大学英语四六级710分冲关快训

大学英语六级

College English Test 给力版

20天阅读冲关快训

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- 真题解析　题材多样　步入考场前的摸索和积累
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- 第 2-5 天　快速阅读分项训练
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编　者　李效愚　郭婷婷
　　陆　燕

One hour today is worth two tomorrow!

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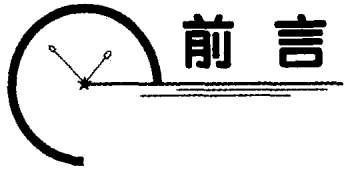

前言

《大学英语六级阅读20天快训》按照大学英语六级考试改革后的新考试大纲进行编写，书中的编排与新考试大纲中的题型完全一致。基于阅读部分的命题方式与命题规律，解析时分题型对考查要点予以说明，并针对不同题型列举了简便、实用的解题方法与技巧。

全书共分为5个部分。第一部分为阅读水平摸底测试，仿真自测题将帮助考生了解个人阅读理解的真实水平与存在问题。第二部分为快速阅读部分，共18篇文章，长度和难度均贴近考试真题；第三部分为深度阅读第一部分，共16篇短句问答阅读；第四部分为深度阅读第二部分，共36篇文章；第五部分为阅读水平最后一次测试，帮助考生了解实训后个人阅读水平与能力的提高幅度。

本书具有以下三个特色：

一、训练方式独特

为了给考生一个集中训练、将各阅读题型逐一攻破的机会，应对考生在考场上考试状态差，阅读速度慢，做题没章法等突出问题，本书前三部分分别为快速阅读、篇章词汇和篇章阅读的分类训练，要求考生在18天内定时定量地完成共计70篇文章的阅读任务，力图营造一个真实的考试氛围，使考生在练习中学会动态调整阅读速度，以便按时完成考题，从而适应考试的快节奏，力争达到应考的最佳状态。

二、试题设计到位

大学英语六级常考的五大题材为社会生活、文化教育、商业经济、科

普知识和自然环境。本书的二、三、四部分严格依照这五大题材和六级阅读各题型所要求的难度标准选取文章，并依据常见考点设计了典型考题。这一方面便于考生在做题过程中把握六级阅读的命题思路，练习时能做到举一反三；另一方面有助于考生积累相关的背景知识和常用词汇，为考试中更好地理解类似题材的文章奠定基础。

三、编写设计科学

本书二、三、四部分的解析采取了“因题制宜，分类指导”的策略，比如快速阅读注重培养考生快速定位语言信息的能力；篇章词汇阅读着重于语言信息转换能力；深度阅读强调语句分析和信息整合能力，帮助考生逐一攻破阅读的三大题型。同时每篇文章后附有核心词汇和难句解析板块，前者将文章中六级考纲规定的核心单词列出，有助于考生在阅读的同时积累一些有用词汇；后者精选了文中的长、难句进行语法解析，并附有译文，帮助考生明晰句子结构和句意，更好地理解全文。

相信考生在学习本书之后，会收获颇丰，能在六级阅读部分取得满意的成绩。

编　者

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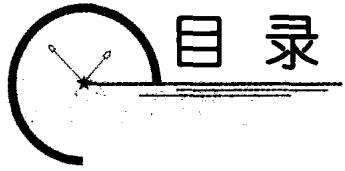

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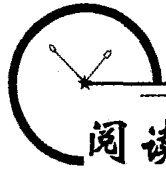

第1天
阅读水平摸底测试

本部分按照六级考试大纲要求、遵循命题原则、符合六级难度准备了一套六级阅读模拟题，要求考生在规定时间内完成模拟题。通过模拟题，考生可以了解自己在20天阅读快训开始时的阅读能力和水平，发现自己的薄弱之处，在随后18天的阅读分项训练中做到有的放矢，把握提高的关键。

大学英语六级
阅读部分　模拟试题（1）

Part I　Reading Comprehension(Skimming and Scanning)(15 minutes)

Directions: *In this part, you will have 15 minutes to go over the passage quickly and answer the questions after the passage. For questions 1–7, choose the best answer from the four choices marked A), B), C) and D). For questions 8–10, complete the sentences with the information given in the passage.*

The Debate over Genetically Modified Foods

For thousands of years farmers have used a process of selection and cross breeding to continually improve the quality of crops. Traditional

breeding methods are slow, requiring intensive labor: while trying to get a desirable trait in a bred species, undesirable traits will appear and farmers must continue the process over and over again until all the undesirables are bred out. In contrast, organisms acquire one specific gene or a few genes together through genetic modification (GM), without other traits included and within a single generation. However, this technology too is inherently unpredictable and some scientists believe it can produce potentially dangerous results unless better testing methods are developed.

Traditional breeding is based on sexual reproduction between like organisms. The transferred genes are similar to genes in the cell they join. They are conveyed in complete groups and in a fixed sequence that harmonizes with the sequence of genes in the partner cell. In contrast, bioengineers isolate a gene from one type of organism and collect it randomly into the DNA of a dissimilar species, disrupting its natural sequence. One of the main differences between conventional and genetically modified crops is that the former involves crosses either within species or between very closely related species. However, GM crops can have genes from closely related species or even from bacteria and viruses.

Benefits: one side of the debate

Economical?

GM supporters tell farmers that they stand to reap enormous profits from growing GM crops. It takes a shorter time to produce the desired product. It is precise and there are no unwanted genes. To produce the GM crops, modern biotechnology is used which requires highly skilled people and sophisticated and expensive equipment. Large companies need considerable investments in laboratories, equipment and human resources, hence the reason why GM crops are more expensive for farmers than traditional crops.

Herbicide-resistant crops

So what other advantages do GM crops hold for farmers? GM crops

can be produced to be *herbicide* (除草剂) resistant. This means that farmers could spray these crops with herbicide and kill the weeds, without affecting the crop. In effect, the amount of herbicide used in one season would be reduced, with a subsequent reduction in costs for farmers and consumers. Biotechnology companies are even experimenting with crops that can be genetically modified to be drought and salt-tolerant, or less reliant on fertilizer, opening up new areas to be farmed and leading to increased productivity. However, the claims of less herbicide usage with GM crops have till now not been independently supported by facts.

Better quality foods

Even animals can be genetically modified to be leaner, grow faster, and need less food. They could be modified to have special characteristics, such as greater milk production in cows. These modifications again lead to improved productivity for farmers and finally lower costs for the consumers. Modified crops could perhaps prevent outbreaks such as foot and mouth disease, which has badly influenced many farmers and local economies. No such products have been released to date; however, some are under consideration for release. For example, GM salmon, capable of growing almost 30 times faster than natural salmon, may soon be approved by the FDA (Food and Drug Administration) in the U.S. for release into open waters without a single study on the impact on human health or the environment.

Risks: the other side of the debate

Environmental damage

The problem with GM crops is that there is little known about what effect they will have in, say, 20 years time. The genetic structure of any living organism is complex and GM crop tests focus on short-term effects. Not all the effects of introducing a foreign gene into the complex genetic structure of an organism are tested. Will the pests that a crop was created to resist eventually become resistant to this crop? Then there is always the

possibility that we may not be able to destroy GM crops once they spread into the environment.

Risk to food web

A further complication is that the pesticide produced in the crop may unintentionally harm creatures. GM crops may also pose a health risk to native animals that eat them. The animals may be poisoned by the built-in pesticides. Tests in the U.S. showed that 44% of *caterpillars* (毛虫) of the monarch butterfly died when fed large amounts of *pollen* (花粉) from GM corn.

Disease

Another concern is disease. Since some crops are modified using the DNA from viruses and bacteria, will we see new diseases emerge? What about the GM crops that have antibiotic-resistant marker genes? Marker genes are used by scientists to determine whether their genetic modification of a plant was successful. Will these antibiotic-resistant genes be transferred to microorganisms that cause disease? We already have a problem with ineffective antibiotics. How can we develop new drugs to fight these new bugs?

Until further studies can show that GM foods and crops do not pose serious threats to human health or the world's ecosystems, the debate over their release will continue. Living organisms are complex and *tampering with* (影响) their genes may have unintended effects. It is in our common interest to support concerned scientists and organizations, such as Friends of the Earth who demand required labeling of these food products and independent testing for safety and environmental impacts.

1. What is the main difference between conventional breeding and genetic breeding?

A) The former is practically unpredictable while the latter is theoretically predictable.

B) The former is based on sexual reproduction while the latter on gene

modification.

C) The former is applied by farmers while the latter by scientists.

D) The former has a long history while the latter a short one.

2. Which of the following is the possible benefit of GM crops?

A) They can produce salt.

B) They can fertilize the field.

C) They can be herbicide-resistant.

D) They can be more delicious.

3. What will probably happen to the genetically modified animals?

A) They may grow slower.

B) They may improve the production.

C) They may digest more food.

D) They may spread disease quickly.

4. What can we learn about GM salmon according to the passage?

A) Its impact on human health has been studied.

B) It will eat more.

C) It will be released into open waters.

D) It is more nutritious.

5. What is the problem with GM crops tests?

A) They do not focus on far-reaching effects.

B) They only examine the effects that GM crops will have in 20 years time.

C) There is no single study on the impact of GM crops on the environment.

D) Not all the effects of the genetic structure of any living organism are tested.

6. This article has mentioned _____ risks about GM foods.

A) six B) five C) four D) three

7. The author's attitude towards GM foods is _____.

A) objective B) biased C) affirmative D) negative

8. The native animals that eat GM crops might be poisoned by _____.

9. Scientists relied on _____ to test the results of genetic modification of a plant.

10. Friends of the Earth claim that all GM foods should be tested for _____.

Part II Reading Comprehension (Reading in Depth) (25 minutes)

Section A

Directions: *In this section, there is a short passage with 5 questions or incomplete statements. Read the passage carefully. Then answer the questions or complete the statements in the fewest possible words.*

Questions 11 to 15 are based on the following passage.

Every Western doctor is required to take the Hippocratic oath, by which they swear to never harm their patients. Unfortunately, as medical history shows, many doctors did not make good on this promise. Instead, they resorted to *quackery* (庸医的医术), and made a living out of fooling people who sought medical help.

In the past, quack doctors claimed to have "fixed" problems from poor eyesight to cancer and *smallpox* (天花). They claimed to be able to work medical miracles, relying on public ignorance of medicine for their "success". In addition, well-meaning doctors often advocated treatments that harmed their patients instead of helping them: procedures such as bloodletting often made worse the suffering they were intended to ease.

The typical feature of quackery is ignorance. Unwary people are easily taken in by claims of the doctors they trust. For example, in the 1800s, psychologists commonly used basket-shaped devices to determine personality, with questionable benefit. Based on the idea that different parts of the brain control different character traits, the devices determined personality by measuring the size and shape of people's heads!

Of all the ridiculous devices created by quacks, the most inventive was perhaps the "radionic" machine. In the early 1900s, quacks claimed radionics

could diagnose any sickness, even though the devices were just wooden boxes with lights inside. After radionic diagnosis, patients were sent home with the assurance that they would get well. No medicine was prescribed because, quacks claimed, the radionic machine would broadcast the cure to patients, much like radio stations broadcast music!

The quackery of the 19th and early 20th centuries was not limited to the use of strange devices, nor to crooked doctors. Nor were quack procedures anything new. The practice of bloodletting had been a popular treatment for over a millennium. In the name of medicine, large volumes of blood were drained from people's bodies to cure their sicknesses. Death, more often than not, was the outcome, though usually the disease was blamed rather than the loss of blood.

It's easy to look back on the past and brand questionable medical procedures as quackery. However, *hindsight*(事后诸葛亮)is 20/20. Perhaps in the future, people will look back on some of today's medical practices with similar suspicion.

11. In the past, many doctors managed to fool patients by taking advantage of _____.
12. Using a basket-shaped device, psychologists in the 1800s would measure the size and shape of one's head to _____.
13. Why didn't the quacks prescribe any medicine for their patients after radionic diagnosis?
14. As a popular medical treatment in the past, bloodletting usually caused death instead of _____.
15. What is the possible conclusion of the article?

Section B

Directions: *There are 2 passages in this section. Each passage is followed by some questions or unfinished statements. For each of them there are four choices marked A), B), C) and D). You should*

decide on the best choice.

Passage One

Questions 16 to 20 are based on the following passage.

You're in trouble if you have to buy your own brand-name prescription drugs. Over the past decade, prices leaped by more than double the inflation rate. Treatments for chronic conditions can easily top $2,000 a month—no wonder that one in four Americans can't afford to fill their prescriptions. The solution? A hearty chorus of "O Canada." North of the border, where price controls reign, those same brand-name drugs cost 50% to 80% less.

The Canadian option is fast becoming a political wake-up call, "If our neighbors can buy drugs at reasonable prices, why can't we? Even to whisper that thought provokes anger. "Un-American! " And the propagandists' *trump card* (王牌) "Wreck our brilliant health-care system." Super size drug prices, they claim, fund the research that sparks the next generation of wonder drugs. No sky-high drug price today, no cure for cancer tomorrow. So shut up and pay up.

Common sense tells you that's a false alternative. The reward for finding, say, a cancer cure is so huge that no one's going to hang it up. Nevertheless, if Canada-level pricing came to the United States, the industry's profit margins would drop and the pace of new-drug development would slow. Here lies the American dilemma. Who is all this splendid medicine for? Should our health-care system continue its drive toward the best of the best, even though rising numbers of patients can't afford it? Or should we direct our wealth toward letting everyone in on today's level of care? Measured by saved lives, the latter is almost certainly the better course.

To defend their profits, the drug companies have warned Canadian wholesalers and *pharmacies* (药房) not to sell to Americans by mail, and are cutting back supplies to those who dare.

Meanwhile, the administration is playing the fear card. Officials from the Food and Drug Administration will argue that Canadian drugs might be fake, mishandled, or even a potential threat to life.

Do bad drugs fly around the Internet? Sure—and the more we look, the more we'll find. But I haven't heard of any raging epidemics among the hundreds of thousands of people buying cross border.

Most users of prescription drugs don't worry about costs a lot. They're sheltered by employee insurance, owing just a $20 co-pay. The financial blows rain, instead, on the uninsured, especially the chronically ill who need expensive drugs to live. This group will still include middle-income seniors on Medicare, who'll have to dig deeply into their pockets before getting much from the new drug benefit that starts in 2006.

16. What is said about the consequence of the rocketing drug prices in the U.S.?

A) A quarter of Americans can't afford their prescription drugs.

B) Many Americans can't afford to see a doctor when they fall ill.

C) Many Americans have to go to Canada to get medical treatment.

D) The inflation rate has been more than doubled over the years.

17. It can be inferred that America can follow the Canadian model and curb its soaring drug prices by _____.

A) encouraging people to buy prescription drugs online

B) extending medical insurance to all its citizens

C) importing low-price prescription drugs from Canada

D) exercising price control on brand-name drugs

18. How do propagandists argue for the U.S. drug pricing policy?

A) Low prices will affect the quality of medicines in America.

B) High prices are essential to funding research on new drugs.

C) Low prices will bring about the anger of drug manufacturers.

D) High-price drugs are indispensable in curing chronic diseases.

19. What should be the priority of America's health-care system according

to the author?

A) To resolve the dilemma in the health-care system.

B) To maintain America's lead in the drug industry.

C) To allow the vast majority to enjoy its benefits.

D) To quicken the pace of new drug development.

20. What are American drug companies doing to protect their high profits?

A) Labeling drugs bought from Canada as being fakes.

B) Threatening to cut back funding for new drug research.

C) Reducing supplies to uncooperative Canadian pharmacies.

D) Attributing the raging epidemics to the ineffectiveness of Canadian drugs.

Passage Two

Questions 21 to 25 are based on the following passage.

When imaginative men turn their eyes towards space and wonder whether life exist in any part of it, they may cheer themselves by remembering that life need not resemble closely the life that exists on Earth. Mars looks like the only planet where life like ours could exist, and even this is doubtful. But there may be other kinds of life based on other kinds of chemistry, and they may multiply on Venus or Jupiter. At least we cannot prove at present that they do not.

Even more interesting is the possibility that life on their planets may be in a more advanced stage of evolution. Present-day man is in a peculiar and probably temporary stage. His individual units retain a strong sense of personality. They are, in fact, still capable under favorable circumstances of leading individual lives. But man's societies are already sufficiently developed to have enormously more power and effectiveness than the individuals have.

It is not likely that this transitional situation will continue very long on the evolutionary time scale. Fifty thousand years from now man's societies

may have become so close-knit that the individuals retain no sense of separate personality. Then little distinction will remain between the organic parts of the multiple organism and the inorganic parts (machines) that have been constructed by it. A million years further on man and his machines may have merged as closely as the muscles of the human body and the nerve cells that set them in motion.

The explorers of space should be prepared for some such situation. If they arrive on a foreign planet that has reached an advanced stage (and this is by no means impossible), they may find it being inhabited by a single large organism composed of many closely cooperating units.

The units may be "secondary" machines created millions of years ago by a previous form of life and given the will and ability to survive and reproduce. They may be built entirely of metals and other durable materials. If this is the case, they may be much more tolerant of their environment, multiplying under conditions that would destroy immediately any organism made of carbon compounds and dependent on the familiar carbon cycle.

Such creatures might be *relics* (遗物) of a past age, many millions of years ago, when their planet was favorable to the origin of life, or they might be immigrants from a favored planet.

21. What does the word "cheer" (Line 2, Para. 1) imply?

A) Imaginative men are sure of success in finding life on other planets.

B) Imaginative men are delighted to find life on other planets.

C) Imaginative men are happy to find a different kind of life existing on other planets.

D) Imaginative men can be pleased with the idea that there might exist different forms of life on other planets.

22. Humans on Earth today are characterized by _____.

A) their existence as free and separate beings

B) their capability of living under favorable conditions