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710分
最新题型快突破

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# 最新大学英语四级阅读题源

最新题源，覆盖
阅读全部新题型

CET4

大连理工大学出版社

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# 前言 Preface

2006年6月新的四六级考试的推行，不但考试题型方面发生了重大变化，而且难度也相应增加，主要体现在阅读方面。题型主要有“快速阅读、仔细阅读、选词填空和简短回答问题”等四个方面。本书的编写就是从以上每个题型入手，帮助考生提高阅读能力及应试能力。

**本书具有的特点：**

**1. 题型全面，相互兼顾**

本书涵盖了“快速阅读、仔细阅读、选词填空和简短回答问题”四个方面题型。基于考生对阅读理解的不同部分的解题能力各异（通常来说“快速阅读”和“仔细阅读”更难一些，而“选词填空”和“简短回答问题”相对容易一些），编者在内容分布方面进行了精心设计。其中“快速阅读”和“仔细阅读”训练的比重占整个内容的80%，并且“快速阅读”中判断题和选择题的题型都很丰富，因此，考生可以得到充分的练习。

**2. 题源注重原创性和时效性**

本书供训练的题源都是针对阅读题型的不同特点进行精心选编的。例如，针对历届真题中“快速阅读”部分的通常都是科普性文章这一规律，编者在题源的筛选上就有针对性地选取了可读性较强的科普类文章，同时，文章中都辅以相关副标题以引导考生进行阅读。很多文章都是编者从外刊上选摘下来作为快速阅读材料的，比较具有原创性和时效性。

**3. 题源设立难易梯度，阅读由浅入深**

学生阅读水平各异，编者在组编文章的时候就有意识地设立难易梯度，阅读由浅入深，逐步提高，不同基础的考生可以按照自己的实际需求进行阅读训练。

**4. 编排方式独特，体现以人为本的理念**

每一篇文章的练习都给出“文章大意、答案与解析以及难句释义”等内容。并且在解析中着重对干扰项进行分析，使考生不仅知道正确的答案，而且还知道为什么干扰项不是答案。通过排除干扰项，考生也可积累考试经验，避免落入解题“陷阱”。

本书汇集了所有参编教师的心血，不当之处望广大同仁和考生给予批评，同时预祝考生顺利通过考试。

编 者

2009年6月

# 目录 Contents

第一章

# 快速阅读 Skimming and Scanning

## 第一节 考纲介绍

提高阅读能力一直是学生学习英语的目标，根据2004年教育部制定的《大学英语教学要求》的规定，大学阶段针对快速阅读的要求如下：

一般要求的标准是：在快速阅读篇幅较长、难度略低的材料时，阅读速度达到每分钟100词，能基本读懂国内英文报刊，掌握中心意思，理解主要事实和有关细节。能读懂工作、生活中常见的应用文体的材料。能在阅读中使用有效的阅读方法。

较高要求的标准是：

在快速阅读篇幅较长的材料时，阅读速度达到每分钟120词，能就阅读材料进行略读或寻读。能够基本读懂自己专业方面的综述性文献，并能正确理解中心大意，抓住主要事实和有关细节。

为了提高学生的快速阅读能力，《大学英语四六级考试大纲(2006修订版)》在试卷构成上，也进行了适当的调整。阅读理解部分增加了快速阅读技能测试，分值占总分值的10%。其测试特征如下表所示：

| | 级别 | 文章长度 | 测试内容 | 测试重点 |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| 快速阅读理解 | 四级 | 1000词左右 | 记叙文、说明文、议论文。 | 阅读理解部分考核学生通过阅读获取书面信息的能力，包括理解主旨大意、重要事实和细节、隐含意义、判断作者的观点、态度等。 |
| | 六级 | 1200词左右 | 记叙文、说明文、议论文。 | 阅读理解部分考核学生通过阅读获取书面信息的能力，包括理解主旨大意、重要事实和细节、隐含意义、判断作者的观点、态度等。 |

快速阅读部分采用1～2篇较长篇幅的文章或多篇短文，总长度四级约为1000词，六级约为1200词。要求考生运用略读和查读的技能从篇章中获取信息。略读考核学生通过快速阅读获取文章主旨大意和中心思想的能力，阅读速度约每分钟四级100词，六级120词。查读考核学生利用各种提示，如数字、大写单词、段首或句首词等，快速查找特定信息的能力。快速阅读理解部分采用的题型有：是非判断、句子填空、完成句子等形式。

四、六级考试中的快速阅读部分的题型也经常处于变化之中，2006 年 6 月，12 月以及 2007 年 6 月的快速阅读部分都是由判断题和填空题构成的；而从 2007 年 12 月又出现了选择题和填空题的组合形式。因此同学们要掌握多种的答题方法。下面将为大家浅析快速阅读理解的应对策略与技巧。

## 第二节　答题策略与技巧

所谓快速阅读就是在较短的时间里阅读大量书报资料的一种科学的学习方法。在新的四、六级考试中，快速阅读是一个新的考试项目，它要求考生在 15 分钟内阅读完一篇 1000 ～ 1200 字左右的文章，并回答后面的 10 道题。因此，快速阅读并不强调一定要像精读文章那样通篇认真研究，相反，快速阅读题目更强调测试考生在实践语言环境中查询有效信息的能力，由于其篇幅长，题目灵活，会让考生感觉无从下手。但是，对于该题型，我们应该有一个清晰的概念，那就是快速阅读测试的重点就是考生在短时间内获取篇章主旨和特定信息的能力，因此，它更强调运用正确的阅读方法和技巧。在四、六级的新题型测试中，快速阅读是考生的难点。现将快速阅读中存在的一些问题和答题技巧介绍一二，希望能对考生有所帮助。

### 一、答题顺序

不同于传统阅读，快速阅读由于其文章长、题量大、时间短等特点，通常不要把文章看完再做题，或题看完再读文章。因为信息量太多，考生不可能将所有信息全部记下来，所以建议考生边读文章边做题，而且快速阅读的出题顺序基本上是根据文章顺序来编排的，所以不会出现回读这种浪费时间的现象。

### 二、快速寻找所需信息

**1. 充分利用小标题**

四六级的快速阅读文章通常都会给出小标题，充分利用小标题，可以帮助考生掌握文章框架，快速找到所需有效信息的范围。在快速阅读当中，首先应该根据题干去找对应的小标题，先确定大的范围，然后在确定的小标题下查读。避免重复阅读无关信息，提高查读的针对性，涉及到主旨题的时候，把小标题的内容综合起来基本上就是主旨题答案的来源。

**2. 充分利用表示地点、时间、数字、人名等具体信息的关键词**

题干中有时会提到明确的地点、时间、数字、人名等信息，充分利用这些信息可以帮助考生迅速定位，找到原文中对应内容，由此找到答案。

**3. 充分利用关键词组或比较长、难的名词**

有时，题干中不会出现地点、时间、数字、人名这样非常明显的信息，这时就需要考生找出关键词组或比较长、难的名词。

## 三、根据找寻到的信息判断答案

快速阅读最初设定的是四级七道是非题加上三道填空题，而六级是四道是非题加上六道填空题。而从2007年12月开始，四、六级都变为选择题加上填空题。现就不同题型介绍一下答题技巧。

**1. 是非题**

Yes 适用于

1）用不同单词进行同义表达；

2）原意转化；

3）根据原文概括或归纳而成的。

No 适用于

1）题目与原文相反；

2）原文是多个条件并列，题目是其中一个条件；

3）将原文信息张冠李戴；

4）原文和题目中使用了表示不同范围、频率、程度的词。

Not Given 适用于

1）题目中的某些内容在原文中没有提及；

2）将原文具体化，即题目中涉及的范围小于原文涉及的范围；

3）原文是可能发生，题目是必然发生；

4）原文为人们对某种事物的理论感觉，题目则强调是客观事实或已被证明；

5）题目随意比较原文中提到的两个事物，而原文没有比较。

**2. 填空题**

填空题相对而言比较容易判断，找到的信息基本上是所需答案，但填空时需要注意的是词性和词的形式要根据题目的情况有所改变。

**3. 选择题**

选择题是最近两次考试出现在快速阅读中的题型，相对于深度阅读的选择题来说，快速阅读中的选择题难度略低，但并不是所有答案都是直接的，有的题目需要对原文的信息进行分析，重新构建。

希望通过以上对于快速阅读特点和考纲的分析，以及答题策略和技巧的介绍，帮助同学们提高快速阅读的能力。

# 第三节　新题源演练与详解

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

*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.*

## Passage 1

难易度:★★★★☆

### Adolf Hitler and *Mein Kampf*

When the Nazi Party under Adolf Hitler's leadership took over the reins of government in Germany in 1933, after a decade of agitation and violence, the world was appalled by its ruthless methods of establishing control, its abolition of all vestiges of democracy, its merciless suppression of dissenting views, its persecution of Jews, and its territorial threat against friendly neighboring nations.

Yet, if non-Germans had read Hitler's *Mein Kampf*, they would have found the entire program spelled out in all its shocking detail. Hitler was completely frank about his intentions and plans for Germany and Europe. But, thanks to the protection of international copyright, the full story had been restricted to the original German. A great nation and her allies committed themselves to carrying out the book's fantastic ideas. Prior to the outbreak of World War II, five million copies had been distributed in Germany alone.

The German people in the early thirties were in a mood that made them dangerously susceptible to the Fascist infection. For a century, high-pressure nationalism and ideas of race superiority had been drilled into them, and after World War I and the Treaty of Versailles they suffer from an acute persecution complex. To many, order and security seemed to matter more than a political freedom that had become synonymous with street brawls and bloodshed. Hitler aided by a phenomenal capacity for organization and by readiness of Germany's great industrialists to finance his campaign, shrewdly stylized the prevailing attitude to establish his power.

*Mein Kampf's* theme song, recurring again and again, is race purity, race supremacy, though nowhere did Hitler attempt to define race. Mankind, he says, is divided into three groups: the culture creators, of whom there is only one example, the Aryan and Nordic; the culture bearers, such as the Japanese; and the culture destroyers, such as the Jews and Negroes. It was never intended by Nature, Hitler claims, that all races should be equal, any more than individuals are equal. Some are created superior to the others. The Germans, as the world's strongest race, should rule over the inferior races of the earth.

Fanatically believing in the innate superiority of the "Aryan" race over all others, Hitler preaches that it is the duty and privilege if the master race to conquer, exploit, dispossess, or exterminate other races for its own advantage. All humanity in the long

run would benefit through having the habitat of the highest race extended and scattered Germanic people united under one rule. The vast expansion visualized by Hitler would take place principally at the expense of Russia. According to *Mein Kampf*:

Frontiers are made and altered by human agency alone. The fact that a nation succeeds in acquiring an unfair share of territory is no superior reason for its being respected forever. It merely proves the strength of the conqueror and the weakness of those who lose by it. This strength alone constitutes the right to possess.

To attain the objectives set by his soaring ambition, Hitler proposes three methods: propaganda, diplomacy, and force. Nowhere in *Mein Kampf* is the author more revealing of himself and his tactics than in his discussion of propaganda techniques—correctly believed by him to be one of the Nazi's most effective and formidable weapons. To perfect his own understanding of the propaganda art, Hitler studied the techniques of the Marxists, the organization and methods of the Catholic Church, British propaganda during World War I, American advertising, and French psychology.

The importance of concentration and repetition is stressed by Hitler. The masses can only assimilate a small amount, because their intelligence is limited and their forgetfulness great. Therefore effective propaganda must be confined to a very few points and these hammered home until even the most stupid hearers will comprehend them. Propaganda must be "aimed always and primarily at the emotions and very little at man's alleged reason." Hitler's frequently expressed belief is that mankind in the mass is lazy, cowardly, feminine, emotional, and incapable of rational thought.

The ultimate in Hitlerian propaganda technique is the principle of the big lie. The doctrine is wholly correct, Hitler declares, "that the very greatness of the lie is a factor in getting it believed. With the primitive simplicity of the masses a great lie is more effective than a small one, because they often lie in small matters, but would be too ashamed to tell a great big lie."

Another major propaganda principle is that of the single devil. Do not confuse the populace by offering too many enemies for it to hate at the same time. Concentrate upon one adversary and focus the people's hatred upon this enemy. For Hitler, of course, the Jew served as the universal scapegoat.

The task of propagandist is facilitated, Hitler says, by state control of education. Too much book learning is an error. Physical education and physical health should take first place. Second is the development of character, especially the cultivation of military virtues such as obedience, loyalty, strength of will, self-control, capacity for sacrifice, and pride in responsibility. Girls must be trained for motherhood. Always the guiding principles are that the child belongs to the state and that the sole object of education is to train tools for the state.

Rejecting democracy, Hitler substituted the leader principle, dividing mankind into leaders and the herd. "Only a fraction of mankind," he concludes, "is energetic and bold." The rest are cowards and dupes.

Viewing *Mein Kampf* retrospectively, historians insist that Hitler had no understanding of history, anthropologists say that his racial views are nonsense, educators declare that his theories of education are altogether medieval and reactionary, political scientists protest his authoritarian doctrines of government and his mispresentation of democracy, and literary experts state that he did not know how to write a paragraph or organize a chapter.

Nevertheless, despite such glaring defects, the American editor Norman Cousins has called *Mein Kampf* by far the most effective book of the twentieth century. For every word in *Mein Kampf*, 125 lives were to be lost; for every page, 4,700 lives; for every chapter, more than 1,200,000 lives.

**(Words: 1031)**

1. The Nazi Party mercilessly suppressed dissenters and abolished democracy.
2. International copyright made Hitler's *Mein Kampf* available to the world.
3. After the World War I and the treaty of Versailles, the German people were eager to prove their strong power in industry and get rid of the state of being persecuted.
4. In *Mein Kampf* Hitler gave his definition of race and claimed the Germans were the strongest race.
5. In propaganda, Hitler stressed the importance of concentration and repetition.
6. For Hitler, education was a tool of the State; for education experts however, his theories were both out of date and unreasonably opposed to change.
7. Various scholars deny Hitler's abilities in terms of history, education, politics and literature, while the American editor confirms Hitler's achievement.
8. Germans in the early thirties were easily affected by _____.
9. Another major feature of propaganda was to arouse people's hatred toward enemy, and in the eyes of Hitler, the Jew served as _____.
10. Hitler rejected democracy, substituted the leader principle by dividing mankind into _____.

## Passage 2

难易度:★★★★☆

### Landfills

You have just finished your meal at a fast food restaurant and you throw your uneaten food, food wrappers, drink cups, utensils and napkins into the trash can. You don't think about that waste again. On trash pickup day in your neighborhood, you push your can out to the curb, and workers dump the contents into a big truck and haul it away. You don't have to think about that waste again, either. But maybe you have wondered, as you watch the trash truck pull away, just where that garbage ends up.

Americans generate trash at an astonishing rate of four pounds per day per person;

which translates to 600,000 tons per day or 210 million tons per year! This is almost twice as much trash per person as most other major countries. What happens to this trash? Some gets recycled (回收利用) or recovered and some is burned, but the majority is buried in landfills.

**How Much Trash Is Generated?**

Of the 210 million tons of trash, or solid waste, generated in the United States annually, about 56 million tons, or 27 percent, is either recycled (glass, paper products, plastic, metals) or composted (做成堆肥) (yard waste). The remaining trash, which is mostly unredeemable, is discarded.

**How Is Trash Disposed of?**

The trash production in the United States has almost tripled since 1960. This trash is handled in various ways. About 27 percent of the trash is recycled or composted, 16 percent is burned and 57 percent is buried in landfills. The amount of trash buried in landfills has doubled since 1960. The United States ranks somewhere in the middle of the major countries (United Kingdom, Canada, Germany, France and Japan) in landfill disposal. The United Kingdom ranks highest, burying about 90 percent of its solid waste in landfills.

There are two ways to bury trash:

Dump—an open hole in the ground where trash is buried and that is full of various animals (rats, mice, birds). (This is most people's idea of a landfill!)

Landfill—carefully designed structure built into or on top of the ground in which trash is isolated from the surrounding environment (groundwater, air, rain). This isolation is accomplished with a bottom liner and daily covering of soil.

Sanitary landfill—landfill that uses a clay liner to isolate the trash from the environment.

Municipal solid waste (MSW) landfill—landfill that uses a synthetic (plastic) liner to isolate the trash from the environment.

The purpose of a landfill is to bury the trash in such a way that it will be isolated from groundwater, will be kept dry and will not be in contact with air. Under these conditions, trash will not decompose (腐烂) much. A landfill is not like a compost pile, where the purpose is to bury trash in such a way that it will decompose quickly.

**Proposing the Landfill**

For a landfill to be built, the operators have to make sure that they follow certain steps. In most parts of the world, there are regulations that govern where a landfill can be placed and how it can operate. The whole process begins with someone proposing the landfill.

In the United States, taking care of trash and building landfills are local government responsibilities. Before a city or other authority can build a landfill, an

environment impact study must be done on the proposed site to determine:

the area of land necessary for the landfill

the composition of the underlying soil and bedrock

the flow of surface water over the site

the impact of the proposed landfill on the local environment and wildlife

the historical value of the proposed site

**Building the Landfill**

Once the environmental impact study is complete, the permits are granted and the funds have been raised, then construction begins. First, access roads to the landfill site must be built if they do not already exist. There roads will be used by construction equipment, sanitation (环卫) services and the general public. After roads have been built, digging can begin. In the North Wake Country Landfill, the landfill began 10 feet below the road surface.

**What Happens to Trash in a Landfill?**

Trash put in a landfill will stay there for a very long time. Inside a landfill, there is little oxygen and little moisture. Under these conditions, trash does not break down very rapidly. In fact, when old landfills have been dug up or sampled, 40-year-old newspapers have been found with easily readable print. Landfills are not designed to break down trash, merely to bury it. When a landfill closes, the site, especially the groundwater, must be monitored and maintained for up to 30 years!

**How Is a Landfill Operated?**

A landfill, such as the North Wake County Landfill, must be open and available every day. Customers are typically municipalities and construction companies, although residents may also use the landfill.

Near the entrance of the landfill is a recycling center where residents can drop off recyclable materials (aluminum cans, glass bottles, newspapers and paper products). This helps to reduce the amount of material in the landfill. Some of these materials are banned from landfills by law because they can be recycled.

As customers enter the site, their trucks are weighed at the scale house. Customers are charged tipping fees for using the site. The tipping fees vary from $10 to $40 per ton. These fees are used to pay for operation costs. The North Wake County Landfill has an operating budget of approximately $4.5 million, and part of that comes from tipping fees.

Along the site, there are drop off stations for materials that are not wanted or legally banned by the landfill. A multi-material drop off station is used for tires, motor oil, and lead acid batteries. Some of these materials can be recycled.

In addition, there is a household hazardous waste drop off station for chemicals (paints, pesticides, other chemicals) that are banned from the landfill. These chemicals

are disposed of by private companies. Some paints can be recycled and some organic chemicals can be burned in furnaces or power plants.

Other structures alongside the landfill are the borrowed area that supplies the soil for the landfill, the runoff collection pond and methane (甲烷) station.

Landfills are complicated structures that, when properly designed and managed, serve an important purpose. In the future, new technologies called bioreactors will be used to speed the breakdown of trash in landfills and produce more methane.

**(Words: 1092)**

1. The passage gives a general description of the structure and use of a landfill.
2. Most of the trash that Americans generate ends up in landfills.
3. Compared with other major industrialized countries, America buries a much higher percentage of its solid waste in landfills.
4. Landfills are like compost piles in that they speed up decomposition of the buried trash.
5. In most countries the selection of a landfill site is governed by rules and regulations.
6. In the United States the building of landfills is the job of both federal and local governments.
7. Hazardous wastes have to be treated before being dumped into landfills.
8. Customers are typically _____, although residents may also use the landfill.
9. The tipping fees vary from _____ per ton. These fees are used to pay for operation costs.
10. Along the site, there are _____ for materials that are not wanted or legally banned by the landfill.

## Passage 3

难易度:★★★★☆

### Robot Cars to Do Battle in Desert Race

When 15 competitors lined up in Nevada last year for the U.S. Defense Department's first million-dollar robot race, hopes were high. The challenge: to drive a vehicle without a human driver or remote control some 150 miles (241 kilometers) through the Mojave Desert.

But those hopes quickly went up in a cloud of dust as most robots barely managed to get off the starting line. The best performer, a modified Humvee built by engineers at Pennsylvania's Carnegie Mellon University, traveled 7 miles (11 kilometers) before breaking down.

To robot devotees(热爱者), however, it was a minor hiccup.

No surprise, then, that 43 teams showed up to try out for this year's race, dubbed (被称作) the Grand Challenge. For the past week, teams ranging from garage enthusiasts to well-funded university engineers have been fine-tuning their machines at qualifying rounds here at the California Speedway in Fontana, California. (Watch the robots in action in our exclusive video.)

Twenty-three finalists were announced Thursday for Saturday's Grand Challenge. The 175-mile (282-kilometer) course starts and finishes in Primm, Nevada.

The race promises to be even tougher than last year's run. But 18 months is an eternity in the robotics world, and the technology has vastly improved.

Organizers believe several teams have a real shot of finishing the race in less than ten hours to earn the grand prize of two million U. S. dollars.

"When the first team out of the chute (斜道)—Mojavaton, a small team out of Colorado—made it successfully around the 2.2-mile (3.5-kilometer) qualification course, I knew right there and then that we had something special," said Ron Kurjanowicz, the chief of staff for the Pentagon's Defense Advanced Research Projects Agency (DARPA), which is sponsoring the race.

**Unknown Course**

The aim of the Grand Challenge, Defense Department officials say, is to spur development of autonomous ground vehicles that can operate in dangerous environments, such as war zones, keeping soldiers out of harm's way.

A U. S. Congress mandate (训令) requires that one-third of military ground vehicles drive themselves by 2015, but the technology to meet that mandate does not yet exist.

So the government looked to enterprising teams to develop the technology for driverless vehicles, sweetening its offer with the two-million-dollar purse.

None of the 23 teams knows what lies ahead for this year's race. DARPA won't reveal the exact route until two hours before the start of the race on Saturday.

But the obstacles on the Fontana qualification course—including a steel-enforced tunnel that wipes out a vehicle's global positioning system—are made to resemble the rugged, real-life conditions that the vehicles will have to navigate.

The vehicles use sensors such as lasers, cameras, and radar to help them avoid obstacles such as rocks and cliffs. The computer's brain has to figure out how to resolve unexpected conflicts, like a boulder sitting in the middle of the road.

"Think about all the decisions that you and I have to make when we drive from our house to the store," Kurjanowicz said. "These vehicles have to do the same thing, without a driver."

Among the top contenders in Saturday's race is TerraMax, a massive truck originally built by the Wisconsin-based Oshkosh Truck Corporation for the U. S. Marine Corps.

In last year's race, TerraMax managed to go only 1.2 miles (2 kilometers). Team leader Gary Schmiedel expects to do much better this year. He pointed to the new all-wheel steering feature on the truck as an important addition.

"We can move this large, 15-ton (13.5-metric ton) payload vehicle in a turn that's equivalent to that of a Humvee," he said.

**Ghostrider**

The resources of teams like TerraMax or Carnegie Mellon University, which has

two vehicles in the race this year, are a far cry from those of some of the other competitors, including inventors, electricians, and even a high school team.

One entry, from a Southern California team of engineers, racers, and hot-fodders, is called It Came From the Garage. It has a beer keg (小桶) stuck on the back and an on-off switch that says "brain."

"Most of the schools and organizations we're up against are just accessorizing conventional vehicles," said team leader Chris "C. J." Pedersen, a former actor. "Our vehicle I is a custom-built, 21st-century hot rod. Complete with hood scoop and exhaust coming off the side."

Anthony Levandowski, a robotics builder from Berkeley, California, is back with Ghostrider, the only motorcycle robot in the qualifications. Studded with sensors and computers, it toppled (翻倒) over after 3 feet (1 meter) in last year's race.

Levandowski, who had to postpone his graduate studies when he couldn't find a faculty advisor who believed it would be possible to build the motorcycle robot, says his vehicle has some distinct advantages.

"We're smaller and go a lot more places," he said while tinkering with the robot before another trial run. "We're also a lot less expensive. This bike costs as much as a tire or a wheel of some of these other guys' machines."

**Smart Money**

Neither Ghostrider nor It Came From the Garage made the final cut at this week's qualifying races.

However, another crowd-pleaser, Cajunbot—or the Ragin' Cajun—a converted all-terrain vehicle developed by a team from the University of Louisiana in Lafayette, did.

The smart money in Saturday's race may be on Stanley, a converted Volkswagen Touareg made by a team at California's Stanford University. It was the only vehicle that didn't hit an obstacle in the trial runs.

Even if none of the vehicles finishes the race this year, DARPA's Kurjanowicz said, the event has succeeded in galvanizing robotics developers and pushing the creation of new technologies.

"The beauty of the Grand Challenge is that it doesn't tell people how to solve the problem," he said. "The community has come up with its own elegant solutions."

**(Words: 998)**

1. The passage mainly describes the advantages and disadvantages of robot car races.
2. In last year's robot race in Nevada, most robots traveled 1 mile.
3. It is a surprise that up to 43 teams came for this year's race called the Grand Challenge.
4. The Pentagon's Defense Advanced Research Projects Agency (DARPA) is sponsoring the race.
5. The aim of the Grand Challenge is to spur development of autonomous ground vehicles.
6. Ghostrider and It Came From the Garage both made the final cut at this week's qualifying races.

7. TerraMax will finish the race and win the grand prize of two million U. S. dollars.

8. The obstacles on the Fontana qualification course are made to resemble the _____.

9. The only motorcycle robot in the qualification is _____.

10. The only vehicle that didn't hit an obstacle in the trial runs is _____.

## Passage 4

难易度:★★★★☆

### The World in a Glass: Six Drinks That Changed History

Tom Standage urges drinkers to savor the history of their favorite beverages along with the taste.

The author of *A History of the World in* 6 *Glasses* (Walker & Company, June 2005), Standage lauds the libations that have helped shape our world from the Stone Age to the present day.

"The important drinks are still drinks that we enjoy today," said Standage, a technology editor at the London-based magazine the *Economist*. "They are relics(纪念物) of different historical periods still found in our kitchens."

Take the six-pack, whose contents first fizzed at the dawn of civilization.

**Beer**

The ancient Sumerians, who built advanced city-states in the area of present-day Iraq, began fermenting(发酵) beer from barley at least 6,000 years ago.

"When people started agriculture the first crops they produced were barley or wheat. You consume those crops as bread and as beer," Standage noted. "It's the drink associated with the dawn of civilization. It's as simple as that."

Beer was popular with the masses from the beginning.

"Beer would have been something that a common person could have had in the house and made whenever they wanted," said Linda Bisson, a microbiologist at the Department of Viticulture and Enology at the University of California, Davis.

"The guys who built the pyramids were paid in beer and bread," Standage added. "It was the defining drink of Egypt and Mesopotamia. Everybody drank it. Today it's the drink of the working man, and it was then as well."

**Wine**

Wine may be as old or older than beer—though no one can be certain.

Paleolithic humans probably sampled the first "wine" as the juice of naturally fermented wild grapes. But producing and storing wine proved difficult for early cultures.

"To make wine you have to have fresh grapes," said Bisson, the UC Davis microbiologist. "For beer you can just store grain and add water to process it at any time."