



大学英语  
完全解读手册  
系列

● 常春藤英语教学研究中心

# 大学英语四级 完全解读手册

阅读理解 · 翻译分册

全面覆盖题型

提供权威解读

Cracking the CET-4  
Reading Comprehension  
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上海教育出版社

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· 大学英语完全解读手册系列 ·

# 大学英语四级完全解读手册

(阅读理解 · 翻译分册)

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# 前 言

由上海、厦门、香港、台北、吉隆坡、洛杉矶等地英语教学专业人士联合组成的常春藤英语教学研究中心,数年来在中国英语图书市场中推出了几十种常销不衰的红蓝自测英语速记词汇表,其中附书的红蓝色彩双向助记卡还获得了中华人民共和国的专利。

常春藤英语教学研究中心的英语教育专业人士,充分发挥与海外英语时文零距离接触的强势,密切追踪各种英语考试的最新动态,在潜心研究了中考、高考、大学四级、六级、考研、托福、雅思、GRE、职称考试、自学考试、等级英语等各个层面、几十个领域的英语考试大纲要求后,力邀国内教学领域中的资深专家和专业高手加盟,共同开发适时、专业的英语考试辅读材料。目前,由该中心精心打造的常春藤红蓝英语的各类词汇、手册、试卷已逾百种,它们在外语图书市场中声势日显,正在崛起为一个知名品牌。

现在奉献给读者的《大学英语完全解读手册系列》,是常春藤在大学英语考试领域里深入耕耘的成果之一。

英语考试各大板块的专项解读,相对于词汇的记忆和模拟题的考前自测,更具有某种不可替代性。精彩的、画龙点睛的解读能使你恍然大悟、眼前一亮,不仅能加深理解作为唯一答案的正确性,而且能体会英语的精妙,并获得举一反三、豁然开朗的启迪。许多考生临考凭第六感、靠“蒙”,这样的成绩往往是不稳定的,容易大起大落,因为应考者还没有真正弄懂。好的解读手册是大学生们学好英语真正的拐棍,特别是对上课思想不易集中、外语基础不太扎实的学生,更是取得好成绩唯一的灵丹妙药。

大学英语四、六级考试目前已成为中国规模最大的单科考试,近年来有关此项考试改革的议论风声水起,现在尘埃落定,内容主要有:用发成绩单替代合格证书、记分体制从100分制变成710分制、提高听力和非选择题比重等。并逐步将考生范围限制在校内,降低考试的社会考生比重。改革的时间表已正式推出:2007年1月全面实施改革后的四级考试,2007年6月全面实施改革后的六级考试。现今至2007年这段时间里,社会考生报考大学英语四、六级考试将出现一个高潮。过渡时期全国绝大部分高校四六级考试虽仍采用老题型,但考试中实用性的要求越来越高,“彻底弄懂才能获得好成绩”这一道理会越发凸

现。

《大学英语四级完全解读手册》包括《听力分册》、《阅读理解·翻译分册》、《词汇·语法分册》、《完形·简答·写作分册》共四册。

《大学英语四级完全解读手册(阅读理解·翻译分册)》是根据新的四、六级考试改革精神指导下编成的。全书分成三章,第一章是“解题思路探索”,第二章“经典样题解读”,第三章“自测试题练习”。

本书与其他同类阅读理解、翻译专题训练读物最大的区别在于增加了许多体现“实用为主”的篇章,如;计算机安全知识、远程教育体系、电子杂志阅读、信用卡使用办法……本书的第二大特色是拥有各种类型的 676 道测试题,其中含有详尽解题的有 289 道,某些偏难篇目还附有 Notes,帮助读者全面理解,在同类训练读物中也是少见的,对使用者来说一册在手,所向披靡。本书的第三大特色在于内容新颖,附有最新四级“阅读理解与翻译”的试题,帮助读者把握考试改革的走势。

阅读理解和翻译在四级考试中是一个不能忽视的得分板块,愿我们这本《大学英语四级完全解读手册(阅读理解·翻译分册)》能帮助参加大英四级考试的同学取得高分。

由于时间仓促,难免有疏漏和不当之处,感谢读者指正,待修订再版时进一步完善。

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# 第一章 解题思路探索

## 阅读理解考纲分析

现行大学英语四级测试分成四个部分。一、听力；二、阅读理解；三、词汇；四、作文；其中阅读理解仍占 40%。可见对它的重要程度。

在中国学生的英语学习中,阅读也占据了一个重要位置。虽然近年来英语教学对听力和口语日益重视,但阅读仍是中国学生学习和运用英语的主要手段。现在执行的《大学英语教学大纲》指出:大学英语教学的目的是培养学生具有较强的阅读能力和一定的听、说、写、译能力。可见,无论从学习还是应考的角度考虑,阅读都应是重点训练的对象。

修订后的教学和考试大纲对学生的要求分别是:

教学大纲要求:

(1) 基本要求:“掌握基本阅读技能,能顺利阅读并正确理解一般题材、语言难度中等的文章,速度达每分钟 50 词。在阅读难度略低、生词不超过总词数 2% 的材料时,速度达每分钟 90 词,阅读理解的准确率不低于 70%。”

(2) 较高要求:“掌握较高的阅读技能,能顺利阅读并正确理解一般题材、语言难度较高的文章,速度达到每分钟 70 词。在难度略低、生词不超过 3% 的材料时,速度达每分钟 120 词,阅读理解的准确率不低于 70%。”

考试大纲要求:

阅读理解考试大纲中规定:“阅读理解(Part II: Reading Comprehension): 共 20 题,考试时间为 35 分钟。要求考生阅读若干篇短文,总阅读量不超过 1000 词。每篇短文后有若干问题。考生应根据文章内容从每题四个选项中选出一个最佳答案。选材原则是:

1. 题材广泛,可以包括人物传记、社会、文化、日常知识、科普常识等,但是所涉及的背景知识应能为学生所理解;

2. 体裁多样,可以包括叙述文、说明文、议论文等;

3. 文章的语言难度中等,无法猜测而又影响理解的关键词,如超出教学大纲词汇表四级的范围,用汉语注明词义。”

在四级考试阅读理解部分中涉及的文章体裁主要是说明文和议论文,记叙文极少。此外从实用的角度看,说明文和议论文也较记叙文常见。因此我们建议读者在平时的精读与泛读训练中也应有选择地多读说明文和议论文。

此外,考纲中规定,阅读理解部分主要测试四种能力:

A) 掌握所读材料的主旨和大意;

B) 了解说明主旨和大意的事实和细节;



C) 既理解字面的意思,也能根据所读材料进行一定的判断和推论;

D) 既理解个别句子的意思,也理解上下文的逻辑关系。阅读理解部分的目的是测试学生通常阅读获取信息的能力,既要求准确,也要求有一定的速度。

下面我们按照考纲的要求区分题型,分门别类地介绍阅读解题技巧。

## 阅读理解题型分析

### A 事实细节题:

在历年四级考试中,事实细节题所占的比重最大。事实细节题考察的是读者对文章细节的把握能力,答案一般能在文中直接找到,应该说这是较简单的一种题型。

事实细节题的出题形式有:

① According to the passage, which of the following statements is true/NOT true?

② Which of the following is not mentioned/discussed in the passage?

③ The reason/cause for ... is that \_\_\_\_\_.

④ All of the following are true EXCEPT \_\_\_\_\_.

⑤ The passage has probably been taken from \_\_\_\_\_.

⑥ The author describes ... as ... because \_\_\_\_\_.

⑦ According to the passage, the problem of ... partly arises from \_\_\_\_\_.

⑧ According to the passage, what/which/who/when/where/why/how ...?

② 值得注意的是,事实细节题的答案可以在文中直接找到,并不意味着答案就是文中的原句。正确的选项会以一种稍微不同的面貌出现。

例如:

I'm usually fairly skeptical about any research that concludes that people are either happier or unhappier or more or less certain of themselves than they were 50 years ago. While any of these statements might be true, they are practically impossible to prove scientifically. Still, I was struck by a report which concluded that today's children are significantly more anxious than children in the 1950s. In fact, the analysis showed, normal children aged 9 to 17 exhibit a higher level of anxiety today than children who were treated for mental illness 50 years ago.

Why are America's kids so stressed? The report cites two main causes: increasing physical isolation—brought on by high divorce rates and less involvement in community, among other things—and a growing perception that the world is a more dangerous place.

Given that we can't turn the clock back, adults can still do plenty to help the next generation cope.

At the top of the list is nurturing (培育) a better appreciation of the limits of individual-

ism. No child is an island. Strengthening social ties helps build communities and protect individuals against stress.

To help kids build stronger connections with others, you can pull the plug on TVs and computers. Your family will thank you later. They will have more time for face-to-face relationships, and they will get more sleep.

Limit the amount of virtual (虚拟的) violence your children are exposed to. It's not just video games and movies; children see a lot of murder and crime on the local news.

Keep your expectations for your children reasonable. Many highly successful people never attended Harvard or Yale.

Make exercise part of your daily routine. It will help you cope with your own anxieties and provide a good model for your kids. Sometimes anxiety is unavoidable. But it doesn't have to ruin your life. (2003 年 12 月)

According to an analysis, compared with normal children today, children treated as mentally ill 50 years ago \_\_\_\_\_.

- A) were less isolated physically
- B) were probably less self-centered
- C) probably suffered less from anxiety
- D) were considered less individualistic

本文介绍了现代儿童在生活中承受压力的现状、原因和解决方法。分析人士指出,现代儿童的焦虑水平比五十年前的精神病人更甚。造成儿童日益沉重精神压力的原因主要有两个:日益疏远的人际关系和对日益增加的危险的认知。作者认为,解决这个问题的首选方案是帮助孩子们加强社会联系。作者建议,家长限制孩子使用电视、电脑和电子游戏机;给予孩子合理的期望;积极锻炼给孩子设立良好的榜样。

题目问:根据一项分析,与现代的正常儿童相比,五十年前被诊断为精神疾病的儿童:A 更少地与人隔绝,B 可能不那么自我中心,C 可能承受更少的焦虑,D 被认为不那么个人主义。答案在第一段最后一句:“In fact, the analysis showed, normal children aged 9 to 17 exhibit a higher level of anxiety today than children who were treated for mental illness 50 years ago.”分析显示,(现代的)9—17 岁的正常孩子显示的焦虑水平比五十年前被诊断为精神病人的孩子的焦虑水平还高。可见五十年前被诊断为精神病人的儿童的焦虑水平更低,选 C。

Is there enough oil beneath the Arctic National Wildlife Refuge (保护区) (ANWR) to help secure America's energy future? President Bush certainly thinks so. He has argued that tapping ANWR's oil would help ease California's electricity crisis and provide a major boost to the country's energy independence. But no one knows for sure how much crude oil lies buried beneath the frozen earth. With the last government survey, conducted in 1998, projecting output anywhere from 3 billion to 16 billion barrels.

The oil industry goes with the high end of the range, which could equal as much as 10% of U.S. consumption for as long as six years. By pumping more than 1 million barrels a day from the reserve for the next two or three decades, lobbyists claim, the nation could cut back on imports equivalent to all shipments to the U.S. from Saudi Arabia. Sounds good. An oil boom would also mean a multibillion-dollar windfall (意外之财) in tax revenues, royalties (开采权使用费) and leasing fees for Alaska and the Federal Government. Best of all, advocates of drilling say, damage to the environment would be insignificant. "We've never had a documented case of oil rig chasing deer out onto the pack ice," says Alaska State Representative Scott Organ.

Not so fast, say environmentalists. Sticking to the low end of government estimates, the National Resources Defense Council says there may be no more than 3.2 billion barrels of economically recoverable oil in the coastal plain of ANWR, a drop in the bucket that would do virtually nothing to ease America's energy problems. And consumers would wait up to a decade to gain any benefits, because drilling could begin only after much bargaining over leases, environmental permits and regulatory review. As for ANWR's impact on the California power crisis, environmentalists point out that oil is responsible for only 1% of the Golden State's electricity output—and just 3% of the nation's. (2005年6月)

We learn from the second paragraph that the American oil industry \_\_\_\_\_

- A) believes that drilling for oil in ANWR will produce high yields
- B) tends to exaggerate America's reliance on foreign oil
- C) shows little interest in tapping oil in ANWR
- D) expects to stop oil imports from Saudi Arabia

本文介绍了在北极国家野生动物保护区开采石油问题上的支持和反对意见。支持者以布什总统为代表,他们认为,从保护区开采的原油可以解决加州的能源危机,减少石油进口,并增加财政税收。而反对者指出:在保护区开采石油对美国的能源问题只是杯水车薪,而且石油提供的能源只占加州电力供应的1%,全国的3%。

题目问:从第二段可知,美国的石油工业如何? A 石油工业相信在保护区开采将会产生高收益, B 石油工业夸大了美国对外国石油的依赖, C 石油工业对开采没有兴趣, D 石油业期望停止从沙特进口石油。本题要求考生有一定的综合能力。第二段中,说客(lobbyists)宣称,开采油田有解决能源危机、减少海外依赖、增加政府税收等多项好处。可见石油工业对开采新油田有很高的正面评价,故选 A。

#### B 推断题:

推断题是一种要求较高的题型,它要求读者较充分地理解原文并能在原文给出的信息基础上进行判断、推理。单纯的字面理解是远远不够的。



推断题的出题形式有:

- ① We can infer/assume that ...
- ② It can be inferred/concluded from the passage that ...
- ③ The passage suggests/implies that ...
- ④ It can be learnt that ...
- ⑤ What conclusion can we draw from the passage?

总之,带有 infer, learn, imply, suggest 等表示“暗示”、“推断”意思的词都是推断题的标志。

推断题的干扰项一般有以下几种:

- a. 干扰项陈述的事实并未在文中出现,也不可能由文中信息推出;
- b. 干扰项陈述的事实与文中的信息相矛盾;
- c. 干扰项陈述的事实是对文中信息的错误重组;
- d. 干扰项陈述的事实是在文中信息基础上的过度推导。
- e. 干扰项利用读者的知识背景或常识,设置文中未出现的或与文中信息相矛盾的信息。

下面我们以具体实例说明:

Foxes and farmers have never got on well. These small dog-like animals have long been accused of killing farm animals. They are officially classified as harmful and farmers try to keep their numbers down by shooting or poisoning them.

Farmers can also call on the services of their local hunt to control the fox population. Hunting consists of pursuing a fox across the countryside, with a group of specially trained dogs, followed by men and women riding horses. When the dogs eventually catch the fox they kill it or a hunter shoots it.

People who take part in hunting think of it as a sport; they wear a special uniform of red coats and white trousers, and follow strict codes of behavior. But owning a horse and hunting regularly is expensive, so most hunters are wealthy.

It is estimated that up to 100,000 people watch or take part in fox hunting. But over the last couple of decades the number of people opposed to fox hunting, because they think it is brutal (残酷的), has risen sharply. Nowadays it is rare for a hunt to pass off without some kind of confrontation (冲突) between hunters and hunt saboteurs (阻拦者). Sometimes these incidents lead to violence, but mostly saboteurs interfere with the hunt by misleading riders and disturbing the trail of the fox's smell, which the dogs follow.

Noisy confrontations between hunters and saboteurs have become so common that they are almost as much a part of hunting as the pursuit of foxes itself. But this year supporters of fox hunting face a much bigger threat to their sport. A Labour Party Member of the Parliament,

Mike Foster, is trying to get Parliament to approve a new law which will make the hunting of wild animals with dogs illegal. If the law is passed, wild animals like foxes will be protected under the ban in Britain. (2002 年 1 月)

It can be inferred from the passage that \_\_\_\_\_.

- A) killing foxes with poison is illegal
- B) limiting the fox population is unnecessary
- C) hunting foxes with dogs is considered cruel and violent
- D) fox-hunting often leads to confrontation between the poor and the rich

本文主题是猎狐。文章提到,狐狸长期背负杀害家畜的恶名,农民常求助于专业猎狐者试图将为害的狐狸赶尽杀绝。这些猎狐者骑着马、带着猎犬在田野间追杀狐狸。

猎狐同时也是一项运动,参与者穿着统一的红色上衣和白裤子,严格按规则行事。

反对者认为猎狐是项残忍的运动;近年来几乎每次猎狐都伴随着猎人和反对者之间的冲突。但大多数反对者的方法是扰乱猎人和猎狗的视听,而非正面冲突。除这些反对者外,猎狐者正面临更大的威胁:一位工党议员正游说议会,通过一项反猎狐法。法案一旦通过,狐狸与其他野生动物就会受到英国法律保护,猎狐也就会销声匿迹了。

题目问:由文章可以推导出:A 毒杀狐狸是非法的,B 没必要限制狐狸的数量,C 带着猎狗猎杀狐狸被认为是残忍暴力的,D 猎狐常引发穷人与富人的冲突。

选项 A 是 b 型干扰项。首先,猎狐者杀死狐狸的方法是射杀或由猎犬咬死(第二段),而非毒杀;其次,禁猎的提案刚刚提出,还未被议会通过,因而目前猎狐并非违法。A 项中的两项信息都与文中信息相矛盾,所以错误。

选项 B 是 a 型干扰项。文中并未提到限制狐狸数量是“不必要的”,也无法推导出这一信息,故不选。

选项 C 是正确答案。见文中第四段第三行“... because they think it is brutal ...”。其实不必推导,文中已给出了正确答案。

选项 D 是 e 型干扰项。大多数读者会想当然地认为:猎狐是富人的运动,其特征是铺张浪费,那么其反对者一定是穷人。出题者利用了读者的思维倾向和知识背景设置了 D 项;加上第三段“so most hunters are wealthy”一句,使选项更具诱导性。其实仔细阅读文章后可以发现,作者并未提到反对者都是穷人(要知道动物保护者中许多富人)。e 型干扰项特别具有误导性,读者切记一点:做推断题时要在文章给出的信息基础上推导;不要轻易把推导建立在常识上。

It is easier to negotiate initial salary requirement because once you are inside, the organizational constraints (约束) influence wage increases. One thing, however, is certain: your chances of getting the raise you feel you deserve are less if you don't at least ask for it. Men tend to ask for more, and they get more, and this holds true with other resources, not just pay increases. Consider Beth's story:

I did not get what I wanted when I did not ask for it. We had cubicle (小隔间) offices and window offices. I sat in the cubicles with several male colleagues. One by one they were moved in to window offices, while I remained in the cubicles, several males who were hired after me also went to offices. One in particular told me he was next in line for an office and that it had been part of his negotiations for the job. I guess they thought me content to stay in the cubicles since I did not voice my opinion either way.

It would be nice if we all received automatic pay increases equal to our merit, but “nice” isn’t a quality attributed to most organizations. If you feel you deserve a significant raise in pay, you’ll probably have to ask for it.

Performance is your best bargaining chip (筹码) when you are seeking a raise. You must be able to demonstrate that you deserve a raise. Timing is also a good bargaining chip. If you can give your boss something he or she needs (a new client or a sizable contract, for example) just before merit pay decisions are being made, you are more likely to get the raise you want.

Use information as a bargaining chip too. Find out what you are worth on the open market.

What will someone else pay for your services?

Go into the negotiations prepared to place your chips on the table at the appropriate time and prepared to use communication style to guide the direction of the interaction. (2003 年 12 月)

What can be inferred from Beth’s story?

- A) Prejudice against women still exists in some organizations.
- B) If people want what they deserve, they have to ask for it.
- C) People should not be content with what they have got.
- D) People should be careful when negotiating for a job.

本文的主题是晋升之道。作者的观点是:想晋升的话,就必须主动要求。一位 Beth 女士对此有亲身感受:她在一间大办公室的小隔间工作,同事们纷纷晋升,进入带窗的办公室;甚至比她晚进公司的同事也得到了晋升,Beth 却仍在小隔间办公。Beth 猜想,同事们认为她十分满足现状,因为她从不发表意见。

作者接着给了想要平步青云的人几条有益的建议:要有良好的表现;在适当的时机向老板显示能力;运用手头信息显示自身价值。

题目问:从 Beth 的故事中我们可以知道什么? A 有些组织中仍存在对女性的歧视,B 如果人们想要得到他们应得的,他们就该主动要求,C 人们应该对自己拥有的东西感到不满足,D 在进行工作谈判时必须小心谨慎。

选项 A 是 e 型干扰项,文中其实并未提到在职场中的性别歧视,但大多数人会想当然地觉得如此。



选项 B 是正确答案。在 Beth 的故事中, Beth 的同事通过和公司的谈判一个个获得晋升; Beth 不声不响, 始终在小隔间里工作, 同事都以为她安于现状。这个故事给人的教训明显是: 若要得到应得的东西, 必须主动要求。

选项 C 是 d 型干扰项, 文中只说当自己没有得到应得的东西时应当争取, 并没有说在任何情况下都该不安于现状, 故该选项是过度推导。

选项 D 是 a 型干扰项, 文中并未提及该项内容。

Lead deposits, which accumulated in soil and snow during the 1960's and 70's, were primarily the result of leaded gasoline emissions originating in the United States. In the twenty years that the Clean Air Acts has mandated unleaded gas use in the United States, the lead accumulation worldwide has decreased significantly.

A study published recently in the journal *Nature* shows that air-borne leaded gas emissions from the United States were the leading contributor to the high concentration of lead in the snow in Greenland. The new study is a result of the continued research led by Dr. Charles Boutron, an expert on the impact of heavy metals on the environment at the National Center for Scientific Research in France. A study by Dr. Boutron published in 1991 showed that lead levels in arctic (北极的) snow were declining.

In his new study, Dr. Boutron found the ratios of the different forms of lead in the leaded gasoline used in the United States were different from the ratios of European, Asian and Canadian gasoline and thus enabled scientists to differentiate (区分) the lead sources. The dominant lead ratio found in the Greenland snow matched that found in gasoline from the United States.

In a study published in the journal *Ambio*, scientists found that lead levels in soil in the Northeastern United States had decreased markedly since the introduction of unleaded gasoline.

Many scientists had believed that the lead would stay in soil and snow for a longer period.

The authors of the *Ambio* study examined samples of the upper layers of a soil taken from the same sites of 30 forest floors in New England, New York and Pennsylvania in 1980 and in 1990. The forest environment processed and redistributed the lead faster than the scientists had expected.

Scientists say both studies demonstrate that certain parts of the ecosystem (生态系统) respond rapidly to reductions in atmospheric pollution, but that these findings should not be used as a license to pollute. (2005 年 1 月)

It can be inferred from the last paragraph that scientists \_\_\_\_\_.

- A) are puzzled by the mystery of forest pollution
- B) feel relieved by the use of unleaded gasoline
- C) still consider lead pollution a problem
- D) lack sufficient means to combat lead pollution

本文介绍了铅汽油产生的环境问题。研究者在格陵兰岛发现了由机动车排出的铅,经分析,这些铅竟然来自美国。美国政府由此强制推广无铅汽油。此后生态系统做出了快速反应。

题目问:由最后一段可以推出什么结论? A 科学家对森林污染很疑惑, B 科学家对无铅汽油很放心, C 科学家仍旧认为铅污染是个问题, D 科学家缺乏足够的手段抵御铅污染。

文章最后一段提到,生态系统的一些部分对铅排放的减少做出了快速反应,但紧接着作者又说,“but these findings should not be used as a license to pollute”。可见科学家们还是担心污染问题的。故选 C。

### C 主旨题

主旨题考察的未必是读者对文章主题的理解,它可以就以下内容进行提问:

1. 文章或段落的主题。如:

The passage is mainly about \_\_\_\_\_.

The passage mainly discusses \_\_\_\_\_.

2. 作者写作此文的目的。如:

The author's purpose in writing this passage is \_\_\_\_\_.

3. 作者写作此文的态度或语气。如:

What's the author's tone?

What's the author's main concern?

4. 文章最适合的标题。如:

The best title of this passage would be \_\_\_\_\_.

Which of the following title best summarized the main idea of the passage?

The passage is most probably taken from an article entitled \_\_\_\_\_.

许多做题者觉得主旨题中的干扰项和正确选项很难区分,似乎每个选项都是对文章主旨的概括。其实干扰项的设置有一定的模式,下面就举例说明。

Believe it or not, optical illusion(错觉) can cut highway crashes.

Japan is a case in point. It has reduced automobile crashes on some roads by nearly 75 percent using a simple optical illusion. Bent stripes, called chevrons(人字形), painted on the roads make drivers think that they are driving faster than they really are, and thus drivers slow down.

Now the American Automobile Association Foundation for Traffic Safety in Washington D. C is planning to repeat Japan's success. Starting next year, the foundation will paint chevrons and other patterns of stripes on selected roads around the country to test how well the patterns reduce highway crashes.

Excessive speed plays a major role in as much as one fifth of all fatal traffic accidents, ac-



cording to the foundation. To help reduce those accidents, the foundation will conduct its tests in areas where speed-related hazards are the greatest—curves, exit slopes, traffic circles, and bridges.

Some studies suggest that straight, horizontal bars painted across roads can initially cut the average speed of drivers in half. However, traffic often returns to full speed within months as drivers become used to seeing the painted bars.

Chevrons, scientists say, not only give drivers the impression that they are driving faster than they really are but also make a lane appear to be narrower. The result is a longer lasting reduction in highway speed and the number of traffic accidents. (2000 年 1 月)

The passage mainly discusses \_\_\_\_\_.

- A) a new way of highway speed control
- B) a new pattern for painting highways
- C) a new approach to training drivers
- D) a new type of optical illusion

短文大意是：日本交通部门利用视错觉降低交通事故发生率。具体做法是：在高速公路上粉刷人字形图案，驾车者在行驶过程中看到这些图案时会产生错觉，觉得自己的驾驶速度比实际要快，路面则显得比实际狭窄。结果是，驾车者自动降低了速度，小心翼翼地驾驶。

文章的关键词有：车速控制，视错觉，道路图案。我们再看一下四个选项：A 一种控制车速的新方法，B 一种粉刷高速公路的新图案，C 一种训练司机的新途径 D 一种新型视错觉。其中哪个是文章的主旨呢？首先可以排除 C，因为文中没有提到对司机的训练。B 和 D 都是文中的关键，但它们都是为主题服务的，在高速公路上粉刷新图案营造视错觉是为了控制车速。A 才是文章主旨。

在这三个干扰项中我们可以总结出两种类型。C 是文中没有提到的，B 和 D 只是文章中的一部分。

下面再举一例：

Violin prodigies(神童), I learned, have come in distinct waves from distinct regions. Most of the great performers of the late 19th and early 20th centuries were born and brought up in Russia and Eastern Europe. I asked Isaac Stern, one of the world's greatest violinists, the reason for this phenomenon, "It is very clear," he told me. "They were all Jews(犹太人), and Jews at the time were severely oppressed and ill-treated in that part of the world. They are not allowed into the professional fields, but they were allowed to achieve excellence on a concert stage." As a result, every Jewish parent's dream was to have a child in the music school because it was a passport to the West.

Another element in the emergence of prodigies, I found, is a society that values excellence in a certain field and is able to nurture(培养) talent. Nowadays, the most nurturing societies