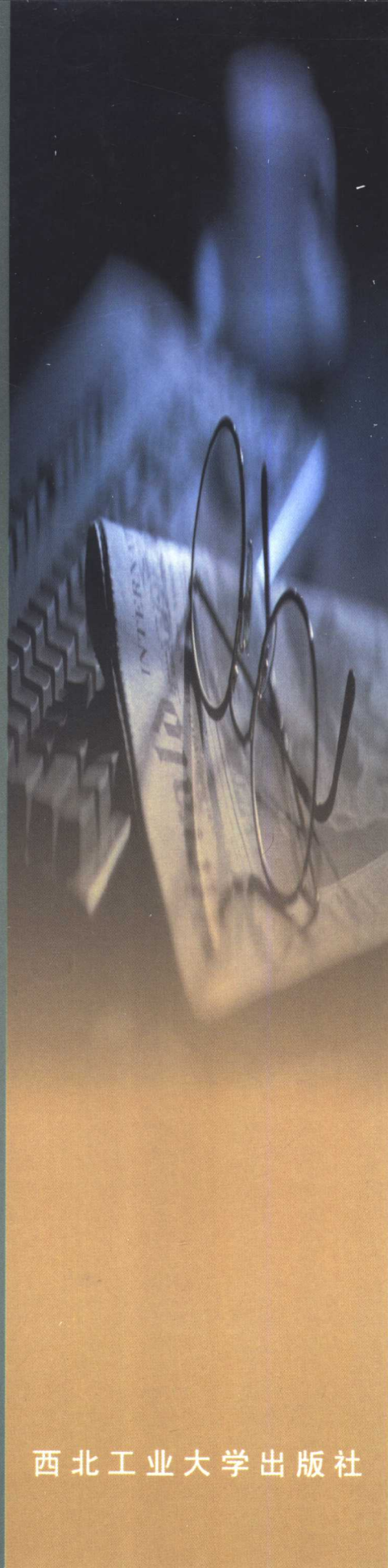


六级英语 阅读技巧训练题典

夏倚萍 贺毅 编著



西北工业大学出版社

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前言

本书是根据《大学英语教学大纲》、《大学英语六级考试大纲》的要求精心编著而成。目的是帮助使用者迅速提高英语阅读水平,通过大量的试题实践训练,培养语篇的分析能力。同时本书紧密把握六级阅读考试命题规律,使读者对英语阅读的认识实现从理论到实践的飞跃,进而顺利通过全国大学英语六级考试。本书与同类书籍相比,具有如下特点:

本书在选材和内容方面注重文章的时代性。文章题材均选自 20 世纪 90 年代后期英美出版的书籍、报刊及杂志,广泛地涉及当地的社会、政治、经济、文化、科技等题材,体现了很强的现实性和知识性;同时也饶有趣味,有益于启迪思维。此外,本书编撰的指导思想是“英语学习的过程是接受另外一种文化熏陶的过程”,所以其内容涉及很多欧美文化的介绍。

本书的选材在语言方面注重规范性。文章在文体、语篇结构、逻辑思维方面的难度与大学英语六级考试阅读文章接近。使用者在阅读时要注意理解句子之间的逻辑关系,理解词汇在上下文语境中的含义,就文章的内容进行判断、推理和信息转换。

本书每篇文章之后的阅读理解测试题是编者根据《大学英语六级考试大纲》的要求,并完全按照标准化样题的模式潜心编制而成,具有较强的适用性与针对性,而且最大限度地覆盖了《大学英语教学大纲》规定的内容。

本书每一单元之后附有语篇导读、难点破译、考点精解,就篇章、难句、考点作了详尽的解释,真正让使用者“知其然,知其所以然”。

本书练习部分的英语由美籍专家 Catherine Smith 女士审阅。在此,对她的辛勤劳动表示衷心的感谢。

由于编者水平有限,时间仓促,疏漏与不足之处在所难免,恳请读者批评指正。

编者

2003 年 3 月

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第一部分 大学英语六级考试阅读理解复习指导

一、形式与要求

大学英语六级考试阅读理解部分共 20 题,要求考生在 35 分钟内阅读四篇短文。每篇文章的长度约为 350 词,考生根据文章的内容,从每题的四个选项中选出一个最佳答案。

六级阅读文章的题材主要涉及两个大类:一类是科技方面的,如有关医学、动植物、海洋学、地质、遗传、天文、空间技术、生物技术等;另一类是社会方面的,如历史、人文、家庭、文化、教育、伦理、娱乐、交通、住房、环境、能源等。

大学英语六级考试的大纲规定阅读理解部分的文章“体裁可多样化,包括记叙文、说明文、议论文、评论文等”。但是,从实际情况来看,六级文章以有一定信息量的说明文和论说文为主。这类文章的主要特点是信息量较大而且较为复杂,逻辑性较强(主要以概括、判断、推理等抽象思维形式组织的),因而也就加大了六级阅读理解问题设置的难度。

六级阅读中语言的障碍主要不是来自于词汇本身,而是来自于句子的复杂结构和长句。但是,阅读技能的发展主要表现在对文字材料上越来越大的单位进行加工的能力上。就高级读者而言,阅读时不仅要理解字面的意思,还要能根据所读材料进行一定的判断和推论,进而理解文章的隐含意义和深层含义。因此,平时训练时必须注意语篇层次上的阅读理解,不能只停留在句子水平上,避免阅读中“只见树木不见森林”。语篇水平上的理解包括宏观上理解上下文的逻辑关系、掌握文章的主题思想、区分细节与主题、跟上作者思路的展开理解作者的观点态度和目的,通过分析判断和概括得出结论。

大学英语六级的阅读理解应达到下述能力:

- (1)掌握所读材料的主旨和大意;
- (2)了解说明主旨的大意的事实和细节;
- (3)既理解字面的意思,也能根据所读材料进行一定的判断和推理;
- (4)既理解个别句子的意思,也能理解上下文之间的逻辑关系。

根据这些阅读理解能力的要求,六级阅读理解的问题设置也有其特点。考生在准备时必须把握这些特点,从中找出规律,否则即使理解了文章的含义,在选择最佳答案时可能仍会犯错误。

本书每篇文章之后的阅读理解测试题是编者根据《大学英语六级考试大纲》的要求,完全按照标准化样题的模式潜心编制而成,具有较强的适用性与针对性,而且最大限度地覆盖了《大学英语六级教学大纲》规定的内容。本书主要培养学生掌握所读材料的主旨大意,既理解字面意义,也能根据所读材料进行一定的判断和推理,以提高准确、快速获取信息的能力。

二、学习的策略

在大学英语六级考试中,阅读理解题共占 40 分,是所有题型中占分比例最大的一道题。而且,阅读理解能力的高低直接影响到简答、完形填空、改错等题型的得分率,因为这些题型仍然是对考生进行语篇层次的考查。那么,如何才能提高语篇层次上的理解能力,达到大纲规定的要求呢?这正是我们编写本书的根本目的,我们认为关键要做到以下几点:

1. 首先要加强词汇的记忆

词汇是基础,阅读理解文章是由单个词汇组成的,如果词汇基础不牢,一旦碰到生词就会出现“阻滞”,影响整段甚至全文的理解。复习词汇要以大纲为蓝本,一般来说,阅读理解文章中出现的词汇不会超出大纲。本书在编写过程中也相当注重这一点。

应该指出的是,记忆大纲中的词汇往往只能“记住”单词的字面含义,只有通过大量的阅读理解才能“同化”词汇的含义,才能真正“掌握”词汇。所以,“词汇”与“阅读”是提高语篇分析能力的“双刃剑”。因此,应把复习重点从语法复习上转移到词汇和阅读理解上来。

2. 注重难句的分析

许多六级考生认为现在六级考试中已没有专门考查句型结构的考题,因此在复习或备考过程中往往忽略了这一部分的学习。然而,毋庸置疑的是句型结构是连接词汇与语篇的纽带。没有了句型结构的知识,那么死记硬背词汇也就没有任何意义,语篇的把握也就成了无源之水。在句法方面出现了问题,不但影响阅读的速度,而且会影响阅读的质量。解决问题的惟一途径是平时就打下扎实的基本功。

3. 多读多练

所谓的阅读技巧往往指的是能力的提高。只有平时多加训练,持之以恒,在大量阅读的基础上才能培养良好的阅读习惯,掌握一定的阅读技巧,提高阅读速度和答题正确率,最终达到质的飞跃。

平时要注意学会略读法、寻读法、细读法,熟悉各种阅读理解题型和解题技巧,能按大纲要求以每分钟 60 词以上的速度在规定时间内阅读完规定的文章,并能达到 75% 以上的正确率。

三、常见不良阅读习惯及纠正方法

对于阅读速度的提高,首先就必须注意纠正自己有些不良的阅读习惯。下面我们就谈一谈我们平时阅读中的一些不良的阅读习惯以及改正的方法:

1. 读速太慢

有些考生在阅读时喜欢逐字逐句地看,而不能将词连成词组按意群连贯地进行阅读。有人认为读得越慢,理解越透彻,记得也越牢。其实不然。读得太慢,精力不易高度集中,往往不能引起大脑皮层的高度兴奋。如果拘泥于个别词的词义或个别细节的理解,则会“只见树木,不见森林”,往往忽视文章中语篇层次的理解。反之,保持一定的阅读速度才会加强对全篇大意及细节的理解与把握。

2. 比画阅读

有的考生为了集中注意力,常常用手、笔或尺子指着单个的词进行阅读,这是不良的阅读

习惯。多余的机械运动不仅会大大减慢阅读速度,而且会影响对文章在语篇层次的理解。改进的方法主要是通过自觉地利用眼睛扫视来提高阅读速度。

3. 频繁回视

有些考生担心忘掉已读过的内容,读完了一句要读下一句时,又回过头重读一遍上一句,这样循环前进,频繁复视,大大降低了阅读速度。克服这种毛病的方法是:充分相信自己能记住已读过的内容,保持高度的警觉和思想的投入,一直往下读完全文,从而能够在上下文来理解文章的含义。

4. 心读

这是一种广泛的、较难克服的不良阅读习惯。因为心读时,觉察不到嘴唇、舌头或声带的活动,只存在一种说话的内在形式,就像电影或电视中的字幕在脑海中浮现出来一样。这种毛病与初学英语时必须经过逐字、逐句大声朗读方能理解课文含义和记忆单词意义有关。要克服这一毛病,必须大大提高阅读速度,因为速度很快时,就无暇顾及心读了。

四、注意考试时间的分配

六级考试中阅读时间是有规定的,考生需要在 35 分钟内完成,所以考生必须向其他考试部分“借”时间。阅读理解部分是和词汇部分放在一起的,那么是不是从策略上考虑,可以把规定的时间重新分配一下,如适当增加点阅读时间,从而解决阅读速度跟不上的问题,或解决由于阅读速度造成理解不够深入的问题。六级考试的阅读理解部分时间是 35 分钟,词汇部分的时间是 20 分钟。在实际使用时间时,用 40 分钟,甚至更多的时间做阅读理解题,用 15 分钟,甚至再少一点的时间做语法词汇题。这里有两个依据。词汇题和阅读理解题是两种不同性质的试题。虽同样是选择题,但语法词汇题并不和时间成正比,并不是说时间越多,正确率就越高。相反,往往看完第一遍,作出第一个决定最正确。而做好后再回头来看第二遍,再翻来覆去比较四个选择,往往越比越糊涂,常常把原来做得正确的答案改掉,选了一个错误答案。因此,做词汇题,有时时间紧一些,并不是坏事。而做阅读理解题则是和时间成正比的。时间越充裕,文章就看得越仔细,理解也就越透彻,正确率也就越高。再者,词汇题的得分值一般低于阅读理解的得分值。总之,“宝剑锋从磨砺出”,只要勤学苦练,定能取得进步。

第二部分 大学英语六级阅读理解强化训练

Unit 1

Passage 1

As companies merge and acquire to steal a march on their competitors, achieve economies of scale and extend their reach, so demand increases for banks that can service their needs more completely. Says Ian McKennan, banking analyst at Lehman Brothers in Hong Kong: "Large corporations will grow banks to match their requirements. You need to have large creatures to do business with other large creatures. In the past, pure investment banks had limited capital and balance sheets, of which they took full advantage of. Now they see themselves as partners of the new global firms, not merely service providers."

To fill that role adequately demands one thing: capital. "Larger and fewer", as one banker puts it, is the pattern for the millennium. Borrowers appreciate that. Notes Peter Balon, head of funding at the Asian Development Bank (ADB): "I don't say that bigger is best necessarily, but I think it is best to have highly capitalized, credit-worthy counter-parties involved in your transactions."

But what does all this mean for the clients of these services, the supposed source of much of this anticipated revenue growth? Corporate treasurers and financial officers observe the changes going on in the investment banking community at a closer range than most. They see the confusion and dislocation created by any merger first hand.

There is a consensus among Asian credits that the increased resources accumulated from this consolidation will result in an improved level of service, especially in capital-raising and advisory work, as larger resources are concentrated on the needs of end users. The short-term effect, however, is an immediate sense of discontinuity.

Accompanying this merger craze has been an unprecedented level of staff turnover, which has inevitably had a harmful effect on long-standing relationships at the corporate level.

1. The increasing demand for service-providing banks is a response to _____.
(A) the merging of large companies
(B) the concentration of the end users' needs
(C) an unprecedented level of staff turnover

- (D) an immediate sense of discontinuity
2. Speaking of the role of pure investment banks, the writer implies that ____.
- (A) large creatures have the qualifications to deal with large transactions
(B) gigantic banks are being created
(C) there is a radical change in nature
(D) the increasing concentration is certain to hurt consumers
3. The passage suggests that the improvement of service level will stem from ____.
- (A) the confusion and dislocation of corporate treasurers
(B) the unexpected revenue growth
(C) the attention to the end users' satisfaction
(D) the inevitable effect of corporate turnover
4. What would probably follow this passage?
- (A) The needs of clients.
(B) The discussion about staff turnover.
(C) The production of scale economy.
(D) The trend of globalization.
5. Toward the issue of investment banking, the writer's attitude can be said to be ____.
- (A) optimistic (B) biased
(C) objective (D) pessimistic

Passage 2

For anyone who is set on a career in fashion it is not enough to have succeeded in college. The real test is whether they can survive and become established during their early 20s making a name for themselves in the real world where business skills can count for as much as talent and creativity.

Fashion is a hard business. There is a continuous amount of stress because work is at a constant break-neck speed to prepare for the next season's collections. It is extremely competitive and there is the constant need to cultivate good coverage in newspapers and magazines. It also requires continual freshness because the appetite for new ideas is hard to satisfy. "We try to warn people before they come to us about how tough it is," says Lydia Kemeny, the Head of Fashion at St. Martin's School of Art in London, "and we point out that drive and determination are essential."

This may seem far removed from the popular image of fashionable young people spending their time designing pretty dresses. That may well be what they do in their first year of study but a good college won't be slow in introducing students to commercial

realities. We don't stamp on the blossoming flower of creativity but in the second year we start introducing the constraints of price, manufacturability, marketing and so on.

Almost all fashion design is done to a brief. It is not a form of self-expression as such, although there is certainly room for imagination and innovation. Most young designers are going to end up as employees of a manufacturer or fashion house and they still need to be able to work within the characteristic style of their employer. Even those students who are most avant-garde in their own taste of clothes and image may need to adapt to produce designs which are right for the mainstream of market. They also have to be able to work at both the exclusively expensive and the cheap end of the market and the challenge to produce good design inexpensively may well be more demanding than where money is no object.

6. In the eyes of the author, conventional wisdom to fashion business is _____.
(A) competitive (B) unclear
(C) misleading (D) oversimplified
7. The strong competition of fashion business is manifested in the fact that _____.
(A) young designers have to keep up with the taste of their employers
(B) designers are obliged to cultivate the appetite for new tastes
(C) young designers have to maintain good press contacts
(D) designers should not be slow in making prompt decisions
8. According to the author, training should acquaint the student with a knowledge of _____.
(A) corporate management
(B) marketing strategies
(C) selling skills
(D) fashion economies
9. It is stated in the passage that, initially, many young designers have to _____.
(A) repress their creativity
(B) change their personal taste in fashion
(C) conform to a certain image
(D) handle business problems
10. The main purpose of this passage is to _____.
(A) introduce some innovative ideas
(B) present an encouraging picture
(C) get rid of some common illusions
(D) discount the creative element

Passage 3

How can you find out what is going on inside a person's body— without opening the patient up? Regular X-rays can show a lot. CAT scans can show even more. They can give a three-dimensional view of body organs.

What is a CAT scan? CAT stands for *Computerized Axial Topography* (层面 X 光照相术). It is a special X-ray machine that obtains a 360-degree picture of a small area of a patient's body.

Doctors use X-rays to study and diagnose diseases and injuries within the body. X-rays can locate foreign objects inside the body or take pictures of some internal organs—if special substances as dyes or special liquids are added to the organs to be X-rayed.

A CAT scanner, however, uses a beam of X- rays to give a *cross-sectional* (横断面的) view of a specific part of the body. A fine beam of X-rays is scanned across the body and rotated around the patient from many different angles. A computer analyzes the information from each angle and produces a clear cross-sectional image on a screen. This image is then photographed for later use. Several cross-sections, taken one after another, can give clear “photos” of the entire body or of any body organs. The newest CAT scanners can even give clear images of active, moving organs, just as a fast-action camera can “stop the action”, giving clear images of what appears only mistily to the eye. And because of the 360-degree pictures, CAT scans show 3-dimensional views of organs in a manner that was once only revealed during surgery or *autopsy* (解剖).

Too much exposure to X-rays can cause skin burns, cancer or other damage to the body. Yet CAT scans actually don't expose the patient to more radiation than conventional X rays do. CAT scans can also be done without injecting dyes into the patient, so they are less risky than regular X-rays procedures.

CAT scans provide accurate, detailed information. They can detect such a thing as bleeding inside the brain. They are helping to save lives.

11. “Foreign objects” (Line 2, Para. 3) most probably refers to ____.

- (A) a substance which gets inside the body by accident
- (B) a strange organ that has grown in the body
- (C) a new thing that is unknown to the doctors
- (D) a severely injured part inside the body

12. What is NOT true of a CAT scan?

- (A) It utilizes computer techniques.
- (B) It can stop the action of an organ for a fraction of a second.
- (C) It is safer than regular X-ray procedures.
- (D) It gives clear images of active, moving body parts.

13. What is the special feature of the latest CAT scanners?
 - (A) It provides clear photos of moving organs.
 - (B) It won't cause serious skin burns, cancer or other damage to the body.
 - (C) It can take 3-dimensional pictures of internal organs.
 - (D) It helps to find out what is going on inside a person's body without opening it up.
14. It is implied but NOT directly stated in the passage that _____.
 - (A) CAT scanners can take photos of either the whole body or one part of it
 - (B) CAT scanners do not need the injection of dyes
 - (C) the patients can be exposed to a slight amount of radiation safely
 - (D) CAT scanners are more expensive than regular X-ray procedures
15. Which of the following might be the best title for this passage?
 - (A) The Newest Medical Invention.
 - (B) Advantages and Disadvantages of CAT Scanners.
 - (C) A New Type X-ray Machine to Save Lives.
 - (D) How to Avoid Exposure to X-rays.

Passage 4

Birds always seem intensely active because of high body temperature and the liveliness that comes of flight. But being intensely alive does not necessarily mean being intensely intelligent, as we know from human examples. In respect to their minds as much as their bodies, birds have developed along other lines than mammals.

Mammals have gradually perfected intelligence and the capacity for learning by experience until this line has reached the highest point in that conscious reason and in that deliberate reliance upon the accumulated experience of previous generations which are unique properties of the human species. Among mammals the level of intelligence has gradually risen, and simultaneously the power and fixedness of instincts has diminished. Birds, on the other hand, have kept instinct as the main support of their behavior, although, like all other back-boned animals, they possess some intelligence and some power of profiting by experience. These are subordinate, however, used merely to polish up the group of instincts which is provided by heredity without having to be paid for in terms of experience.

Indeed the anatomist could support these observations made by comparing the brains of birds and mammals. For whereas in mammals we can trace a steady increase in the size and elaboration of the brain hemispheres, the front part of the brain which we know to be the seat of intelligence and learning, this region is never highly developed in any birds, but remains relatively small without *convolutions* (沟纹) on the surface. Other parts of the brain

which are known to the regulating machinery for complicated but more automatic and more emotional actions are in birds relatively larger than in the four-footed creatures.

16. The intelligence of birds is inherently limited by their ____.
- (A) small cerebral hemisphere (B) extreme liveliness
(C) well-developed instincts (D) high body temperature
17. It can be inferred from the passage that the degree of activity in a given animal is related to the ____.
- (A) size of cerebral hemisphere (B) number of cerebral convolution
(C) accumulated experience (D) body temperature
18. According to the author, instinctive action in birds is ____.
- (A) unaffected by learning (B) independent of conscious reason
(C) dependent upon intelligence (D) a measure of their intelligence
19. The expression “accumulated experience” (Line 3, Para. 2), as used in the passage, could properly imply all the following EXCEPT ____.
- (A) language use (B) manual abilities
(C) science and technologies (D) social institutions
20. An ambiguity exists in the last sentence because the author fails to take into account the fact that ____.
- (A) not all four-footed creatures are mammals
(B) mammals are also emotional creatures
(C) some birds do not need a regulating machinery
(D) mammals also carry on automatic actions

探索与熟谙

Passage 1

语篇导读

本文属于经济学方面的论说文。文章的背景主题段阐述了大公司合并导致了银行界的战火纷争,以及银行职能根本性的改变。随后讨论了这一改变所产生的利弊,发人深省地提出了“是否越大就越好的问题”。

难点破译

1. “As companies... that can service their needs more completely.” (Lines 1~3, Para. 1)
本句为“as”引导的原因状语从句,“steal a march on”意义为“抢先一步行动”,“economies of scale”意义为“规模经济”。句意为“由于比对手抢先一步行动,公司通过合并,取得了规模经济的效应和扩大了它们的势力范围,所以对于那些能为它们提供更为全面服务的银行的需求也就随之增加了。”
2. “There is a consensus ... as larger resources are concentrated on the needs of end users.” (Lines 1~3, Para. 4)
本句主干结构仍为“as”引导的原因状语从句,“consensus”意义为“一致意见”,“consolidation”本义为“加强”,在此语境中引申为“合并”。句意为“亚洲信贷界达成一种共识,合并所导致的资源增加会促成服务水平的提高,尤其在筹资和提供咨询方面,因为更多的资源可以集中起来以满足最终用户的需要。”
3. “Accompanying this merger craze ... at the corporate level.” (Lines 1~3, Para. 5)
本句主干结构为倒装结构,主语部分是“level of staff turnover”,“which”引导的定语从句修饰前一小句。“unprecedented”意义为“前所未有的”。句意为“随这种并购热潮同时出现的将是公司员工的跳槽达到了一种前所未有的境地。这将不可避免地给公司管理阶层中长期存在的各种关系带来负面的影响。”

考点精解

1. (A)。本题考点为全文的背景主题句,即第1小句。问题为“人们对服务性银行的需求不断增加,其原因是什么?”参见“难点破译”第1点。
2. (C)。注意第1自然段第2层次中使用的时间词汇:“in the past”和“now”。正确答案为原文信息的归纳。
3. (C)。因果逻辑题。见“难点破译”第2点。
4. (B)。文章的下文往往与最后一段的话题有关。最后一段的话题为“员工的跳槽问题”。
5. (C)。作者在阐述合并问题时,其语气是客观的。参见“语篇导读”。

Passage 2

语篇导读

本文写作的目的在于揭示大众对时装工业持有的某些偏见。文章开门见山地说明从事该行业不但需要具有创造性,而且需要从商的理念。之后,说明了从业人员需要经历的艰辛,指出在该行业成功并非易事。

难点破译

1. "For anyone who is set ... in college." (Lines 1~2, Para. 1)
本句没有生僻单词或复杂的句型结构,但需注意“set on a career in”意为“投身于某行业”。此外“fashion”不能理解为“时髦或流行”,而该作“时装设计”解释。
2. "That may well be what they do in their ... commercial realities" (Lines 2~3, Para. 3)
在本从句中“may well be”意为“确实可能”。句意为“第一年的学习可能的确如此(只做设计),但有名的学院会马上给学生传授有关商业的知识”。
3. "Even those students who are ... of market." (Lines 4~6, Para. 4)
由“who”引导的主语从句中,“avant-garde”意思是“先锋的,有大胆创意的,前卫的”。句意为“甚至那些在服装及造型设计上最有创意的学生也必须为适应市场主流而调整自己的设计风格”。
4. "They also have to ... where money is no object." (Lines 6~8, Para. 4)
句子的主干为“and”引导的复句结构。句意为“他们也必须应付高档的市场和低档的市场,因此优秀而便宜的时装设计往往比起不以赚钱为目的而进行的设计所面临的艰辛往往要多”。

考点精解

6. (D)。通观作者在全篇文章中的语气,可知本文的目的是澄清一些外行对时装工业所持有的误解。参见每个自然段的背景主题句。
7. (C)。参见第2自然段的发展句。作者认为“时装设计者面临一种让人喘不过气来的压力,是因为要不停地为下一个季节的款式做准备;行业竞争相当激烈,需要在报纸和杂志中进行宣传;需要不断开发新的款式,因为顾客的品味总难以满足”。其他的选项有悖于原文的信息。
8. (B)。参见“难点破译”第2,4点。
9. (A)。注意本题询问的是年轻的设计者在事业开始时所面对的情形。参见“难点破译”第3点。“repress”意为抑制。
10. (C)。参见“语篇导读”。

Passage 3

语篇导读

这是一篇科普文章,作者用生动的比喻向人们介绍了层面X光照相术的功能及用途,并阐述了其与同类设备相比所具有的优点:拍照活动器官和不给被测试者带来高于身体所能承受的辐射。