

主编 谈宏慧 刘桂兰

CET710分  
全能系

# 4 大学英语 四级考试

段落翻译与

中国文化阅读

College English Test

Band 4

- ★ 52篇文化阅读
  - ★ 52段翻译练习
    - ★ 打造整体翻译思维

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# 前言

全国大学英语四、六级考试委员会于2013年12月对四、六级考试的试卷结构和测试题型作了局部调整。调整后，四级和六级的试卷结构和测试题型相同。其中，取消了原题型中的综合部分，并将原来的单句汉译英调整为段落汉译英，占总分的15%。新四级考试大纲规定翻译内容涉及中国的历史、文化、经济、社会发展等，长度为140—160个汉字，主要考查学生运用汉译英的基本理论与技巧，在30分钟内将要求译出的部分译完，译文要求忠实原文，语言表达通顺流畅。

四级和六级的试卷结构、测试内容、测试题型、分值比例和考试时间如下表所示：

试卷结构	测试内容		测试题型	分值比例	考试时间
写作	写作		短文写作	15%	30分钟
听力理解	听力对话	短对话	多项选择	8%	30分钟
		长对话	多项选择	7%	
	听力短文	短文理解	多项选择	10%	
		短文听写	单词及词组听写	10%	
阅读理解	词汇理解		选词填空	5%	40分钟
	长篇阅读		匹配	10%	
	仔细阅读		多项选择	20%	
翻译	汉译英		段落翻译	15%	30分钟
总计				100%	130分钟

本书正是根据新题型的要求来编写的，目的之一是让考生通过阅读用英文介绍中国历史、文化等方面知识的文章，加深对相关知识和词汇的了解；目的之二是通过练习帮助考生熟悉和掌握汉英段落翻译的策略与技巧。本书分为五个部分：第一部分是中国历史和文化知识阅读，总共11章；话题分别涉及节日与民间传说、古代文学与哲学、生活方式、工艺美术、政治经济等。第二部分是汉英段落翻译策略与技巧分析：首先，通过实例分析，详细讲解汉英段落翻译的特点及策略；其次，介绍段落翻译的思路与步骤；最后，举例分析了段落翻译的应试策略。第三部分精选52篇(每周一篇)汉英段落翻译练习，涵盖了观念礼俗(6篇)、文艺美工(8篇)、节日习俗(10篇)、民间游艺、杂技(5篇)、饮食习惯(8篇)、风物人情(3篇)、医疗技术(2篇)、建筑美术(4篇)、政治、经济与社会发展(6篇)等九大主题；第四部分是参考答案及详细解析；第五部分是附录，收录了文化特色词汇、常用句型、段落翻译评分标准及参考文献。

本书由谈宏慧、刘桂兰主编，杨新星、许萍参编。

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# 第一部分

# 中国文化知识

# 第一章

## Festivals and Folklore 节日与民间传说

### 1

### The Spring and Yuanxiao Festivals 春节与元宵节

The Spring Festival (also known as the Lunar New Year or *Chunjie*) is on the 1st day of the 1st month in the Chinese calendar year. It is the biggest and also the most important festival for the Chinese.

During the Spring Festival, there are a few things everyone does: lighting firecrackers, placing blessings on the wall, and blessing each other. These traditional practices have been kept till today. It was said that, a monster called *Nian* brought about all these activities. Back in the ancient times, at the end of every year, the very hungry *Nian* would invade villages, killing the animals raised by families and even harming people's lives. People tried all sorts of methods to counter this threat and to expel it. Gradually people realized that it was afraid of noises and the color red, therefore on the New Year's Eve, everyone wrote blessings on red paper and placed them on their front doors, and lit firecrackers to produce noise. That turned out to be successful and everyone was happily greeting each other and wishing each other the best of luck for the coming year. This has become a custom and has been passed down from generation to generation since then.

The Chinese character *nian* itself means that crops are ready to be harvested. It is a combination of two single characters, "grains" and "thousand", so the blend of the two characters means a very rich harvest. In the old days, after a year's hard work in the fields, people would prepare wine and delicious food for a feast with the family to celebrate the year's harvest and the arrival of a new year, so

#### Word Bank

**lunar** /'ljʊ:nə(r)/ *adj.* 阴历的

**firecracker** /'faɪə,krækə(r)/ *n.* 鞭炮, 爆竹

this was the most important and the happiest day in a year. Eventually it evolved into an important festival.

In different parts of China, the celebrations might differ slightly, but they all have a common theme: See off the old and welcome the new. Nowadays, before the Lunar New Year, families are busy stocking up on special foods for the New Year and decorating their homes so that they would look new to welcome a new year. On New Year's Day, people will wear new clothes to visit relatives and friends to give them blessings. In cities and towns, some people queue up to visit temples, some take part in carnivals, others perform dragon dances and in most places, there are fireworks displays.

In the first month of the Chinese calendar year, except for the Chinese New Year, there is another festival called the Yuanxiao Festival. It is on the 15th day of the month. In the past, people hung paper lanterns and everyone went out in the evening to look at the lanterns on this day. As you can imagine, the sight of different lanterns on the street is very beautiful at night. Nowadays, with the increasing influence of Western culture, and probably because of the beautiful and romantic scene of lanterns as well, another meaning has been added to the Yuanxiao Festival — it is now also known as the Chinese Valentine's Day.

The Yuanxiao Festival actually started way back in the Western Han Dynasty (202 BC–9 AD). At that time, there was a maid in the imperial palace named Yuanxiao. Being trapped in the imperial palace, she felt bored and homesick, so she wanted to commit suicide by jumping down a well. A man who was very famous for his intelligence, named Dongfang Shuo, learnt this and felt sorry for Yuanxiao, so he tried to think of a way to help her. A few days later, he dressed up as a fortune-teller and wandered around in the town. People came up to him and asked for help. Everyone got the same response — they would be burnt by fire on the 15th day of the first month. This made them panic. The news got through to the emperor, and the emperor decided to ask the most intelligent man — yes, Dongfang himself — for a solution.

Dongfang told the emperor that the God of Fire loved dumplings a lot. Therefore he suggested that the emperor ask Yuanxiao to offer some dumplings to the God of Fire and worship him. Then everyone should go out on to the streets that night, and light numerous red lanterns on every house and every street. He explained that the city would appear to be on fire, if looked down from heaven, and this would confuse the God of Fire and make him think that he had already set the fire. The emperor agreed to

#### Word Bank

**lantern** /'læntən/ *n.* 灯笼

**suicide** /'sjuisaɪd/ *n.* 自杀

**fortune-teller** /'fɔ:rtʃən,telə(r)/ *n.* 算命先生, 预言家

**dumpling** /'dʌmplɪŋ/ *n.* 汤团, 饺子

**worship** /'wɜ:ʃɪp/ *vt.* 尊崇, 崇拜

## Word Bank

**ritual** /'ritʃuəl/ *n.* 仪式, 惯例

**riddle** /'rɪdl/ *n.* 谜语

**symbolize** /'sɪmbəlaɪz/ *vt.* 象征

**reunion** /,ri:'ju:njən/ *n.* 团圆, 重聚

this and ordered everyone to do as he suggested. That day finally came, and the city was fully alive that night. Everyone was wandering around the streets and Yuanxiao got an opportunity to meet up with her family too. The night passed peacefully as well. The emperor was delighted and he ordered to keep this ritual forever on this

day of every year from then on.

Gradually, in time, more activities have been added to appreciating lanterns. For example, riddles are tied to the lanterns, so while appreciating the beautiful lanterns people can also try to solve the riddles. Apart from the lanterns, another thing which must be present on that day is a kind of dumplings made of flour. These dumplings are in a round shape, which resemble the shape of a full moon. (In the Chinese calendar year, there is always a full moon on the 15th day of each month.) The Chinese believe that a full moon symbolizes the reunion of a family, so on that day, the family members will sit together and enjoy the dumplings.

## Put the following into English by referring to the passage.

1 放鞭炮

2 贴春联

3 这变成了一种习俗, 且代代流传至今。

4 汉字“年”本来的意思是农作物将迎来收获的季节, 它由两个单独的字——“禾”和“干”组合而成, 这两个汉字拼缀起来就有了“五谷丰登”之意。

5 最终演变成一个重要节日。

6 辞旧迎新

7 农历新年前, 家家户户办年货, 装饰屋前屋后, 气象万新迎新年。

8 在新年里, 人们会穿上新衣服去走亲访友, 送上祝福。

9 例如, 把谜语贴在灯笼上, 人们可以边赏花灯边猜谜语。

## 2

## The Qingming and Hanshi Festivals

## 清明与寒食节

There are numerous pieces of Chinese literature produced based on the topic of the Qingming Festival. In those works, Qingming is always described as a day full of sadness, and most of the time it is a rainy day, when the rain is light and mild. Also, people often visit the cemeteries on that day. However, in the ancient times, Qingming (meaning “pure brightness” if translated directly) had nothing to do with visiting the cemeteries or remembering the ancestors. It was just one of the 24 solar terms in the Chinese calendar year where it represented the time for farmers to plough and to plant the seeds. It is usually on a day in the second or the third month of the Chinese calendar year when spring arrives.

So how is Qingming eventually linked to visiting the cemeteries? Visiting the cemeteries was actually the traditional thing to do during the Hanshi Festival. The Hanshi Festival itself has a story behind it. During the Spring and Autumn Period (770 BC–476 BC), Jie Zitui followed the prince of the State of Jin, Chong'er, who went into exile. One day, they got lost and were trapped in the mountains. They had no food left and there was no one passing by to offer help. Jie saw that the prince was extremely hungry so he decided to cut off a piece of meat from his own thigh to cook as food for the prince.

After 19 years of exile, the prince finally returned to Jin and became the king. He wanted to reward Jie for his kindness and generosity, but Jie did not want any rewards. He only wanted to be with his old mother and look after her, so he moved to live in the woods with her. The king was not impressed when the messenger told him that Jie did not want to be a government official. He insisted that Jie come back and work for him. Upon hearing that the government officials were after him, Jie decided to hide, so he carried his mother on his back and went deep into the mountains. Again, news came to the king that his invitation had failed because Jie was hidden deep in the mountains.

At this point, the king decided to force him out of the mountains, so he ordered his men to set fire to the mountains and burn down everything until he came out. Of course, Jie was still unwilling to come out. At last there was nothing he could do but climb a tree in an attempt to escape the fire, yet he

## Word Bank

**cemetery** / 'semitəri/ *n.* 墓地, 坟墓

**ancestor** / 'ænsəstə(r)/ *n.* 祖先, 始祖

**solar** / 'səʊlə(r)/ *adj.* 阳历的, 与太阳相关的

**exile** / 'eksail/ *n.* 放逐, 流放

## Word Bank

**tomb** /tu:m/ *n.* 坟墓**joss stick** (祭祀用的)线香**headstone** /'hedstəʊn/ *n.* 墓碑**rite** /raɪt/ *n.* 仪式, 惯例

was burned to death. The king heard about this and started to regret his previous decision. So he ordered that from then on, no fire was allowed to be lit on this day of each year ever again. This day became known as the Hanshi Festival, and was always one or two days before Qingming. Since the two days were so close to each other, people simply combined them.

Nowadays, the Chinese almost never observe the Hanshi Festival, but they maintain the habit of visiting the cemeteries on the Qingming Festival.

During the Qingming Festival, a lot of Chinese, even those who are living overseas, try to get back to their hometown to visit their ancestors' tombs, bringing bunches of fresh flowers, fruits, wine, joss sticks and other materials for worship along with them. Visitors of the tombs will not only make a prayer to their ancestors but they will also clean the graves by removing weeds and cleaning the headstones, and then offering sacrifices to worship the deceased.

Respecting and treating those who are older than you well is very important according to traditional Chinese moral values. This attitude extends towards those who have passed away. Attending the funeral rites of parents and worshipping them on important days is still an obligation these days, although many people cannot really do that because of the busy working schedules in the modern world. However, at the very least, whenever the Qingming Festival comes, most Chinese will go to the cemetery to visit their ancestors' tombs and pay their respect.

## Put the following into English by referring to the passage.

- 1 扫墓  
\_\_\_\_\_
- 2 纪念祖先  
\_\_\_\_\_
- 3 清明只是中国农历24节气之一, 它代表着农民犁地和撒种的时节。  
\_\_\_\_\_
- 4 在春秋时期(公元前770年—公元前476年), 介子推追随晋国流亡公子重耳。  
\_\_\_\_\_
- 5 他想报答介子推的善良和慷慨。  
\_\_\_\_\_
- 6 清明节期间, 很多中国人, 甚至包括那些旅居海外的华人华侨, 都设法返回家乡祭祖, 献上几束鲜花、几篮水果、几瓶白酒, 点上几炷香并且供奉其他祭祀用品。祭祖者不仅向他们的先人祷告祈福, 而且会为他们清除坟头的杂草, 清理墓碑上的灰尘, 然后开始祭祀死去的亲人。  
\_\_\_\_\_
- 7 尊老爱老是中华民族的传统美德。  
\_\_\_\_\_

## 3

## The Dragon Boat Festival

### 端午节

Nowadays, when it's close to the 5th day of the 5th month in the Chinese calendar year, rice dumplings will be found in most food shops. Various ingredients are used to fill the dumplings. In the old days, there were also games that involved the dumplings. There were races for unwrapping the dumplings (the leaves used for wrapping this kind of dumplings could not be eaten), and there were also competitions for people to shoot the dumplings from a distance. As for the dragon boat race, an international boat race event is held in Hong Kong SAR annually during the Dragon Boat Festival. Top teams from all over the world will come over to participate. On the day of the race, colored flags will be put up. Together with the sounds of drums and the shouts of athletes, a very lively atmosphere will be produced. In the race, everyone must row according to the rhythm of the drum, so rowing not only makes one stronger physically, but also builds up team spirit.

There is apparently no definitive answer to the question of how and when people first started to celebrate the Dragon Boat Festival. The legend began with a patriotic poet called Qu Yuan (340 BC–278 BC) in the Warring States Period (475 BC–221 BC). His most famous work is surely a poem entitled *Li Sao* — the longest sentimental poem in the Chinese classical literature. It is a very touching piece of work, in which he expressed deep passion for his country. Qu was a government official. Although throughout his life he was attacked scathingly by other officials, he remained true to himself all the time and he stuck to what he believed to be good for the country. He also often criticized selfish people who put themselves above all else. His persistence in achieving the good and his attack of selfish people are the most loved aspects of the poem. Moreover, his courage in offering constructive suggestions without thinking about the threat to his own life is also well-respected by future generations.

As Qu has outstanding abilities the king made him a major official when he was young. He had been a very loyal official in the State of Chu. That time was a turbulent period, with Qin being the strongest

#### Word Bank

**rice dumpling** 粽子

**annually** /ˈænjʊəlɪ/ *adv.* 每年，一年一次

**drum** /drʌm/ *n.* 鼓声

**rhythm** /ˈrɪðəm/ *n.* 节奏，韵律

**patriotic** /ˌpætriˈɒtɪk/ *adj.* 爱国的

**scathingly** /ˈskeɪðŋli/ *adv.* 严厉地，尖刻地

**turbulent** /ˈtɜːbjʊlənt/ *adj.* 骚乱的，混乱的



**Word Bank****aspiration** /ˌæspə'reɪʃən/ *n.* 抱负, 渴望**mourn** /mɔːn/ *v.* 哀悼**intact** /ɪn'tækt/ *adj.* 完整的, 未受损伤的

state of all. Qu constantly made wise suggestions to the king, hoping that the state could be strengthened, so they would be able to resist the ambitious Qin. However, the implementation of his ideas would affect the benefit of the nobles and other powerful people, so they started making false accusations against

him. The king then started to keep him at a distance and eventually sent him into exile. Shortly afterwards, Qin invaded Chu, and easily won the war. Qu sensed that the end of Chu was near, and that his aspirations would never come true, so he committed suicide out of frustration by drowning himself in the river.

When the people of Chu learned about this, everyone rushed to the riverside, yet it was already too late. Some of them mourned his death, others cried. In order to ensure that his body would remain intact, people rowed boats on the river and produced noises with drums and gongs so as to scare the fish in the river away. They also threw food into the river so that the fish would not feed on Qu's body. This was the origin of the dragon boat race and rice dumplings.

Qu chased his dreams all through his life. Even though he came across a lot of obstacles in the process, he always faced them bravely.

**Put the following into English by referring to the passage.**

1 端午节

2 赛龙舟

3 在比赛当天, 彩旗招展, 鼓声鼎沸, 混杂着运动员的呐喊声, 气氛好不生动。比赛中, 每个人必须随着鼓声的节奏划动双桨。正因为如此, 赛龙舟不仅能够强身健体, 而且能够增强团队精神。

4 尽管在一生中不断地遭到其他官员尖锐的攻击, 他依然坚持真我, 坚持从国家利益出发。同时, 他经常批判那些视自身利益高于一切的自私的人。

5 凭借着出众的才能, 屈原在年轻的时候就成为重要官员。

6 然而, 贯彻他的理念将会影响到其他贵族和权臣的利益, 因此他们开始诬告屈原。

7 所以他怀着壮志未酬的心情投河自尽。

8 尽管道阻且长, 他仍然坚强面对。



## 4

## The Qixi Festival

## 七夕节

In the Chinese myths, the Queen Mother of the West (also known as Wangmu Niangniang) had a daughter called the Sister Seventh (also known as Qijie). She was clever, and excellent at weaving, thus she had a nickname the Weaving Maid (also known as Zhinv). One day, she went down to the human world to enjoy herself, where she came across a young man called the Cowherd (also known as Niulang). The two of them loved each other at first sight, and they got married and lived together happily.

That was until the news reached the Heavenly King. After he learned what had happened, he was outraged. On the 7th day of the 7th month, he ordered the army in the Heaven to go and bring the Weaving Maid back. The soldiers escorted her back to Heaven. However, the Cowherd did not want to let go, so he tried all his might to follow the soldiers from Heaven. He was getting closer and closer, until suddenly the Queen Mother of the West appeared, with a hairpin in her hand. She waved her arm and drew a Heavenly River with great foaming waves with the hairpin, separating the Cowherd from the Weaving Maid and the soldiers. As a result, the two lovers could only see each other from the two sides of the river.

Although days went by, the Cowherd and the Weaving Maid still felt deeply in love with each other, even though they were separated by the Heavenly River. Gradually, the Queen Mother of the West was touched by the pair's persistence in love, so she decided to allow them to meet each other once a year, on the 7th day of the 7th month. On that night every year, magpies would gather at the Heavenly River. They would organize themselves in rows to form a bridge for the two lovers, so that they could reach each other.

People were deeply touched by this love story. Therefore, on that day each year, they worship the Weaving Maid, and that was the origin of the Qixi (meaning "7th

## Word Bank

**the Queen Mother of the West** 王母娘娘

**myth** /mɪθ/ *n.* 神话

**Sister Seventh** 七仙女

**nickname** /'nɪkneɪm/ *n.* 昵称, 绰号

**Weaving Maid** 织女

**Cowherd** /'kaʊhɜ:d/ 牛郎

**escort** /'eskɔ:t/ *vt.* 陪同, 护航

**hairpin** /'heəpɪn/ *n.* 发簪

**the Heavenly King** 玉皇大帝

**Heavenly River** 银河

**magpie** /'mæɡpaɪ/ *n.* 喜鹊