



大学英语四级

最新题型

应试攻略

• 阅读理解

主编 何建梅

上海交通大学出版社

大学英语四级最新题型应试攻略

阅读理解

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前 言

为了帮助广大英语学习者对四级最新题型中阅读理解部分有个全方位的了解,本书对四级最新题型中阅读理解部分的各类题型进行精确分类,高度概括了四级英语阅读理解最新题型的考查要点,揭示出四级考试最新考题阅读理解部分的设题手段与命题规律,进而针对阅读理解各种题型提出最为明了、最为实用的解题方法与技巧;每项分类都给了10~20篇的文章并给了详细的逐题注解,以便考生迅速地了解四级最新题型的精髓。本书旨在使读者在掌握快速阅读技巧的基础上,学练并行,收到事半功倍之效。

这本书的整个内容安排是根据广大四级考生实际需要,开始是四级阅读理解新题型概述,给考生一个全新的感觉。接下来是对四级阅读理解新题型分项技巧的讲解,讲解后面是模拟练习,此部分的文章都给了详细的逐题注解。最后部分是40篇全真模拟练习。这几个部分是环环相扣,扣扣生辉。

本书选取了包括神州六号等的国内外报刊的最新文章,选文涵盖了《基本要求》提及的各个领域。本书的设计既适合高水平的阅读者,同时也瞄准了基础相对薄弱的考生,所以立志在提高英语的阅读能力和解题技能的考生来说,这是一本必备的图书。

本书的编者都是工作在教学第一线的大学英语教师,有丰富的教学经验,而本部分也是他们多年工作的总结,它可以帮助考生把握英语阅读的考试内容和应试要点。

本书由何建梅任主编,俞晓平任副主编,参加编写的人员有何建梅、俞晓平、张兰兰、田玲、杨德明、周亚芳。何建梅审阅全书并定稿还承担了撰写本书的前言、目录、内容提要及所有阅读技巧部分的工作;俞晓平承担全书的统稿工作。

由于编者水平有限,错误与疏漏之处在所难免,诚请读者不吝指正。

编 者

2005年12月

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I 阅读理解新题型概述

大学英语四级考试改革从 2006 年 6 月开始试点,面向全国 180 所大学英语教学改革试点院校的部分学生。全国大学英语四、六级考试改革项目组和考试委员会根据《全国大学英语四、六级考试改革方案(试行)》设计了四级考试新题型样卷。

据介绍,根据考生答题的顺序,样卷共由六部分组成:写作测试、快速阅读理解、听力理解、仔细阅读理解、完型填空和翻译。其中阅读部分为快速阅读、选词填空和仔细阅读。

下面首先分别对快速阅读与仔细阅读题型进行简介,然后将在分项训练中详细地介绍快速阅读与仔细阅读题型各项的技巧。

一、快速阅读(Skimming and Scanning)

快速阅读题型为是非判断与句子填空共占 10% 分值;快速阅读要求在 15 分钟内完成一篇 1200 字左右的文章和后面的 10 道题,前 7 个是判断正误,后 3 个是填空题(答案基本都是原文中出现的原词),这 10 个题当中前 7 个题是对或错、未提及,还有填几个单词或者词组。从考试形式来讲,这种考试方法是参考了雅思的考法,雅思就有对错判断和未提及的考法。题目在文章中出现了,而且与文章内容相符就为对[Y];如题目在文章中出现了,但与文章的提法、内容不相符就为错[N];如题目在文章中未曾出现就为未提及[NG]。快速阅读简而言之句话就是要带着目的去看文章,是搜索,而不是仔细阅读。由此不难看出,“快速+准确”是今后四级阅读部分考察的重点。在备考过程中,考生务必要有意识的训练自己 Skimming & Scanning 的能力。快速阅读做题的要求如下:

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 on Answer Sheet 1.

For questions 1-7, mark

Y (for YES) if the statement agrees with the information given in the passage;

N (for NO) if the statement contradicts the information given in the passage;

NG (for NOT GIVEN) if the information is not given in the passage.

For questions 8-10, complete the sentences with the information given in the passage.

注意:此部分试题请在答题卡上作答。

二、仔细阅读(Reading in Depth)

仔细阅读题型为选词填空与多项选择共占分值 25%。

1. 选词填空考察方式

从一篇 220 字左右的文章中,留出 10 个单词的空格,从给出的 15 个备选单词中选出 10 个将单词的题号分别填入文章相应处,使文章意思通顺,表达正确。这部分主要考察考生对词汇的认知和语法的理解。选词填空也会涉及一些难词,要把这些词认识了再选,建议大家用 10 分钟时间做选词填空。仔细阅读中的选词填空 Section A 做题的要求如下:

Reading Comprehension (Reading in Depth) (25 minutes)

Section A

Directions: In this section, there is a passage with ten blanks. You are required to select one word for each blank from a list of choices given in a word bank following the passage. Read the passage through carefully before making your choices. Each choice in bank is identified by a letter. Please mark the corresponding letter for each item on Answer Sheet 2 with a single line through the center. You may not use any of the words in the bank more than once.

A) concern	E) disabilities	I) towards	M) meaningless
B) unwillingness	F) increasing	J) consumes	N) advances
C) management	G) earning	K) frequency	O) wait
D) meaningful	H) from	L) approval	

2. 仔细阅读考察方式

原来四级阅读理解主要考察考生的速读能力,35 分钟之内要完成 4 篇文章,20 道题。但在改革之后,由于增加了选词填空和快速阅读,仔细阅读(Reading in Depth)的文章减少至 2 篇。用 15 分钟时间做两篇文章。每篇大约 350~400 字,此部分依然保持原来的题型,每篇文章 5 道单选题。仔细阅读 Section B 做题的要求如下:

Section B

Directions: There are 2 passages in this section. Each passage is followed by some questions or unfinished statement. For each of them there are four choices marked A), B), C), and D). You should decide on the best choice and mark the corresponding letter on Answer Sheet 2 with a single line through the center.

注意:此部分试题请在答题卡 2 上作答。

II 快速阅读

一、快速阅读的解题技巧

所谓快速阅读就是利用视觉运动的规律,通过一定的科学的训练方法,在较短的时间里阅读大量的英语资料的一种科学学习方法。学会快速英语阅读,对于扩大英语阅读范围,增加英语词汇数量,丰富英语语言知识,增强英语语感都大有裨益。其实英语快速阅读除了阅读的快速性,还包括阅读的无声性、阅读的科学性等要素,这里就介绍一下英语快速阅读的技巧,以使同学们在平时的英语学习过程中以及英语考试中能“游刃有余”。

1. 按照文章体裁、基本架构迅速定位文章的脉络、确定主题

一般情况下,英语文章多是按“总—分—总”这样一个思路写的。不同体裁的文章,就要根据其体裁的特点,运用不同的方法快速阅读,正确理解。

(1) 结构。文科文章:现象解释型、问题解决方案型、结论解释型。理科文章:现象解释型、成果性、实验型。

(2) 体裁。记叙文往往一开始就交待人物(who)、时间(when)、地点(when)及事件(what),然后再详细叙述事件发生的原因(why)。要注意故事结尾处作者的点评。议论文中,作者先提出一个论点,再对此进行分析,或举例加以论证,得出结论。要注意目的、结论和观点。说明文中,作者首先提出说明对象,然后从时间、空间、用途、方法、步骤等各个不同侧面加以说明。要注意定义、概念、数据、细节。

例如,结论解释性的文章,结论为主题所在。一般首句是个判断句或是作者的态度时就时常是结论,尤其是首句之后紧跟较长的例子或细节时;现象解释性的文章,解释为文章主题所在:一段首末的问句等于现象,文科文章的问句出现在一段的末句;理科文章出现在一段首句。回答就是解释,即主题;问题解决方案性的文章,解决方案为问题主题。

2. 利用主题句迅速定位文章各段讨论的重点

(1) 主题句的确定。主题句是整个意群的概括和总结,找到主题句可以更好更快地理解整篇文章。通过这些主题句,我们就可以对文章的主要意思有一个整体了解,从而在做练习时能够全面把握,快速准确地做出选择。

主题句具有总结性,一般位于文中三个地方:全文首句;一段末句,一段末句出现转折或结论时常出现主题;二段一二句,二段对一段进行总结或否定时常出现主题。

另外,表观点、进行评论的句子;而提供事实的句子往往不担当主题句;主题句一般用现在时表达。

(2) 有主题句时,与主题句相对应的为正确答案。

(3) 文中没有主题句时各段首句相加,其中共有的词汇为本文的主体词,必须出现在主题题型的正确答案中。

(4) 主体词的特征。一般为名词或名词词组、出现频率较高和一般位于段落首句。

3. 戒除不良阅读习惯,提高阅读速度

(1) 摆头是指在阅读过程中,阅读者的视线在阅读材料上从左向右每移动一行,其整个头部也跟

着从左向右摆动一次的阅读习惯。实际上,我们完全可以依赖视线的移动来完成阅读的全过程,而头部的摆动对阅读根本没有任何帮助,在很大程度上只会占用阅读时间、减慢阅读速度,影响阅读的整体效果。再者,随着阅读者阅读水平的提高,其视幅(即眼睛在阅读材料上的注视范围)也随之加宽,其视线的移动已不仅仅是从左到右,而更多的是从上到地移动。可想而知,头部的摆动只会妨碍阅读的速度。

(2) 有声阅读是指阅读者在阅读过程中将阅读材料中的每个单词都轻轻地读出声来的阅读习惯。有研究表明,有声阅读的速度只是视觉阅读速度的一半。因为有声阅读是通过语音转录而到达理解,视觉阅读却是通过视觉加工直接到达理解。显然,通过视觉通道加工信息的速度要比通过语音通道加工信息的速度快得多。尽管阅读者在阅读水平较低的时候,通过语音转录是一个必然的过程,但随着对阅读能力要求的提高,有声阅读会大大影响阅读的速度与效果。

(3) 默读或唇读是指阅读者在阅读过程中虽然不读出声音来,却利用舌头、喉咙甚至嘴唇的动作来辅助阅读。实际上,在这种阅读过程当中,阅读者只是把有声阅读变成了在内心深处的默默发音,虽然别人听不到其声音,但其发音器官却介入了整个阅读过程。因此,默读或唇读其实就是一种听不到声音的有声阅读。它与有声阅读一样影响阅读的速度与效果。

(4) 回读是指阅读者在阅读过程中每读完一行或一句后,又将视线移至刚刚过目的文字,回过头来再读一遍。这不是为了确认所读内容而进行的有意识的回读,而是一种无意识的、习惯性的动作。养成这种不良习惯的主要原因,一方面在于阅读者对自己的阅读能力缺乏信心,另一方面在于阅读者在阅读时精力不集中,致使大脑对文字的反应与视线的移动不合拍,从而造成了从最初的有意识回读,逐渐养成了无意识回读,大大限制了阅读速度,分散了阅读的注意力。

(5) 过分依赖词典是指阅读者在阅读过程中每遇到生词必查词典的阅读习惯。这样读读停停,边读边查,不仅降低了阅读速度,也使阅读中所获得的信息断断续续、支离破碎,破坏了对阅读材料的整体理解。此外,在阅读过程中过分依赖词典的习惯,还表现出阅读者没有养成根据生词所在的上下文或构词法猜测词义的阅读习惯,同时也表现出阅读者对自己的阅读能力信心不足,从而逐渐养成了只信词典、不信自己的阅读习惯。

4. 快速性阅读的训练

关键是用特殊方法,使眼机能灵活自如,达到视角、视幅、视停、视移等视觉最佳状态,使视线如行云流水般地快速阅读。训练方法主要有按手指法(即目光随着手指左右、上下移动,头不要摇动)、图谱法(如点、圆、抛物线等图形目光沿着图形而快速移动)等基本功训练。

当眼机能训练适应之后,可采用快速阅读初级方法之一的跳读法。所谓跳读法就是指眼光从一个“字群”(字群是由多个单词组成的)跳到另一个“字群”进行识读,这个过程眼球按“凝视—跳跃—凝视”的程序进行连续不断的运动。

训练适应之前:

People often confuse a culture with its temporary cultural expressions.

稍加训练适应之后:

People often confuse a culture with its temporary cultural expressions.

当跳读练习熟练后,可进行练习扩大视力识读文字的单位面积的训练。首先进行五个单词的练习,练习时主视区应放在中间,也就是主视中间的三个单词,两边单词用余视力扫视。如:

People often confuse a culture with its temporary cultural expressions.

在练习五个单词达到熟练之后,就可加宽视区练习,如一下看六七个单词,甚至达到九个单词。逐渐加宽视区范围,延长目光移视长度,这样就能缩短凝视时间,达到快速阅读的目的。

5. 掌握一些快速阅读方法

(1) 快速泛读(fast extensive reading)。平时要养成快速泛读的习惯。这里讲的泛读是指广泛阅读大量涉及不同领域的书籍,要求读得快,理解和掌握书中的主要内容就可以了。要确定一个明确的阅读量,阅读量要结合自己的实际;切实可行。

(2) 计时阅读(timed reading)。平时要养成计时阅读的习惯。计时阅读每次进行约10分钟即可,不宜太长。因为计时快速阅读,精力高度集中,时间一长,容易疲劳、精力分散,反而乏味。阅读时先记下“起读时间”(starting time),阅读完毕,记下“止读时间”(finishing time),即可计算出本次阅读速度。随手记下,长期坚持,必定收到明显效果。

(3) 略读(skimming)。略读又称浏览(glancing),是一种专门的,非常实用的快速阅读技能。所谓略读,是指以尽可能快的速度阅读,如同乘飞机时,飞机掠过城市上空,我们快速鸟瞰(bird's-eye view)地面上的明显标志一样,迅速获取文章大意或中心思想。也就是说,略读是要求读者有选择地进行阅读,要跳过某些细节,以求抓住文章的大概,从而加快阅读速度。

阅读时,先把文章粗略地浏览一下,看看文章中是否有自己工作和学习需要的或自己感兴趣的资料和信息,然后确定这篇文章是否值得细读。在查找资料时,如果没有充分时间,而又不需要高度理解时,就可以运用略读技巧。“不需要高度理解”并非指略读时理解水平可以很低,而是说略低于一般阅读速度所取得的理解水平是允许的。一般阅读的目标是在保持一般阅读速度的条件下,获得尽可能高的理解水平,通常达到70%或80%。略读时,理解水平略低一些是预料之中的事,平均理解率达50%或60%就可以了。

(4) 寻读(scanning)。寻读又称查读,同略读一样,寻读也是一种快速阅读技巧。熟练的读者善于运用寻读获得具体信息,以提高阅读效率。寻读是一种从大量的资料中迅速查找某一项具体事实或某一项特定信息,如人物、事件、时间、地点、数字等,而对其他无关部分则略去不读的快速阅读方法。运用这种方法,读者就能在最短的时间内掠过尽可能多的文字符号,找到所需要的信息。如同在车站、机场从几千人中寻找自己要接车、接机的人——对无关的信息“视而不见”,将注意力锁定在相关信息上,在图书馆查找书刊的目录,在文献中查找某一日期、名字、数字或号码等,都可以运用这种方法。

作为一种快速寻找信息的阅读技巧,寻读既要求速度,又要求寻读的准确性。具体地说,寻读带有明确的目的性,有针对性地选择问题的答案。因此,可以把整段整段的文字直接映入大脑,不必字字句句过目。视线在印刷符号上掠过时,一旦发现有关的内容,就要稍作停留,将它记住,既要保证寻读的速度,又做到准确无误。

6. 注意转折词,揣测作者意图

英语文章中转折词往往是快速阅读的标志词,作者往往先叙述或介绍常人的观点、他人的态度、看法,然后再提出自己的想法或与之不同的观点,即作者本人的意图或事实真相及本文的主旨。两者之间常用but, however, yet, in spite of, though, although, even though, even if等连词,或but in fact, on the contrary, in contrast等短语连接。

表示因与果关系,常用转折词:accordingly, as, as a consequence, as a result, admittedly, because (of), cause, consequently, due to, eventually, for, for this reason, hence, in order to, it follows that, in other words, in that case, leads to, owing to, since, so, so that, thus, therefore, thereby, then, under those circumstances, the reason why.

表示不同点、对比常用转折词:although, alternatively, but (then), compared with, despite, even though, however, however much..., in contrast, in spite of, instead of, nevertheless, nonetheless, on the other hand, on the contrary, or else, otherwise, rather, though, whereas, yet, while.

表示顺序常用转折词:after this/that, afterwards, earlier/later, first(ly), following this/that,

initially, next, second(ly), thirdly, to begin with, then, first of all, in the first place, to start with, besides, furthermore, moreover, what is more, the last, lastly, last but not the least.

这类表达方法还可以用来表示附加、顺序、因果、对比、肯定、条件、定义、举例、时间、总结、或者、承接、强调、概括等。快速阅读时,特别在生词较多的情况下,借助于转折词,我们也能快速地捕捉文章的脉络与作者的思维方向,掌握与运用英语转折词是快速阅读的又一法宝。

二、10 篇带详解的快速阅读

Passage One

Directions: *In this part, you will have 15 minutes to go over the passage quickly and answer the questions on Answer Sheet 1.*

For questions 1-7, mark

Y (for YES)

if the statement agrees with the information given in the passage;

N (for NO)

if the statement contradicts the information given in the passage;

NG (for NOT GIVEN)

if the information is not given in the passage.

For questions 8-10, complete the sentences with the information given in the passage.

Chinese Culture

What's interesting in Chinese culture?

Well, in fact foreigners may not know the half of it. Dragons are lucky. Your first name comes last. Rice is for dessert and to banquets you wear tennis shoes. Television is to teach math. In chess you fight for lines, not spaces. You feed yourself with little sticks. The bus can never get too full. Farm plots and orange groves smell like toilets. You don't much throw trash on the street. (Orange peels aren't trash. They're medicine. Okay, so you throw medicine on the street.) The Chinese, much in contrast to their crazy world, are warm, fun-loving, kind, eager to share all they have. But in a temple, a park, or especially a restaurant, you show you really care by how much mess and uproar you can make. I leave you to imagine the temple restaurant in the park.

What's the Chinese health and illness culture?

We found that, for members of the Chinese community, thinking about health and illness is very much informed by traditional Chinese concepts. Chinese people possess a highly structured system of knowledge to define health and illness, to explain the causes of disease and to devise appropriate treatments. This system of knowledge is rooted in the Confucian ideal of maintaining some balance and harmony between the complementary but opposite forces of yin and yang, which regulate the universe.

From this perspective, the healthy working of the body is thought to depend on the harmonious balance between elements and forces within the body, and between the latter and the social, natural and supernatural environments. Excesses and imbalances in any of these domains can bring about illness. Thus, good health is deemed to result from such factors as having a good disposition, leading a disciplined lifestyle, having a balanced diet, avoiding extreme weather conditions and respecting one's family members and ancestors. Illness, on the other hand, is the symptomatic manifestation of an energy imbalance, which, in turn, may be caused by a poor hereditary disposition, old age, an unsuitable diet, extreme emotions, exposure to overly hot/cold or humid/dry atmospheric conditions, or the wrath of ancestors.

Clearly, the Chinese conception of health and illness extends far beyond a mere preoccupation with the human body; it encompasses all aspects of life. It is therefore impossible to be socialised into Chinese cultures without at the same time acquiring traditional notions concerning the nature and the causes of health and illness, as well as appropriate therapeutics to handle diseases. To be Chinese is to share ideas and practices about health and illness which are embedded in linguistic categories, in food and in social relations, and which correspond to a whole cosmogony.

What are Chinese youth opinions on Chinese culture?

Chinese youth were turning their backs on many aspects of Chinese culture—he mentioned Beijing opera, paper cutting, tea ceremonies, kite flying, and folk dancing—and were embracing such “foreign” things as hip-hop fashions, rock music, fast food, business techniques and foreign sports and hobbies. He wrote that if this continued, soon Chinese culture will have disappeared in China.

Although I understand that it is natural to be concerned about change when a country is changing rapidly, I don’t agree with these opinions that see Chinese youth rejecting China. I think these concerns reflect a misunderstanding not only of Chinese and Western cultures, but, more importantly, of how cultures change and evolve.

As China changes and modernizes, it is perfectly normal that the tastes and interests of China’s youth should change to reflect new conditions. This is happening in many countries in Asia, North and South America, Europe and Africa, and in each of these places a culture of urban is developing that shares many characteristics. These characteristics are shared not because some countries are copying others, but rather because young people are reacting in similar ways to similar conditions.

No matter what changes take place, however, China’s youth will never stop being Chinese, and the new styles and activities they pick up will be just as Chinese as the activities of their parents, this is because every boy or girl who grows up in China takes in Chinese culture every minute that he or she is awake, and this culture marks everything that he or she will ever do.

What’s people’s misunderstanding about culture?

People often confuse a culture with its temporary cultural expressions. Although a culture is usually expressed in certain cultural forms, like dances, songs, and other leisure activities, these forms are just an expression of the culture—they are not the culture itself, which is a way of thinking, understanding, believing and behaving.

If you are Chinese, everything you do will be Chinese, even when you are rejecting old Chinese cultural activities. This is true for other countries too. American youth didn’t stop being American when they gave up such old-fashioned American habits as barn dancing or quilting bees (妇女一起缝被子的大聚会). Those old cultural activities reflected the social needs of a primarily rural and slow-paced society, and as the US modernized, it was only natural that old habits were dropped. The same will happen in China. Chinese youth give up paper cutting and Beijing opera not because they prefer Western things, but rather because these old activities are no more meaningful or understandable to young people growing up in China today than barn dancing or quilting bees are to young people growing up in the USA. The old habits will die because the conditions that created them have changed, but that does not mean the culture will die.

At any rate when Americans absorb aspects of foreign culture, they are not accused of giving up their own culture, so why cannot the Chinese? The famous film-maker Quentin Tarantino is known for his great love of Chinese films, and he has used many ideas and styles developed by Chinese film-makers into his own movies, but he continues to be profoundly American, and no one would ever say that he is

becoming too Chinese. For the same reason, when a Chinese musician learns ideas from the New York band Sonic Youth, he is going through the same process. He is taking something from abroad and making it Chinese.

Young people in the West and China have many things in common. They are growing up in a very fast-paced world in which instant communication across hundreds of miles is normal, in which huge amounts of information is available instantly, in which certain ideas, movies, sports, foods, etc. are widely shared. When they show common interest in certain types of activity, like playing computer games, practicing kung fu, competing in basketball, or listening to pop music, it is not because one country is imitating another but rather because these activities complement modern lifestyles. When they reject the activities of their grandparents it is not because they are rejecting their cultures, but rather because those old activities no longer resonate in today's environment.

What attitudes should we have to Chinese culture?

So don't worry too much about how to be Chinese or about losing your Chinese culture. You will always be Chinese. Chinese culture is too deep and too strong to fade away, and because it is so strong, of course, it will change and adapt to the huge changes taking place today. The best way to express your Chinese culture is to be part of the way in which Chinese culture changes and develops. If you are afraid of change because it seems foreign, you will only help to weaken Chinese culture. If you embrace change and eagerly pursue the things that interest you and other young people around the world, you will strengthen Chinese culture and increase the influence of China on the rest of the world. You don't need to be like your grandparents to be Chinese.

注意:此部分试题请在答题卡 1 上作答;8-10 题在答题卡 1 上。

1. Just as it in Western culture, Dragons also are evil thing in Chinese culture.
2. The Chinese conception of health and illness especially concentrates on the human body.
3. According to the passage, many parents also like Western cultures.
4. The taste and interests of China's youth should not change to reflect new conditions.
5. Chinese youth give up paper cutting and Beijing opera because they prefer Western things.
6. Being faced with globalization, we should not worry too much about how to be Chinese or losing our Chinese culture.
7. To reject Chinese culture changes and develops is the best way to express our Chinese culture.
8. I think these concerns reflect a misunderstanding not only of Chinese and Western cultures, but, more importantly, _____.
9. People often confuse a culture with _____.
10. The best way to express your Chinese culture is to be part of the way in which Chinese culture _____.

Passage Two

Directions: In this part, you will have 15 minutes to go over the passage quickly and answer the questions on Answer Sheet 1.

For questions 1-7, mark

Y (for YES)

if the statement agrees with the information given in the passage;

N (for NO)

if the statement contradicts the information given in the passage;

NG (for NOT GIVEN)

if the information is not given in the passage.

For questions 8-10, complete the sentences with the information given in the passage.

The U. S. Congress

Composition of the U. S. Congress

The U. S. Congress is the legislative branch of the Federal Government. It is a bicameral law-making body of more than 500 members. Its two chambers are respectively called the House of Representatives and the Senate. The American two-house legislature, a product of the compromise between big states and small ones, embodies the American principle of balances and checks. All bills must carry both houses before becoming law.

The membership and election of both chambers

The House of Representatives is the lower house of the bicameral Congress. The membership of the House is distributed among the states according to their different populations. Since 1910, the House has had a permanent membership of 435, with each Representative representing about half a million Americans. Under the principle that each state is guaranteed at least one representative. Nevada, a state with a small population, sends only one Representative to the House. California has more than 40 Representatives in the House because of its large population.

The election of Representatives is organized by the state legislature which divides the state into a number of districts known as Congressional districts. Each district, with a population of nearly half a million, elects one Representative to the House. A Representative's term of office is set at two years, but there is no limit to the number of his terms. A new Representative can hardly feel easy about his position. Hardly has he begun his work in the Congress when he finds it's time for him to seek re-election.

The Senate is the upper house of the US Congress. Representation in the Senate is based on the principle of state equality. The Senate is comprised of 100 Senators, two from each of the fifty states.

Senators have been directly elected by voters of their respective states since 1913. Their term of office is six years. With one-third of the Senate seats up for election every two years. A Senator must be at least thirty years of age and a citizen for nine year.

Senators have more prestige than House members

Generally speaking, Senators are accorded greater prestige than their colleagues in the lower house. Many Representatives aspire to win the election to the Senate. Senators derive their prestige from the following facts. They are less numerous, for there are fewer than one -fourth as many Senators as Representatives, or Congressmen. Elected by the whole state instead of a single congressional district, most Senators represent more constituents than do House members. They are less worried by the problem of seeking re-electives. What's more, the Senate is vested with special powers which it does not share with the House. It has the power to ratify or deny proposed treaties, nominations proposed by the President. In line with the tradition of "senatorial courtesy", the Senate always rejects a nominee who is objected to by a Senator of the state from which he comes.

It won't do to neglect the importance of the Senate in foreign affairs. Without its cooperation and support, the President can hardly take any significant action in foreign relations. A Secretary of State on good terms with the Senators is always important for the President. Foreign countries must try to establish good relations with the US Senate if they intend to make a bargain with the United States.

How two chambers operate

The presiding officer of the Senate is the Vice President who functions as a kind chairman when the Senate is in session. The chief spokesman of the House is known as the speaker who is the leader of the

majority party in the House. The Speaker is the most influential figure in the House because he directs his party's forces in legislative battles.

Leaders of both parties

Both parties have their leaders in the Congress, who are known as floor leaders. Floor leaders are elected by their respective party meetings, the meeting of party members in one of the two houses. Because floor leaders, both majority and minority, hold critical positions in the Congress, they are sometimes invited to the White House for conference with the President.

How the Congress works

The Congress is a legislative body, but it relies on its various committees to do preparatory work. The Senate and the House have several dozen standing or special committees to deal with problems of different natures. The seats of the committees are divided between the two parties in proportion to their respective membership in the Congress. But the committee chairman is always a member of the majority party who has been in the Senate or the House without interruption for longer than anybody else on the committee. The custom is known as "seniority rule".

Most proposed laws in the Congress are known as bills. All bills introduced during a two-year congressional term are designated "HR" in the House and "S" in the Senate, with consecutive numbers assigned in order in which they are introduced in each house. After this, the bills are referred to the relevant committees for further study.

To assess the bill at its true worth, the relevant committee usually organizes its sub-committee to conduct detailed study. There is no doubt that the sub-committee will study the literal sense of the bill. But it also holds meetings with the citizens who want to state their opinions about the bill. These meetings are commonly known as hearings. The purpose of the sub-committee in holding these hearings is to obtain information on the bill before it. The sub-committee may summon people to appear at the hearings and to testify.

After finishing study of the bill, the sub-committee will report the result to the full committee. The committee chairman then has a choice between two things. He can send the bill to the house for further consideration. He can also pigeonhole(搁置), or kill it by putting it aside and not reporting it. For this reason, a committee chairman is regarded as an important person in the Congress. It won't do to neglect him.

Some important committees in the two chambers

There are some important committees in the Senate and the House. The Budget Committee are to recommend policy guidelines each fiscal(财政的) year to aid Congress in considering the annual Federal budget. The Appropriation Committee in both houses of the Congress study the demand for money from the President and aid Congress in appropriating a sum of money to finance a program suggested by the President. The Foreign Relations Committees study American foreign policies and examine American foreign treaties before giving their opinions to Congress for reference. The Ways and Means Committee is a standing committee of the House of Representatives. It has the exclusive power to study bills for raising revenue. It also considers the problems concerning taxes and tariffs. In simple language, its work is to explore the sources of money for the expenditures of the Federal Government. The Investigating Committee is to exercise a fact-finding role as an aid to the law-making process. Anyone who refuses to testify before it may be punished by law. The Investigating Committee is something like an information agency of the Congress. It is also a Watchdog Committee, for it oversees the work of the Administration. Its investigations reach every level and department of the government. The last but most

important committee is the Rules Committee. It is a committee of the House. It picks out only those bills it likes and sends them to Congressmen for their consideration.

注意:此部分试题请在答题卡 1 上作答;8-10 题在答题卡 1 上。

1. The passage gives a general description of the composition and operation of the U. S. Congress.
2. The membership of the House is distributed among the states according to their different sizes.
3. Senators have been directly elected by voters of their respective states for nearly a century.
4. Senators are highly regarded in the U. S. than their colleagues in the lower house under the order of President.
5. Representatives are less worried about the problem of seeking re-election.
6. As a legislative body, the Congress relies on its various committees to do preparatory work.
7. A committee chairman is regarded as the most important person in the Congress.
8. The U. S. Congress is a _____ body of more than 500 members.
9. _____ on good terms with the Senators is always important for the President.
10. _____ is something like an information agency of the Congress.

Passage Three

Directions: In this part, you will have 15 minutes to go over the passage quickly and answer the questions on Answer Sheet 1.

For questions 1-7, mark

Y (for YES) if the statement agrees with the information given in the passage;

N (for NO) if the statement contradicts the information given in the passage;

NG (for NOT GIVEN) if the information is not given in the passage.

For questions 8-10, complete the sentences with the information given in the passage.

What is your opinion about the open classroom? It always amazes me that when asked for an opinion, we usually can come up with one in very short order. An opinion is a personal value judgment usually held with confidence but not necessarily substantiated (证实) by positive knowledge, definite proof, or even firsthand experience. Therefore we need to remember that not all opinions are created equal nor should they be judged as such. When we are asked for our opinion about something, we should try to provide an informed opinion; that is, we should be able to give food and logical reasons for whichever stand we take. Today many people are concerned about improving classroom instruction. In the opinion of some people, open education will provide the panacea (万能药). By contrast, critics of open education are sure it spells disaster in the classroom. Let us investigate this controversial subject and see what kind of judgment we can make.

Open education differs from traditional education in two major areas: how the teacher relates to the students, and how the teacher manages the classroom. These two aspects are integrally (完整地) related in that the teacher's management of the classroom depends very much on how the teacher views the maturity of the students.

In traditional education, the teacher may feel that the students are not very grown-up. Usually teachers are older than their students and thus teachers feel that because their students are younger and less experienced, therefore their students do not know very much about the world. The teachers feel that they must tell the students what to do most of the time, and they feel obligated to make the students study specific things. By contrast, in open education, the teachers believe that the students are