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主 编 刘 宏

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新题型大学英语4级考试

精准阅读法

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前言

PREFACE

阅读理解历来是英语考试中的重点题型。自大学英语四级考试改革后,新大学英语四级考试阅读理解部分增加了快速阅读和篇章词汇两个新题型,阅读部分分值也由原来占总卷面分值的25%提高到35%。阅读水平的高低在很大程度上影响四级考试的成败,这已是广大考生的共识。

为了帮助广大考生提高四级阅读水平,在备考过程中做到有的放矢,更加充满自信地走进考场,我们特意组织具有多年大学英语教学经验的老师精心编写了这本《大学英语四级考试精准阅读法》。在书中,我们结合历年大学英语四级阅读真题,分析命题规律,归纳解题流程,详细分析精准阅读法的做题思路,并配以模拟训练,以期真正帮助考生实现阅读能力的实质性提高。

★本书共分六章,内容如下:

第一章 我的阅读水平如何 本部分结合一套真题,并提供相应检测标准,帮助考生自我检测阅读水平。

第二章 四级阅读概述 本章结合大学英语四级考试大纲对阅读部分的要求,概述四级阅读考试的各类题型特点,分析命题趋势,提供临考建议。并通过真题例句,图表化分析四级真题阅读难句,帮助考生把握难句结构。

第三章 精准阅读法讲解 通过精准阅读法解题流程图,分析评述精准阅读的方法。并按此法给出典型真题讲解和文章结构图,以帮助考生更好地掌握正确的阅读方法。

第四章 阅读特训 该部分就四级阅读中的快速阅读、篇章词汇和仔细阅读分别提供多种题材的文章供考生练习,文章均选自与四级真题同源的各大英文报刊杂志。

第五章 模拟训练 本部分根据四级阅读考试要求,提供五套模拟题训练,以帮助考生适应考场阅读答题环境。

第六章 阅读高手必备资源库 本部分介绍阅读中真正实用的语法,并提供往年四级阅读真题例句进行对应讲解。最后,本书为考生总结了各类阅读题材涉及的必备词汇,供考生复习查询。

与同类书相比,本书在编写上体现了如下独到之处:

分类科学,分析透彻

本书对话题的分类是在透彻分析最近几年真题的基础上,高度概括出试题的考查要点,科学归类,力图揭示出阅读题的命题意图与规律。练习部分按照文章题材分类,有利于读者总结各种题材阅读文章的出题规律,把握其常见词汇、提问方式及应对策略。

解析精到,练习高效

编者在分析阅读理解中的难句及阅读方法时,针对阅读中的重点和难点,提供图表及流程图供读者参考学习,通俗易懂。真题透析之后,又精心设计了具有针对性和代表性的强化练习,从数量上保证练习的充分性,从质量上保证练习的高效性。

设计精巧,循序渐进

本书从考生自测入手,通过真题分析、重点难点讲解,再到阅读特训和模拟题训练,由点到面,紧密结合考试话题,覆盖面广,有利于考生建立扎实的语言基础,循序渐进地复习提高。

希望本书能够成为广大四级阅读备考考生的良师益友,帮助大家顺利通过大学英语四级考试!



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第一章

我的阅读水平如何



第一章 我的阅读水平如何

第一节



自我检测

你的阅读水平究竟如何,想知道吗?

首先来做一些四级阅读典型真题吧,测一测自己现在的真实水平,找出自己的差距,以便在以后的学习中做到有的放矢。

记住:知己知彼,方能百战不殆! Let's get started!!

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

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

How Do You See Diversity?

As a manager, Tiffany is responsible for interviewing applicants for some of the positions with her company. During one interview, she noticed that the candidate never made direct eye contact. She was puzzled and somewhat disappointed because she liked the individual otherwise.

He had a perfect résumé and gave good responses to her questions, but the fact that he never looked her in the eye said “untrustworthy,” so she decided to offer the job to her second choice.

“It wasn't until I attended a diversity workshop that I realized the person we passed over was the perfect person,” Tiffany confesses. What she hadn't known at the time of the interview was that the candidate's “different” behavior was

simply a cultural misunderstanding. He was an Asian-American raised in a household where respect for those in authority was shown by *averting* (避开) your eyes.

"I was just thrown off by the lack of eye contact; not realizing it was cultural," Tiffany says. "I missed out, but will not miss that opportunity again."

Many of us have had similar encounters with behaviors we perceive as different. As the world becomes smaller and our workplaces more diverse, it is becoming essential to expand our understanding of others and to reexamine some of our false assumptions.

Hire Advantage

At a time when hiring qualified people is becoming more difficult, employers who can eliminate invalid *biases* (偏见) from the process have a distinct advantage. My company, Mindsets LLC, helps organizations and individuals see their own blind spots. A real estate recruiter we worked with illustrates the positive difference such training can make.

"During my Mindsets coaching session, I was taught how to recruit a diversified workforce. I recruited people from different cultures and skill sets. The agents were able to utilize their full potential and experiences to build up the company. When the real estate market began to change, it was because we had a diverse agent pool that we were able to stay in the real estate market much longer than others in the same profession."

Blinded by Gender

Dale is an account executive who attended one of my workshops on supervising a diverse workforce. "Through one of the sessions, I discovered my personal bias," he recalls. "I learned I had not been looking at a person as a whole person, and being open to differences." In his case, the blindness was not about culture but rather gender.

"I had a management position open in my department; and the two finalists were a man and a woman. Had I not attended this workshop, I would have automatically assumed the man was the best candidate because the position required quite a bit of extensive travel. My reasoning would have been that even though both candidates were great and could have been successful in the position, I assumed the woman would have wanted to be home with her children and not trav-

el.” Dale’s assumptions are another example of the well-intentioned but incorrect thinking that limits an organization’s ability to tap into the full potential of a diverse workforce.

“I learned from the class that instead of imposing my gender biases into the situation, I needed to present the full range of duties, responsibilities and expectations to all candidates and allow them to make an informed decision.” Dale credits the workshop, “because it helped me make decisions based on fairness.”

Year of the Know-It-All

Doug is another supervisor who attended one of my workshops. He recalls a major lesson learned from his own employee:

“One of my most embarrassing moments was when I had a Chinese-American employee put in a request to take time off to celebrate Chinese New Year. In my ignorance, I assumed he had his dates wrong, as the first of January had just passed. When I advised him of this, I gave him a long talking-to about turning in requests early with the proper dates.”

He patiently waited, then when I was done, he said he would like Chinese New Year off, not the Western New Year. He explained politely that in his culture the new year did not begin January first, and that Chinese New Year, which is tied to the lunar cycle, is one of the most celebrated holidays on the Chinese calendar. Needless to say, I felt very embarrassed in assuming he had his dates mixed up. But I learned a great deal about assumptions, and that the timing of holidays varies considerably from culture to culture.

“Attending the diversity workshop helped me realize how much I could learn by simply asking questions and creating dialogues with my employees, rather than making assumptions and trying to be a know-it-all,” Doug admits. “The biggest thing I took away from the workshop is learning how to be more ‘inclusive’ to differences.”

A Better Bottom Line

An open mind about diversity not only improves organizations internally, it is profitable as well. These comments from a customer service representative show how an inclusive attitude can improve sales. “Most of my customers speak English as a second language. One of the best things my company has done is to contract with a language service that offers translations over the phone. It wasn’t

until my boss received Mindsets' training that she was able to understand how important inclusiveness was to customer service. As a result, our customer base has increased."

Once we start to see people as individuals, and discard the stereotypes, we can move positively toward inclusiveness for everyone. Diversity is about coming together and taking advantage of our differences and similarities. It is about building better communities and organizations that enhance us as individuals and reinforce our shared humanity.

When we begin to question our assumptions and challenge what we think we have learned from our past, from the media, peers, family, friends, etc., we begin to realize that some of our conclusions are *flawed* (有缺陷的) or contrary to our fundamental values. We need to train ourselves to think differently, shift our mindsets and realize that diversity opens doors for all of us, creating opportunities in organizations and communities that benefit everyone.

1. What bothered Tiffany during an interview with her candidate?
 - A) He just wouldn't look her in the eye.
 - B) He was slow in answering her questions.
 - C) His résumé didn't provide the necessary information.
 - D) His answers to some of her questions were irrelevant.
2. Tiffany's misjudgment about the candidate stemmed from _____.
 - A) racial stereotypes
 - B) invalid personal bias
 - C) cultural ignorance
 - D) emphasis on physical appearance
3. What is becoming essential in the course of economic globalization according to the author?
 - A) Hiring qualified technical and management personnel.
 - B) Increasing understanding of people of other cultures.
 - C) Constantly updating knowledge and equipment.
 - D) Expanding domestic and international markets.
4. What kind of organization is Mindsets LLC?
 - A) A real estate agency.
 - B) A personnel training company.
 - C) A cultural exchange organization.
 - D) A hi-tech company.
5. After one of the workshops, account executive Dale realized that _____

- A) he had hired the wrong person
- B) he could have done more for his company
- C) he had not managed his workforce well
- D) he must get rid of his gender bias
6. What did Dale think of Mindsets LLC's workshop?
- A) It was well-intentioned but poorly conducted.
- B) It tapped into the executives' full potential.
- C) It helped him make fair decisions.
- D) It met participants' diverse needs.
7. How did Doug, a supervisor, respond to a Chinese-American employee's request for leave?
- A) He told him to get the dates right.
- B) He demanded an explanation.
- C) He flatly turned it down.
- D) He readily approved it.
8. Doug felt _____ when he realized that his assumption was wrong.
9. After attending Mindsets' workshops, the participants came to know the importance of _____ to their business.
10. When we view people as individuals and get rid of stereotypes, we can achieve diversity and benefit from the _____ between us.

Part IV 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 the bank is identified by a letter. Please mark the corresponding letter for each item on **Answer Sheet 2** with a single line through the centre. You may not use any of the words in the bank more than once.

Questions 47 to 56 are based on the following passage.

Every year in the first week of my English class, some students inform me that writing is too hard. They never write, unless assignments 47 it. They find the writing process 48 and difficult.

How awful to be able to speak in a language but not to write in it—49 English, with its rich vocabulary. Being able to speak but not write is like living in an 50 mansion (豪宅) and never leaving one small room. When I meet students who think they can't write, I know as a teacher my 51 is to show them the rest of the rooms. My task is to build fluency while providing the opportunity inherent in any writing activity to 52 the moral and emotional development of my students. One great way to do this is by having students write in a journal in class every day.

Writing ability is like strength training. Writing needs to be done 53, just like exercise; just as muscles grow stronger with exercise, writing skills improve quickly with writing practice. I often see a rise in student confidence and 54 after only a few weeks of journal writing.

Expressing oneself in writing is one of the most important skills I teach to strengthen the whole student. When my students practice journal writing, they are practicing for their future academic, political, and 55 lives. They build skills so that some day they might write a great novel, a piece of sorely needed legislation, or the perfect love letter. Every day that they write in their journals puts them a step 56 to fluency, *eloquence* (雄辩), command of language.

A) closer	B) daily	C) emotional
D) enhance	E) enormous	F) especially
G) hinder	H) mission	I) painful
J) performance	K) profession	L) remarkably
M) require	N) sensitive	O) urge

Section B

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

Passage One

Questions 57 to 61 are based on the following passage.

The January fashion show, called FutureFashion, exemplified how far green design has come. Organized by the New York-based nonprofit Earth Pledge, the show inspired many top designers to work with sustainable fabrics for the first time. Several have since made pledges to include organic fabrics in their lines.

The designers who undertake green fashion still face many challenges. Scott Hahn, cofounder with Gregory of Rogan and Loomstate, which uses all-organic cotton, says high-quality sustainable materials can still be tough to find. "Most designers with existing labels are finding there aren't comparable fabrics that can just replace what you're doing and what your customers are used to," he says. For example, organic cotton and non-organic cotton are virtually indistinguishable once woven into a dress. But some popular synthetics, like stretch nylon, still have few eco-friendly equivalents.

Those who do make the switch are finding they have more support. Last year the influential trade show Designers & Agents stopped charging its participation fee for young green *entrepreneurs* (企业家) who attend its two springtime shows in Los Angeles and New York and gave special recognition to designers whose collections are at least 25% sustainable. It now counts more than 50 green designers, up from fewer than a dozen two years ago. This week Wal-Mart is set to announce a major initiative aimed at helping cotton farmers go organic. It will buy *transitional* (过渡型的) cotton at higher prices, thus helping to expand the supply of a key sustainable material. "Mainstream is about to occur," says Hahn.

Some *analysts* (分析师) are less sure. Among consumers, only 18% are even aware that ecofashion exists, up from 6% four years ago. Natalie Hormilia,

a fashion writer, is an example of the unconverted consumer. When asked if she owned any sustainable clothes, she replied: "Not that I'm aware of." Like most consumers, she finds little time to shop, and when she does, she's on the hunt for "cute stuff that isn't too expensive." By her own admission, green just isn't yet on her mind. But—thanks to the combined efforts of designers, retailers and suppliers—one day it will be.

57. What is said about FutureFashion?

- A) It inspired many leading designers to start going green.
- B) It showed that designers using organic fabrics would go far.
- C) It served as an example of how fashion shows should be organized.
- D) It convinced the public that fashionable clothes should be made durable.

58. According to Scott Hahn, one big challenge to designers who will go organic is that challenges.

- A) much more time is needed to finish a dress using sustainable materials
- B) they have to create new brands for clothes made of organic materials
- C) customers have difficulty telling organic from non-organic materials
- D) quality organic replacements for synthetics are not readily available

59. We learn from Paragraph 3 that designers who undertake green fashion still.

- A) can attend various trade shows free
- B) are readily recognized by the fashion world
- C) can buy organic cotton at favorable prices
- D) are gaining more and more support

60. What is Natalie Hormilia's attitude toward ecofashion?

- A) She doesn't seem to care about it.
- B) She doesn't think it is sustainable.
- C) She is doubtful of its practical value.
- D) She is very much opposed to the idea.

61. What does the author think of green fashion?

- A) Green products will soon go mainstream.
- B) It has a very promising future.
- C) Consumers have the final say.

D) It will appeal more to young people.

Passage Two

Questions 62 to 66 are based on the following passage.

Scientists have devised a way to determine roughly where a person has lived using a *strand* (缕) of hair, a technique that could help track the movements of criminal suspects or unidentified murder victims.

The method relies on measuring how chemical variations in drinking water show up in people's hair.

"You're what you eat and drink, and that's recorded in your hair," said Thure Cerling, a geologist at the University of Utah.

While US diet is relatively identical, water supplies vary. The differences result from weather patterns. The chemical composition of rainfall changes slightly as rain clouds move.

Most hydrogen and oxygen atoms in water are stable, but traces of both elements are also present as heavier *isotopes* (同位素). The heaviest rain falls first. As a result, storms that form over the Pacific deliver heavier water to California than to Utah.

Similar patterns exist throughout the US. By measuring the proportion of heavier hydrogen and oxygen isotopes along a strand of hair, scientists can construct a geographic timeline. Each inch of hair corresponds to about two months.

Cerling's team collected tap water samples from 600 cities and constructed a map of the regional differences. They checked the accuracy of the map by testing 200 hair samples collected from 65 barber shops.

They were able to accurately place the hair samples in broad regions roughly corresponding to the movement of rain systems.

"It's not good for *pinpointing* (精确定位)," Cerling said. "It's good for eliminating many possibilities."

Todd Park, a local detective, said the method has helped him learn more about an unidentified woman whose skeleton was found near Great Salt Lake.

The woman was 5 feet tall. Police recovered 26 bones, a T-shirt and several strands of hair. When Park heard about the research, he gave the hair samples to the researchers. Chemical testing showed that over the two years before her death, she moved about every two months.