

大学英语四级 阅读技巧与训练

● 主编 闵祖传 李 萍

中国民航出版社

大学英语四级阅读技巧与训练

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前 言

阅读不仅是人们获取和传播知识的一种重要途径,而且是人们获取和传播知识的重要手段之一。具有较强的阅读能力,有利于人们工作学习和交流。

大学英语教学历来把阅读能力培养作为重要目标。阅读能力不仅在教学中予以重视,而且在测试中也赋予较大的比重。无论是大学英语四、六级考试,还是国内外其他各种考试,阅读一直是测试内容的重要项目。阅读理解是一种综合能力,可以通过积极有效的系统训练来达到提高阅读能力的目的。

可是,许多学生在考试中对阅读理解难以把握,或者理解有偏差,或者读后忘前,回忆不起具体细节。很多考生常常觉得文章并不难懂,可是通读全文后却不能正确回答题目。对多数考生来说,提高阅读能力是他们最大的愿望。

因此,针对考生提高阅读能力的急切愿望,我们精心编写了这本《大学英语四级阅读技巧与训练》,期待帮助学生掌握阅读技巧,提高阅读能力,顺利通过考试。

《大学英语四级阅读技巧与训练》的主体结构如下:

(1) 阅读理解选项题型与解题技巧。本部分针对阅读理解中心大意题、细节题、逻辑推论题、推测词义题等各种不同的题型提供了不同的阅读策略。

(2) 四级阅读选择模拟题。本部分精编 120 篇阅读理解短文,以实践选项题解题技巧及阅读策略。

(3) 四级阅读简答题。本部分对阅读简答题的答题技巧进行介绍,并提供 20 篇简答题以供实践。

(4) 参考答案。

本书讲练结合,突出方法,既可以作为考前强化训练教材,又可供自学自测使用。通过本书的技巧讲解和阅读精练,读者可以了解考试的命题思路,把握考试精髓,掌握阅读技巧,培养阅读能力。

由于编者水平有限,书中难免错漏和不妥之处,恳请读者不吝指正。

编 者

2003 年 5 月

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第一章 阅读理解选项题型与解题技巧

《大学英语教学大纲》将阅读能力置于听、说、读、写、译五种技能之上，其中指出“阅读是掌握语言知识、打好语言基础、获取信息的重要渠道。阅读能力是大部分大学生今后工作所需的主要语言技能。在大学英语教学中要始终注重阅读能力的培养”。大学英语阅读能力的提高是通过培养学生掌握阅读技巧、提高阅读理解的准确率及阅读速度来实现的。

在四级考试中，阅读占 40 分，每题分值为 2 分。如果考生能在这一部分得到高分，就能在四级考试中占很大的优势。

一个优秀的阅读者能快速、准确地阅读文章。四级考试要求考生必须在 35 分钟内阅读四篇短文，总阅读量在 1200 词左右。每篇短文后有五个问题，考生从每题四个选项中选择一个正确答案。

根据大纲要求，阅读理解选项题型主要包括：中心大意题、细节题、推论题以及推测词义题。本章将针对这四种题型具体讲解阅读理解解题技巧和方法。

第一节 中心大意题

中心大意题主要是考察考生对整篇文章的理解能力。常见的题目形式有：

What is the main idea of the passage?

What is the passage mainly about?

What's the author's purpose in writing this passage?

Which of the following statements best describes this passage?

What is the best title for this passage ?

例题 1

Space is a dangerous place, not only because of meteors but also because of rays from the sun and other stars. The atmosphere again acts as our protective blankets on the earth. Light gets through, and this is essential for plants to make the food we eat. Heat, too, makes our environment endurable. Various kinds of rays come through the air from outer space, but enormous quantities of radiation from the sun are screened off. As soon as men leave the atmosphere they are exposed to this radiation but their spacesuits or the walls of their spacecraft, if they are inside, do prevent a lot of radiation damage.

Radiation is the greatest known danger to explorers in space. The unit of radiation is called “rem”. Scientists have reason to think that a man can put up with far more radiation than 0.1 rem without being damaged; the figure of 60 rems has been agreed on. The trouble is that it is extremely difficult to be sure about radiation damage—a person may feel perfectly well, but the cells of his or

her sex organs may be damaged, and this will not be discovered until the birth of deformed(残疾) children or even grandchildren. Missions of the Apollo flights have had to cross belts of high radiation, and during the outward and return journeys, the Apollo missions have been quite short. We simply do not know yet how men going to get on when they spend weeks and months outside the protection of the atmosphere, working in a space laboratory. Drugs might help to decrease the damage done by radiation, but no really effective ones have been found so far.

Questions:

The best title for this passage would be _____.

- A. The Atmosphere And Our Environment
- B. Research On Radiation
- C. Effects Of Space Radiation
- D. Importance Of Protection Against Radiation

答案为 C。这篇文章主要讨论太阳辐射的危害。文章共两段。第一段的主题句是第一句: Space is a dangerous place, not only because of meteors but also because of rays from the sun and other stars. 其他的句子是发展句, 都是围绕着太阳辐射这个话题展开讨论的。第二段的主题句也是第一句: Radiation is the greatest known danger to explorers in space. 接着文章进一步论述辐射是如何威胁人们的。从这两个主题句就可以得出此篇文章的中心思想: 太阳辐射的危害。因此答案 C 是正确的。而其他答案“大气层和我们的环境”, “辐射的研究”, “预防辐射的重要性”虽然谈论的都是辐射, 但是谈论的是细节, 因此不是文章的中心思想。

例题 2

Researchers have established that when people are mentally engaged, biochemical changes occur in the brain that allow it to act more effectively in cognitive (认知的) areas such as attention and memory. This is true regardless of age.

People will be alert (警觉) and receptive (能接纳的), if they are faced with information that gets them to think about things they are interested in. And someone with a history of doing more rather than less will go into old age more cognitively sound than someone who has not had an active mind.

Many experts are so convinced of the benefits of challenging the brain that they are putting the theory to work in their own lives. “The idea is not necessarily to learn to memorize enormous amounts of information,” says James Fozard, associate director of the National Institute on Aging. “Most of us don’t need that kind of skill. Such specific training is of less interest than being able to maintain mental alertness.” Fozard and others say they challenge their brains with different mental skills, both because they enjoy them and because they are sure that their range of activities will help the way their brains work.

Gene Cohen, acting director of the same institute, suggests that people in their old age should engage in mental and physical activities individually as well as in groups. Cohen says that we are frequently advised to keep physically active as we age, but older people need to keep mentally active

as well. Those who do are more likely to maintain their intellectual abilities and to be generally happier and better adjusted. "The point is, you need to do both," Cohen says. "Intellectual activity actually influences brain cell health and size."

Questions:

What is the passage mainly about?

- A. How biochemical changes occur in the human brain.
- B. Why peoples should keep active not only physically but also mentally.
- C. How intellectual activities influence brain-cell health.
- D. Why people should receive special mental training as they age.

答案为 B。文章中无覆盖全文内容的主题句,因而答题时需要纵观全文来加以概括。具体做法是可以通过问自己以下两个问题:① 本文讨论的话题是什么?(mentally engaged, challenging the brain);② 产生的命题是什么?(more cognitively sound)。由此归纳出本文所谈的是:如果人们积极用脑就能保持大脑认识能力的健康状态。选项 B 中 not only physically 是人们已知的常识,而 but also mentally 是本文传达的新信息。选项 A 的内容是文中的细节;C 的内容过宽;D 的内容偏窄。

例题 3

Americans are more willing to admit to having mental health problems now compared with 40 years ago, according to study published in the July issue of the American Psychologist. The percentage of Americans who report ever feeling like they were about to have a "nervous breakdown (崩溃)" has increased in the last 40 years, according to the results of three national surveys. The surveys were designed to measure the past and current views on mental health. The researchers say peoples' reasons in 1957 for feeling like they are having a nervous breakdown were most likely to be linked to health problems. But in 1996, the most frequently cited (引用) events related to nervous breakdowns were divorce, marriage problems and separation, and troubles with members of the opposite sex. The researchers say that to protect people from declining (衰退的) mental health, mental health policies should be aimed at prevention and focus on building coping skills and strengthening ties with family and friends.

Questions:

The passage is mainly about _____.

- A. newly discovered mental problems
- B. American marriage
- C. Americans' view on mental health
- D. development of mental diseases

答案为 C。文章的第一句的关键词是"more willing to admit to having mental health problems now";而第二句说:The percentage of Americans who report ever feeling like they were about to have a "nervous breakdown (崩溃)" has increased in the last 40 years, ...“美国人越来越愿意承认自己有心理危机”。综合第一句和第二句话,这篇文章的主要内容应该是讲美国人对心

理健康的看法和感觉的变化。所以 C 项为正确答案。

例题 4

If you were planning to buy a television set, the following advertisement would certainly attract your attention: "Color TV, only \$79. Two-day sale. Hurry." However, when you go to the store ready to buy, you may discover that the advertised sets are sold out. But the salesman is quick to assure you that he has another model, a more reliable set which is "just right for you." It costs \$359. This sales tactic is called "bait and switch". Buyers are baited with a sales offer, and then they are switched to another more costly item. Buying items on sale requires careful consideration of the merchandise and the reasons for the sale.

Questions:

Which sentence best expresses the main idea?

- A. The customer must be on his guard when purchasing items on sale.
- B. Color television sets which sell for \$79 are sold out quickly.
- C. Many stores use the "bait and switch" technique to tract customers.
- D. Anyone planning to buy a television set should loot for a sale.

答案为 A。在这里作者首先从一则推销电视的广告入手,介绍了所谓的降价销售只不过是引诱人们去购买更贵的商品,最后,作者说出了他写本文的意图即文章的主题句: Buying items on sale requires careful consideration of the merchandise and the reasons for the sale. 由此,可见答案应为 A。选项 B 只是文中例子的一个细节,不是主题;C 虽然是事实,但不是作者写本文的意图;D 所以错误,是因为这个结论句对文章的理解过于狭隘。

例题 5

Three passions, simple but overwhelmingly strong, have governed my life: the longing for love, and search for knowledge, and unbearable pity for the suffering of mankind. These passions, like great winds, have blown me hither and thither, in a wayward course, over a deep ocean of anguish, reaching to the very verge of the despair.

I have sought love, first because it brings ecstasy—ecstasy so great that I would often have sacrificed all the rest of life for a few hours of this joy. I have sought it, next, because it relieves loneliness—that terrible loneliness in which one shivering consciousness looks over the rim of the world into the cold unfathomable(深不可测)lifeless abyss. I have sought it, finally, because in the union of love I have seen, in a mystic miniature, the prefiguring vision of the heaven that saints and poets have imagined. This is what I sought, and thought it might seem too good for human life, this is what—at last—I have found.

With equal passion I have sought knowledge. I have wished to understand the hearts of men. I have wished to know why the star shines. And I have tried to apprehend the Pythagorean power by which number holds sway above the flux(涨潮). A little of this, but not much, I have achieved.

Love and knowledge, so far as they were possible, led upward toward the heavens. But always

pity brought me back to earth. Echoes of cries of pain reverberate(反响) in my heart. Children in famine, victims tortured by oppressors, helpless old people a hated burden to their sons, and the whole world of loneliness, poverty, and pain make a mockery of what human life should be. I long to alleviate the evil, but I cannot and I too suffer.

This has been my life. I have found it worth living, and would gladly live it again if the chance were offered me.

Questions:

The best title for the passage would be _____.

- A. I Have Lived for Seeking Love
- B. I Have Lived for Seeking Knowledge
- C. Have Lived for the Pity on the Suffering of Mankind
- D. What I Have Lived for

答案为 D。作者在第一段给出了文章的中心思想句(thesis statement): Three passions, simple but overwhelmingly strong, have governed my life: the longing for love, and search for knowledge, and unbearable pity for the suffering of mankind,接着在第二、三、四段对该主题进行进一步的阐述。需注意的是,在这三段中,每段的第一句就是该段的主题句(topic sentence)。在最后一段,作者又给出了文章的结论句(concluding sentence)来和第一段的主题句相呼应。

根据本文中心思想句,就可肯定答案为 D,而 A、B、C 分别为第二、三、四段的主题句,不能概括全文。

解题技巧:

首先辨认主题句。英语说明文和议论文的段落通常都有主题句和发展句。主题句是段落的中心思想,而发展句围绕着中心思想展开,用来补充说明或解释。主题句通常位于段首,有时也位于段中或段末。

其次,要排除干扰项。干扰项有三种:①干扰项过于笼统、概括,远远超出了文章叙述的范围;②干扰项的内容虽然与文章内容有关,但过于片面,讲的是文章某一侧面,是细节;③干扰项的内容看似正确,但与文章的内容有出入。

第三,要注意文章中多次、重复出现的词组,这些词组通常与文章的主题有关。

第二节 细节题

细节题主要是考察考生对文章具体细节的理解。如果是说明文,命题通常围绕事件的起因、过程、结果、意义以及事件发生的时间、地点、人物和特征等信息。如果是论说文,命题通常是围绕观点、举证、事实、数据、结论和态度。细节题题干中经常出现的疑问词有: what, where, who, when, why, how 等。常见的题目形式有:

Which of the following is not true in paragraph 1?

Which of the following is true according to this passage?

Why does the author think that encoding properly is very important?

What provides autos with electric power in an automated highway system?

例题 6

Psychologist George Spilich and colleagues at Washington College in Chestertown, Maryland, decided to find out whether, as many smokers say, smoking helps them to “think and concentrate.” Spilich put young non-smokers, active smokers and smokers deprived of cigarettes through a series of tests.

In the first test, each subject (试验对象) sat before a computer screen and pressed a key as soon as he or she recognized a target letter among a grouping of 96. In this simple test, smokers, deprived smokers and non-smokers performed equally well.

The next test was more complex, requiring all to scan sequences of 20 identical letters and respond the instant one of the letters transformed into a different one. Non-smokers were faster, but under the stimulation of nicotine (尼古丁), active smokers were faster than deprived smokers.

In the third test of short-term memory, non-smokers made the fewest errors, but deprived smokers committed fewer errors than active smokers.

The fourth test required people to read a passage, then answer questions about it. Non-smokers remembered 19 percent more of the most important information than active smokers, and deprived smokers bested those who had smoked a cigarette just before testing. Active smokers tended not only to have poorer memories but also had trouble separating important information from insignificant details.

“As our tests became more complex”, sums up Spilich, “non-smokers performed better than smokers by wider and wider margins.” He predicts, “smokers might perform adequately at many jobs—until they got complicated. A smoking airline pilot could fly adequately if no problems arose, but if something went wrong, smoking might damage his mental capacity.” (1998.6)

Questions:

Which of the following statements is true?

- A. Active smokers in general performed better than deprived smokers.
- B. Active smokers responded more quickly than the other subjects.
- C. Non-smokers were not better than other subjects in performing simple tasks.
- D. Deprived smokers gave the slowest responses to the various tasks.

答案为 C。第二段第二句“...smokers, deprived smokers and non-smokers performed equally well...”可推断 C 是正确的;另外从倒数第二段的后两句“Non-smokers remembered 19 percent more of the most important information than active smokers, and deprived smokers bested those who had smoked a cigarette just before testing. Active smokers tended not only to have poorer memories but also had trouble separating important information from insignificant details”和第四段第一句“...but deprived smokers committed fewer errors than active smokers”可知 A、B、D 都不正确。

例题 7

University Physics is intended for students of science and engineering. Primary emphasis is on

physical principles and problem solving; historical background and specialized practical applications have been given a place of secondary importance. Many worked-out examples and an extensive collection of problems are included with each chapter.

In this new edition, the basic philosophy and outline and the balance between depth of treatment and breadth of subject-matter coverage are unchanged from previous editions. We have tried to preserve those features that users of previous editions have found desirable, while incorporating a number of changes that should enhance the book's usefulness.

The textbook is adaptable to a wide variety of course outlines. The entire textbook can be used for an intensive course two or three semesters in length. For a less intensive course, many instructors will want to omit certain chapters or sections to tailor the book to their individual needs.

The arrangement of this edition facilitates this kind of flexibility. Conversely, however, many topics that were regarded a few years ago as of peripheral importance and were omitted from introductory courses have now come to the fore again in the life sciences, earth and space sciences, and environmental problems. An instructor who wishes to stress these kinds of applications will find this textbook a useful source for discussion of the appropriate principles.

In any case, it should be emphasized that instructors should not feel constrained to work straight through the book from cover to cover. Many chapters are, of course, inherently sequential in nature, but within this general limitation instructors should be encouraged to select among the contents those chapters that fit their needs, omitting material that is not relevant for the objectives of a particular course.

Questions:

1. The words "conversely, however" (Para. 4) indicate that _____.
 - A. many topics can be emphasized though they were not covered in the old edition
 - B. many topics can be emphasized though they were usually omitted by instructors
 - C. many topics have been added to the new edition as they were not covered in the old one
 - D. many topics have been added to the new edition though they can be omitted by the instructors
2. To meet the needs of a particular course, the teacher of this book can omit some of the contents provided that _____.
 - A. his selection is based on the request of his students
 - B. he does not omit any chapter completely
 - C. his students are particularly intelligent
 - D. he keeps an eye on the internal relations between the chapters

本文为说明文。第一段简要介绍 University Physics 这本教材的重点内容;第二段介绍说明新版与旧版相比有那些长处;第三段介绍了该书的特点及其适用性;第四段重点强调教师可以根据要求灵活使用本书。

根据第四段中的“many topics that were regarded a few years ago as of peripheral importance and were omitted from introductory courses have now come to the fore again in the life sciences, earth and space sciences, and environmental problems”就可肯定问题 1 的答案为 B。

通过仔细阅读文章最后一段中的“Many chapters are, of course, inherently sequential in nature, but within this general limitation instructors should be encouraged to select among the contents those chapters that fit their needs, omitting material that is not relevant for the objectives of a particular course.”,可推断出问题2的正确答案为D。而A、B和C在文中均未提及。

解题技巧:

在做辨别细节事实题时,根据题目中提供的重要细节,应找到出处,再进行对比。在做这一类题时,要注意文章中句子与句子之间的关联词。如列举、引用的关联词,有 for example, that is, in fact;表示因果关系的有 because, since, so therefore;表示递进的有 moreover, in addition, furthermore, what's more;表示转折对比的有 however, while, but, although, yet, still, on the other hand, on the contrary, in contrast。这一类题可以直接从原文中找到答案,也可以用排除法找到答案。

这类题目的解题技巧在于以下两方面:

- (1) 如何在阅读过程中准确地在文章中找到内容的具体位置;
- (2) 如何在阅读完题干和四个选项之后迅速地在文章里找出相关的内容。

在做这类题时,首先阅读题目,标出题干和四个选项中的关键词,然后再开始阅读文章。以下列文章为例,介绍和说明这种策略是如何操作和使用的。

例题 8

Researchers have established that when people are mentally engaged, biochemical changes occur in the brain that allow it to act more effectively in cognitive (有感知的) areas such as attention and memory. This is true regardless of age.

People will be alert (警觉的) and receptive (能接纳的) if they are faced with information that gets them to think about things they are interested in. And someone with a history of doing more rather than less will go into old age more cognitively sound than someone who has not had an active mind.

Many experts are so convinced of the benefits of challenging the brain that they are putting the theory to work in their own lives. “The idea is not necessarily to learn to memorize enormous amounts of information,” says James Fozard, associate director of the National Institute on Aging. “Most of us don't need that kind of skill. Such specific training is of less interest than being able to maintain mental alertness.” Fozard and others say they challenge their brains with different mental skills, both because they enjoy them and because they are sure that their range of activities will help the way their brains work.

Gene Cohen, acting director of the same institute, suggests that people in their old age should engage in mental and physical activities individually as well as in groups. Cohen says that we are frequently advised to keep physically active as we age, but older people need to keep mentally active as well. Those who do are more likely to maintain their intellectual abilities and to be generally happier and better adjusted. “The point is, you need to do both”, Cohen says “Intellectual activity ac-

tually influences brain cell health and size.”

Questions:

People who are cognitively healthy are those _____.

- A. who can remember large amounts of information
- B. who are highly intelligent
- C. whose minds are alert and receptive
- D. who are good at recognizing different sounds.

答案为 C。从题干来看,此题是问“感知健康的人是那些”。

我们再看四个选项:

A. who can remember large amounts of information (能记住大量信息的),关键词是 remember large amounts of information。B. who are highly intelligent (非常聪明的),关键词是 highly intelligent。C. whose minds are alert and receptive (脑子警觉而又能接纳事物的),关键词是 alert, receptive。D. who are good at recognizing different sounds (善于辨别不同声音的),关键词是 recognizing different sounds。从而标记出题干和四个选项的关键词:

People who are cognitively healthy are those _____.

- A. who can remember large amounts of information
- B. who are highly intelligent
- C. whose minds are alert and receptive
- D. who are good at recognizing different sounds

下一步我们来阅读文章,从中找到与四个选项有关的句子。文章的第二段第一句“People will be alert and receptive if they are faced with information that gets them to think about things they are interested in.”出现了关键词 alert and receptive。第二段第二句“And someone with a history of doing more rather than less will go into old age more cognitively sound than someone who has not had an active mind.”出现了关键词 more cognitively sound, sound 是 health 的同义词。从中可以得出答案 C。虽然第三段第二句“The idea is not necessarily to learn to memorize enormous amounts of information,”出现了关键词 memorize enormous amounts of information,但是前面有 not necessarily,因此 A 项不对。

第三节 逻辑推论题

逻辑推论题是考察考生灵活应用的能力,考察考生是否能从文章的有关叙述和说明中做出一定的推论。常见的题目形式有:

What can be inferred from the passage?

It can be concluded from the passage that _____.

The passage implies/suggests that _____.

例题 9

A good modern newspaper is an extraordinary piece of reading. It is remarkable first for what it

contains: the range of news from local crime to international politics, from sports to business to fashion to science, and the range of comment and special features (特写) as well, from editorial page to feature articles and interviews to criticism of books, art, theatre and music. A newspaper is even more remarkable for the way one reads it: never completely, never straight through, but always *by jumping from here to there*, in and out, glancing at one piece, reading another article all the way through, reading just a few paragraphs of the next. A good modern newspaper offers a variety *to attract many different readers, but far more than any one reader is interested in*. What brings this variety together in one place is its topicality (事实性), its immediate relation to what is happening in your world and your locality now, but immediacy and the speed of production that goes with it mean also that much of what appears in a newspaper has no more than transient (短暂的) value. For all these reasons, no two people really read the same paper: what each person does is to put together, out of the pages of that day's paper, his own selection and sequence, his own newspaper. For all these reasons, *reading newspapers efficiently, which means getting what you want from them without missing things you need but without wasting time, demands skill and self-awareness as you modify and apply the techniques of reading.* (1998.1)

Questions:

It can be concluded from the passage that newspaper readers _____.

- A. apply reading technique skillfully
- B. jump from one newspaper to another
- C. appreciate the variety of a newspaper
- D. usually read a newspaper selectively

答案为 D。此题从文中可以得出关于报纸读者的什么结论。选项 A 不对, 因为文章中 (最后一句) 只是说“要有效地阅读报纸需要应用阅读技巧”, 并未说“所有读者能熟练应用阅读技巧”。选项 B 意为“读者总是将一份报纸换到另一份报纸”, 而文章原意为“从一份报纸的这儿跳到哪儿, 有选择地看。”所以 B 项不对。C 项意为“欣赏报纸的多样性”。而文章原意为: 一份好的报纸应该丰富多彩, 以满足不同读者的爱好和需要, 因为不同的读者有不同的爱好和需要, 他根据自己的爱好和需要来有选择地阅读报纸。所以 C 项不对, D 项正确。

解题技巧:

- (1) 抓住文章的中心思想, 领会字里行间的真正含义。
- (2) 标出问题和选项的关键词, 再在原文中找到出处。把四个选项和原文句子反复对比, 排除错误选项, 选择出正确答案。
- (3) 解答推论判断题时应避免干扰项的干扰。干扰项有以下特点:
 - a. 照抄原文而没有经过分析推断得出的结论;
 - b. 与原文有明显矛盾, 或脱离原文凭空推断出的结论;
 - c. 符合常识但在原文中找不到依据。

第四节 推测词义题

推测词义题主要是考察考生在语篇水平上正确理解单词和短语的能力。常见的题目形式有:

In the passage, what does the word ... most probably mean?

The word ... in line ... could be best replaced by _____.

Which of the following is closest in meaning to the word “_____”?

The word / expression / phrase “_____” refers to / stands for / means _____.

例题 10

Some foreign teachers mistake Chinese students' *reticence* for indifference. In fact, these *silent* scholars are simply the inevitable product of an educational style that has changed little since Confucian scholars sat *mutely* at their masters' feet. Like American children at dinner, Chinese students are *to be seen and not heard*.

Questions:

The word “reticence” (Line 1) most probably means “_____”.

文中使用了四个不同的词及短语(斜体部分),都强调同一个概念“沉默”。不明白其中任何一个词,都可根据上下文的线索找到它的同义词,猜出词义。

例题 11

Teaching and learning are two entirely different processes. They differ in kind and function. The function of teaching is to create the conditions and the climate that will make it possible for children to devise the most efficient system for teaching themselves to read. Teaching is also a public activity: It can be *seen and observed*.

Learning to read involves all that each individual does to make sense of the world of printed language. Almost all of it is private, for learning is an occupation of the mind, and that process is not open to public scrutiny. (1999.1)

Questions:

The word “scrutiny” (Line 3, Para. 2) most probably means “_____”.

- A. suspicion B. control C. observation D. inquiry

答案为 C。文章对 learning 和 teaching 做了比较,指出二者具有不同的特点:“Teaching is also a public activity: It can *be seen and observed*”, 而 learning “is *not* open to public scrutiny”。可见, be seen and observed 的含义近似,因此选择 C。

例题 12

It is very interesting to note where the debate about diversity is taking place. It is taking place primarily in political circles. Here at the College Fund, we have a lot of contact with top corporate

leaders; none of them is talking about getting rid of those instruments that produce diversity. In fact, they say that if their companies are to compete in the global village and in the global market place, diversity is an imperative.

Questions:

The word “imperative” (in the last line) most probably refers to something _____.

- A. superficial B. remarkable C. debatable D. essential

答案为 D。文章说:在公司的领导人中,没有谁议论说要消除那些会产生多样性的东西。事实上,他们认为如果公司想在世界市场上具有竞争性,多样性是 imperative。四个选项的词义分别是 A. superficial(表面的); B. remarkable(令人惊奇的); C. debatable(有争议的); D. essential(必不可少的)。由此可以推断 imperative 的意思应该是 D。

解题技巧:

解答这类试题时,应结合上下文的逻辑关系甚至整篇文章的意思判断该词的具体含义。这不单纯是考查词汇量大小的问题,也是考查综合运用语言知识的能力。

在阅读中经常遇到生词,这些词影响了我们对文章的理解,成为有效阅读的障碍。在考试时我们可以运用上下文线索推断生词的意思。文章中的生词并不是孤立存在的,其语意与句中的其他词的语意或情景有着密切联系。理解生词可根据以下线索。

(1) 同义词线索(synonymy):例如:“Why are you weeping?”—“I’m crying for my poor grandmother,” the girl sobbed. 此句中 weep, cry 和 sob 是同义词,因此只要知道其中一个词的意思,也就知道其他两个词的意思。

(2) 反义词线索(antonym):例如:The most significant change that is taking place on the land throughout the country is the size of farms. The *big* ones are *getting bigger* and the *small* ones are slowly dwindling. *dwindle* 和 *getting bigger* 是反义词,可以猜出 *dwindle* 是“缩小”的意思。

(3) 具体事例线索(exemplifying):例如:After his wife died, he became a recluse and refused to see anyone but his closest friends. 通过后面 refused to see anyone 可以猜出 recluse 是“隐居”的意思。

(4) 解释线索(explanation):标点符号,如破折号、冒号、括号,这些标点符号后面或里面的内容通常用于解释、说明和补充。例如:Jane is now a florist, who keeps a shop for selling flowers in our district. 后面从句对 florist 的解释可以猜出 florist 是“花商”的意思。

(5) 经验和背景线索(experience and situation):例如:Jim had his license suspended for reckless driving. 句中 Jim 的执照被没收,不用说是因为开车粗心,故不难猜出 reckless 意为“粗心”的意思。

(6) 根据构词法来猜测词义。英语词汇通常由三个部分构成:词根、前缀和后缀。词根是英语词汇最基本的组成部分,表示词汇的基本意义,它是固定的、不变的。前缀和后缀分别加在词根的前面或后面,用以引申或转变词汇的意义和属性。一般来说,前缀改变词汇的意义,后缀改变词汇的词性。例如:unfriendly, friend 是词根,ly 是后缀,加在名词后面变成形容词,un 是前缀,表示否定意义。

下面介绍一些常用的前缀和后缀。