...?
- 2. What's the tone of the passage?
- 3. The author thinks/suggests/believes that _____.
- 4. How does the author feel about...?
- 5. Which of the following will the author agree/disagree with?
- 6. The author's attitude towards ... might be summarized as one of _____.
- 7. Which of the following can best describe the author's attitude towards...?

二、解题技巧

1. 正确理解作者的真实观点

在一篇文章中,作者在陈述自己的观点时,有时直截了当,有时先介绍某一观点,而接着在后面提出相反的观点,表明自己的态度。因此,要正确判断作者的观点时,必须把上

下文联系起来看,文章中所陈述的内容并非都代表了作者的观点。需要认真仔细地阅读,才能从一句话、一个段落或一篇文章中找到已提到过的或暗示过的观点。在论证作者的观点时要弄清作者说了些什么,写这篇文章的目的等。

2. 正确推断作者的语气和态度

作者在写一篇文章时,经常持有某种态度或倾向。但在作品中,作者又不是直接将自己的语气和态度表达出来,而是通过对词汇的选择或其他修辞手段(如批评、讽刺等)体现出来。运用不同含义或具有不同感情色彩的词汇,可以表明作者对某些具体事情和问题的不同态度。因此考生要特别注意作者在文中所用词汇的特点,特别是形容词、副词和动词,通过分析,来推断作者的态度和倾向,搞清是赞成还是反对,是肯定还是否定,是中立、冷淡还是同情、厌恶等。

第二章 阅读理解习题、答案及解析

Unit 1

Directions: There are 4 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 finish this unit of reading comprehension within 35 minutes.

Passage One

Questions 1 to 5 are based on the following passage.

However important we may regard school life to be, there is no gainsaying (否认) the fact that children spend more time at home than in the classroom. Therefore, the great influence of parents cannot be ignored or discounted by the teacher. They can become strong allies of the school personnel or they can consciously or unconsciously hinder and thwart (使受挫折) curricular objectives.

Administrators have been aware of the need to keep parents informed of the newer methods used in schools. Many principals have conducted workshops explaining such matter as the reading readiness program, manuscript writing and developmental mathematics.

Moreover, the classroom teacher, with the permission of the supervisors, can also play an important role in enlightening parents. The informal tea and the many interviews carried on during the year, as well as new ways of reporting pupils' progress, can significantly aid in achieving a harmonious interplay (互相配合) between school and home.

To illustrate, suppose that a father has been drilling Junior in arithmetic processes night after night. In a friendly interview, the teacher can help the parent sublimate (转化) his natural paternal interest into productive channels. He might be persuaded to let Junior participate in discussing the family budget, buying the food, using a yardstick or measuring cup at home, setting the clock, calculating mileage on a trip and engaging in scores of other activities that have a mathematical basis.

If the father follows the advice, it is reasonable to assume that he will soon realize his son is making satisfactory progress in mathematics, and at the same time, enjoying the work.

Too often, however, the teacher's conferences with parents are devoted to petty accounts of children's misdemeanors (不端行为), complaints about laziness and poor work

habits, and suggestion for penalties and rewards at home.

What is needed is more creative approach in which the teacher, as a professional adviser, plants ideas in parents' minds for the best utilization of the many hours that the child spends out of the classroom.

In this way, the school and the home join forces in fostering the fullest development of youngsters' capacities.

- 1. The central idea conveyed in the above passage is that _____.
 - A) home training is more important than school training because a child spends so many hours with his parents
 - B) teachers can and should help parents to understand and further the objectives of the school
 - C) there are many ways in which the mathematics program can be implemented at home
 - D) parents unwittingly have hindered and thwarted curricular objectives
- 2. The author directly discusses the fact that _____.
 - A) parents drill their children too much in arithmetic
 - B) principals have explained the new art programs to parents
 - C) a father can have his son help him construct articles at home
 - D) a parent's misguided efforts can be properly directed
- 3. It can reasonably be inferred that the author _____.
 - A) is satisfied with present relationships between home and school
 - B) feels that the traditional program in mathematics is slightly superior to the developmental program
 - C) feels that teacher-parent conference can be more productive
 - D) is of the opinion that teachers of this generation are inferior to those of the last generation
- 4. The author implies that _____.
 - A) participation in interesting activities relating to a subject improves one's achievement in that area
 - B) too many children are lazy and have poor work habits
 - C) school principals do more than their share in interpreting the curriculum to the parents
 - D) teachers should occasionally make home visits to parents
- 5. We may infer that the writer of the article does favor _____.
 - A) a father's helping his son with the latter's studies
 - B) written communications to the parents from the teacher
 - C) having the parents observe lessons which the children are being taught
 - D) principal-parent conferences rather than teacher-parent conferences

Passage Two

Questions 6 to 10 are based on the following passage.

Generations of Americans have been brought up to believe that a good breakfast is one of life's essentials. Eating breakfast at the start of the day, we have all been told, and told again, is as necessary as putting gasoline in the family car before starting a trip.

But for many people the thought of food first thing in the morning is by no means a pleasure. So despite all the efforts, they still take no breakfast. Between 1977 and 1983, the latest year for which figures are available, the number of people who didn't have breakfast increased by 33 percent—from 8.8 million to 11.7 million—according to the Chicago-based Market Research Corporation of America.

For those who feel pain of guilt about not eating breakfast, however, there is some good news. Several studies in the last few years indicate that, for adults especially, there may be nothing wrong with omitting breakfast. "Going without breakfast does not affect performance," said Arnold E. Bender, former professor of nutrition at Queen Elizabeth College in London, "nor does giving people breakfast improve performance."

Scientific evidence linking breakfast to better health or better performance is surprisingly inadequate. And most of the recent work involves children, not adults. "The literature," says one researcher, Dr. Ernesto Pollitt at the University of Texas, "is poor."

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6.	The latest year for which figures could be obtained is				
	A) the year the author wrote the article	B) 1977			
	C) any year between 1977 and 1983	D) 1983			
7.	For those who do not take breakfast, the good news is that				
	A) several studies have been done in the past few years				
	B) the omission of breakfast does no harm to one's health				
	C) adults have especially made studies in this field				
	D) eating little in the morning is good for health				
8.	"nor does giving people breakfast improve performance" (Line 5, Para. 3) means				
	A) anyone without breakfast does improve his performance				
	B) not giving people breakfast improves performance				
	C) having breakfast does not improve perfe	ormance, either			
	D) people having breakfast do improve the	r performances, too			
9.	The word "literature" in the last sentence	refers to			
	A) stories, poems, plays, etc.				
	B) written books on a particular subject				
	C) any printed material				
	D) the modern literature of America				

10. What is implied but NOT STATED by the author is that _