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大学英语六级考试

阅读180篇

中公教育大学英语六级考试用书编写组◎编著

- 题型全面 题材丰富
- 分阶练习 循序渐进
- 答题攻略 高分必备

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图书在版编目(CIP)数据

大学英语六级考试·阅读 180 篇 / 中公教育大学英语六级考试用书编写组编著. —北京: 世界图书出版公司北京公司, 2014.9

ISBN 978-7-5100-8661-8

I. ①大… II. ①中… III. ①大学英语水平考试-阅读教学-自学参考资料 IV. ①H319.4

中国版本图书馆 CIP 数据核字(2014)第 214193 号

大学英语六级考试·阅读 180 篇

编 著: 中公教育大学英语六级考试用书编写组

责任编辑: 夏 丹 倪艳霞

装帧设计: 中公教育图书设计中心

出 版: 世界图书出版公司北京公司

出 版 人: 张跃明

发 行: 世界图书出版公司北京公司

(地址: 北京朝内大街 137 号 邮编: 100010 电话: 64077922)

销 售: 各地新华书店

印 刷: 北京中科印刷有限公司

开 本: 889 mm×1194 mm 1/32

印 张: 18

字 数: 518 千

版 次: 2014 年 11 月第 1 版 2014 年 11 月第 1 次印刷

ISBN 978-7-5100-8661-8

定 价: 26.00 元

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前言

自 2013 年 12 月考试起,全国大学英语四六级考试委员会对四六级考试的试卷结构和测试题型做了局部调整。调整后的四六级考试题型详见下表:

| 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 | 选择题(单选题) | 8% | 30 分钟 |
| | | 长对话 | 选择题(单选题) | 7% | |
| | 听力短文 | 短文理解 | 选择题(单选题) | 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 | | 选择题(单选题) | 20% | |
| 翻译 | 汉译英 | | 段落翻译 | 15% | 30 分钟 |
| 总计 | | | | 100% | 130 分钟 |

由此可见,六级阅读,分为词汇理解、长篇阅读、仔细阅读三个题型,总比重占试卷的 35%,比重最大(和听力相同),分值最大,用时最长,考生应该尤其重视。阅读作答时不能只是泛泛地读句子,更要理解文章的逻辑思维过程,理解文章内在的整体性和连贯性。考前准备不但要增加阅读做题量,还要根据本书提供的方法养成好的做题习惯。

本书在帮助我们备考六级阅读上有以下优势:

一、180 篇阅读,题型全面,题材广泛

本书选取的阅读包含了词汇理解 30 篇、长篇阅读 50 篇、仔细阅读 100 篇,题型全面,题量丰富,确保考生备考不会有疏漏。词汇理解和长篇阅读设置了“考前特训”,强化训练考生的答题能力。仔细阅读分为五大类别:人文社会类、环境健康类、教育文学类、经济生活类、科学探索类,题材广泛,帮考生从容应对所有相关主题的阅读测试。

二、高分答题攻略,分阶段、多角度练习

本书中的 180 篇经典阅读,三种题型均有相应的答题攻略,帮助考生高效解题、获取高分。其中,仔细阅读的每一类题材都设计为基础篇、巩固篇、提高篇,帮助考生分阶段练习。每一篇文章后面都附有核心词汇,答案解析详细,还提供了文章内容概要,帮助考生从记忆词汇、锻炼解题思路、概括文章大意等多方面提升阅读能力。

中公教育大学英语六级考试用书编写组

二〇一四年十一月于北京

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|-------|--------|
| | (25) |
| | (24) |
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|-----------------|-------|
| 第三章 环境健康类 | (335) |
| 本章导读 | (335) |
| 基础篇(10 篇) | (335) |
| 巩固篇(5 篇) | (353) |
| 提高篇(5 篇) | (362) |
| 答案速递 | (372) |
| 文章详解 | (372) |
| 第四章 教育文学类 | (391) |
| 本章导读 | (391) |
| 基础篇(10 篇) | (391) |
| 巩固篇(5 篇) | (409) |
| 提高篇(5 篇) | (417) |
| 答案速递 | (426) |
| 文章详解 | (427) |
| 第五章 经济生活类 | (444) |
| 本章导读 | (444) |
| 基础篇(10 篇) | (444) |
| 巩固篇(5 篇) | (461) |
| 提高篇(5 篇) | (470) |
| 答案速递 | (479) |
| 文章详解 | (479) |
| 第六章 科学探索类 | (500) |
| 本章导读 | (500) |
| 基础篇(10 篇) | (504) |
| 巩固篇(5 篇) | (522) |
| 提高篇(5 篇) | (530) |
| 答案速递 | (540) |
| 文章详解 | (540) |
| 索引 | (559) |

第一部分 词汇理解阅读(30篇)

第一章 答题攻略

词汇理解阅读要求考生阅读一篇删去 10 个词的短文,然后从所给的 15 个选项中选择适当的词语填充,使原文复原。文章长度大约在 250~300 词之间,题材多为社会生活、文化、教育等方面。该题主要测试考生对篇章语境中词汇的理解和运用能力。解题的具体步骤如下:

1. 快速浏览全文。

用 1~2 分钟快速浏览,把握原文大意。注意,在第一遍阅读时,不要纠结于不认识的单词。但要对空格内的单词词性有所判断。

2. 分析选项单词。

用 1 分钟快速确定 15 个选项的单词词性,词性有名词、动词、形容词、副词、连词五类。

3. 仔细阅读原文。

阅读原文时,把握三个原则。

第一,分析句子成分,判断每个空需要填写的词性。然后在选项中挑选出符合语法的词汇。

词性判断原则如下:

连词前后,词性需保持一致,如 protection and conservation(名词并列);impressive and interesting(形容词并列)。

系动词后常用形容词,如 He is awkward.(他胆小。)但此处需注意一点,常常有副词修饰形容词的情况出现,如 He is socially awkward.(他有社交障碍。)

第二,理解原文大意。可将备选词汇带入原文,看是否符合意思。对于不确定的选项,可先跳过,阅读下文,部分填空需要联系上下文才能得出。最终选出既符合语法结构要求,又符合原文大意的选项。

第三,在确定选项后,可在方框中将其划掉,方便后面的判断。

4. 回顾原文。

最后,将选项带入原文再检查一遍,主要看选项是否符合原文大意与所在句的语法。

因此,这就要求考生在平时注意词汇的积累,尤其是近义词的记忆。其次,在平时多分析长难句的语法结构。英语句子结构呈形合状,即要借助形式手段,如各种词形与句型变化来表达思想。而汉语则没有严格的语法要求,只需要将意思表达明确即可。所以,针对中西方语言表达思维方式的不同,我们需要平时多阅读原版英语文章,碰到长难句,分析其语法结构,判断主干,熟悉插入语、从句、被动语态等语法结构的用法。

接下来,本文试以 2014 年 6 月真题为例,探讨该题型的解题方法及规律。

Millions of Americans are entering their 60s and are more concerned than ever about retirement. They know they need to save, but how much? And what exactly are they saving for—to spend more time 1 the grandkids, go travelling, or start another career? It turns out that husbands and wives may have 2 different ideas about the subject.

The deepest divide is in the way spouses envisage their lifestyle in their later years. Fidelity Investments Inc. found 41 percent of the 500 couples it surveyed 3 on whether both or at least one spouse will work in retirement. Wives are generally right regarding their husbands' retirement age, but men 4 the age their wives will be when they stop working. And husbands are slightly more 5 about their standard of living than wives are.

Busy *juggling* (穷于应付) careers and families, most couples don't take the time to sit down, 6 or together, and think about what they would like to do 5, 10, or 20 years from now. They 7 they are on the same page, but the 8 is they have avoided even talking about it.

If you are self-employed or in a job that doesn't have a standard retirement age, you may be more apt to delay thinking about these issues. It is often a 9 retirement date that provides the *catalyst* (催化剂) to start planning. Getting laid off or accepting an early-retirement 10 can force your hand. But don't wait until you get a *severance* (遣散费) check to begin planning.

- | | | | |
|----------------|-----------------|------------------|------------|
| A) assume | B) confidential | C) disagree | D) formula |
| E) forthcoming | F) illustrating | G) mysteriously | H) observe |
| I) optimistic | J) package | K) radically | L) reality |
| M) separately | N) spoiling | O) underestimate | |

内容概要

数百万的美国人正在进入 60 岁的行列,比以往更加关心退休事宜。但在这个问题上丈夫与妻子持有不同的观点,原因在于夫妻俩对以后生活方式所持有的态度不同。那些从事着没有标准退休年龄职业的人们,会倾向于推迟思考这些问题,往往是马上退休的人才开始计划如何度过退休后的时光。

答案解析

1. N 此空为“spend time doing”的结构,所以应用动词 **ing** 形式。再根据后面紧接宾语 **grandkids** 可知,应选 **spoiling**(宠爱),意为“花更多时间去宠孙子”。

2. K 此空后接形容词 **different**,可知需填副词。选项中 **mysteriously**(神秘地)、**radically**(根本地)、**separately**(分开地),能与 **different ideas** 构成搭配,符合句意的是 **radically** 表示夫妻在此问题上有着根本不同的观点。因此,正确答案是 K。

3. C 此处缺少谓语动词,且要与 **on** 构成搭配,可知为不及物动词。**disagree on**(执不同意见),符合原文“夫妻对于退休时是否继续工作存在异议”之意。因此,正

确答案是 C。

4. O 此空为谓语动词,且 but 为并列连词,前半句为一般现在时,此空也应用动词原形。把握此句大意的关键点在于 but,前半句表达妻子一般能正确判断丈夫的退休年龄,由此可推断出丈夫不能准确判断。选项中 underestimate(低估)符合此意。因此,正确答案是 O。

5. I 此空为表语,且前面有副词 slightly 修饰,可知此空应填形容词。选项中 confidential(机密的)、forthcoming(即将到来的)、optimistic(乐观的),和后面生活标准构成搭配的只有“乐观的”符合。因此,正确答案是 I。

6. M 此空与副词 together 构成并列,因此,应保持词性一致。or 连接相反的含义,separately 与 together 恰互为相反状态,因此,正确答案是 M,separately(单独地)。

7. A 此空为该句谓语,所以需填动词。时态与并列的后半句保持一致,为一般现在时。此句含义“他们以为他们意见一致”,可知 assume(假设)更符合此意。因此,正确答案是 A。

8. L 前一句表达他们以为意见一致,是自己认为与想象的,but 转折语气,可知事实上相反。此句意为“事实是他们甚至都没有谈论这个话题”。因此,正确答案是 L, reality(事实)。

9. E 此空后接名词“退休日期”,可知需填形容词。此句意为“常常是马上要来临的退休日成为退休计划的催化剂”,即人们在接近退休时才会被迫开始做计划。因此,正确答案是 E, forthcoming(即将到来的)。

10. J 此空前的冠词 an 透露需要填写可数名词单数,符合条件的有 formula(公式),package(包裹,一揽子计划),结合上下文可知 early-retirement package 意为“提前退休计划”,因此,正确答案是 J。

第二章 考前特训

Passage One

Money can buy happiness, but only if you spend it on someone else, researchers reported.

Spending as little as \$5 a day on someone else could significantly 1 happiness, the team at the University of British Columbia and Harvard Business School found. Their experiments on more than 630 Americans showed they were 2 happier when they spent money on others—even if they thought spending the money on themselves would make them 3.

“We wanted to test our theory that how people spend their money is at least as important as how much money they 4,” said Elizabeth Dunn, a psychologist at the University of British Columbia.

They asked their 600 volunteers first to 5 their general happiness, report their annual income and detail their monthly spending including bills, gifts for themselves, gifts for others and donations to charity.

“6 of how much income each person made, those who spent money on others reported greater happiness, while those who spent more on themselves did not,” Dunn said in a statement.

Dunn’s team also surveyed 16 employees at a company in Boston before and after they received an annual profit-sharing 7 of between \$3,000 and \$8,000.

“Employees who 8 more of their bonus to pro-social spending experienced greater happiness after receiving the bonus, and the manner in which they spent that bonus was a more important 9 of their happiness than the size of the bonus itself,” they wrote in their report, published in the journal Science.

They gave their volunteers \$5 or \$20 and half got clear 10 on how to spend it. Those who spent the money on someone or something else reported feeling happier about it.

- | | | | |
|---------------|-------------|--------------|----------------|
| A) wealthier | B) boost | C) rate | D) actually |
| E) focused | F) earn | G) devoted | H) bonus |
| I) regardless | J) discuss | K) predictor | L) instruction |
| M) happier | N) In spite | O) improve | |

Passage Two

A third of office workers would rather grab a few minutes 1 sleep than breakfast, according to a survey that estimated poor eating habits were costing companies dearly in terms of lost 2.

A survey by Ipsos Mori found 17 percent of British office workers never have breakfast and 17 percent have it just one to three times a week.

It found eight percent of 1,051 office staff questioned also 3 skip lunch, with these poor eating habits estimated to be costing companies 17 billion pounds (\$34 billion) a year or 97 million lost working days.

"Worryingly, of those who 4 or never eat lunch, 27 percent also never eat breakfast during the working week," said Ipsos Mori researchers in a statement.

The survey, commissioned by food service company BaxterStorey, 5 skipping breakfast cost companies 8.1 billion pounds or 46.5 million lost working days, with many studies finding a link between eating breakfast and attention 6, learning ability and general well-being.

When other poor eating habits such as having no breakfast and lunch or having no breakfast and snacks, are included, lost productivity 7 to nearly 17 billion pounds.

The survey found most employees—percent—have lunch, with 68 percent opting for sandwiches, but most people don't drink enough during the day. Only 11 percent had the 8 eight or more drinks during the working day.

"People who eat breakfast have better concentration, problem solving ability, mental performance, memory and mood.

People who eat breakfast are also more 9 energetic and have better coordination," said nutrition specialist Matt Barker.

"Research tells us that scores on memory tests were about 15 percent lower in people who skipped breakfast. And those who skip it tend to eat sugary, fatty foods later in the day, 10 their productivity."

- | | | | |
|-----------------|----------------|--------------|--------------|
| A) physically | B) rarely | C) estimated | D) target |
| E) mentally | F) recommended | G) reducing | H) adequate |
| I) regularly | J) extra | K) specified | L) enhancing |
| M) productivity | N) span | O) rocketed | |

Passage Three

Happiness is U-shaped, for we are happier at the start and end of our lives but hit a slump when we are 1, British and US researchers say.

Economists from the University of Warwick, central England, and from Dartmouth College, New Hampshire, looked at data on the 2 health of two million people from 80

countries.

In Britain, the 3 of depression for men and women peaks at around 44 years of age, Warwick University said in a press release.

In the United States, though, there was a big 4 between men and women.

Among women, unhappiness peaked at around the age of 40, 5 among men, it was about 50.

But the U-shape of happiness is constant around the world, and mid-life depression occurs regardless of marital status, changes in job or income.

The study appears in Social Science & Medicine, published by the Dutch publishing house Elsevier.

"It happens to men and women, to single and 6 people, to rich and poor, and to those with and without children," said co-author Andrew Oswald.

One possibility may be that people realize they won't achieve many of their 7 at middle age, the researchers said.

Another reason could be that after seeing their fellow middle-aged 8 begin to die, people begin to value their own remaining years and embrace life once more.

But the good news is that if people make it to aged 70 and are still physically fit, they are on average as happy and 9 healthy as a 20-year old.

"For the average persons in the modern world, the dip in mental health and happiness comes on slowly, not suddenly in a single year," Oswald said. "Only in their fifties do people 10 from this low period."

- | | | | |
|---------------|----------------|----------------|-----------|
| A) difference | B) meanwhile | C) completely | D) mental |
| E) tendency | F) aspirations | G) probability | H) emerge |
| I) physical | J) middle-aged | K) whereas | L) peers |
| M) mentally | N) aged | O) married | |

Passage Four

If you exhibit positive traits such as honesty and helpfulness, the chances are that you will be perceived as a good looking person, for a new study has found that the perception of physical attractiveness is influenced by a person's 1.

The study, led by Gary W. Lewandowski, Jr, found that people who exhibit negative traits, such as unfairness and rudeness, appear to be less physically 2 to observers.

In the study, the participants viewed photographs of opposite-sex individuals and rated them for attractiveness before and after being 3 with information on personality traits.

After personality information was received, participants also rated the 4 of each

individual as a friend and as a dating partner.

Information on personality was found to significantly alter perceived desirability, showing that cognitive processes 5 judgments of attractiveness.

"Perceiving a person as having a desirable personality makes the person more suitable in general as a close relationship partner of any kind," said Lewandowski.

The findings show that a 6 personality leads to greater desirability as a friend, which leads to greater desirability as a romantic partner and, 7, to being viewed as more physically attractive.

The findings remained consistent regardless of how "attractive" the individual was 8 perceived to be, or of the participants' current relationship status or commitment level with a partner.

"This research provides a more positive 9 by reminding people that personality goes a long way toward 10 your attractiveness; it can even change people's impressions of how good looking you are," said Lewandowski.

- | | | | |
|-----------------|---------------|----------------|----------------|
| A) genetics | B) ultimately | C) correct | D) filled |
| E) desirability | F) positive | G) attractive | H) personality |
| I) modify | J) initially | K) determining | L) perspective |
| M) viewpoint | N) distant | O) provided | |

Passage Five

Whether it's curled up in the fetal position, flat on the stomach or stretched out across the bed, the way people sleep 1 their personality, a British sleep expert said.

Professor Chris Idzikowski, director of the Sleep Assessment and Advisory Service and a visiting professor at the University of Surrey in southern England, has 2 six common sleep positions and what they mean.

"We are all aware of our body language when we are awake but this is the first time we have been able to see what our 3 says about us," he said.

Crouched in the fetal position is the most popular sleep pattern and 4 by 51 percent of women, according to the results of the study he 5 for a large hotel group.

Fetal sleepers tend to be shy and sensitive while people who assume the soldier position, flat on their back with arms at their sides, are quiet and 6.

Sleeping on one's side with legs outstretched and arms down in what Idzikowski refers to as the log, 7 a social, easy-going personality. But if the arms are outstretched in the yearner position, the person tends to be more suspicious.

The freefall, flat on the tummy with the hands at the sides of the head, is the most 8 position. Only 6.5 percent of people prefer it and they are usually brash and gregarious.

Unassuming, good listeners usually adopt the starfish position—the back with

outstretched arms and legs.

Idzikowski, who identified the positions by 9 personality traits of people, their preferred way of sleeping and the most common positions, said once a sleeping style is adopted it is 10 changed.

- | | | | |
|----------------|--------------|---------------|-----------------|
| A) indifferent | B) indicates | C) comparing | D) usually |
| E) conducted | F) reserved | G) familiar | H) identified |
| I) integrating | J) rarely | K) favored | L) subconscious |
| M) reveals | N) unusual | O) influences | |

Passage Six

Children whose minds wander might have sharper brains, research suggests.

A study has found that people who appear to be constantly 1 have more “working memory”, giving them the ability to hold a lot of information in their heads and 2 it mentally.

Children at school need this type of memory on a daily basis for a variety of tasks, such as 3 teachers’ instructions or remembering dictated sentences.

During the study, volunteers were asked to perform one of two simple tasks 4 which researchers checked to ask if the participants’ minds were wandering.

At the end, participants measured their working memory capacity by their ability to 5 a series of letters interspersed with simple math questions.

Daniel Levinson, a psychologist at the University of Wisconsin-Madison in the United States, said that those with higher working memory capacity reported “more mind 6 during these simple tasks”, but their performance did not suffer.

The results, published online in the journal Psychological Science, appear to 7 previous research that found working memory allows humans to juggle multiple thoughts 8.

Dr Jonathan Smallwood, of the Max Planck Institute for Human Cognitive and Brain Science in Leipzig, Germany, said: “What this study seems to suggest is that, when circumstances for the task aren’t very difficult, people who have 9 working memory resources deploy them to think about things other than what they’re doing.”

Working memory capacity is also 10 with general measures of intelligence, such as reading comprehension and IQ scores, and also offers a window into the widespread, but not well understood, realm of internally driven thoughts.

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|------------------|---------------|-------------------|-----------------|
| A) following | B) wandering | C) from | D) sequentially |
| E) associated | F) during | G) focusing | H) distracted |
| I) remember | J) confirm | K) conflicting | L) manipulate |
| M) concentrative | N) additional | O) simultaneously | |

Passage Seven

Visitors to Britain may find the best place to 1 local culture is in a traditional pub. But these friendly hostelries can be minefields of potential gaffes for the uninitiated.

An anthropologist and a team of researchers have 2 some of the arcane rituals of British pubs—starting with the difficulty of getting a drink. Most pubs have no 3 — you have to go to the bar to buy drinks. A group of Italian youths waiting 45 minutes before they realized they would have to 4 their own. This may sound inconvenient, but there is a hidden purpose.

Pub culture is designed to promote 5 in a society known for its reserve. Standing at the bar for service allows you to chat with others waiting to be served. The bar counter is possibly the only site in the British Isles in which friendly conversation with strangers is considered entirely 6 and really quite normal behaviour. “If you haven’t been to a pub, you haven’t been to Britain.” This tip can be found in a booklet, *Passport to the Pub: The Tourists’ Guide to Pub Etiquette*, a customer’s 7 of conduct for those wanting to sample “a central part of British life and culture”. The trouble is that if you do not 8 the local rules, the experience may fall flat. For example, if you are in a big group, it is best if only one or two people go to buy the drinks. Nothing 9 the regular customers and bar staff more than a gang of strangers 10 all access to the bar while they chat and dither about what to order.

- | | | | |
|----------------|----------------|-------------------|---------------|
| A) fetch | B) offensive | C) code | D) blocking |
| E) ingratiate | F) sociability | G) break | H) unveiled |
| I) sample | J) irritates | K) follow | L) overturned |
| M) appropriate | N) waiters | O) responsibility | |

Passage Eight

The number of people who surf the Internet via mobile devices in China has for the first time 1 the number using computers to go online, an industry report said on Monday.

The number increased by 14.42 million over the past six months, so that now 83.4 percent of China’s Internet surfers are using mobile phones to go online, according to the report 2 by the China Internet Network Information Centre, a government-backed industry administrative body.

The total number of Chinese netizens was 632 million by the end of June, 527 million of whom 3 onto the World Wide Web through their smartphones, the report said.

It is the first time that the number of mobile Internet users has surpassed that of