

新编大学英语阅读与翻译

(四 级)

主 编:刘明东 张治英
副主编:王 芳 陈伟莲 郭庭军

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· 长沙 ·

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E-mail: gfkdcbs@ public. cs. hn. cn

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前 言

听、说、读、写、译为外语学习的五项基本技能,但“对许多学生来说,阅读是最重要的一种技能”(Carrel,1989)。目前我国各种大学英语教材在阅读量的安排上,大学英语阅读课时的比重以及四、六级等英语测试中阅读部分的比分均能说明,阅读仍为我国大学英语中重要的一种技能。随着新世纪科技的日新月异,世界各国人民之间的信息交流不断扩大,作为这种交流的重要工具——翻译也就越来越受到人们的重视。为了帮助读者攻克大学英语阅读和翻译难关,同时为顺利通过四级考试打下坚实的基础,我们编写了这本书。

本书是根据国家教育部最新颁布的《大学英语教学大纲》和《大学英语四级考试大纲》,经过精心选材、合理加工编写而成的。全书分为两大部分。第一部分为理论篇,其中包括阅读与翻译的要求,阅读的常用方法及解题技巧,英译汉的标准、过程和常用基本技巧。第二部分为实践篇,其中精选了大量的多选题型阅读理解、汉译英及简答题供读者进行系统训练,巩固和实践所学到的阅读和翻译理论知识。

本书是近10年来编者教授本科生四级英语阅读与翻译的经验提炼和总结,实践证明具有较强的实用和指导价值。本书可作为大学本科生和欲参加四级考试的考生的辅导教材,也可作为大学英语教师的参考书。为了增强自测题的效果,所有答案均未附于书后,而是由教师掌握。

在本书的编写过程中参考了大量的国内外有关资料,在此我们向有关作者致以深深的谢意。由于时间仓促,书中不妥之处在所难免,敬请读者批评、指正。

编 者

2000.1

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第一部分 理论篇

一、阅读与翻译的要求

1. 阅读的要求

新修订的《大学英语教学大纲》对我国非英语专业大学生在基础阶段(1~2 年级)的英语阅读能力提出的基本要求为:“能顺利阅读并正确理解语言难度中等的一般性题材的文章,掌握中心大意,了解说明中心大意的事实和细节,能根据所读材料进行一定的分析、推理和判断,了解作者的观点和态度,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,能正确理解中心大意,抓住主要事实和有关细节,阅读速度达到每分钟 100 词。”较高要求为:“能顺利阅读并正确理解语言难度较高、题材广泛的一般性文章,掌握中心大意,理解有关的事实和细节;能就文章的内容进行分析、推理、判断和综合概括,了解作者的观点和态度,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,能正确理解中心大意,抓住主要事实和有关细节,阅读速度达到每分钟 120 词。”

《大学英语四级考试大纲》对阅读理解的要求为考生在 35 分钟内完成 20 题。要求考生阅读若干篇短文(一般为 4 篇),总阅读量不超过 1000 词。每篇短文后有若干个(常为 5 个)问题。考生应根据文章内容从每题四个选项中选出一个最佳答案。选材的原则是:

(1)题材广泛,可以包括人物传记、社会、文化、日常知识、科普常识等,但是所涉及的背景知识应能为学生所理解;

(2)体裁多样,可以包括叙述文、说明文、议论文等;

(3)文章的语言难度中等,无法猜测而又影响理解的关键词,如超出教学大纲词汇表四级的范围,用汉语注明词义。

阅读理解部分主要测试下述能力:

(1)掌握所读材料的主旨和大意;

(2)了解说明主旨和大意的事实和细节;

(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论;

(4)既理解个别句子的意义,也理解上下文的逻辑关系。

阅读理解部分的目的是测试学生通过阅读获取信息的能力,既要求准确,也要求有一定的速度。

“简短回答题”为全国大学英语四、六级考试委员会公布的第二批新题型之一,在考试卷面上紧接在“阅读理解”部分之后。每次考试为一篇三百字左右的短文,短文的题材和难

易程度与“阅读理解”部分的篇章相似。文章后有 5 个问题或不完整的句子,要求考生在阅读文章后用简短的英语——句子、单词或短语——来回答所提的问题或补充不完整的句子。考试时间为 15 分钟。“简短回答题”主要考核考生对英语书面材料的确切理解能力和一定的表达能力。

2. 翻译的要求

新修订的《大学英语教学大纲》对我国非英语专业大学生在基础阶段(1—2 年级)的译的能力提出的基本要求为:“能借助词典将与课文难度相仿的英语短文译成汉语,理解正确,译文达意,译速为每小时 300 英语单词。能借助词典将内容熟悉的汉语文字材料译成英语,译文忠实原意,无重大语言错误,译速为每小时 200 汉字。”较高要求为:“能借助词典将与课文难度相仿的英语译成汉语,理解正确,译文达意,译速为每小时 350 英语单词。能借助词典将内容熟悉的汉语文字材料译成英语,译文忠实原意,无重大语言错误,译速为每小时 200 汉字。”

大学英语四级考试的第一批新增题“英译汉”从属于“阅读理解”部分,从“阅读理解”的四篇文章中分别选择一个或两个句子组成一题,共五题,要求考生在 15 分钟内将这五题译成汉语,每题 2 分,共计 10 分。翻译时可参阅“阅读理解”部分相关文章,以便了解上下文。“英译汉”主要考核考生对英语书面材料的确切理解能力。

二、阅读的常用方法及解题技巧

1. 略读

略读(skimming)又称“浏览”,指的是快速浏览一遍文章,只需要注意其中心思想,而不必注意其细节,以获取文章的主要信息。略读时应将注意力放在短文的主题句和结论句上(由多段组成的短文则注意每段的主题句和结论句),至于具体的细节可一扫而过。

[例一]

There is a simple economic principle used to determine prices. It is called the law of supply and demand. Supply means the amounts of, or access to certain goods. If there are more goods than wanted, the price of them falls. On the other hand, if the demand for those goods is much greater than the supply, then the price rises. Of course manufacturers prefer to sell more goods at increased prices.

What is the best title which expresses the ideas of the passage?

- A) Economic Principle
- B) Law of Supply and Demand
- C) More Goods, Lower Prices
- D) Fewer Goods, Higher Prices
- E) Government Controls Supply and Demand

本段的前两句道出了主题,后面讲的是 supply 和 demand 的具体关系。因而 B 应为正

确答案。

[例二]

These days, people who do manual work often receive far more money than clerks who work in offices. People who work in offices are frequently referred to as "white collar workers" for the simple reason that they usually wear a collar and tie to go to work. Such is human nature, that a great many people are often willing to sacrifice higher pay for the privilege of becoming white collar workers. This can give rise to curious situations, as it did in the case of Alfred Bloggs who worked as a dustman for the Ellesmere Corporation. When he got married, Alf was too embarrassed to say anything to his wife about his job. He simply told her that he worked for the Corporation. Every morning, he left home dressed in a fine black suit. He then changed into overalls and spent the next eight hours as a dustman. Before returning home at night, he took a shower and changed back into his suit. Alf did this for over two years and his fellow dustmen kept his secret. Alf's wife has never discovered that she married a dustman and she never will, for Alf has just found another job. He will soon be working in an office. He will be earning only half as much as he used to, but he feels that his rise in status is well worth the loss of money. From now on he will wear a suit all day and others will call him "Mr. Bloggs", not "Alf".

The central idea of this paragraph is _____.

- A) the social position of those who do manual work is inferior to that of "white collar workers"
- B) people who do manual work often earn much more money than clerks who work in offices
- C) Alf didn't tell his wife about his job because he was afraid that, on knowing what he was doing, she would never marry him
- D) Alf felt that his rise in status was well worth the loss of money

从本段的前三句便可得知文章的大意为 A, 其余的句子则为一个实例, 用来证明文章大意的, 可略去不读。

Exercise One

(一)

Experience, it is said, is a costly teacher. Direct experience is often desirable, despite its cost, but not all our experience can or need be acquired directly. It is possible to avoid disaster, for instance, and yet lay hold of the quality of character that disaster sometimes creates or at least reveals. The imaginative projection of ourselves into the consciousness of others, through literature, yields experiences that would be too strenuous to endure without hazard in actual life, and yet can chasten and humanize us, bringing us to a better understanding of ourselves and others. The range of such vicarious experiences is surprisingly large and var-

ied—from the outrageous to the sublime—but they are most meaningful to the reader when they complement his actual experiences. Steinbeck's "The Chrysanthemums" holds much meaning for any woman who has even vaguely felt herself beckoned by something beyond her daily life, and Yeats' "Down by the Salley Gardens" cuts deep into the man who already regrets that he has restrained himself from tasting more freely life's pleasures.

The central idea is _____.

- A) experience can be acquired indirectly through literature
- B) experience can be acquired directly
- C) not all our experience need be acquired directly
- D) a man will regret having restrained himself from sampling more freely life's pleasures

(二)

By the time the first European travelers on the American continent began to record some of their observations about Indians, the Cherokee people had developed an advanced culture that probably was exceeded only by the civilized tribes of the Southwest: Mayan and Aztec groups. The social structures of Cherokee people consisted of a form of clan kinship in which there were seven recognized clans. All members of a clan were considered blood brothers and sisters and were bound by honor to defend any members of the clan from wrong. Each clan, the Bird, Paint, Deer, Wolf, Blue, Long Hair, and Wild Potato was represented in the civil council by a counselor or counselors. The chief of the tribe was selected from one of these clans and did not inherit his office from his kinsmen. Actually, there were two chiefs, a Peace chief and a War chief. The Peace chief served when the tribe was at peace, but the minute war was declared, the War chief was in command.

Select the statement which best expresses the main idea of the paragraph.

- A) The Cherokee chief was different in war time than in peace time.
- B) Before the arrival of the Europeans the Cherokees had developed a well-organized society.
- C) The Mayans and the Aztecs were part of the Cherokee tribe.
- D) Several Indian cultures had developed advanced civilizations before Europeans arrived.

(三)

In 1860, Fishport was a small rural settlement on the west coast of Newland with a population of 204 pioneers. The inhabitants were small farmers and fishermen. They farmed the land during the summer months and survived the sub-zero-temperatures from November to May fishing and hunting. The population of Fishport rose steadily. The birth rate and longevity increased and child mortality decreased due to improvements in medical care and

greater attention to problems of nutrition. By 1950, there were 2,000 people living in the community.

In the 1940's and early 1950's, exploration companies discovered large deposits of iron ore and other minerals in a region some 500 km inland. There is now a 500 km railroad which carries minerals from Iron City and Fairview to Fishport. There, the minerals are loaded directly onto ships to be transported to the industrial centers in southern Newland or exported to foreign countries. As a result of this development, Fishport's population rose dramatically until, by 1980, there were 110,000 residents. Immigration from other countries was higher than that of other areas of Newland and, consequently, Fishport is now a multi-lingual urban community. It has a small but busy airport and road, rail and sea links with most important towns in the rest of the country.

The Fishport town council is now seriously concerned about the size of the community and about its future. If the town continues to grow at the same rate as for the last twenty-year period, it will have nearly 200,000 inhabitants by the year 2,000. If this happens, hospitals, housing, schools, and other important service will all be inadequate.

1. What does the passage mainly talk about?
 - A) Mineral wealth in a country called Newland
 - B) The growth of a town called Fishport.
 - C) The early settlers of a town called Fishport.
 - D) The people living in Fishport.
2. Which of the following is the best title of the passage?
 - A) Agricultural Life in Fishport
 - B) The Growth of Urban Communities
 - C) The History and Development of Fishport
 - D) The Observed Effect of Population Growth on a Rural village in Western Newland

(四)

The human volunteer is a man who is in greater and greater demand in these days of expanded scientific research. For the time comes, despite all laboratory work, all the experiments with animals, and all the microscopic analyses, when only a human being can provide the true test.

Today, the human volunteer may fall into one of three broad groupings: military men, prisoners, and volunteers whose religious or other convictions lead them to such work. Among these men and women you will find those who will take shots of the new vaccines, who will swallow radioactive drugs, who will fly higher than anyone else, who will watch malaria-infected mosquitoes feed on their bare arms, who will eat nothing but rice for six weeks, and who will permit themselves to be locked alone in chambers too small to stretch

their legs.

Why do human guinea pigs volunteer? Some may be seeking adventure; others recognition; but most are moved by religious convictions or a strong sense of scientific dedication.

Studies by psychiatrists of several groups of volunteers have shown that, in addition to these reasons, some have been motivated by the desire to avoid unpleasant situations at home or to hold off making decisions on their future careers. While still others volunteered because, unconsciously, they felt guilty of about something they had done or thought they had done and wanted to atone for it. One study made of 29 volunteers also indicated that there was some emotional disturbance in 15 of them, ranging from personality disorders to neurotic reactions.

Is there a little of the volunteer in all of us? Maybe. The polls report that more than five million Americans are willing to take the first flight to the moon.

1. Which of the following statements best expresses the main idea of the passage?
 - A) The main idea of the passage is about how important the human volunteer is in scientific research.
 - B) The passage is about methods being used in scientific experiments.
 - C) The passage deals mainly with motives demonstrated by a particular group of people.
 - D) The passage deals with how scientists carry on experiments.
2. Which of the following statements is false?
 - A) Some volunteers are motivated by a strong sense of scientific dedication.
 - B) Some volunteers are seeking adventures.
 - C) Some volunteers are trying to get rid of family troubles.
 - D) Some volunteers desire to die peacefully.

2. 查阅

查阅(scanning),或称“跳读”,指的是有针对性地在文章中查找与某一问题、某一观点或某一单词有关的信息。查阅时必须了解所查阅的属何种信息,并把握所查信息的特点(如数字多用阿拉伯数字书写、人名和地名等专有名词的首字母用大写等),同时对那些与所查阅内容不相关的信息跳过不管。

[例一]

Now she came in sight, walking across the open toward the camp. She was wearing jodhpurs and carrying her rifle. The two boys had a Tommie slung and they were coming a-long behind her. She was still a goodlooking woman, he thought, and she had a pleasant body. She had a great talent and appreciation for the bed. She was not pretty, but he liked her face. She read enormously, liked to ride and shoot and, certainly, she drank too much. Her husband had died when she was still a comparatively young woman and for a while she had devoted herself to her two just-grown children, who did not need her and were embar-

rassed at having her about, to her stable of horses, to books, and to bottles. She liked to read in the evening before dinner and she drank Scotch and soda while she read. By dinner she was fairly drunk and after a bottle of wine at dinner she was usually drunk enough to sleep.

What did she like to do while she was reading?

- A) She liked to ride and shoot.
- B) She liked to drink soda at dinner.
- C) She liked to read in the evening before dinner.
- D) She liked to drink Scotch and soda.

先看问题,然后快速读文章,注意力只放到 while she was reading 上,对于与它不相关的信息略去不管。当读到倒数第二句时,便可得出正确答案 D。

• [例二]

Japan is an island country in the Pacific Ocean. There are four main islands and more than 3,000 small ones that stretch from north to south for about 1,300 miles. As for the climate of the country, it is hot and humid in the summer; cold and wet in the winter.

The population of Japan is about 110 million. The average population density of the country is about 678 persons per square mile. Just in comparison, the average population density of the United States was listed at fifty-seven persons per square mile. About two thirds of the entire population lives in Japan's cities. The other one third lives in the suburbs or in the rural areas. As a matter of fact, no other country in southern or eastern Asia has such a large urban, or city, population.

Japan has a wide variety of resources, but their quantity is really very small. So Japan must import most of its minerals. Japan must also import large quantities of food and raw materials. And in order to pay for these goods, the Japanese export products that they manufacture, such as TVs, cars, and so forth. Since World War II, Japan has become one of the world's chief industrial and manufacturing countries, and the Japanese people enjoy a high standard of living.

As many people know, respect for learning and tradition and a love of beauty are traditional Japanese characteristics. The Japanese often express this love of beauty in the creation and enjoyment of beautiful art, sculpture, ceramics, and theater productions.

Although they are a very industrious, hard-working, and enterprising people, the Japanese still manage to enjoy their leisure time. They really enjoy sports, such as soccer, swimming, judo, wrestling, Karate, and baseball. They also like to take vacation trips in their own country and abroad.

1. How many main islands make up the country of Japan?
A) five B) four C) seven D) six
2. How many miles long is the country of Japan from north to south?
A) three hundred B) one thousand
C) one thousand three hundred D) three thousand one hundred

3. How many people per square mile are there in Japan?
A)578 B)778 C)621 D)678
4. What percentage of the Japanese population lives in the rural areas?
A) $\frac{1}{3}$ B) $\frac{2}{3}$ C) $\frac{1}{4}$ D) $\frac{2}{4}$
5. What must Japan import from abroad in large quantities?
A)food and raw materials B)materials and products
C)food and goods D)TVs and cars
6. Since when has Japan become a chief industrial and manufacturing country?
A)World War I B)1963 C)World War II D)1950
7. What attitude do the Japanese take for learning?
A)love B)respect C)dislike D)hatred
8. Which sport was not mentioned in the article?
A)Judo B)Karate C)wrestling D)hockey

题一问的是 main islands 的数量,从第二句就可查找到它这两个词并得出正确答案为 B。

题二问的是南北距离,因而可查找文中的阿拉伯数字,很快便可查出答案为 C。

题三问的是每平方公里有多少人,因而重点注意阿拉伯数字及关键词 per square mile 便可得出正确答案为 D。

题四的关键词为 rural areas,查找到它(第二段倒数第二句),便可得出正确答案为 A。

题五问的是大量进口的是什么,关键词是 import 和 large quantities,在第三段第三句找到它们后便可得出正确答案为 A。

题六的四个选项分别为阿拉伯数字和以大写字母开头的专有名词,可到文章中直接查找,在第三段的最后一句中找到正确答案 C。

题七的关键词是 learning,在第四段第一行找到后便可发现正确答案为 B。

题八是关于运动项目的,在最后一段倒数第二句便可发现 D 没有提到,即为正确答案。

Exercise Two

(一)

Until recently, the ability to make tools was considered one of the characteristics that distinguished humans and their ancestors from all other animals. In 1964, Dr. Jane M. Goodall shattered this belief when she observed that chimpanzees in the African forest frequently make simple tools for catching termites(白蚁). The ape first looks for the right materials. It carefully selects a twig of the correct size and shape and then strips off the leaves. Then the ape inserts the twig into a hole in the termite nest. When the twig is pulled out, it is covered with delectable insects.

1. According to the passage, when chimpanzees need tools they first look for _____.

- | | |
|-----------------|-------------------------|
| A)a deep hole | B)appropriate materials |
| C)leaves to eat | D)a termite nest |
2. Chimpanzees make simple tools to _____.
- | | |
|---------------|----------------|
| A)build nests | B)select twigs |
| C)catch food | D)strip leaves |

(二)

Washington was chosen as the site of the nation's capital in 1790. In 1800 Congress and the rest of the government moved from Philadelphia to Washington, where they have been located ever since. Approximately half-way between New England and Georgia, it was a compromise site between North and South. Washington was also at the head of the Potomac River tidewater, well situated for commerce, but far enough inland to protect it against sea attack.

Pierre L'Enfant, a Frenchman, was selected as the original designer of the city. Most of his plans for Washington have come to fruition, despite his disputes with the federal government.

The District of Columbia was laid out in the shape of a diamond, with the corners pointing exactly north, south, east and west. The U. S. Capitol is in the center, and imaginary lines drawn from it to each of the corners divide the city into four quadrants—northwest (N. W.), northeast (N. E.), southwest (S. W.), and southeast (S. E.). The quadrant designation is an integral part of all D. C. addresses.

Streets running north-south are numbered from the Capitol, and streets running east-west are lettered from the Capitol, so that many names appear twice or more in opposite ends of the city. For example, 6th Street and I Street (sometimes written Eye Street) intersect in the N. W. , S. W. , N. E. , and S. E. quadrants. Toward the end of the alphabet, close to the district limits, two and then three syllable alphabetized words serve as street names. (There is no J Street, however, since John Jay was a traitor to the revolution.)

Most of the broad avenues are named after states and run diagonally across the city. Frequently, where they cross the intersections of two streets, or intersect each other, there are circles.

- Washington was selected as the site for the capital of the United States in _____.
 A)1800 B)1790 C)1789 D)1890
- The selection of Washington as the site of the nation's capital was _____.
 A)a great victory for the North
 B)a victory for the South
 C)a compromise between North and South
 D)a failure for the South
- The river is called the _____.

- A)Potomac B)Georgia C)Times D)Washington
4. U. S. Congress and the government offices moved to Washington from _____.
 A)New York B)Boston C)New England D)Philadelphia
5. The first designer of the city was _____.
 A)Frenchman B)Englishman C)American D)German
6. In the center of the city is _____.
 A)the House of Representatives B)the Supreme Court
 C)the Senate D)the Capitol
7. _____ are given to the streets running north—south from the Capitol.
 A)Numbers B)Letters C)Names D)Words
8. There is no J Street, however, since John Jay was _____.
 A)a great man
 B)a traitor
 C)not as outstanding as others
 D)too ordinary to be remembered by the people

(三)

The progress of research into aging, the common condition of mammals from mice to men, has led some scientists to believe that some day they may be able to ameliorate the miseries of old age, and even perhaps to stop the biological clock.

The present state of gerontology (still a young science) was laid out recently in a series of articles in the journal Bioscience. Evidence was cited suggesting there may be a centrally located pacemaker for life. There was also data indicating that an aging clock may lie hidden in the nucleus of each cell.

Candidates for the role of pacemaker include the hypothalamus, a part of the brain, and the thymus, a gland in the upper chest. Hormones which the thymus produces are critical to the complex of systems that gives the body immunity against invasion by foreign organisms; the gland's effect weakens with age. The hypothalamus is a regulator in the production of hormones important in reproduction; recent research has shown that ovaries from old rats began to function again when transplanted into younger rats.

On the side of a cellular clock, ongoing investigations have already shown that human cells appear to subdivide, or reproduce themselves, not more than 40 to 60 times. They are, apparently, programmed to stop.

The precise mechanisms of these organic timekeepers, or their exact relation to the aging process, are not yet fully understood. The possibility remains that aging may result from their combined effect or may be caused by factors that are still unknown or by effects of wear and tear.

1. A condition common to all mammals is _____.

- A)aging B)sucking C)drinking D)eating
2. The present state of _____ was described in a series of articles.
 A)genetic code B)metabolism
 C)hypothalamus D)gerontology
3. Human cells appear to subdivide, or reproduce themselves between _____.
 A)30 and 60 times B)40 and 80 times
 C)20 and 60 times D)40 and 60 times

(四)

Long before the first visitor bought a flowered shirt, Hawaiians stood in awe of a natural resource more powerful than tourism—the virtually unlimited energy force buried deep within the conical volcanic mountains of the island of Hawaii.

Turning fantasy into reality, geothermal experts from the Federal Department of Energy, the Hawaiian Electric Light Company and the state of Hawaii are building a \$ 6.8 million power plant to capture water boiling at 570 degrees Fahrenheit from the depths of the active Kilauea Volcano and to use it to generate inexpensive electricity.

It will work like this: Deep wells will be drilled to reach underground water heated by volcanic pressure. Once the water is tapped and channeled into pipelines, the pressure will be released, changing the water to steam. By the time it reaches ground level, the vapor will be 99 percent steam and 400 degrees Fahrenheit.

The plan calls for installing small portable power plants at the drilling sites while the energy potential of the reservoir is established and by 1980, the construction of a permanent power plant which will use a turbine to convert the steam into electricity.

But volcanoes are still tricky to tame, so scientists are building fail-safe mechanisms. The plant will be engineered to withstand volcanic-triggered earthquakes measuring up to 9 points on the Richter Scale. And to prevent an ignominious lava burial, the power plant will be barricaded by walls to deflect lava around it.

1. To turn fantasy into reality, geothermal experts from the Federal Department of Energy, the Hawaiian Electric Light Company and the state of Hawaii are building a _____ power plant.

- A) \$ 5.8 million B) \$ 6.8 million
 C) \$ 7.8 million D) \$ 8.8 million

2. By the time it reaches ground level, the vapor will be _____ percent steam and _____ degrees Fahrenheit.

- A)88,400 B)78,400 C)99,400 D)99,300

3. The active Kilauea Volcano will trigger earthquakes measuring up to _____ points on the Richter Scale.

- A)8 B)10 C)7 D)9

4. Walls will be built to deflect _____ around the power plant.

- A) lava flows B) steam flow
C) water flow D) volcanic pressure

3. 研读

研读(study reading)指的是仔细地阅读,以求对文章进行深刻、透彻的理解,它要求读出字里行间的言外之意,作出作者未用文字明确表达的思想和推断、评价和鉴赏,区别事实和看法、真理和谬误。其具体的阅读技巧将结合各类试题类型详述于后。

4. 主题思想题解题技巧

一个句子、一段文章或一篇文章虽然能提供许多信息,但是,它的主题思想通常只有一个。其它细节都围绕着这个思想,说明这个思想。阅读理解最重要、最根本的要求就是:首先要找到并抓住这个主题思想。抓住了主题思想才能正确地理解句子、段落或通篇的基本内容。主题思想题在四级考试中出现的频率较高,因为这类题是考查考生抓主要信息的能力,能够抓住文章的主要信息是阅读能力的一个极为重要的方面。这类题在设题时常用到 title, purpose, main idea, subject, topic, theme 等词。如:

- (1) which of the following titles best describes...
- (2) The author's main purpose is ...
- (3) The author is primarily concerned with...
- (4) The main idea of the passage is ...
- (5) The topic of the paragraph is ...
- (6) The sentence which states the theme of the passage is ...

做这类题时通常采用略读法。把注意力放在抓主要信息上;不去过分注意细节事实。通常的办法是在快速阅读文章时,注意找出各段主题句。主题句常放在段首,有时也放在段末或段落中间。通读文章后把各段主题句联起来,一般即能得出文章主题。但有时主题思想隐含在上下之中,不很明显,这就需要读者用自己的话进行概括、归纳。这时可采用找关键词的方法。在通读文章时,把能够传达信息的关键词(一般是实词)找出来,读完文章后,把关键词串起来也能确定文章的主题。

[例一]

Attention to detail is something everyone can and should do—especially in a tight job market. Bob Crossley, a human-resources expert, notices this in the job applications that come across his desk every day. "It's amazing how many candidates eliminate themselves," he says.

"Resumes (简历) arrive with stains. Some candidates don't bother to spell the company's name correctly. Once I see a mistake, I eliminate the candidate." Crossley concludes. "If they cannot take care of these details, why should we trust them with a job?"

Can we pay too much attention to details? Absolutely. Perfectionists struggle over little things at the cost of something larger they work toward. "To keep from losing the forest for