

2001



KAOYAN YINGYU YUEDU 100PIAN

考研辅导丛书

# 考研

# 英语阅读100篇

KAOYAN YINGYU YUEDU 100PIAN

考研命题研究组 编写  
 北京大学英语系 李培 主编  
 胡东华 总策划



# 考研英语阅读 100 篇

编写 考研命题研究组  
主编 北京大学英语系 李培  
总策划 胡东华

科学技术文献出版社

Scientific and Technical Documents Publishing House

北京

## 图书在版编目(CIP)数据

考研英语阅读 100 篇/赵娜等编. —北京:科学技术文献出版社, 2000. 5  
ISBN 7-5023-3569-2

I. 考... II. 赵... III. 英语-阅读教学-研究生-入学考试-自学参考资料  
IV. H319.4

中国版本图书馆 CIP 数据核字(2000)第 24497 号

出 版 者:科学技术文献出版社

邮 购 部 电 话:(010)62579473-8100

图 书 发 行 部 电 话:(010)62534708, 62624508, 62624119

门 市 部 电 话:(010)62534447, 62543201

图 书 发 行 部 传 真:(010)62579473-8002

E-mail:stdph@istic.ac.cn

策 划 编 辑:胡东华

责 任 编 辑:张美丽

责 任 校 对:张美丽

封 面 设 计:胡东华

发 行 者:科学技术文献出版社发行

新华书店总店北京发行所经销

印 刷 者:河北香河新华印刷有限公司

版 ( 印 ) 次:2000 年 5 月第 1 版 2000 年 5 月第 1 次印刷

开 本:787×1092 16 开

字 数:248 千字

印 张:15.5

定 价:20.00 元

### ©版权所有 违法必究

购买本社图书,凡字迹不清、缺页、倒页、脱页者,本社发行部负责调换。

盗版举报电话:(010)62878310(出版者), (010)62534708(著作权者)。

本丛书封面均贴有“读书新知”激光防伪标志,凡无此标志者为非法出版物,盗版书刊因错漏百出、印刷粗糙,对读者会造成身心侵害和知识上的误解,希望广大读者不要购买。

(京)新登字 130 号

声明:本书封面及封底均采用专用图标(见右图),该图标已由国家商标局注册受理登记,未经本策划人同意禁止其他单位使用。



## 科学技术文献出版社 向广大读者致意

---

科学技术文献出版社成立于1973年,由国家科学技术部主管,主要出版科技政策、科技管理、信息科学、农业、医学、电子技术、实用技术、培训教材、教辅读物等图书。

我们的所有努力,都是为了使您增长知识和才干。

# 目 录

<b>第一部分 考研英语阅读理解应试技巧</b> .....	(1)
第一节 总论部分 .....	(1)
第二节 阅读方法简介 .....	(1)
第三节 常见阅读理解题型以及解题技巧 .....	(2)
<b>第二部分 单元强化训练</b> .....	(23)

## UNIT ONE

passage 1 网络成为主流 .....	(23)
passage 2 美俄就车臣问题较量 .....	(24)
passage 3 1999 克格勃间谍曝光 .....	(26)
passage 4 关于胆固醇的新发现 .....	(28)
passage 5 艾滋病之源探秘 .....	(29)

## UNIT TWO

passage 6 做小孩真是太难了 .....	(32)
passage 7 每个人都想走好运 .....	(33)
passage 8 我们是否对民意测验期望过高? .....	(34)
passage 9 美国的城市扩张 .....	(36)
passage 10 美国青少年消费 .....	(38)

## UNIT THREE

passage 11 海洋生态面临威胁 .....	(40)
passage 12 会有彗星撞地球吗? .....	(41)
passage 13 神秘的“燃素” .....	(42)
passage 14 铁在 19 世纪建筑中的应用 .....	(43)
passage 15 岩石的构成 .....	(45)

## UNIT FOUR

passage 16 凄冷的日子 .....	(47)
passage 17 美国新时尚: 忠贞 .....	(48)
passage 18 艰苦奋斗的今后两年 .....	(50)

passage	19	1998 国际奥委会受贿丑闻 .....	(52)
passage	20	美国人: 懒得结婚 .....	(53)

## UNIT FIVE

passage	21	艾滋病阴云笼罩罗马尼亚 .....	(55)
passage	22	暴风雪席卷佐治亚 .....	(56)
passage	23	90 年代日本的机器人宠物 .....	(58)
passage	24	1998 年来自太空的神秘石头 .....	(59)
passage	25	微生物: 辐射废料的清道夫 .....	(61)

## UNIT SIX

passage	26	微软坚持认为行为合法, 绝非垄断 .....	(63)
passage	27	美国国会拟建立人权状况调查组调查中国 .....	(64)
passage	28	奥委会消减财政预算, 收效显著 .....	(67)
passage	29	克林顿争取高科技公司的支持 .....	(68)
passage	30	1999: 美国校园屠杀惨案 .....	(70)

## UNIT SEVEN

passage	31	在线新闻——实况转播 .....	(72)
passage	32	计算机犯罪 .....	(73)
passage	33	流感病毒 .....	(74)
passage	34	废除电视的主张 .....	(76)
passage	35	技术革新与社会 .....	(77)

## UNIT EIGHT

passage	36	亲自放哨的蜂后 .....	(79)
passage	37	摩天大厦对环境的危害 .....	(80)
passage	38	冰山的分类 .....	(81)
passage	39	大气的构成 .....	(83)
passage	40	人类对植被的破坏 .....	(84)

## UNIT NINE

passage	41	尝试一下通俗文化 .....	(86)
passage	42	一波未平, 一波又起 .....	(87)
passage	43	高科技走进野生世界 .....	(89)

passage	44	多功能邮箱:Excite'	(91)
passage	45	新兴学科:灾害研究	(92)

## UNIT TEN

passage	46	情绪影响健康的研究将进一步深入	(95)
passage	47	激光的应用	(96)
passage	48	取消种族隔离对于美国教育的影响	(98)
passage	49	文化震撼	(99)
passage	50	眼睛和照相机	(101)

## UNIT ELEVEN

passage	51	中国在发展基础教育方面堪称典范	(103)
passage	52	世界政府正在形成,面对现实	(104)
passage	53	污染物是否会加速癌症的扩散	(106)
passage	54	团体工作的效率	(108)
passage	55	被忽视的访谈研究	(109)

## UNIT TWELVE

passage	56	微软拒绝“垄断”一说	(111)
passage	57	高科技运用于保护珍稀动物	(112)
passage	58	人类对生物多样性的破坏	(114)
passage	59	爱因斯坦不为人知的恋情	(115)
passage	60	美貌:福还是祸	(117)

## UNIT THIRTEEN

passage	61	分裂主义者诉诸武力,爆炸事件震惊马德里	(119)
passage	62	离群索居造成艾滋病猴早夭	(120)
passage	63	父亲对子女成绩的影响	(122)
passage	64	无脂肪食品——贪吃者的福音?	(123)
passage	65	为广告辩护	(124)

## UNIT FOURTEEN

passage	66	研究表明人类语言由姿势进化而来	(126)
passage	67	旅游中的饮食危险	(127)
passage	68	基因变异食品面临质疑	(129)

passage	69	信息时代的建筑 .....	(130)
passage	70	二十一世纪医学的展望 .....	(132)

## UNIT FIFTEEN

passage	71	Windows 2000 病毒:恶作剧还是预演 .....	(134)
passage	72	世界政府的形成(1) .....	(135)
passage	73	私立医院的兴起 .....	(137)
passage	74	世纪末上海的不明飞行物 .....	(138)
passage	75	爱因斯坦被《时代》周刊评为 20 世纪最杰出人物 .....	(140)

## UNIT SIXTEEN

passage	76	职业妇女的新问题 .....	(142)
passage	77	节食是否会延缓衰老 .....	(143)
passage	78	千年虫:让全世界虚惊一场 .....	(145)
passage	79	信息产业对亚洲经济的影响 .....	(147)
passage	80	成长的标准 .....	(148)

## UNIT SEVENTEEN

passage	81	PC 涌上公路 .....	(150)
passage	82	普京不顾批评,号召建立强大国家 .....	(152)
passage	83	音乐对安全驾驶的影响 .....	(153)
passage	84	远程教育 .....	(155)
passage	85	日本的教育 .....	(156)

## UNIT EIGHTEEN

passage	86	法网的长臂 .....	(158)
passage	87	海外科学家对华贡献突出受嘉奖 .....	(159)
passage	88	介绍一种新的疗法 .....	(161)
passage	89	哈佛的困境 .....	(162)
passage	90	性别角色是命中注定的吗? .....	(164)

## UNIT NINETEEN

passage	91	为什么月亮看上去就像一个比萨饼 .....	(166)
passage	92	家庭救生员 .....	(167)
passage	93	战后贫民窟的清理 .....	(169)

# 第一部分 考研英语阅读理解应试技巧

## 第一节 总论部分

考研大纲中对阅读部分的规定为:

20 小题, 每小题 2 分, 共 40 分。

阅读五篇左右的短文, 阅读量为 2 000 到 2 500 词。每篇短文后有 3~5 道选择题, 共计 20 题。考生应根据短文内容从各题的四个选项中选出一个最佳答案。

阅读理解一项占 40 分, 是各个题型中所占比例最大的一项。不仅如此, 阅读的能力还直接影响后面的英译汉(15 分)和完形填空(10 分)的得分。可以说, 阅读理解能力直接和间接影响的分数高达 65 分。

阅读理解部分要求考生能综合运用自己所学的英语语言知识和阅读技能来正确理解英语的书面材料, 能以每分钟 60 个单词的速度阅读各种内容(例如: 社会生活, 人物传记, 科普, 史地, 政治, 经济等)和各种体裁(例如: 议论文, 说明文, 应用文等)的文字材料。

在阅读过程中, 考生必须做到:

- 1) 掌握所读材料的主旨和大意;
- 2) 了解用以阐述主旨的事实和有关细节;
- 3) 根据上下文判断大纲附表以外的某些词汇和短语的含意;
- 4) 既理解单句的含意, 也理解上下文之间的逻辑关系;
- 5) 根据所读材料进行一定的推理、判断和引申;
- 6) 领会作者的观点和态度;
- 7) 正确理解英语原文并用汉语表达原文所述内容。

## 第二节 阅读方法简介

### 1. 略读法

skim, (又称“浏览”), 是指跳过文章的细节、描述和所举的例子, 进行快速阅读, 以在很短时间内迅速了解所读材料的大致梗概, 以及体裁, 结构的方法。这种方法主要适用于考查“主旨和大意”的题型。

### 2. 扫描法

scan, (又称“查阅”), 是指用眼睛快速扫视, 迅速找到需要的信息。在考题中有“考查事实和细节”的题型时, 这种方法最适用。考生可以根据题干中的关键词, 到原文中寻找相应的内容, 节省阅读其他无用信息的宝贵时间。

### 3. 精读法

study 是指在阅读时, 首先浏览全文, 然后根据短文后面的提问, 在特定的区域内仔细推敲, 进行适当的推理和判断, 选择答案。这种阅读方法主要适用于考查理解句意以及上下文关系或考查作者的观点和态度的题目。

此外还有两点需要注意:

一是要改变过去逐字阅读的方法为意群阅读法, 这是指将文章以意群为单位一组一组单词地阅读, 从而大大提高阅读速度。例如下面这段话就可以用 / 划分为若干意群:

Being a man / has always been / dangerous. / There are about / 105 males / born for every 100 females, but this ratio / drops to near balance / at the age of maturity, / and among 70 - year - olds / there are twice as many

women as men. / But the great universal of male mortality / is being changed. / Now, / boy babies / survive / almost as well as girl babies do. / This means that, / for the first time, / there will be an excess of boys / in those crucial years / when they are searching for a mate. / More important, / another chance for natural selection / has been removed. / Fifty years ago, / the chance of a baby (particularly a boy) surviving / depended on its weight. / A kilogram too light / or too heavy / meant almost certain death. / Today / it makes almost no difference. / Since much of the variation / is due to genes, / one more agent of evolution / has gone.

还有就是计时阅读法。如果感觉到自己的阅读速度太慢,就可以利用业余时间,有意识地对自己的阅读进行计时。例如给自己规定15到20分钟,看看在规定时间内可以达到多少阅读量,有一个明确的时间观念后,就可以对自己的阅读速度有大致了解,经过刻意的训练,一定会提高阅读速度,达到满意的阅读效果。

### 第三节 常见阅读理解题型以及解题技巧

下面分别就考纲中要求的阅读能力进行详细说明。

#### 一、掌握所读材料的主旨和大意:

主旨题是阅读考试中常见的一种题型,要求考生明白所给材料的主旨和大意。常见的出题方式有:

1. The passage is mainly about \_\_\_\_\_.
2. What does the passage mainly discuss?
3. What is the main topic / idea / subject / purpose of this passage?
4. The author's purpose in writing this passage is \_\_\_\_\_.
5. Which of the following best states the theme of the passage?
6. The main idea of this passage may best be expressed as \_\_\_\_\_.
7. The passage appears to be a digest of \_\_\_\_\_.

有时候,题目要求考生为本文选择一个最佳标题,这也是主旨题的一种。例如:

1. Which of the following would be the most appropriate title for this passage?
2. The passage would best be entitled as \_\_\_\_\_.

下面我们先看一个例子,以此说明主旨题的解题方法。

(1998年真题,阅读文章第五篇)

Scattered around the globe are more than 100 small regions of isolated volcanic activity known to geologists as hot spots. Unlike most of the world's volcanoes, they are not always found at the boundaries of the great drifting plates that make up the earth's surface; on the contrary, many of them lie deep in the interior of a plate. Most of the hot spots move only slowly, and in some cases the movement of the plates past them has left trails of dead volcanoes. The hot spots and their volcanic trails are milestones that mark the passage of the plates.

That the plates are moving is now beyond dispute. Africa and South America, for example, are moving away from each other as new material is injected into the sea floor between them. The complementary coastlines and certain geological features that seem to span the ocean are reminders of where the two continents were once joined. The relative motion of the plates carrying these continents has been constructed in detail, but the motion of one plate with respect to another cannot readily be translated into motion with respect to the earth's interior. It is not possible to determine whether both continents are moving in opposite directions or whether one continent is stationary and the other is drifting away from it. Hot spots, anchored in the deeper layers of the earth, provide the measuring instruments needed to resolve the question. From an analysis of the hot-spot population it appears that the African plate is stationary and that it has not moved during the past 30 million years.

The significance of hot spots is not confined to their role as a frame of reference. It now appears that they also have an important influence on the geophysical processes that propel the plates across the globe. When a continental plate comes to rest over a hot spot, the material rising from deeper layers creates a broad dome. As the dome grows,

it develops deep fissures (cracks); in at least a few cases the continent may break entirely along some of these fissures, so that the hot spot initiates the formation of a new ocean. Thus just as earlier theories have explained the mobility of the continents, so hot spots may explain their mutability (inconstancy).

The passage is mainly about \_\_\_\_\_.

- A. the features of volcanic activities
- B. the importance of the theory about drifting plates
- C. the significance of hot spots in geophysical studies
- D. the process of the formation of volcanoes

本题答案是 C。文章第一段的开头就提供了解答本题的明显线索: Scattered around the globe are more than 100 small regions of isolated volcanic activity known to geologists as hot spots. 开门见山指出文章的主题, 是一篇介绍地热集中的地区 (hot spot) 的说明文。同时, 作者在第一段的结尾指出, The hot spots and their volcanic trails are milestones that mark the passage of the plates. 就是说, hot spot 可以记载板块运动的痕迹。

再看文章第二段的开头, 作者明确指出, 板块的移动已经成为无可争辩的事实, 并在其后举例说明。在本段结尾总结 From an analysis of the hot-spot population it appears that the African plate is stationary and that it has not moved during the past 30 million years. 根据对地热集中地区数量的分析可以看出非洲的板块在过去的三千万年中没有过移动。

文章第三段开头仍然紧扣主题, The significance of hot spots is not confined to their role as a frame of reference. It now appears that they also have an important influence on the geophysical processes that propel the plates across the globe. 指出地热集中地区的意义是多重的。由此可见, 本文主要讨论的内容就是地热集中地区存在的意义。

在一种语篇模式中, 作者往往先把要表达的思想概括成段落的主题句或者全文的理论句, 再在后文中用细节或者例子作进一步的阐述。一般说来, 在这样的文章中, 任何一个段落都有一个或几个表达主旨的句子, 称为 Topic Sentence, 或者简称 TS, 在文章中起指导发展和限定的作用。而采用这种结构的文章的主旨句都出现在文章开头的一两句中, 或者是文章的结尾处。

再比如下面这篇文章更为典型:

Believe it or not, optical illusion (错觉) can cut highway crashes.

Japan is a case in point. It has reduced automobile crashes on some roads by nearly 75 percent using a simple optical illusion. Bent strips, called chevrons (人字形), painted on the roads make drivers think that they are driving faster than they really are, and thus drivers slow down.

Now the American Automobile Association Foundations for Traffic Safety in Washington D. C. is planning to repeat Japan's success. Starting next year, the foundation will paint chevrons and other patterns of stripes on selected roads around the country to test how well the patterns reduce highway crashes.

Excessive speed plays a major role in as much as one fifty of all fatal traffic accidents, according to the foundation. To help reduce those accidents, the foundation will conduct its tests in areas where speed-related hazards are the greatest—curves, exit slopes, traffic circles, and bridges.

Some studies suggest that straight, horizontal bars painted across roads can initially cut the average speed of drivers in half. However, traffic often returns to full speed within months as drivers become used to seeing the painted bars.

Chevrons, scientists say, not only give drivers the impression that they are driving faster than they really are but also make a lane appear to be narrower. The result is a longer lasting reduction of highway speed and the number of traffic accidents.

The passage mainly discusses \_\_\_\_\_.

- A. a new way of highway speed control
- B. a new pattern for painting highways
- C. a new approach to training drivers
- D. a new type of optical illusion

本题答案是 A。文章讨论的是利用视觉错觉降低高速路上的车祸。文章开门见山就指明了这一主题,接着说日本在公路上涂上人字形条纹,通过视觉错觉使司机减速,美国也正准备效法,然后作者解释各种图案的效果,指出人字形条纹在控制高速路上车行速度,减少交通事故最为有效。可见,后面的内容都是围绕着文章的第一句展开的。

有些文章则是在开头通过提问的方式引入本文的主题,例如下文:

Why does cream go bad faster than butter? Some researchers think they have the answer, and it comes down to the structure of the food, not its chemical composition—a finding that could help rid some processed foods of chemical preservatives.

Cream and butter contain pretty much the same substances, so why cream should sour much faster has been a mystery. Both are emulsions—tiny globules of one liquid evenly distributed throughout another. The difference lies in what's in the globules and what's in the surrounding liquid, says Brocklehurst, who led the investigation.

In cream fatty globules drift about in a sea of water. In butter, globules of a watery solution are locked away in a sea of fat. The bacteria which make the food go bad prefer to live in the watery regions of the mixture. "This means that in cream, the bacteria are free to grow throughout the mixture," he says.

When the situation is reversed, the bacteria are locked away in compartments buried deep in the sea of fat. Trapped in this way, individual colonies cannot spread and rapidly run out of nutrients. They also slowly poison themselves with their waste products. "In butter, you get a self-limiting system which stops the bacteria growing," says Brocklehurst.

The researchers are already working with food companies keen to see if their products can be made resistant to bacterial attack through alterations to the food's structure. Brocklehurst believes it will be possible to make the emulsions used in salad cream, for instance, more like that in butter. The key will be to do this while keeping the salad cream liquid and not turning it into a solid lump.

文章就是紧密围绕着奶油为什么比黄油更容易变坏这个问题展开的。

但需要注意的是文章中位置比较靠前的表示转折意义的连词,英语中称为 trigger word。例如, however, nonetheless, but, nevertheless, on the contrary, still... The new findings are dramatically different... 等等。因为有相当数量的阅读文章都是在开头推翻前人的论点,并在后面提出自己新的观点。例如下面这篇文章就很容易让人感到迷惑。

Have you ever considered what an important part work plays in our general lifestyle? For most of us, our jobs are the main things that motivate and direct us, and around which we organize our lives. Perhaps this stress on work began with our Puritan forebears, who believed that the best way to serve God was through honest hard work, or perhaps our fundamental belief in work stems from a time when this country was young and we needed people who believed in hard work to carry out the arduous business of pioneering. Whatever the reason, it is undeniable that work is important to us. Think about the situation that arises when you meet someone and try to learn more about him or her. An early question is very frequently something such as, "What do you do?" or "Where do you work?" This kind of question usually follows "What's your name?" and is now so common with us that we do not stop to wonder why we ask it.

But, you know, it is very possible that in the future the question will disappear, and we might very well ask instead, "What do you play?"

Computers and other technological equipment are making jobs more automated and less personally demanding. Scientists tell us that one day in the foreseeable future, very few people will have to work. Our society will be run by computers and we will have a great deal more free time, so that our games will become more important than our jobs.

At the beginning of this century, almost everybody believed in work. But by the end of this century, we might be thinking quite differently. Today, people are divided into social classes in accordance with the types of work they

do; tomorrow, it is more than likely we will be divided according to the types of games we play.

This change in the use of our time may give rise to a new race of therapists called "fun specialists," who will fill the same functions as our current career specialists. They will show us how to get the most fun and enjoyment out of our leisure time. Someday people will no longer be known primarily by the work they do.

What is the main idea of the passage?

- A. Work plays an important part in our general lifestyle.
- B. It is very possible that game will replace work as the most important part in our life.
- C. People are divided into social classes in accordance with the types of work they do.
- D. Game players know how to get the most fun and enjoyment out of our leisure time.

本题答案是 B。有很多人都会通过看文章的开头选择 A。从本文的第一段来看,似乎是讲述工作对于我们生活的重要性,但是如果再往下看就会发现这只是本文的引子。在第二段的开头,作者用转折词 but 话锋一转,引向了游戏这个话题。

再比如下面这篇关于一个社会学概念的文章:

Conventional wisdom about conflict seems pretty much cut and dried. Too little conflict breeds apathy(冷漠) and stagnation(呆滞). Too much conflict leads to divisiveness(分裂) and hostility. Moderate levels of conflict, however, can spark creativity and motivate people in a healthy and competitive way.

Recent research by Professor Charles R. Schwenk, however, suggests that the optimal level of conflict may be more complex to determine than these simple generalizations. He studied perceptions of conflict among a sample of executives. Some of the executives worked for profit-seeking organizations and others for not-for-profit organizations.

Somewhat surprisingly, Schwenk found that opinions about conflict varied systematically as a function of the type of organization. Specifically, managers in not-for-profit organizations strongly believed that conflict was beneficial to their organizations and that it promoted higher quality decision making than might be achieved in the absence of conflict.

Managers of for-profit organizations saw a different picture. They believed that conflict generally was damaging and usually led to poor-quality decision making in their organizations. Schwenk interpreted these results in terms of the criteria for effective decision making suggested by the executives. In the profit-seeking organizations, decision-making effectiveness was most often assessed in financial terms. The executives believed that consensus rather than conflict enhanced financial indicators.

In the not-for-profit organizations, decision-making effectiveness was defined from the perspective of satisfying constituents. Given the complexities and ambiguities associated with satisfying many diverse constituents executives perceived that conflict led to more considered and acceptable decisions.

In the eyes of the author, conventional opinion on conflict is \_\_\_\_\_.

- A. oversimplified
- B. misleading
- C. wrong
- D. unclear

本题答案是 A。开头段介绍的是对于“冲突”这一概念传统的认识。当富有阅读经验的考生看到 conventional 一词时应该意识到作者将在后面推翻这一观念,提出与众不同的看法。果然,在文章第二段的第一句,就出现了一个转折连词 however。这表明第一段所述的观点正是作者欲批驳的内容。第二段开头即指出,Recent research by Professor Charles R. Schwenk, however, suggests that the optimal level of conflict may be more complex to determine than these simple generalizations.由 Schwenk 教授所主持的研究表明,冲突存在的最佳状态并非仅凭上述简单的归纳就可以确定。传统的结论过于简单化。

此外,需要注意的是,在某些文章中,作者并未开宗明义,直接说出主题思想,而是通过先论述,再概括的方法引出主题。这通常是由于作者为了吸引读者的兴趣,或者活跃气氛,用一个引子来开始他的文章。遇到这种情况时,我们需要抓住文章发展脉络,注意作者总结性的叙述。还有些时候,文章中没有任何明确概括主

题的句子,需要考生抓住关键词或者主要论题进行归纳总结。例如1999年真题第一篇文章是这样开头的:It is a rough world out there. Step outside and you could break a leg slipping on your doormat. Light up the stove and you could burn down the house. Luckily, if the doormat or stove failed to warn of coming disaster, a successful lawsuit might compensate you for your troubles. Or so the thinking has gone since the early 1980s, when juries began holding more companies liable for their customers' misfortunes.这几句并未交代文章的主题,要抓住本文的中心,必须注意这几句中的关键词,例如, lawsuit, compensate, hold...liable for等,从而对文章所述内容有一定的把握,并对后面即将讨论的问题进行预测。1999年第四篇文章也不是用主题句开头,而是:When a Scottish research team startled the world by revealing 3 months ago that it had cloned an adult sheep, President Clinton moved swiftly...虽然仅仅从本句中还看不出端倪,但是其中的关键词是 clone,可以联想到,本文内容显然和新技术——克隆——有着密切的关系。

此外,主旨题还可以通过另外一种方式出现,即要求考生对文章的某一部分,例如第一段,最后一段,第二、三段的内容进行总结。这是考研阅读题中出现频率非常高的一类题型。因为针对的内容篇幅较短,所以难度相对较低。例如1998年第三篇文章:

Science has long had an uneasy relationship with other aspects of culture. Think of Galileo's 17th-century trial for his rebelling belief before the Catholic Church or poet William Blake's harsh remarks against the mechanistic worldview of Isaac Newton. The schism between science and the humanities has, if anything, deepened in this century.

Until recently, the scientific community was so powerful that it could afford to ignore its critics—but no longer. As funding for science has declined, scientists have attacked “antiscience” in several books, notably *Higher Superstition*, by Paul R. Gross, a biologist at the University of Virginia, and Norman Levitt, a mathematician at Rutgers University; and *The Demon - Haunted World*, by Carl Sagan of Cornell University.

Defenders of science have also voiced their concerns at meetings such as “The Flight from Science and Reason,” held in New York City in 1995, and “Science in the Age of (Mis)information,” which assembled last June near Buffalo.

Antiscience clearly means different things to different people. Gross and Levitt find fault primarily with sociologists, philosophers and other academics who have questioned science's objectivity. Sagan is more concerned with those who believe in ghosts, creationism and other phenomena that contradict the scientific worldview.

A survey of news stories in 1996 reveals that the antiscience tag has been attached to many other groups as well, from authorities who advocated the elimination of the last remaining stocks of smallpox virus to Republicans who advocated decreased funding for basic research.

Few would dispute that the term applies to the Unabomber, whose manifesto, published in 1995, scorns science and longs for return to a pretechnological utopia. But surely that does not mean environmentalists concerned about uncontrolled industrial growth are antiscience, as an essay in *US News & World Report* last May seemed to suggest.

The environmentalists, inevitably, respond to such critics. The true enemies of science, argues Paul Ehrlich of Stanford University, a pioneer of environmental studies, are those who question the evidence supporting global warming, the depletion of the ozone layer and other consequences of industrial growth.

Indeed, some observers fear that the antiscience epithet is in danger of becoming meaningless. “The term ‘antiscience’ can lump together too many, quite different things,” notes Harvard University philosopher Gerald Holton in his 1993 work *Science and Anti - Science*. “They have in common only one thing that they tend to annoy or threaten those who regard themselves as more enlightened.”

Paragraphs 2 and 3 are written to \_\_\_\_\_.

- A. discuss the cause of the decline of science's power
- B. show the author's sympathy with scientists

- C. explain the way in which science develops
- D. exemplify the division of science and the humanitie

文章的第二段中,作者主要列举了几本受到科学家攻击的“反科学”的著作,在第三段中,作者提到了科学的捍卫者号召召开以“Flight from Science and Reason”为主题的会议。在第二段和第三段前面,作者提到本世纪中,文科和理科的分离已经加深。(The schism between science and the humanities has, if anything, deepened in this century.) 这说明第二段和第三段举的例子都是为了说明这一点的。因此D是最佳答案。

## 二、了解用以阐述主旨的事实和有关细节:

对近年的阅读考题稍作注意就可以发现,有关阐述主旨和有关细节的考题在阅读部分所占的比例最大。阅读一篇文章的时候,不仅要要对文章的主题有基本的把握,还要从文中找出说明问题,烘托文章主题的具体事实。

在解答这类题时,我们必须抓住文章的主题意思才能更迅速确定有关细节的位置,而对细节全面的了解则有助于对文章主题意思的判断。同时,我们必须认识到,文章中任何细节都是为说明主题服务,都不是孤立存在的,总会与有关事实前后呼应。此外,对作者在说明问题时的方法和手段的熟悉,也可以帮助我们迅速捕捉所需的细节。

常见的提问方式有:

1. 以 What, Which, Who, Where 等疑问词引导的疑问句。例如:

What were things like in 1980s when accidents happened?

What is the myth concerning giant dams?

Which of the following about the BBC is not mentioned as the key issue?

What is exceptionally remarkable about a child?

2. 以不完整的陈述句形式出现,这种出题方式占事实细节题中的绝大部分。例如:

We learn from the beginning that the Web business \_\_\_\_\_.

The case of Schutt helmet demonstrated that \_\_\_\_\_.

The panel agreed on all of the following except that \_\_\_\_\_.

It seems that some young scientists \_\_\_\_\_.

大部分有关具体事实细节的问题,都可以通过抓住问句中的关键词,确定问题在文章中相应的出处,仔细阅读相关的内容,有时候需要稍作分析,就可以确定正确答案。此类题总的来说比较容易,但是也有一部分题目在文中找不到和选项的表述相近的内容,需要考生对文章内容进行总结和归纳,并找出和文章内容最为相符的选项。

例如下面这篇文章:

Opinion poll surveys show that the public see scientists in a rather unflattering light. They are seen as cold, humorless, remote and unwilling (or unable) to communicate their specialized knowledge to ordinary people.

Commonly the scientist is also seen as being male; the characteristics listed above are popularly associated with "maleness". It is true that most scientists are male, but the picture of science as a male activity may be a major reason why fewer girls than boys opt for science, except when it comes to biology, which is seen as "female."

The image most people have of science and scientists comes from their own experience of school science, and from the mass media. Science teachers themselves see it as a problem that so many school pupils find school science an unsatisfying experience, thought over the last few years, more and more pupils, including girls, have opted for science subjects.

In spite of excellent documentaries, and some good popular science magazines, scientific stories in the media still usually alternate between miracle and scientific threat. The popular stereotype of science is like the magic of fairy tales: it has potential for enormous good or awful harm. Popular fiction is full of "good" scientists saving the world, and "mad" scientists trying to destroy it.

From all the many scientific stories which might be given media treatment, those which are chosen are usually

those which can be framed in terms of the usual news angles: novelty, threat, conflict, or the bizarre. The routine and often tedious work of the scientist slips from view, to be replaced with a picture of scientists forever offending public moral sensibilities (as in embryo research), threatening public health (as in weapon research), or fighting it out with each other (in giving evidence at public inquires such as those held on the issues connected with nuclear power.)

The mass media also tend to over-personalize scientific work, depicting it as the product of individual genius, while neglecting the social organization which makes scientific work possible. A further effect of this is that science comes to be seen as a thing in itself; a kind of unpredictable force; a tide of scientific progress.

It is no such thing, of course. Science is what scientists do; what they do is what a particular kind of society facilitates, and what is done with their work depends very much on who has the power to turn their discoveries into technology, and what their interests are.

1. According to the passage, ordinary people have a poor opinion of science and scientists because \_\_\_\_\_.
  - A. opinion polls are unflattering
  - B. science is badly taught in schools
  - C. scientists are shown in a negatively light in the media
  - D. science is considered dangerous
2. Media treatment of science tends to concentrate on \_\_\_\_\_.
  - A. the routine, everyday life of scientists
  - B. discoveries that the public will understand
  - C. the satisfaction of scientific work
  - D. the more sensational aspects of science
3. According to this passage, scientific work is stimulated by \_\_\_\_\_.
  - A. ambition
  - B. social demands
  - C. technological problems
  - D. internal pressures

文章主要讨论的是人们对科学家的成见。第一段和第二段主要提出一个问题,即人们认为科学家冷漠,缺乏幽默感,性格孤僻不合群,不善于和普通民众交流他们研究领域的知识。在第三段中,作者分析了人们为什么会认为科学家有这样的看法。有两方面的因素:一是人们自己在学校学习理科时不愉快的经历,还有就是大众传媒的报道。

第一题问的是人们对于科学和科学家为什么有这样的成见,答案显然应该到第三段中去找。首先,A和D须排除。B和C中,C是最佳选择,因为虽然这和人们在学校中学习的愉快的经历有关,但是文章中并未明确指出是因为学校的理科课程教的有问题。而“传媒的负面报道”是文章中明确提到的。

第四段说的是,传媒或者把科学描述成奇迹的创造者,或者将其形容成一个威胁。因此流行读物中充斥着拯救世界的“好”科学家和企图毁灭世界的“坏”科学家。

第五段是答对第二题的关键,主要讲的是传媒倾向于忽略科学家日常的平凡乏味的工作,却从新闻报道的标准出发,对科学研究的报道采取一种猎奇的态度,他们看重的是: novelty, threat, conflict, or the bizarre.

综观第四段和第五段的内容,我们只要略作小结就可以得出结论,第二题的答案应该为D。因为以上种种的描述都符合形容词 sensational 的含义。

第六段讲的是报道往往夸大个人的聪明才智,忽略了集体的培养。

第三题的相关内容在第七段中。根据本段第二句话,我们可以得出结论:科学工作是由社会需求所刺激的。因此答案为B。

1998年考题中的第四篇文章,有三道题都问的是细节:

Emerging from the 1980 census is the picture of a nation developing more and more regional competition, as population growth in the Northeast and Midwest reaches a near standstill.

This development—and its strong implications for US politics and economy in years ahead—has enthroned the South as America's most densely populated region for the first time in the history of the nation's head counting.

Altogether, the US population rose in the 1970s by 23.2 million people—numerically the third—largest growth ever recorded in a single decade. Even so, that gain adds up to only 11.4 percent, lowest in American annual records except for the Depression years.

Americans have been migrating south and west in larger numbers since World War II, and the pattern still prevails.

Three sun-belt states—Florida, Texas and California—together had nearly 10 million more people in 1980 than a decade earlier. Among large cities, San Diego moved from 14th to 8th and San Antonio from 15th to 10th—with Cleveland and Washington, D. C., dropping out of the top 10.

Not all that shift can be attributed to the movement out of the snow belt, census officials say. Nonstop waves of immigrants played a role, too—and so did bigger crops of babies as yesterday's "baby boom" generation reached its child-bearing years.

Moreover, demographers see the continuing shift south and west as joined by a related but newer phenomenon: More and more Americans apparently are looking not just for places with more jobs but with fewer people, too. Some instances……

Regionally, the Rocky Mountain states reported the most rapid growth rate—37.1 percent since 1970 in a vast area with only 5 percent of the US population.

Among states, Nevada and Arizona grew fastest of all: 63.5 and 53.1 percent respectively. Except for Florida and Texas, the top 10 in rate of growth is composed of Western states with 7.5 million people—about 9 per square mile.

The flight from overcrowdedness affects the migration from snow belt to more bearable climates.

Nowhere do 1980 census statistics dramatize more the American search for spacious living than in the Far West. There, California added 3.7 million to its population in the 1970s, more than any other state.

In that decade, however, large numbers also migrated from California, mostly to other part of the West. Often they chose—and still are choosing—somewhat colder climates such as Oregon, Idaho and Alaska in order to escape smog, crime and other plagues of urbanization in the Golden State.

As a result, California's growth rate dropped during the 1970s, to 18.5 percent—little more than two thirds the 1960s' growth figure and considerably below that of other Western states.

1. Discerned from the perplexing picture of population growth the 1980 census provided, America in 1970s \_\_\_\_\_.
  - A. enjoyed the lowest net growth of population in history
  - B. witnessed a southwestern shift of population
  - C. underwent an unparalleled period of population growth
  - D. brought to a standstill its pattern of migration since World War II
2. The census distinguished itself from previous studies on population movement in that \_\_\_\_\_.
  - A. it stresses the climatic influence on population distribution
  - B. it highlights the contribution of continuous waves of immigrants
  - C. it reveals the American's new pursuit of spacious living
  - D. it elaborates the delayed effects of yesterday's "baby boom"
3. We can see from the available statistics that \_\_\_\_\_.
  - A. California was once the most thinly populated area in the whole US
  - B. the top 10 states in growth rate of population were all located in the West
  - C. cities with better climates benefited unanimously from migration