

大学英语四级统考辅导丛书

Reading Comprehension

阅读理解

夏培厚 编
王泽惠
蔡勇 校

学术期刊出版社



大学英语四级统考辅导丛书

阅 读 理 解

夏培厚 王泽惠 编
蔡 勇 校

学术 期 刊 出 版 社

内 容 简 介

本书是根据国家教委颁布的《大学英语教学大纲》规定,为非英语专业大学生提高英语阅读能力,帮助他们通过四级测试阅读部分(占总分40%)应试而编写的。

书中所搜集的文章,题材广泛,体裁多样,富有知识性、趣味性。有步骤、有计划地加深读者的阅读深度和广度,提高应试能力。书中最后部分给出了10套四级考试模拟题及答案,使读者进行自我检测。

读者对象:大学本科生及英语爱好者。

大学英语四级统考辅导丛书

阅读理解

夏培厚 王泽惠 编

蔡 勇 校

学术期刊出版社出版

(北京海淀区学院南路86号)

新华书店北京发行所发行



学术期刊出版社照排中心排版

北京密云校印厂印刷

开本: 850×1168毫米 1/32 印张 7.125

1988年12月第1版 1988年12月第1次印刷

字数: 246千字 印数: 1-50000

ISBN 7-80045-215-8/G·36

定价: 3.60元

前 言

本书向大学生和英语爱好者奉献 80 余篇从国内外英语书刊中精选的文章, 每篇配有理解练习题目, 书后附有 10 套大学英语四级考试阅读模拟试题, 旨在帮助读者提高英语阅读速度和理解水平; 增强大学英语全国四级考试的应试能力。

书中搜集的文章内容丰富, 题材广泛。其中有传奇故事、名人轶事、自然奥秘、科技珍闻、生活常识和科幻小品。文笔舒展流畅, 生动活泼, 通俗易懂, 情趣盎然, 集思想性、知识性、趣味性和科学性于一体, 是大学生英语学习之良友, 是提高英语阅读水平之佳书。

本着循序渐进的原则, 本书有计划地逐步加深阅读文章的长度和难度。第一部分(从第 1—18 篇)侧重于训练读者领会文章主题思想的能力, 练习题往往从正反两方面提出问题, 测试读者的理解程度。第二部分(从第 19—42 篇)的文章的长度和难度均有增加。配有的测试练习题也较深入、隐晦, 有利于测试读者在阅读中的引申、推断、联想和概括能力。第三部分(从第 42 篇开始)为 10 套四级考试模拟题。读者可利用这些题目来检测自己的实际的阅读理解和应试能力。

为了方便读者, 每篇文章和习题中凡超出大学英语教学大纲四级词表规定的生词都在每篇文章的词表中注出汉语词意。书中最后给出全部练习及试题答案。

由于时间仓促和编者水平有限, 对不当之处, 希读者和专家们指正。

编者

1988 年 9 月

目 录

Passage 1	(1)
Passage 2	(2)
Passage 3	(3)
Passage 4	(5)
Passage 5	(6)
Passage 6	(8)
Passage 7	(9)
Passage 8	(11)
Passage 9	(13)
Passage 10	(15)
Passage 11	(18)
Passage 12	(21)
Passage 13	(22)
Passage 14	(24)
Passage 15	(26)
Passage 16	(28)
Passage 17	(31)
Passage 18	(33)
Passage 19	(34)
Passage 20	(35)
Passage 21	(37)
Passage 22	(41)
Passage 23	(45)
Passage 24	(49)
Passage 25	(52)
Passage 26	(54)
Passage 27	(57)

Passage	28	(59)
Passage	29	(61)
Passage	30	(63)
Passage	31	(68)
Passage	32	(70)
Passage	33	(72)
Passage	34	(75)
Passage	35	(78)
Passage	36	(84)
Passage	37	(85)
Passage	38	(88)
Passage	39	(91)
Passage	40	(96)
Passage	41	(100)
Passage	42	(104)
Passage	43	(108)
Passage	44	(109)
Passage	45	(113)
Passage	46	(115)
Passage	47	(117)
Passage	48	(120)
Passage	49	(123)
Passage	50	(127)
Passage	51	(130)
Passage	52	(133)
Passage	53	(135)
Passage	54	(138)
Passage	55	(141)
Passage	56	(143)
Passage	57	(145)

Passage	58	(148)
Passage	59	(152)
Passage	60	(155)
Passage	61	(156)
Passage	62	(158)
Passage	63	(161)
Passage	64	(162)
Passage	65	(165)
Passage	66	(168)
Passage	67	(171)
Passage	68	(175)
Passage	69	(177)
Passage	70	(181)
Passage	71	(186)
Passage	72	(188)
Passage	73	(190)
Passage	74	(192)
Passage	75	(194)
Passage	76	(196)
Passage	77	(200)
Passage	78	(202)
Passage	79	(205)
Passage	80	(207)
Passage	81	(209)
Passage	82	(212)
Answer		(215)

Passage 1

Captain Cook, the noted world explorer, encountered an unusual animal during his first visit to Australia. He pointed to it *grazing* in the distance and asked his native guide to identify it. The guide appeared confused and finally said, "Kang-a-roo" which Cook carefully noted in his word book. The *missionaries* who later came to Australia were anxious to see a *kang-a-roo* but their inquiries were met with puzzled looks. They soon discovered that the native who answered Cook's question was really saying, "I don't know what you're pointing at." The name stuck and is still in use today.

New Words and Expressions

- | | |
|----------------|-------------------|
| 1. graze 吃青草 | 2. missionary 传教士 |
| 3. kangaroo 袋鼠 | |

1. Which sentence best expresses the main idea?
 - (a) Captain Cook's guide had a sense of humor.
 - (b) Native Australians could not speak English.
 - (c) Some words have fascinating origins.
 - (d) Captain Cook was fond of animals.

2. The paragraph illustrates
 - (a) the far-reaching influence of missionaries.
 - (b) the unusual origin of certain words.
 - (c) the importance of accurate dictionaries.
 - (d) the inquiring minds of early explorers.

3. The paragraph could be entitled
- (a) God-fearing Men.
 - (b) An Understandable Error.
 - (c) Animals from Down Under.
 - (d) Live and learn.

Passage 2

Whether you are a smoker or a nonsmoker, you should take measures to protect your lungs. You can test your lung capacity by holding a lighted match about six inches from your face and trying to blow it out with your mouth wide open. If you cannot *blow out the flame*, arrange for a medical examination. Using a simple machine called a *spirometer* (spir o m e ter), a doctor can measure the lungs' strength and capacity. In other words, he can test how efficiently you breathe. When combined with a complete physical examination, the *spirometer test* may detect early signs of *respiratory problems*.

New Words and Expressions

- | | | | |
|---------------|---------|-------------------------|----|
| 1. blow out | 吹灭, 吹熄 | 2. flame | 火焰 |
| 3. spirometer | 肺活量计(表) | 4. respiratory problems | |
- 呼吸系统问题; 呼吸系统疾病

1. Which sentence expresses the main idea?
- (a) Necessity is the mother of invention.
 - (b) An ounce of prevention is worth a pound of cure.
 - (c) Don't count your chickens before they're hatched.
 - (d) Join the unhooked generation.

2. The paragraph is in favor of
- (a) forbidding smoking in public places.
 - (b) outlawing the sale of tobacco products.
 - (c) promoting good health habits.
 - (d) enforcing strict air-quality controls.
3. If a person passes the match test, he can assume that he
- (a) must have an examination.
 - (b) need not worry about lung disease.
 - (c) is in good physical health.
 - (d) has no obvious lung problems.

Passage 3

Ever since humans have *inhabited* the earth, they have made use of various forms of communication. Generally, this expression of thoughts and feelings has been *in the form of oral* speech. When there is a language barrier, communication is accomplished through *sign language* in which motions *stand for* letters, words, and ideas. Tourists, the deaf, and the mute have had to resort to this form of expression. Many of these symbols of whole words are very *picturesque* and exact and can be used internationally; spelling, however, cannot.

Body language transmits ideas or thoughts by certain actions, either *intentionally or unintentionally*. A *wink* can be a way of *flirting* or indicating that the party is only joking. A nod signifies approval, while shaking the head indicates a negative reaction.

Other forms of nonlinguistic language can be found in

Braille (a system of *raised dots* read with the *fingertips*), signal flags, Morse code, and smoke signals. Road maps and picture signs also guide, warn, and instruct people.

While *verbalization* is the most common form of language, other systems and techniques also express human thoughts and feelings.

New Words and Expressions

- | | |
|-----------------------|--------------------------|
| 1. inhabit 居住 | 2. in the form of 以...形式 |
| 3. sign language 手势语言 | 4. stand for 代表 |
| 5. picturesque 形象化的 | 6. body language 躯体语言 |
| 7. intentionally 有意地 | 8. unintentionally 无意地 |
| 9. wink 眨眼 | 10. flirt 逗乐;调情 |
| 11. braille 盲文 | 12. raised dot 凸起的点子 |
| 13. fingertip 手指尖 | 14. verbalization 用词语表示 |

1. Which of the following best summarizes this passage?
 - (a) When language is a barrier, people will find other forms of communication.
 - (b) Everybody uses only one form of communication.
 - (c) Nonlinguistic language is invaluable to foreigners.
 - (d) Although other forms of communication exist, verbalization is the fastest.
2. Which of the following statements is *not* true?
 - (a) There are many forms of communication in existence today.
 - (b) Verbalization is the most common form of communication.
 - (c) The deaf and mute use an oral form of communication.
 - (d) Ideas and thoughts can be transmitted by body language.

3. Which form other than oral speech would be most commonly used among blind people?

- (a) picture signs (c) body language
(b) Braille (d) signal flags

4. How many different forms of communication are mentioned here?

- (a) 5 (b) 7 (c) 9 (d) 11

5. Sign language is said to be very picturesque and exact and can be used internationally *except* for

- (a) spelling (b) ideas (c) whole words (d) expressions

Passage 4

Doctors are of the opinion that most people cannot live beyond 100 years, but a growing number of scientists believe that the aging process can be controlled. There are more than 12,000 Americans over 100 years old who receive *Social Security* benefits, and their numbers are increasing each year. Dr. James Langley of Chicago claims that, theoretically and under ideal conditions, animals, including man, can live six times longer than their normal period of growth. A person's period of growth lasts approximately twenty-five years. If Dr. Langley's theory is accurate, future generations can expect a *life span* of 150 years.

New Words and Expressions

1. Social Security 社会保护(障)

2. life span 寿命期

3. pensioner 领养老金者

1. Which sentence best expresses the main idea?

- (a) Within a few generations, most people will probably live for 150 years.
- (b) Social Security pensioners are steadily increasing in number.
- (c) Physicians and scientists disagree regarding man's possible life span.
- (d) Man's normal period of growth compares with that of animals.

2. The main idea of the paragraph deals with

- (a) expected longevity.
- (b) retirement benefits.
- (c) population control.
- (d) impractical theories.

3. The author develops his main idea by

- (a) describing the conditions necessary for a long life.
- (b) explaining the findings of an expert.
- (c) comparing man with other animals.
- (d) quoting popular medical opinion.

Passage 5

The real problem with pollution is people--the way people think about their environment. We're all *reluctant* to accept the fact that our natural resources are fixed--fixed, in fact, since the earth was created. We want to go on using *virgin* materials. We aren't educated to reusing resources, or even placing a value on "waste" products. We're a crisis society. Currently, we

are fearful of losing the use of our water and air to pollution. In one context, it's probably a good thing that we are so concerned because now we'll begin to adjust our thinking on the values of natural resources and reuse. We once thought of water and air as free. They're not, not any more than the land is free. People haven't wanted to be educated on the part they must play in solving our environmental problems.

New Words and Expressions

- | | | | |
|--------------|------------|-----------|----------|
| 1. reluctant | 不情愿(的);勉强的 | 2. virgin | 未经使用的; |
| 3. provoke | 激起;刺激 | | 未用过的;原始的 |

1. The environmental crisis can be turned around and solved if people
 - (a) insist on using virgin materials.
 - (b) change their basic attitudes.
 - (c) adjust to shortages and high prices.
 - (d) clean up their rivers and lakes.

2. An important conclusion which can be drawn from the paragraph concerns
 - (a) mass education.
 - (b) government financing.
 - (c) political responsibility.
 - (d) strict controls.

3. It can be concluded from the statement, "We're a crisis society," that
 - (a) Americans are pessimistic.
 - (b) America is a warlike nation.
 - (c) pollution is here to stay.
 - (d) Americans must be provoked to action.

Passage 6

Few can deny the *strange coincidences* in the deaths of John F. Kennedy and Abraham Lincoln. For example, Kennedy was elected in 1960 while Lincoln *assumed the Presidency* in 1860. Both men were *assassinated* from behind, on a Friday, and in the presence of their wives. The two men were born exactly one hundred years apart, as were their *assassins*, Lee Harvey Oswald and John Wilkes Booth. Perhaps the strangest coincidence is that Kennedy's secretary, whose name was Lincoln, advised him not to go to Dallas where he was shot. Lincoln's secretary, whose name was Kennedy, advised him not to go to the Ford Theater where he met his death.

New Words and Expressions

1. coincidence 巧合
strange coincidence 意想不到的巧合
2. assume the Presidency 担任总统职务
3. assassinate 暗杀; 行刺
4. assassin 刺客; 暗杀者

1. Which sentence best expresses the main idea?
 - (a) Few can deny the strange coincidences in the deaths of John F. Kennedy and Abraham Lincoln.
 - (b) Both men were assassinated from behind, on a Friday and in the presence of their wives.
 - (c) The two men were born exactly one hundred years apart, as were their assassins, Lee Harvey Oswald and John Wilkes Booth.

- (d) Lincoln's secretary, whose name was Kennedy, advised him not to go to the Ford Theater where he met his death.
2. The circumstances surrounding the two deaths were
- (a) mysterious. (b) similar.
(c) contrary. (d) unrelated.
3. Which statement expresses the central thought?
- (a) Fame is something which must not be lost.
(b) The course of life is like the sea; men come and go; tides rise and fall.
(c) Time brings not death; it brings but changes.
(d) It is no great wonder if, in long process of time, numerous coincidences should occur.

Passage 7

An election year is one in which all four numbers are *evenly divisible* by four (1944, 1948, etc.). Since 1840, American presidents elected in years ending in zero have been *destined* to die in office. William H. Harrison, the man who served the shortest term, died of *pneumonia* several weeks after his *inauguration*.

Abraham Lincoln was one of four presidents who were assassinated. He was elected in 1860, and his *untimely* death came just five years later.

James A. Garfield, a former Union army general from Ohio, was shot during his first year in office (1881) by a man to whom he wouldn't give a job.

While in his second term of office (1901). William McKinley, another *Ohioan*, attended the *Pan-American Exposition* at Buffalo, New York. During the reception, he was assassinated while shaking hands with some of the guests.

Three years after his election in 1920, Warren G. Harding died in office. Although it was never proved, many believe he was poisoned.

Franklin D. Roosevelt had been elected four times (1932, 1936, 1940 and 1944), the only man to serve so long a term. He had contracted *polio* in 1921 and died of the illness in 1945.

John F. Kennedy, the last of the line, was assassinated in 1963, only three years after his election.

Will 1980's *candidate* suffer the same fate?

New Words and Expressions

- | | |
|--------------------------------|--------------------------|
| 1. evenly divisible 能整除的; 能除尽的 | 2. destine 命定, 注定 |
| 3. pneumonia 肺炎 | 4. inauguration (美) 总统就职 |
| 5. untimely 过早的; 不合时宜的 | 6. Ohioan 俄亥俄州人 |
| 7. Pan-American 泛美 | 8. Exposition 展览会 |
| 9. polio 脊髓灰质炎 | 10. candidate 总统候选人 |
| 11. swear-in 宣誓就职 | |

1. Which of the following was *not* an election year?

- (a) 1960 (b) 1930 (c) 1888 (d) 1824

2. Which president served the shortest term in office?

- (a) Abraham Lincoln (b) Warren G. Harding
(c) William McKinley (d) William H. Harrison