

大学英语三四六级统考应试指导丛书

大学英语六级应试指导

阅读理解

主编 ● 张中强

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西南财经大学出版社

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阅 读 理 解

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《大学英语三、四、六级统考应试指导丛书》
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前 言

全国大学英语四、六级统考自 1987 年实行以来取得了显著成绩。这一考试促进了全国各高校英语教学质量提高,并正在受到社会各界广泛的重视和认可。但是,如同一切新事物的发展一样,四、六级英语统考也需要我们随时总结经验,进行实际调查研究,不断加以完善和改进。只有这样,才能避免“应试教学”,“证书教学”,实现提高学生基本素质和英语语言的应用能力,促进大学英语教学迈上一个新台阶的根本目标。

1995 年 5 月,国家教委在广州召开了第五届全国大学英语四、六级考试总主考会议。这是一次总结经验,拟定措施,引导各校正确处理英语教学与统考关系并使统考沿着正确道路健康发展的重要会议。会议提出了改善四、六级英语统考,使之更好地为教学服务的三项措施:

1. 逐步采用新题型。
2. 设作文最低分。
3. 采用平均极点分。

我们认为,为了造就适应 21 世纪挑战的新型人才,任何

一门学科的教学都必须注重全面提高学生的基本素质和实际能力,英语教学亦不例外。英语教学的根本目标是培养学生全面的英语语言运用能力,这一能力应体现在听、说、读、写、译等诸方面,即在这五个方面交互使用英、汉两种语言的能力和水平。从学生能力的培养出发,我们认为会议提出的上述三方面措施是完全正确而适时的。教学是一个过程,考试是一种手段,能力的培养和提高才是目的。近年来常可看到这种现象:不是通过教学让学生在英语这门学科领域打牢基本语法基础,熟练掌握基本语汇,积累有关英美社会的,人文的或历史的背景知识,以便其今后进一步发展提高;而是搞“应试教学”,“题海战术”。例如,不是用英语语法的基本理论去指导“做题”这种语言运用实践,而是通过“做题”来归纳语法基本理论和各种语言现象,这实在是本末倒置,只见树木不见森林的行为。这样的教学实践可能会造成某些学生能正确做一些选择题,而语言运用能力则大大地削弱了。例如:

日本有的学生总把 professor 拼写成 proffessor;

有的学生听写时拼不出 at the moment, once in a while 这样的短语;

有的学生把 “It was obvious to everyone that the marriage would sooner or later end in separation if not divorce” 这样一句话译成:

“人人都清楚,结婚的结果不是离婚就是分开。”

有的在 Guided Writing 中只能重复所给的主题句,写不出一个属于自己的完整的英语句子,忘记了基本词汇、短语和语法结构,更谈不上考虑文章的整体构思和逻辑性了。

正是基于促进大学英语教学迈上一个新台阶,提高学生

语言运用能力的目的,我们从自身教学的实践和存在问题出发,编写了这套新的,反映95年5月广州会议精神的三、四、六级“统考自测”。这套丛书的根本目的是丰富大学英语学习者的语言运用实践。它包括下述这样几部分:

听力理解。在我们看来,听力理解是英语学习者必须解决的第一个问题。听懂并能表达能使学习者积累起丰富的语言材料,扩大语言运用的机会,训练学习者的反应能力。本丛书的听力理解包括传统的对话和短文听力训练,也包括了四、六级统考在听力方面拟定采用的新题型,如填空听写,句子听写和短文听写。所有听力理解题都在书后附有文字材料,磁带均由在我校任教的美英籍教师录制,语音语调标准语速与统考要求一致。

完形填空与改错练习。这两项练习的目的在于让学习者通过语言技能运用本身及逻辑思维两方面的训练,做到正确运用语言。因为在做这两项练习时,学习者重点必须思考的是,诸如时态、语态、情态、主谓一致、短语搭配等一系列语言现象,以及短文本身在说理或叙事方面应具有的明析与符合逻辑思维的特征。完形填空形式多样,包括提供四项选择的填空,自行填入一词,给出单词首字母的提示填空,以及给出该段文章所缺全部词汇让练习者选择填空。改错练习中的错误是多方面的,既有各种语言基础知识方面的错误,也有短文写作方面的错误。

阅读理解。阅读是英语学习中一项重要的实践活动。广泛的阅读是积累词汇,巩固所学语言知识,从而扩展听说能力,培养较强写作能力的前提。丰富的阅读材料扩大了我们的知识面,也使我们有机会从多层次,多角度去认识和理解所学

习的英语语言。本丛书提供的阅读材料体裁多样,题材广泛,涉及社会科学、自然科学、人物传记诸方面,知识性、趣味性皆备。每段阅读材料所提供的问题涉及多种阅读技能的训练,如推理、因果关系、利用上下文相关信息寻找主题句等阅读技能。

出于今后题型改革的需要,编者还根据短文提出若干问题,要求学生书面回答。这种训练的目的不是一般地检测学生的阅读理解能力,而是要实实在在地加强学生英汉两种语言交互使用的能力。

词汇与结构。该项练习既能较为全面地检测英语学习者词汇的积累和掌握语法基础理论的程度,又能检测其阅读理解能力。本丛书所提供的词汇和结构练习句子覆盖语法知识面广,词汇量略高于教学大纲对三级、四级、六级教学的要求。

短文写作。学习语言是为了运用,语言的运用有两种:口头和笔头。具有丰富的语汇和准确明了的表达能力是现代人对现代人的要求。我们在日常工作学习中都离不开写作,例如要写报告、演讲、信函、商业合同等等。从某种意义上讲,准确生动的写作是英语学习要达到的一个重要目的,同时也是检验学习者掌握这一语言程度的尺度。如果一个英语学习者在写作时语汇贫乏、语法错误百出、逻辑思维混乱、就表明了其英语语言运用能力完全没有达到要求。设立作文最低分有助于教学双方真正重视语言能力的培养。本丛书作文练习部分对几种主要文体的写作技能和要求作了简明扼要的阐述,并提供了不同题材的写作样文。书末还附有近几年来四、六级统考中短文写作考题和作文评分标准。

该书是我们这个编写集体共同尽心竭力的劳动成果。尽

管付出了巨大的努力,它仍难免存在这样那样的错误之处,恳请读者不吝指正。

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Unit One

Passage 1

Language is, and should be, a living thing, constantly enriched with new words and forms of expression. But there is a vital distinction between good developments, which add to the language, enabling us to say things we could not say before, and bad developments, which subtract from the language¹ by rendering it less precise. A vivacious, colorful use of words is not to be confused with mere slovenliness². The kind of slovenliness in which some professionals deliberately indulge is perhaps akin to³ the cult of the unfinished work, which has eroded most of the arts in our time. And the true answer to it is the same — that art is enhanced, not hindered, by discipline. You cannot carve satisfactorily in butter.

The corruption of written English has been accompanied by an even sharper decline in the standard of spoken English. We speak very much less well than was

common among educated Englishmen a generation or two ago.

The modern theatre has played a baneful part⁴ in dimming our appreciation of language. Instead of the immensely articulate dialogue of, for example, Shaw⁵ (who was also very insistent on good pronunciation), audiences are now subjected to streams of barely literate trivia⁶, often designed, only too well, to exhibit "lack⁷ of communication", and larded with the obscenities⁸ and grammatical errors of the intellectually impoverished. Emily Post once advised her reader: "The theater is the best possible place to hear correctly-enunciated speech". Alas, no more. One young actress was recently reported to be taking lessons in how to speak badly, so that she should fit in⁹ better.

But the BBC is the worst traitor. After years of very successfully helping to raise the general standard of spoken English, it suddenly went into reverse. As the head of the Pronunciation Unit coily¹⁰ put it, "In the 1960's the BBC opened the field to a much wider range of speakers". To hear a BBC disc jockey¹¹ talking to the latest apelike pop idol is a truly shocking experience of verbal squalor¹². And the prospect seems to be of even worse to come. School teachers are actively encouraged to ignore little Johnny's incoherent grammar, atrocious spelling and haphazard punctuation, because worrying about such things might inhibit his creative genius.

1. The writer relates linguistic slovenliness to tendencies in the arts today, in that both are now

- ☐ A. occasionally aim at a certain fluidity
- ☐ B. from time to time show a regard for the finishing touch
- ☒ C. appear to shun perfection
- ☐ D. may make use of economical short cuts

2. What is it claimed has happened to spoken English?

- ☐ A. Writing problems are not reflected in poor oral expression.
- ☐ B. On the whole, people don't worry if they make mistakes.
- ☐ C. Educated Englishmen now are less communicative than they were in the past.
- ☐ D. Like written English, it has undergone a noticeable change for the better.

3. Many modern plays, the author finds, frequently contain speech which _____.

- ☐ A. is incoherent and linguistically objectionable
- ☒ B. is far too ungrammatical for most people to follow
- ☐ C. unintentionally shocks the reader
- ☐ D. deliberately tries to hide the author's intellectual inadequacies

4. Teachers are likely to overlook linguistic lapses in their

pupils since _____.

A. they find that children no longer respond to this kind of discipline nowadays

B. they fear the children may become less coherent

C. more importance is now attached to oral expression

D. the children may be discouraged from giving vent to their own ideas

5. What do you deduce of the writer's attitude to the developments in English? He thinks that _____.

A. the English are more lax linguistically, and he strongly condemns this

B. the English are more relaxed, and he tends to be complacent about the changes

C. there is little to hope for, except in the attitudes of school teachers

D. there is some cause for satisfaction, even in the attitudes of school teachers

Passage 2

Since it was completed in 1889, Eiffel Tower¹³ has been

assaulted in every bizarre way thrill seekers could conceive. Abaker established the tradition when the tower was three years old by wobbling non-stop up 363 steps to the first platform. On stilts. In 1923, a local sportswriter lumped all the way in the opposite direction. On a bicycle. That record was smashed 35 years later by a stuntman¹⁴ who descended the stairs on a unicycle. Because it was there, squads of mountaineers have attempted to climb the iron framework Alpine-style¹⁵; not until 1964 did four experienced climbers finally reach the top.

Not all the assaults ended well. In 1901 a Hungarian tailor stepped off the tower in the first, and only, test of a spring-loaded, batwing flying cape he had devised; he plunged to his death. There have been suicides, some 360 of them. And even a murder; in 1965 a Spanish tourist shoved his wife off into the void.

Last week, the first parachute jump from the top of the Eiffel Tower went into its book of absurdities. Skydiver¹⁶ Mike McCarthy and his girl-friend first made several exploratory visits, posing as tourists. On their ultimate trip, the pair suddenly whipped steerable parachutes out¹⁷ of their knapsacks and worked their way through two antisuicide wire screens that surround the top level. As onlookers screamed "Don't do it!" Tucker pushed off, followed by McCarthy. In the gentle breeze of a clear spring day, they floated down and, landing in the Champs de Mars, gathered

up their gear and sauntered off. Press reports cooed about the "lovers' leap," but tower officials were not amused. Said one, "It sets a very bad precedent."

On stills, in 1923, a local sportswriter jumped all the way in the opposite direction. On a bicycle, that record was smashed 35 years later by a stuntman, who descended

6. The local sportswriter because the stairs on a bicycle.

A. went to the top of the tower on wheels

B. stopped halfway down the stairs

C. descended the stairs from the first platform

D. performed his feat when the tower was scarcely 30

years old

7. According to the passage batwing flying

A. about 360 people have killed themselves stepping off

the tower

B. the tower has been assaulted by things of every

description

C. many people have been killed jumping off the tower for

adventure

D. the first platform of the tower was first reached by a

baker

8. The Hungarian tailor stepped off the tower knapsacks

A. in a test flight of a cape in the batwing shape

B. with a load of springs on board the tailor-made cape

C. testing the only cape he had ever devised

D. only to fall a victim to his own doings