

MBA联考英语应试教程

阅读理解

国伟 编著

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清华大学出版社

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北京

内 容 提 要

本书全面地讲解了阅读理解的多项选择和简短回答部分的题型、解题思路 and 技巧,并结合 MBA 联考历年实考试题,详细讲解了如何利用这些技巧进行解题。每章分别提供了 15 篇及 10 篇文章的模拟试题,并对每一道题进行了讲解。

读者对象: MBA 考生,四、六级考生,在职攻读硕士学位入学考试的考生。

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前言

众所周知,在各类语言测试中,阅读理解部分均占有很大的比重。各种考试都把考生阅读理解能力作为测试的重点之一。尤其在 MBA 联考中,阅读理解部分考试内容对广大考生来说是重中之重,特别是近两年阅读理解文章和试题的难度在不断加大,使考生感觉到阅读理解部分又是难中之难。无论是从阅读理解试题在试卷中所占的分值来看,还是从整个试卷命题的侧重点来考虑,考生是否具有较强的阅读能力都是考试成败的关键。可以说,全国工商管理硕士入学英语考试的成绩在很大程度上取决于试卷中阅读理解部分的成绩。

为了帮助考生更好地打好英语基础,更详细地了解英语考试内容、题型及应试技巧,从而能够顺利地通过考试,我们编写了《MBA 联考英语应试教程》系列丛书,这套丛书包括《语法与词汇 1500 例精解》、《分级词汇》、《综合填空与翻译》、《写作》和《阅读理解》。

本书为《阅读理解》分册,它包括两大部分:阅读理解和简短回答。

第一章是阅读理解,共有四节:阅读方法、阅读技巧、阅读理解测试题型及解题技巧、阅读理解练习及详解。第一节和第二节从理论和实践两方面对如何运用科学的阅读方法和阅读技巧来提高考生的阅读速度和阅读理解能力进行了全面指导;第三节系统介绍了阅读理解测试常见题型及解题技巧,并且以 MBA 联考历年实考试题为例,详细地讲解了如何运用这些技巧进行解题;第四节提供了 15 篇不同题材的阅读文章,试题覆盖了所有的考试题型,并对试题的解题方法进行了细致、深入的剖析和讲解。

第二章是简短回答。这一部分包括五节,第一节简要介绍了简短回答题的题型;第二节具有创造性地提出了简短回答题的解题思路;第三节着重讲解了简短回答题的答题表述和注意事项,具有相当的实用价值;第四节通过对历年实考试题的解析,细致入微地讲解了如何把本部分第二、三节所介

绍的答题技巧运用到实际中去;同样最后一节为考生提供了10篇不同题材、涉及不同题型的简短回答文章及试题,对每一篇文章都进行了深刻的分析,对每一道题都进行了精解。

总之,为了能够帮助考生掌握基本阅读技巧并能够熟练应用到实际考试中去,编者从确立基本概念、理顺思路入手,对各项基本阅读技能逐一进行讲解,使考生能在提高阅读能力的基础上提高应试成绩。为了帮助考生确实理解基本理论和做题技巧,并便于考生理解答案,编者在撰写过程中强调精讲,把自己多年的教学理念、教学方法以及教学体会融会到解题技巧当中,确实做到了理论联系实际。

相信,只要考生认真阅读本书,深刻领会每一部分的讲解并熟练运用各种解题技巧,就一定能够在提高阅读理解能力方面取得长足的进步。

由于本人水平有限,加之时间仓促,不足之处在所难免,望同行及广大考生批评、指正,不吝赐教。

编 者

2003年6月于北京

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11/11/06

第一章 阅读理解

2004 年 MBA 联考英语考试大纲规定:阅读理解占初试总分数的 40%, 包括以下两部分:

1. 要求考生阅读 4 篇总数约为 1500 个单词的英文短文, 根据文章内容从每个问题的 4 个选择项中选出 1 个最佳答案。
2. 要求考生阅读一篇约 400 个单词的英文短文, 并根据文章内容用英语简短回答 5 个问题。

阅读材料的题材包括社会、文化、经济、管理、科普等; 体裁包括说明文、议论文、记叙文等。阅读理解考试的目的是测试考生通过阅读获取信息的能力, 要求既理解准确, 又有一定的阅读速度。

第一节 阅读方法

一、略读法 (Skimming)

略读是指快速浏览全文, 获取全文的中心思想, 不必阅读文章的全部内容, 也不需要了解文章的具体细节。在阅读报纸时, 我们所采用的阅读方法大多是略读法。

略读法是考生解答主旨大意题最行之有效的方法之一。在阅读理解题型中, 主旨大意题占一定的比例, 涉及段落主旨和全文主旨, 解题难度较大。如果考生学会找段落主题句, 这种题型就相对易解了。主题句一般位于段首, 也有位于段中或段尾的情况, 这取决于篇章是演绎型还是归纳型, 演绎型的主题句多位于段首, 归纳型则多位于段尾。因此,

此,考生在使用略读方法时,一定要把注意力放在与全文有关的句子上。特别要注意文章首段和尾段,或者一段的首句和末句,因为它们往往是全文或全段内容的高度概括。此外,在浏览全文时,还应注意一些信息词如 *therefore, thus, but, yet, however* 等过渡性词语,这些过渡性词语可以表示出句与句、段与段的逻辑关系。例如 *therefore, thus* 等词后的内容一般是对上文的总结或概括,主题句往往就在其后。*but, yet, however* 等表示转折性的词很可能引出的就是作者在本文的论点。因此,略读法不仅可以提高阅读速度,还能帮助考生把握文章的主旨大意及主要信息。

【例 1】

The media can impact current events. As a graduate student at Berkeley in the 1960s, I remember experiencing the events related to the People's Park that were occurring on campus. Some of these events were given national media coverage in the press and on TV. I found it interesting to compare my impressions of what was going on with perceptions obtained from the news media. I could begin to see events of that time feed on news coverage. This also provided me with some healthy insights into the distinctions between these realities.

Electronic media are having a greater impact on the people's lives every day. People gather more and more of their impressions from representations. Television and telephone communications are linking people to a global village, or what one writer calls the electronic city. Consider the information that television brings into your home every day. Consider also the contact you have with others simply by using telephone. These media extend your consciousness and your contact. For example, the video coverage of the 1989 San Francisco earthquake focused on "live action" such as the fires or the rescue efforts. This gave the viewer the impression of total disaster. Television coverage of the Iraqi War also developed an immediacy. CNN reported events as they happened. This coverage was distributed worldwide. Although most people were far away from these events, they developed some perception of these realities.

In 1992, many people watched in horror as riots broke out on a sad Wednesday evening in Los Angeles, seemingly fed by video coverage from helicopters. This event was triggered by the verdict in the Rodney King beating. We are now in an age where the public can have access to information that enables it to make its own judgments, and most people, who had seen the video of this beating, could not understand how the jury was able to acquit (宣布无罪) the policemen involved. Media coverage of events as they occur also provides powerful feedback that influences events. This can have harmful results, as it seemed on that

Wednesday night in Los Angeles. By Friday night the public got to see Rodney King on television pleading, "Can we all get along?" By Saturday, television seemed to provide positive feedback as the Los Angeles riot turned out into a rally for peace. The television showed thousands of people marching with banners and cleaning tools. Because of that, many more people turned out to join the peaceful event they saw unfolding on television. The real healing, of course, will take much longer, but electronic media will continue to be a part of that process.

The best title for the passage is _____.

- A. The 1989 San Francisco Earthquake and the 1992 Los Angeles Riots
- B. How Media Cover Events
- C. The 1992 Los Angeles Riots
- D. The Impact of Media on Current Events

文章第一段第一句 The media can impact current events. (媒体可以影响时事) 是全文的主题句。第一句以后的内容以及第二段都是对这一主题所做的进一步具体的阐述和说明。第三段提到了洛杉矶骚乱, 这仅是电子媒体如何影响时事的一个例子。因此, 不难判断答案为 D。

【例 2】

Men and women have more choices these days. For example, there are more choices about marriage. Not everyone gets married—some people decide to stay single. Others decide to live with somebody without getting married; often, people live together for some time and then decide whether to marry or not. Often women who have good jobs do not get married very young, but wait several years until they have a good position at work. And of course, many people get married and then find that they are not happy. They get a divorce to end their marriage; today more than one marriage in three ends in divorce in Britain. So the traditional idea that marriage is the most important job of a woman's life is changing.

第二句 there are more choices about marriage. (对于婚姻人们有了更多的选择) 是本段的主题句。后面的句子都是围绕着这一中心展开的支持句 (supporting sentences), 具体讲述了男人和女人在婚姻的哪些方面有了更多的选择余地。

【例 3】

Whether you do or do not open a gift in the presence of the giver; whether you should

or should not turn the plate over to look at the maker's symbol on the back; whether you put your coat on before or after you leave the host's house; whether you eat as quietly or as noisily as possible; whether you carry on a conversation during a meal; whether you walk in front of or behind a seated person; whether it is a friendly or an offensive gesture to put your hand on the arm of the person with whom you are talking—these and a thousand other questions are matters of cultural definition. None of them is inherently right or wrong, and none is good or bad manners except as a society defines it so.

本段是采用归纳法进行描述的。主题句是最后一句 None of them is inherently right or wrong, and none is good or bad manners except as a society defines it so. (这些习俗从本质上讲没有对与错、好与坏之分,除非社会对它们这样定义)。作者首先举出具体事例,然后从这些具体事例中归纳出中心句。

由此可见,通过略读,迅速找到主题句,对于抓住主旨大意是非常有益的。

二、查读法(Scanning)

查读法又称寻读法,查读是为寻找文章中某一特定或具体信息而进行的阅读。考生利用这一方法的目的是通过查读迅速获得细节性的信息以回答具体的问题。在使用此种技巧时,考生无须阅读全文,只需要跳跃式浏览找到所需信息即可。查读与略读不同,查读的目的在于查找篇章的某一特定信息,如数码、人名、地名、日期或某一细节等;而略读的目的则是要抓住段落、文章的要旨。

【例如】

Here in the United States, before agricultural activities destroyed the natural balance, there were great migrations of Rocky Mountain locusts (*Melanoplus spretus*). Great migrating hordes of these insects once darkened the skies on the plains east of the Rockies where crops were often destroyed; the worst years were those from 1874 to 1877. One of these migration swarms was estimated to contain 124 billion locusts. During another migration in Nebraska it was estimated that the swarm of locusts averaged half a mile high and was 100 miles wide and 300 miles long. Usually, these swarms take off from the ground against the wind, but, once airborne, they turn and fly with it. Warm convection currents help to lift them, often to great heights. During the great locust plagues the situation in Nebraska became so serious that the original state constitution had to be rewritten to take care

of the economic problems. The new document was known as "The Grasshopper Constitution". It is now believed that these locusts were a migratory form or phase of the lesser migratory locust, which is still common there. In this respect, the North American migratory locusts resemble their African relatives. In both regions the migratory forms arise as a result of crowding and climatic factors. Migratory forms are apparently natural adaptations which bring about dispersal when locust populations become too crowded.

1. According to the passage, the worst destruction by locusts in the plains area east of the Rockies occurred during the _____.
 - A. eighteenth century
 - B. early nineteenth century
 - C. late nineteenth century
 - D. twentieth century
2. According to the passage, North American and African migratory locusts are similar in that _____.
 - A. they always travel toward mountainous regions
 - B. their destructive activities occur only in plains areas
 - C. climates affect their development
 - D. they are both mentioned in state constitutions

首先看第一题,根据题干和选项,可知要查找的内容是年代,与数字有关,这就确定了要查找的目标信息。然后把注意力集中在要查找的信息上,不难发现其在文章第二句话: Great migrating hordes... destroyed; the worst years were those from 1874 to 1877. (蝗虫大迁移曾经遮住了落基山脉东部平原的整个天空,那里的庄稼经常遭到破坏。最严重的蝗灾发生在 1874 年到 1877 年之间)由此可知, C 为正确答案。

第二题问的是北美和非洲的蝗虫大迁移的相似之处。由于北美和非洲是专有名词，所以在文章中非常容易确定位置。考生通过快速浏览会看到：the North American migratory locusts resemble their African relatives. 这正是题干的同义转换。接着考生会发现：In both regions... as a result of... climatic factors. (在这两个地区，蝗虫大迁移是由于拥挤和气候引起的)因此 C 为正确答案。

上述例文表明查读法是查寻特定细节或具体信息的有效方法,考生只要掌握了这种技巧,就能既迅速又准确地找到正确答案。

三、研读法(Scouring)

研读法也称精读法或细读法,其目的是彻底理解文章的全部内容,了解各个细节,领悟作者的态度和观点。研读法在实际考试中用得不多,因为它耗时较多,而考试中阅读还要测试速度。但做题时如果发现答案所在的句子或段落含义深奥、句式复杂,不弄清句子结构、句与句之间的逻辑关系就无法做题,就必须运用这种方法。研读法是提高答题准确率的一个必要手段,考生在解答推理判断题、作者态度题、词语释义题和排除题(是非题)时可用此种方法。

【例1】

I suggest transforming our social system from a bureaucratically managed industrialism in which maximal production and consumption are ends on themselves into a humanist industrialism in which man and full development of his potentialities—those of love and of reason—are the aims of all social arrangements.

1. To solve the present social problems the author suggests that we should _____.
 - A. resort to the production mode of our ancestors
 - B. offer higher wages to the workers and employees
 - C. enable man to fully develop his potentialities
 - D. take the fundamental realities for granted
2. The author's attitude towards industrialism might best be summarized as one of _____.
 - A. approval
 - B. dissatisfaction
 - C. suspicion
 - D. tolerance

对于长句和难句的理解,首先要找出它的主干,即主—谓—宾或主—系—表结构。就例句而言,黑体字部分是整个句子的主干部分, a bureaucratically managed industrialism 和 a humanist industrialism 后各带一个定语从句。主干部分有一个很关键的结构 transforming... into...,意思是“把……转换成……”。into 前的社会体制是作者否定的, into 后的部分是作者所肯定的。全句大意为:我建议转变我们现存的社会体制,把当今以生产和消费为最大目的的官僚主义体制工业社会改造成以人为中心的人本主义工业社会,在这个社会中,人的各种潜力——包括爱和理智——都能得到充分的发展。

通过对结构的分析,把握住以上逻辑关系,再来看上面的两道题,就会发现正确答案是很容易找到的。



第一题题干的意思是：为解决目前的社会问题，作者建议我们应该_____。

答案为 C，其意思是：使人发挥其潜能。C 中的 *fully develop his potentialities* 相当于原文中的 *full development of his potentialities*。

第二题题干的意思是：作者对工业社会的态度可最恰当地概括为_____。

根据上述分析，显然作者所持态度是否定或不满的。因此第 2 题正确答案为 B。

【例 2】

The word science is heard so often in modern times that almost everybody has some notion of its meaning. On the other hand, its definition is difficult for many people. The meaning of the term is confused, but everyone should understand its meaning and objectives. Just to make the explanation as simple as possible, suppose science is defined as classified knowledge (facts).

Even in the true sciences distinguishing fact from fiction is not always easy. For this reason great care should be taken to distinguish between beliefs and truths. There is no danger as long as a clear difference is made between temporary and proved explanations. For example, *hypotheses* (假设) and theories are attempts to explain natural phenomena. From these positions the scientist continues to experiment and observe until they are proved or discredited. The exact status of any explanation should be clearly labeled to avoid confusion.

The objectives of science are primarily the discovery and the subsequent understanding of the unknown. Man cannot be satisfied with recognizing that secrets exist in nature or that questions are unanswerable; he must solve them. Toward that end specialists in the field of biology and related fields of interest are directing much of their time and energy.

Actually, two basic approaches lead to the discovery of new information. One, aimed at satisfying curiosity, is referred to as pure science. The other is aimed at using knowledge for specific purposes—for instance, improving health, raising standards of living, or creating new consumer products. In this case knowledge is put to economic use. Such an approach is referred to as applied science.

Sometimes practical-minded people miss the point of pure science in thinking only of its immediate application for economic rewards. Chemists responsible for many of the discoveries could hardly have anticipated that their findings would one day result in applications of such a practical nature as those directly related to life and death. The discovery of one bit of information opens the door to the discovery of another. Some discoveries seem so simple that one is amazed they were not made years ago; however, one should remember that the construction of the microscope had to precede the discovery of the

cell. The host of scientists dedicating their lives to pure science are not apologetic about ignoring the practical side of their discoveries; they know from experience that most knowledge is eventually applied.

1. Pure science, leading to the construction of a microscope, _____.
 - A. is not always as pure as we suppose
 - B. necessarily results from applied science and the discovery of a cell
 - C. may lead to antiscientific, "impure" results
 - D. necessarily precedes applied science, leading to the discovery of the cell

本题首先可用查读法迅速确定 microscope 在第五段第四句: 某些发现看上去似乎非常简单, 人们对他们为什么没有早点发现感到不可思议。但是他们应该知道, 制造显微镜必须先于细胞的发现。通过对这句话的理解, 我们会得出一个结论, 即显微镜的制造是发现细胞的先决条件。到这里, 考生即使完全理解了这句话的含义, 但没有弄清楚 microscope 和 the discovery of a cell 属于什么科学领域, 也未必能把题做对, 所以考生需弄清楚什么是纯科学, 什么是应用科学。根据第四段对纯科学和应用科学的解释不难看出, the discovery of the cell 属于应用科学领域, 发现显微镜的原理属于纯科学领域。据此, 可以准确地判断 D 为正确答案。

2. A scientist interested in adding to our general knowledge about oxygen would probably call his approach _____.
 - A. pure science
 - B. environmental science
 - C. applied science
 - D. agricultural science

本文并未提及有关 oxygen(氧气)的信息, 所以考生用查读法是解不出这道题的。从题干的出题方式, 结合选项内容以及对篇章的大致了解, 可知正确答案应该是 A 或 C。因为 B 和 D 在文中根本没有提及。同第一题一样, 只要弄清楚什么是纯科学, 什么是应用科学, 问题就会迎刃而解。根据文章第四段, 纯科学旨在满足人们的好奇心, 而应用科学是把知识用于某种经济用途。从题干的内容来看, “氧气的一般知识”应属于纯科学范畴, 因为题干并未涉及到氧气的一般知识被用于某种经济用途当中, 所以 A 为正确答案。

3. Which of the following statements does the author imply?
 - A. In science, it is not difficult to distinguish fact from fiction.
 - B. Understanding the unknown in nature is the objective of science.

- C. Scientists engaged in theoretical research should not be blamed for ignoring the practical side of their discoveries.
- D. Today few people have any notions of the meaning of science.

本题实际上属于是非判断题。换言之,A,B,C 和 D 四个选项中只有一个与原文意思相符的正确选项。解这一类题的最佳方法就是在文章中将各选项的内容找出来,然后进行一一核对。首先可以用查读法将各选项在文章中定位,再结合研读法将原文中定位的内容彻底理解,这样就能准确无误地找出正确答案。用以上所述方法会发现,C 项的陈述与文章最后一句的内容一致。原文中的 *dedicating their lives to pure science*(终身致力于纯科学研究)换成了 C 项中的 *engaged in theoretical research*(从事理论研究);*are not apologetic*(不用道歉)换成了 *should not be blamed*(不应该遭到埋怨)。所以 C 为正确答案。第一段第一句话: *The word science is heard so often in modern times that almost everybody has some notion of its meaning.* (现在人们经常听到科学这个字眼,几乎所有的人对科学的涵义都有所了解)表明 D 项是错误的;第二段第一句话: *Even in the true sciences distinguishing fact from fiction is not always easy.* (即使在科学领域中区别事实与虚构也不大容易)表明 A 是错误选项;根据第三段第一句话: *The objectives of science are primarily the discovery and the subsequent understanding of the unknown.* (科学研究的目的主要是要发现未知事物,然后才是去理解它们)可知,B 项不是答案。

以上简要介绍了三种阅读的基本方法,每种方法都与某一特定的提问类型相联系。考生要根据文章的难易程度和自己对文章的理解程度采用不同的阅读方法,做到随着题目的类型不同而方法不同。同时也应该注意到一种方法与另一种或几种方法之间是相互联系的,有着较强的互补性,只有综合地加以应用,才能收到快速而又准确的阅读效果。

第二节 阅读技巧

目前,不少考生有一个误区,认为只要掌握一定的词汇量和语法知识,不需要什么阅读方法、阅读技巧和解题技巧,就能在阅读理解部分获得较满意的分数。从某种意义上来说,这种想法有一定的道理,没有词汇和语法知识作基础,做不好阅读理解。但是,文章除了由词汇和语法规则构成外,还要考虑篇章的组织结构、句与句、段与段的逻辑关系等。如果考生了解作者的写作思路,就不用逐字逐句地进行研读,而可以根据文章的脉络,利用各种阅读方法和技巧,捕捉与考题相关的信息。

一、把握篇章结构

MBA 联考英语阅读部分的体裁包括说明文、议论文、记叙文,但从历年联考试题所选择的篇章来看,主要以议论文和说明文为主,而且这两种体裁界限并不十分明显,往往互相渗透。

议论文和说明文一般都是用一系列的推理或事实阐明或说明一个中心议题,其结构一般为:1)提出论点;2)论述/说明问题;3)得出结论。考生应有意识地培养把握篇章结构的能力,了解作者的推理过程,这不仅有助于提高答题的正确率,而且有助于提高答题的时间效率。当然,这并不是说所有的篇章都一定是这种模式,只能说大部分文章是按照这种框架组织的。

议论文和说明文的写作方法主要运用演绎法和归纳法。演绎法往往首先提出问题,然后用一系列的论据来论证或说明这一问题,最后对问题得出结论。归纳法与演绎法相反,作者首先通过具体的陈述,层层推理,最后归纳总结出主题,使其文章更具有说服力。如果考生掌握了这种套路,对做主旨题会有“踏破铁鞋无觅处,得来全不费工夫”之感,同时对做推理判断题以及与主旨有关的各类题都有好处。为了便于考生对这类体裁结构的把握,作者总结出以下篇章结构类型。

TYPE I

- 1) 提出论点(主题句所在)
- 2) 论证论点(使用具体数据、实例,引用名人名言或格言谚语,进行逻辑推理)
- 3) 得出结论

【例如】

The old idea that talented children “burn themselves out” in the early years and therefore are subject to failure and, at worst, mental illness is unfounded. As a matter of fact, the outstanding thing that happens to bright kids is that they are very likely to grow into bright adults.

To find this out, 1,500 gifted persons were followed up to their thirty-fifth years with these results:

On adult intelligence tests, they scored as high as they had as children. They were, as a group, in good health, physically and mentally. 84 per cent of the group were married and seemed content with their lives.

About 70 per cent had graduated from college, though only 30 per cent had graduated

with honors. A few had even dropped out, but nearly half of these had returned to graduate.

Of the men 80 per cent were in one of the professions or in business management or semiprofessional jobs. The women who had remained single had office, business, or professional occupations.

The group had published 90 books and 1,500 articles in scientific, scholarly, and literary magazines and had collected more than 100 patents.

In a material way they did not do badly either. Average income was considerably higher among the gifted people, especially the men, than for the country as a whole, despite their comparative youth.

In fact, far from being strange, most of the gifted were turning their early promise into practical reality.

本文第一段第一句提出了一种错误观点,即 talented children “burn themselves out” in the early years... (有天赋的孩子早年会“燃尽才华”,从而注定要失败,而且严重的会得精神病)。紧接着第二句,作者用 as a matter of fact (事实上) 引出了自己的观点也是本文旨在说明的问题,即 they (bright kids) are very likely to grow into bright adults (他们很有可能成长为聪明的成年人)。中间的几段,作者用数据分别从智力测试、学历、职业、学术成就、收入等方面论述了这一问题,最后一段得出更有力的结论:一点也不奇怪,绝大部分具有天赋的人正把他们早期的愿望转化为现实。

了解了本文的篇章结构,即文章的套路,再来做下面三个问题,考生会发现问题变得容易多了。

1. The old idea that talented children “burn themselves out” in the early years is _____.
A. true in all senses
B. refuted by the author
C. medically proven
D. a belief of the author

本题实际上问的是作者对文中所提的旧观念的态度。文章一开始就指出 The old idea... is unfounded(这种旧观念是毫无根据的), 所以正确答案为 B。

2. The survey of bright children was made to _____.
- A. find out what had happened to talented children when they became adults
 - B. prove that talented children “burn themselves out” in the early years
 - C. discover the percentage of those mentally ill among the gifted
 - D. prove that talented children never burn themselves out