

命题人点拨

考博英语

阅读理解 分册

●
北京大学 张艳霜
清华大学 赵晓敏
主编

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第 3 版
修订版

全国各省市重点中学

考研英语

阅读理解 分册

编者陈建

- 主编：李华成、李华成、李华成
- 主编：李华成、李华成、李华成
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北京出版集团公司
北京出版集团

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石油工业出版社

[HTTP://WWW.SINOPEC-PRESS.COM](http://www.sinopec-press.com)

教·育·出·版·中·心

图书在版编目(CIP)数据

命题人点拨考博英语阅读理解分册 / 赵晓敏

主编. —北京:中国石化出版社, 2014. 12

ISBN 978-7-5114-3093-9

I. ①命… II. ①赵… III. ①英语—阅读教学—研究生—入学考试—自学参考资料 IV. ①H31

中国版本图书馆 CIP 数据核字(2014)第 287257 号

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中国石化出版社出版发行

地址:北京市东城区安定门外大街 58 号

邮编:100011 电话:(010)84271850

读者服务部电话:(010)84289974

<http://www.sinopec-press.com>

E-mail:press@sinopec.com

北京富泰印刷有限责任公司印刷

全国各地新华书店经销

*

787×1092 毫米 16 开本 22.75 印张 555 千字

2015 年 1 月第 1 版 2015 年 1 月第 1 次印刷

定价:50.00 元



我国博士生英语入学考试没有采取统考形式，而是各招生院校自行命题、自行组织考试，各个院校的考试重点、命题特点有相当大的不同，所以目前国内没有统一考试大纲。英语考试是考生参加博士生入学考试的一大障碍和挑战。许多考生并非因为专业课的缘故，而是由于英语考试未达到所报考学校最低录取分数线而与自己理想的学校失之交臂。英语成绩一直是筛选考生能否入选博士研究生的最重要的尺度。对于一个报考其他院校博士的应届考生，一个已经工作的且想报考博士的考生，一个英语水平过六级都没有把握的考生，如果不进行专门的强化训练，那么英语入学考试成绩很可能成为他们考博的瓶颈。许多考生由于有了几年的工作经历，工作也不在英语环境中，所以对英语也有了几分生疏，英语考试就很自然地成为了一大难题。为了更好地帮助考生复习，顺利通过英语考试、赢取高分，我们基于多年参加阅卷和考博英语辅导班的教学实践经验，并分析了近几年考题中的考点、难点、重点及命题套路，倾力推出这本《命题人点拨考博英语阅读理解分册》。

本书的特色如下：

一、鲜明的创新特色，编写体例非常符合考生的需要

本书全面吸收了同类图书的优点，结合作者丰富的辅导经验，博采众长，推陈出新，使书中的结构和内容具有鲜明的特色。编写者都是多年从事考博英语辅导的专家、学者，他们熟悉学位考试的大纲、教材，了解考生的需要，深谙命题原则、思路和最新考试动态，经过精心研究，认真组织，编写出了这本辅导书。

二、全面展现解题思路，荟萃英语运用基础知识，讲练结合

本书取材广泛，集众家之长；重理论，更注重技巧的传授；具有资料新颖、知识面广、指导性强等特点。本书全面展现解题思路，让考生能掌握命题思路，熟练掌握考试特点和解题技巧，从容应对考试。

三、配套练习丰富，基础训练 40 篇，强化提高 40 篇，模拟测试 40 篇

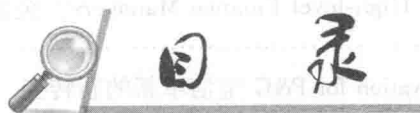
本书精解 120 篇阅读理解材料，对文章长难句进行了深入分析，并提供了全文翻译，有助于考生消化和吸收考博英语阅读理解部分所要求掌握的考点，通过实践来掌握解题方法，熟悉命题规律和出题动态。

总之，本书一定会成为广大立志参加博士研究生入学英语考试的莘莘学子的良师益友。好的学习方法、好的辅导老师、好的辅导教材以及好的学习热情，是必不可少的成功要素。我们的精益求精和热情付出，恰恰是广大考生迫切需要和殷切期待的。

限于水平和时间，书中疏漏在所难免，敬请广大读者批评指正。

编者

于北京大学



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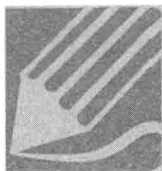
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第一部分 基础训练 40 篇

1

源自旧专利的“新意”

“New Ideas” Originating from Old Patent

When an invention is made, the inventor has three possible courses of action open to him: he can give the invention to the whole world by publishing it, keep the idea secret, or patent it.

A granted patent is the result of a bargain struck between an inventor and the state, by which the inventor gets a limited period of monopoly and publishes full details of his invention to the public after that period terminates.

Only in the most exceptional circumstances is the life-span of a patent extended to alter this normal process of events.

The longest extension ever granted was to Georges Valensi; his 1939 patent for color TV receiver circuitry was extended until 1971 because for most of the patent's normal life there was no colour TV to receive and thus no hope of reward for the invention.

Because a patent remains permanently public after it has terminated, the shelves of the library attached to the patent office contain details of literally millions of ideas that are free for anyone to use and, if older than half a century, sometimes even re-patent. Indeed, patent experts often advise anyone wishing to avoid the high cost of conducting a search through live patents that the one sure way of avoiding violation of any other inventor's right is to plagiarize a dead patent. Likewise, because publication of an idea in any other form permanently invalidates further patents on that idea, it is traditionally safe to take ideas from other areas of print. Much modern technological advance is based on these presumptions of legal security.

Anyone closely involved in patents and inventions soon learns that most “new” ideas are, in fact, as old as the hills. It is their reduction to commercial practice, either through necessity or dedication, or through the availability of new technology, that makes news and money. The patent for the theory of magnetic recording dates back to 1886. Many of the original ideas behind television originate from the late 19th and early 20th century. Even the Volkswagen rear engine car was anticipated by a 1904 patent for a cart with the horse at the rear.

1. Which of the following is TRUE according to the passage?

- A. It is necessary for an inventor to apply for a patent before he makes his invention public.
- B. A patent holder must publicize the details of his invention when its legal period is over.
- C. One can get all the details of a patented invention from a library attached to the patent office.

- D. When a patent becomes out of effect, it can be re-patented or extended if necessary.
2. Georges Valensi's patent lasted until 1971 because _____.
A. there were not enough TV stations to provide color programmers
B. his patent could not be put to use for an unusually long time
C. nobody would offer any reward for his patent prior to that time
D. the color TV receiver was not available until that time
3. The word "plagiarize" (para. 5) most probably means "_____".
A. make public
B. give reward to
C. steal and use
D. take and change
4. What is the passage mainly about?
A. An approach to patents.
B. The use of patents.
C. The access to patents.
D. The application for patents.
5. From the passage we learn that _____.
A. an invention will not benefit the inventor unless it is reduced to commercial practice
B. it is much cheaper to buy an old patent than a new one
C. patent experts often recommend patents to others
D. products are actually inventions which were made a long time ago

1. 【答案】B

【解析】本题的四个选项中，只有 B 项为正确答案，这可从文中第二段的后半部分推知，即在专利期限截止以后，发明者就要把他发明的全部细节公诸于众。从文中第一段的内容可推知，发明者可以把发明公诸于众，保守秘密或是为其申请专利，因此 A 项不正确。根据文中的第五段第一句话可知，人们可以从隶属于专利局的图书馆里查到一项专利的全部细节是在其专利期限结束以后，而不是对正在享受专利保护的发明可以查到全部细节，因此 C 项不正确。

2. 【答案】B

【解析】本题的四个选项中，只有 B 项为正确答案，这可从文中的“because for most of the patent's normal life there was no color TV to receive”推知，即 Georges Valensi 的专利之所以从 1939 年一直持续到 1971 年是因为无彩电可收看。

3. 【答案】C

【解析】本题的四个选项中，只有 C 项为正确答案。plagiarize 的意思是“剽窃，抄袭”。

4. 【答案】C

【解析】本题的四个选项中，只有 C 项为正确答案，这可从文中内容推知，即本文主要讲述了怎样利用已经有的但不再受专利权保护的思路来进行新的发明创造并且取得专利（或专利权）。

5. 【答案】A

【解析】本题的四个选项中，只有 A 项为正确答案，这可从文中最后一段的第二句“It is their reduction to commercial practice, either through necessity or dedication, or through the availability of new technology, that makes news and money”推知，即科学发明只有转换成商业实践发明者才能从其中受益（获得钱财的回报）。



全文参考译文

当有了某种发明,发明者有三种方式可以选择:公开发表,把发明给予全世界;保密;申请专利。

获得的专利是发明者和国家之间讨价还价的结果。通过这种方式,发明者有一定时期的垄断权,在这个时期过后他要把该发明的全部内容公布于众。

极特殊情况下专利的寿命可以延长,改变了正常的专利期限。

最长的延期应该是乔治·瓦伦西,他 1939 年申请的彩色电视机接收器电路专利一直延伸到 1971 年,因为在申请专利的大部分时间里没有彩色电视机,也就没有对该发明的奖励。

因为专利期限期满后,该专利就可以永远公开,所以专利办公司里积压了上百万个创意以供使用;如果某种专利过了 50 年,就可以再次申请专利。确实,专利专家常常说一些发明者剽窃了过时的专利,因为通过任何其他方式公布一个念头,会使得相关的其他专利无效,从其他人留下的足迹获得创意总是安全的。很多现代科技进步就基于这个法律安全性的设定。

对专利和发明接触很近的人都会知道大部分的“新”创意实际上是很陈旧的。正是通过必要性和贡献对商业实践进行的限制创造了新闻和收入。磁带录音理论最开始的专利可以追溯到 1886 年。电视的很多初始创意可追溯到 19 世纪末 20 世纪初。甚至大众汽车的后置发动机轿车,1904 年就有个专利:马在后面推着马车。



长难例句分析

【难句 1 解析】Only in the most exceptional circumstances is the life-span of a patent extended to alter this normal process of events.

典型的倒装句。表语前置。

【难句 2 解析】The shelves of the library attached to the patent office contain details of literally millions of ideas that are free for anyone to use.

句子的主要结构是 shelves contain。前面有个过去分词做定语,后面有个定语从句修饰 ideas。

【难句 3 解析】Anyone closely involved in patents and inventions soon learns that most “new” ideas are, in fact, as old as the hills.

句中 involved 是过去分词做定语修饰主语。宾语从句由 that 引起。

2

美国居民的食物变丰富的贡献因素

The Distributing Factors of the Vary of American Dwellers' Food

Before the mid-nineteenth century, people in the United State eat most foods only in season.

Drying, smoking, and salting could preserve meat for a short time, but the availability of fresh meat, like that of fresh milk, was very limited. There was no way to prevent spoilage. But in 1810 a French inventor named Nicolas Appert developed the cooking-and-sealing process of canning. And in the 1850's an American named Gail Borden developed a means of condensing and preserving milk. Canned goods and condensed milk became more common during the 1860's, but supplies remained low because cans had to be made by hand. By 1880, however, inventors had fashioned stamping and soldering machines that mass-produced cans from tinplate. Suddenly all kinds of food could be preserved and bought at all times of the year.

Other trends and inventions had also helped make it possible for Americans to vary their daily diets. Growing urban populations created demand that encouraged fruit and vegetable farmers to raise more produce. Railroad refrigerator car enabled growers and meat packers to ship perishables great distance and to preserve them for longer periods. Thus, by the 1890's, northern city dwellers could enjoy southern and western strawberries, grapes and tomatoes, previously available for a month at most, for up to six months of the year. In addition, increased use of iceboxes enabled families to store perishables. An easy means of producing ice commercially had been invented in the 1870's, and by 1900 the nation had more than two thousand commercial ice plants, most of which made home deliveries. The icebox became a fixture in most homes and remained so until the mechanized refrigerator replaced it in the 1920's and 1930's.

Almost every one now had a more diversified diet. Some people continued to eat mainly foods that were heavy in starches or carbohydrates, and not everyone could afford meat. Nevertheless, many families could take advantage of previously unavailable fruits, vegetables, and dairy products to achieve more varied fare.

1. During the 1860's canned food products were _____.
 - A. shipped in refrigerator cars
 - B. a staple part of the American diet
 - C. available in limited quantities
 - D. unavailable in rural areas
2. It can be inferred that railroad refrigerator cars came into use _____.
 - A. before 1860
 - B. after 1900
 - C. before 1890
 - D. after 1920
3. The author implies that in the 1920's and 1930's home deliveries of ice _____.
 - A. were on an irregular schedule
 - B. decreased in number
 - C. increased in cost
 - D. occurred only in the summer
4. What does the passage talk about mainly?
 - A. Commercial production of ice.
 - B. Inventions that led to changes in the American diet.
 - C. Causes of food spoilage.
 - D. Population movements in the 19th century.
5. Which of the following statements is supported by the passage?
 - A. Tin cans and iceboxes helped to make many foods more widely available.
 - B. City people demanded home delivery of foods.
 - C. Most American farmers raised only fruits and vegetables.

D. Commercial ice factories were developed by railway owners.

1. 【答案】C

【解析】本题的四个选项中，只有 C 项为正确答案，这可从文中的“Canned goods and condensed milk became more common during the 1860's, but supplies remained low because cans had to be made by hand.”推知，即在 19 世纪 60 年代，因为需要手工生产，所以罐装食品的供应量很少。

2. 【答案】C

【解析】本题的四个选项中，只有 C 项为正确答案，这可从文中的“Railroad refrigerator cars enabled growers and meat packers to ship perishables great distances and to preserve them for longer periods. Thus, by the 1890's, northern city dwellers could enjoy southern and western strawberries, grapes, and tomatoes, previously available for a month at most, for up to six months of the year.”推知，即 1890 年以前铁路冷藏车就开始使用了。

3. 【答案】B

【解析】本题的四个选项中，只有 B 项为正确答案，这可从文中的“The icebox became a fixture in most homes and remained so until the mechanized refrigerator replaced it in the 1920's and 1930's.”推知，即机械化的冰箱在 20 世纪 20 年代和 30 年代逐渐取代了原来的冰盒，从中暗示了家庭用冰量的减小。

4. 【答案】B

【解析】本题的四个选项中，只有 B 项为正确答案，这可从文中的内容推知，即本文主要谈论的是各种发明导致了美国人饮食的变化。

5. 【答案】A

【解析】本题的四个选项中，只有 A 项为正确答案，这可从文中的“By 1880, however, inventors had fashioned stamping and soldering machines that mass-produced cans from tinplate. Suddenly all kinds of food could be preserved and bought at all times of the year.”和后面的“Other trends and inventions had also helped make it possible for Americans to vary their daily diets.”，“In addition, increased use of iceboxes enabled families to store perishables.”推知，即锡罐的使用加大了食品购买的范围。



全文参考译文

在 19 世纪中期以前，大部分情况美国人只能吃时令下的食物。晒干、熏烤和腌制等方式只能在一段时间对肉进行保鲜；鲜肉，尤其是鲜奶极其有限。没办法阻止食物变坏。但 1810 年一个叫尼古拉的法国发明者开发了加热、密封的保鲜措施，19 世纪 50 年代一个叫鲍顿的美国人发明一种浓缩、保存牛奶的方法。罐头和压缩奶在 19 世纪 60 年代很常见了，但产量很低因为需要手工制作很多罐头盒。到 80 年代前，发明者发明了压印和焊接机器，可以用马蹄铁大量生产罐头盒了。突然所有种类的食物都可以保存起来了，一年中任何季节都可以买到。

其他趋势和发明也帮助美国人丰富了日常用餐。城市人口的剧增产生了需求，促使果农和菜农生产更多的东西。铁路、电冰箱、汽车可让生产者和包装者把食物运到很远的地方，

保存更长时间。因此到了 19 世纪 90 年代,北方城市的居民能够吃到南方和西方地区的草莓、葡萄和西红柿,在此之前至少需要一个月或将近半年以后才可能吃到。此外,冰柜的广泛使用使得各家能保存容易腐烂的食物。70 年代人造冰技术也发明出来了,到 20 世纪前全国有 2000 多家人造冰工厂,大部分产品运往各个家庭。冰柜一直是家庭必备的东西,直到它在 20 世纪 20 和 30 年代被电冰箱代替。

几乎所有人现在都吃得花样繁多。有些人仍然吃着含淀粉或糖分很高的主食,不是所有人都能吃得起肉。无论怎样,很多家庭能享受到以前吃不到的水果、蔬菜和奶制品,饮食变得多样化。



长难例句分析

【难句 1 解析】But supplies remained low because cans had to be made by hand.

转折句字中有个原因状语从句,从句是被动语态。

【难句 2 解析】Other trends and inventions had also helped make it possible for Americans to vary their daily diets.

动词 help 后面的不定式 make 省略了 to。宾语后置, it 做先行词。

【难句 3 解析】By 1900 the nation had more than two thousand commercial ice plants, most of which made home deliveries.

非限定性定语从句后置。

3

磁场研究的重大发现

Groundbreaking Research About Magnetic Field

There are some earth phenomena you can count on, but the magnetic field, someday is not of them. It fluctuates in strength, drifts from its axis, and every few 100, 000 years undergo a dramatic polarity reversal—a period when north pole becomes south pole and south pole becomes north pole. But how is the field generated, and why is it so unstable?

Groundbreaking research by two French geophysicists promises to shed some light on the mystery. Using 80 meters of deep sea sediment core, they have obtained measurements of magnetic-field intensity that span 11 polarity reversals and four million years. The analysis reveals that intensity appears to fluctuate with a clear, well-defined rhythm. Although the strength of the magnetic field varies irregularly during the short term, there seems to be an inevitable long term decline preceding each polarity reversal. When the poles flip—a process that takes several hundred thousand years—the magnetic field rapidly regains its strength and the cycle is repeated.

The results have caused a stir among geophysicists. The magnetic field is thought to originate from molten iron in the outer core, 3,000 kilometers beneath the earth's surface. By studying mineral grains found in material ranging from rocks to clay articles, previous researchers have already

been able to identify reversals dating back 170 million years, including the most recent switch 730,000 years ago. How and why they occur, however, has been widely debated. Several theories link polarity flips to external disasters such as meteor impacts. But Peter Olson, a geophysicist at the Johns Hopkins University in Baltimore, says this is unlikely if the French researchers are right. In fact, Olson says intensity that predictably declines from one reversal to the next contradicts 90 percent of the models currently under study. If the results prove to be valid, geophysicists will have a new theory to guide them in their quest to understand the earth's inner physics. It certainly points the direction for future research.

1. Which of the following titles is most appropriate to the passage?
 - A. Polarity Reversal: A Fantastic Phenomenon of Nature.
 - B. Measurement of the Earth's Magnetic-Field Intensity.
 - C. Formation of the Two Poles of the Earth.
 - D. A New Approach to the Study of Geophysics.
2. The word "flip" (Para. 2) most probably means "_____".
 - A. decline
 - B. intensify
 - C. fluctuate
 - D. reverse
3. What have the two French geophysicists discovered in their research?
 - A. Some regularity in the changes of the earth's magnetic field.
 - B. Some causes of the fluctuation of the earth's magnetic field.
 - C. The origin of the earth's magnetic field.
 - D. The frequency of polarity reversals.
4. The French geophysicists' study is different from currently prevailing theories in _____.
 - A. its identification of the origin of the earth's magnetic field
 - B. the way the earth's magnetic intensity is measured
 - C. its explanation of the shift in the earth's polarity
 - D. the way the earth's fluctuation rhythm is defined
5. In Peter Olson's opinion the French experiment _____.
 - A. is likely to direct further research in the inner physics of the earth
 - B. has successfully solved the mystery of polarity reversals
 - C. is certain to help predict external disasters
 - D. has caused great confusion among the world's geophysicists

1. 【答案】A

【解析】本题的四个选项中，只有 A 项为正确答案，这可从文中的内容推知，即本文是围绕着两极转换这一奇异的自然现象来展开叙述的。

2. 【答案】D

【解析】本题的四个选项中，只有 D 项为正确答案，这可从文中的“Although the strength of the magnetic field varies irregularly during the short term, there seems to be an inevitable long-term decline preceding each polarity reversal. When the poles flip—a process that takes several hundred thousand years—the magnetic field rapidly regains its strength and the cycle is repeated.”推知，即虽然短期内磁场强度变化不规则，但似乎每次两极转换前都有一个不可避