



大学士大学英语系列辅导

CET-4

大学英语四级 考试教程

◆ 总主编 王宗文

◆ 主 编 蔡 青

阅读理解

大连海事大学出版社



大学士大学英语系列辅导

CET-4

大学英语四级 考试教程

总主编	王宗文					
主 编	蔡 青					
副主编	米海敏	武少霞	曹 玲	甄 倩	党元明	
编 委	王小霞	安 岩	张 艳	周媛媛	穆石航	
	高速平					

阅读理解

大连海事大学出版社

©王宗文 2009

图书在版编目(CIP)数据

大学英语四级考试教程. 阅读理解/王宗文主编;
蔡青分册主编. —大连:大连海事大学出版社,
2009. 10

ISBN 978-7-5632-2365-7

I. ①大… II. ①王… ②蔡… III. ①英语—阅
读教学—高等学校—水平考试—自学参考资料 IV.
①H310.42

中国版本图书馆 CIP 数据核字(2009)第 183513 号

版权所有 侵权必究

举报电话:0411—84729480

责任编辑:徐华东
封面设计:万点书艺
版式设计:万点书艺
责任校对:文清

出版者:大连海事大学出版社
地址:大连市凌海路1号
邮编:116026
电话:0411—84723216 0411—84728394
印刷者:大连海大印刷有限公司
发行者:大连海事大学出版社

幅面尺寸:178mm×230mm
印张:14.00
字数:400千字

出版时间:2009年10月第1版
印刷时间:2009年10月第1次印刷
印数:1—12000册
书号:ISBN 978-7-5632-2365-7
定价:19.50元

前言

为了帮助广大考生顺利通过四、六级考试,通过有针对性的考前训练提高应试能力,我们精心编写了《大学英语四级考试教程》和《大学英语六级考试教程》两套系列丛书。

在编写本丛书时,我们根据《全国大学英语四、六级考试改革方案(试行)》的精神和《大学英语六级考试大纲》的要求,在题型设计方面与新题型完全一致,试题的难度与真题基本一致,目的是让广大考生在备考时熟悉题型,从严训练,从而真正提高应试能力和英语综合应用能力。只有平时训练当“实战”,到考场上才能轻车熟路,充满自信,从容应对。

《大学英语四级考试教程》丛书包括《综合指导》、《听力理解》、《阅读理解》、《完形填空》、《写作与翻译》,共五册。每册选材力求语言地道、体裁多样、题材广泛、内容新颖、长度适宜、难度适中,整体编排科学、设计合理、别具一格。本丛书是由全国从事大学英语六级教学与研究的专家学者与一线教师精心编写的,具有权威、全面、实用和新颖的特点。

《大学英语四级考试教程——阅读理解》包括以下内容:

1. 大学英语四级考试阅读新题型解读。
2. 快速阅读理解。快速阅读理解 20 篇、答案与解析。
3. 仔细阅读理解。篇章阅读理解 25 篇、答案与解析;篇章词汇理解 20 篇、答案及解析。
4. 近年四级考试阅读理解真题与解析(8 套)。

感谢所有参与编写的老师,他们在繁忙的教学工作之余,不辞劳苦,潜心科研,严肃认真、保质保量地完成了本丛书的编写工作。冬去春来花枝俏,春华秋实汗水浇。既有桃李满天下,又有书香飘万家。

感谢大连海事大学出版社,一是感谢社长助理徐华东先生,是他驾驭全局的策划能力、开拓进取的敬业精神和精益求精的务实精神使本丛书有了良好的开端,是他热情的鼓励和精心的指导使我们的编写工作得以顺利进行;二是感谢出版社领导和各位责任编辑,是他们认真的工作作风、严谨的工作态度和出色的业务能力,使本丛书的质量得到了保证,并得以按时与广大读者见面。

最后感谢全国大学英语四、六级考试委员会主任金艳教授,在本丛书编写前,我们曾听取了她的中肯的建议,在编写过程中,我们又得到了她的悉心指导。

我们相信,本书对广大考生准确把握四级考试内容及要求,提高四级应试能力及英语素养并顺利通过大学英语四级考试会大有裨益,希望本书能成为广大师生的良师益友,也希望广大读者提出宝贵的意见和建议。

Contents

第一部分 四级考试阅读理解新题型解读	1
第二部分 快速阅读理解	4
快速阅读理解	4
答案与解析	54
第三部分 仔细阅读理解	74
篇章阅读理解	74
答案与解析	104
篇章词汇阅读理解	118
答案与解析	134
第四部分 近年阅读理解真题	150
2005 年 12 月阅读理解真题	150
2006 年 6 月阅读理解真题	155
2006 年 12 月阅读理解真题	160
2007 年 6 月阅读理解真题	166
2007 年 12 月阅读理解真题	172
2008 年 6 月阅读理解真题	178
2008 年 12 月阅读理解真题	185
2009 年 6 月阅读理解真题	192
2005 年 12 月阅读理解真题答案与解析	198
2006 年 6 月阅读理解真题答案与解析	200
2006 年 12 月阅读理解真题答案与解析	202
2007 年 6 月阅读理解真题答案与解析	205
2007 年 12 月阅读理解真题答案与解析	207
2008 年 6 月阅读理解真题答案与解析	210
2008 年 12 月阅读理解真题答案与解析	213
2009 年 6 月阅读理解真题答案与解析	215

第一部分 四级考试阅读理解新题型解读

四级考试改革后,新四级考试的阅读理解分成了两部分:一是第二大题的快速阅读理解,二是第四大题的仔细阅读理解。

一、快速阅读理解(Skimming and Scanning)

快速阅读理解是四级考试改革后的新增题型,要求考生运用略读和查读的技能从篇章中获取信息。略读考查学生通过快速阅读获取文章主旨大意或中心思想的能力。查读考核学生利用各种提示,比如数字、大写单词、句首词等快速查找特定信息的能力。要求在15分钟之内阅读文章并完成10个题目,1~7题为正误辨析或多项选择题;8~10题为句子填空,要求根据文章意思把未完成的句子补充完整。快速阅读部分采用1~2篇较长篇幅的文章或多篇短文,总长度约为1000词。快速阅读文章的难度略低于仔细阅读理解。

二、仔细阅读理解(Reading in Depth)

仔细阅读理解由两部分组成。第一部分是篇章词汇理解题,即选词填空,是四级考试新增题型。它取代了传统的词汇与语法考题,类似完形填空,不同的是,完形填空一空是四选一,而选词填空是从15个备选单词中选出10个填入空缺处。注意,每个词只能用一次。第二部分为篇章阅读理解题,由原来的4篇短文减为2篇,共10题,选材和出题一如从前,文章长度也差不多,考生应根据文章内容从每题的四个选项中选出一个最佳答案。

(一)篇章词汇理解

1. 篇章词汇理解题型特点

篇章词汇理解题是大学英语四级考试改革后的新增题型,要求考生从15个备选单词中选出10个填入一篇留有10个空缺处的短文中,使短文的意思恢复完整。该部分测试重点在于把握文章的结构,考查考生对句子的连贯性、一致性和逻辑性等语篇、语段整体特性的理解能力,以及单词在实际语境中的运用能力,即要求考生在理解全文的基础上把握整体文章的宏观结构和每个单词的微观理解。新的考试题型与原来的词汇与语法考试题型相比,更注重词汇的实际运用,从单句的考查上升到篇章的理解。

2. 篇章词汇理解答题策略和技巧

1) 快速浏览全文,了解文章大意

由于篇章词汇理解题型侧重于文章的整体理解,因此考生只有在全面了解整篇文章内容的基础上,才能完全掌握全文的脉络与作者的意图。在阅读的同时,可画出段落的主题句(通常在段首或在段末),了解每段大意,为接下来的词汇选择做好准备。

2) 全面考虑与分析文章空格处所需填词的词性,注意语法结构与搭配

词义的选择与结构搭配是这项考试的主要内容。在以往的词汇选择填空题中,所需单词的确认是在单句形式中,也就是做题时只通过单句信息来确认选项。而做这种新型填空题时,一定要注意所选用的词库中的信息词不能只在带有空格的单句中确认,而需要结合空格的上下文甚至整个段落来决定。因此,考生必须考虑贯通全篇的语义。与此同时,判断出空格处所需词的词性,并注意习惯用法与固定搭配。

3) 确定词库中所给出的信息词的词性

确定这些词的词性时,可对其进行分类。为节省时间,也可在每个信息词旁做个标记,例如名词用 *n.*, 动词用 *v.*, 形容词用 *a.*, 副词用 *adv.*, 数词用 *num.* 来表示。(注意:有的词可能不仅有一种词性,如

influence 既可以作名词又可以作动词, acquired 既可能是动词的过去式也可能是过去分词。)以便在确定选词时在小范围内查找,这样既可节省时间又能提高选择的准确性。

4) 在用过的单词上做个标记

这样可以逐步减少后面选词的数量,排除干扰,提高解题速度。

5) 对于难以确定的题,可暂时空出,待其他空填完后,再从余下的同类词中筛选。

6) 通读全文,检查答案

在选出全部答案后,一定要再通读一遍文章,检查答案是否符合题意,结构是否完整,逻辑关系是否通顺,以确保选词的准确性和可靠性。

(二) 篇章阅读理解

1. 篇章阅读理解的答题特点

篇章阅读理解部分是大学英语四级考试的传统考试题型,由原来的 4 篇短文缩减到 2 篇(每篇 350 词左右),共 10 题。

从历年四级考试命题来看,其题材主要涉及科技与社会两大类。科技类一般包括天文地理、生物工程、空间技术、计算机技术等方面;社会类常常包括文化教育、经济、历史、体育、人物自传、环境等。文章一般以议论文和说明文为主,往往用词正规、严谨,含义比较抽象,结构复杂,句型变化及扩展样式较多,逻辑性较强。

为了顺利解答阅读试题,达到大纲所规定的要求,应做到以下三点:

- 1) 熟练掌握词汇、语法,加强典型而复杂的句子及长难句的结构分析,以减少语言理解障碍。
- 2) 大量阅读,培养良好的阅读习惯,熟悉常用体裁的文体特点,以提高阅读速度和理解准确度。
- 3) 广泛涉猎科技和社会的相关学科,掌握较多背景知识,以增强主动预测能力。

2. 常见的考试题型

阅读理解的题目设计是与大纲考查的能力相对应的,可分为五大类考试题型:

1) 主旨题(又称中心思想题)

这类题基本上是问 main idea 或 best title 是什么,也可以问作者写此文章的 purpose 何在,或问此文的 conclusion 可总结为什么。碰到这类题最简单的方法是把文中每段的首句串起来考虑。若是仅问其中某一段的中心思想为何,则可将该段的首尾句加起来考虑。

2) 词汇题(又称词语释义题)

这类题常问考生一些不认识、从未见过的生词或词组的意思是什么。解题技巧为参考上下文,尤其是下文,因为下文常常是对该词的解释、说明、举例。

3) 作者态度题

常问作者对某事持什么态度:主观(subjective)还是客观(objective),肯定(positive)还是否定(negative),赞成(approval)还是反对(opposition)等。解题的关键是要看作者在文中用了什么样的口气。若用褒义词,显然是赞成;若用贬义词,显然是反对;若客观陈述,则是中性的立场,不偏不倚。注意:作者态度常常在转折词后表明出来。所以, but 一词至关重要(类似还有的 yet, however, although, nevertheless 等)。

4) 推理性问题

其典型词有两个: infer 和 imply。如: What can you infer from the story? 或 What is the implied meaning of this sentence? 切记,推理性问题原文中没有现成的答案,答案是你自己推想出来的,但不能凭空瞎想,必须以原文中某句话或某个词语为依据合理推测才能找到合适的答案。

5) 细节性问题

这类问题与推理性问题截然相反,都可以从原文中找到答案,只不过为了迷惑考生,常常将原文进行改写,换一种说法。所以,照抄原文、一字不改的不一定就是答案,而与原文意思相同的,才是正确的。

3. 篇章阅读理解的答题技巧

篇章阅读理解是四级考试当中的重中之重,所以我们在平时必须加强阅读练习。通过大量的阅读不但可以扩大阅读范围,增加词汇量,还能丰富语言知识,增强英语语感。为达到这些目的,如果只是采用传统的阅读方法,往往收不到预期效果。因此,下面探讨一下阅读技巧。阅读理解应试技巧应当包括两个方面的内容:把握命题人的命题意图,了解他出题时处理短文的深度和角度;站在命题人角度去分析阅读理解题型,并掌握不同题型的特点及答题要求。

1) 词汇语义题

这类试题问及词汇的上下文语义及代(名)词的指代,问题涉及的词语有四类:词组短语、生僻单词、旧词新义、指代性名词或代词。这类问题的设计目的是从特定的角度测试考生的阅读理解能力和根据上下文推定词义的能力,所以解答这类试题要紧扣短文。

这类题型中常有两个选择项语义较近,令考生模棱两可、举棋不定。提高这类试题的答题正确率的一个重要技巧是,即使问题涉及的是短文中的某个细节或要点,我们仍要首先抓住短文主题,并在答题中不忘主题、围绕主题。命题中的正确答案往往是与短文主题密切相关的那个选项,因为作为命题内容的细节一般总是短文的要点或主要论据。

2) 主题归纳题

这类理解题问及短文主题、标题、作者写作目的、短文的学科分类及读者对象等,要求考生在阅读短文后通过概括,找出短文各要点间的内在联系和共性,从而归纳出短文的主题。主题的确定可通过寻找主题句的方法实现,主题句大多出现在段首、第一段的段尾或短文第1、2句后由转折词(but, however等)引导的句子中。另外列举处也会常考。

但相当一部分阅读短文的主题句并不出现,这时更有效的方法是结合上面提到的归纳技能,从以下两个方面进行概括:(1)本文论述的对象是什么(包括何人、何事、何物、何种观点等);(2)本文论述该对象的什么方面(干什么、怎么样等)。

3) 暗示推论题

这类阅读理解题大多问及暗示、推论、结论、作者的观点、态度和语气等。解答这类试题,除了需要精确透彻地理解短文外,还要求考生有一定的推理判断能力,所以这是一类难度较大、要求较高的试题。另外在解答作者态度、语气、观点这类推论题时,考生还应注意作者遣词造句的特点,特别要注意品味短文中能表露作者情感态度的修饰性语句。

第二部分 快速阅读理解

快速阅读理解

Passage 1

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.

Modern life is a lot less conducive to friendships and neighborliness than it used to be. The average American moves every five years. People drive straight into their garages, hire lawn services, hang out in their backyards instead of their front porches. These days, neighbors don't even know each other's names.

Good neighbors and good friends are a lot like electricity or running water: We don't know how much we depend on them until we don't have them. They make our lives more pleasant and give us a sense of who we are, both as an individual and as a member of the community. In fact, the author of a recent book, *Refrigerator Rights*, claim that refrigerators are gauges of intimate relationships—after all, you wouldn't snatch a drumstick (鼓槌; 熟鸡大腿) from the refrigerator of a stranger.

The surprising thing is that all it takes to enhance your relationship with friends and neighbors is respect for their feelings, concern for their property, and a helping hand when it's needed. Here's how to nurture your relationships with two types of vitally important people in your life.

Be a Popular Neighbor

1. Strike up a conversation over the fence or on the sidewalk. It's okay to be the one to break the ice, even if you've lived next door for years. Most neighbors enjoy making small talk with the folks on the other side of the fence. So as you see them at work in their yards or at play in their pool, smile, wave, and say hello. Ask how their kids are (whether they're toddlers or in college), whether they could use an extra zucchini (美洲西葫芦) from your garden, or what they think of the prices at the local supermarket.

2. Extend yourself to the new family down the block. These days, the old Welcome Wagon is a thing of the past. But your new neighbors may be feeling lonely and unsure, especially if they're far from home, and might appreciate a friendly face bearing fresh-baked brownies. If they have kids, tell them where the children in the neighborhood live. Clue them in to the best places to eat and shop. Invite them over for coffee when they get settled, give them your number, and point to your house as you say good-bye.

3. Be considerate, especially of elderly neighbors. Return anything that you borrow from a

neighbor, such as tools, in good repair and as soon as you've finished with them. Replace anything that belongs to your neighbor that you, your children, or your pets break or soil. If your neighbor hasn't brought in his garbage cans yet, roll them back into his yard. Random acts of consideration will have your neighbors talking—and the talk will be good.

4. Invite your neighbors to your next bash (狂欢, 盛会) —or throw one in their honor. What better way to meet your neighbors than to invite them to an informal barbecue (烧烤野餐), pool party, or holiday open house? Better yet, you might even consider throwing a get-together just for them. Deliver the invitations in person to everyone who lives on your street and chat with each for five minutes before moving on to the next house. This way, you will get an idea of what your neighbors are like so that you can plan for appropriate food and music.

Be a Better Friend

1. On your computer at home or at work, make “call friends” a standing appointment. Don't have a computer? Keep a Post-it note on the phone, the bathroom mirror, the car dashboard, anywhere you're likely to see it. Also make sure your friends' phone numbers are programmed into your cell phone. Then call that friend when you're stuck in traffic or waiting in line and chat for 10 minutes. Alternatively, schedule a standing once-a-month lunch—same time, same place.

2. Make time for friendships. Nothing makes closeness fade away than never talking with or seeing each other. While some bonds of friendships may be strong enough to span long silences, most aren't. If you cherish a person's friendship, make time for him or her, whether it's just the occasional phone call or a weekly get-together.

3. Remember: A true friend doesn't flee when changes occur. Nothing is sadder for new parents than to find that their single friends have abandoned them because of the baby. The sign of a good friend is one who stays true through it all—marriage, parenthood, new jobs, new homes, the losses. Just because situations change doesn't mean the person has.

4. Make sure you aren't being a burden to a friend. Friendships fade away if there isn't an equilibrium between the give and the take. Be sensitive to how much your friend can and can't offer you—be it time, energy, or help—and don't step over the line. And vice versa: Friendships that drain you will not last. If a friendship is out of balance in this way, you'll need to talk the situation through.

5. Sweat (为……操劳, 担心) the small stuff. Yes, there are times when it doesn't pay to sweat the details, but in a friendship, it's the little things that count. Notice her new haircut. Remember to ask about her mother's surgery or her daughter's new baby. And if you're truly a good friend, you'll know when she needs some cheering up—a simple arrangement of flowers if you can afford it, a simple card or e-mail if you can't. It really is the thought that counts.

6. Be a good listener. It can be the hardest thing in the world to do—to simply listen as he or she pours it all out or is seeking your advice or opinion. To be a better listener, follow this advice:

● Maintain eye contact. Offer nods and murmurs that indicate you understand her point of view.

● Don't finish your friend's sentences. If you catch yourself planning your response while your friend is still talking, gently remind yourself to focus on him.

● Minimize distractions—don't type, open mail, or watch television while you're on the phone with your friend. Your friend will undoubtedly hear your disinterest in your responses.

● Be careful with advice. Assume your friend wants to vent, not necessarily ask for a plan of action.

7. Be in her corner if she's not there to defend herself. If you're at a gathering at which someone mentions your friend disparagingly (贬低), defend her against gossip or criticism. Say, "Mary is my friend, and it makes me feel bad to hear you talk this way." Sooner or later, news of your loyalty will travel back to her, and it will defend your friendship.

1. Modern life is far less helpful to cultivating good neighborhood relations and friendships.
2. Electric power and running water make our lives more enjoyable and gives us a sense of who we are in the world.
3. Respect for others' feelings, concern for their property and a helping hand in their need are conducive to good friendship and neighborhood relationships.
4. To break the ice is OK as a way of landing a helping hand to your next-door neighbor even if you are long-time neighbors.
5. At the end of your friendly visit to a new neighbor, you might as well leave them your house number.
6. You should make regular appointments with some friends by using the telephone or cell phone.
7. No close friendship can be strong enough as to continue after long silences or absence of communication.
8. The sign of a good friend is _____.
9. To avoid the fading away of friendship due to out of balance, you should take care _____.
10. If someone belittles your friend behind his or her back, you should _____.

Passage 2

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.

Our Three Tests

The young man in Mexico City risking a broken nose of a slim girl behind the door, the customer receiving nice service from 56-year-old store owner in Korea, and a "one-good-arm" woman helping the woman pick up the scattered documents in Germany—these incidents were tests conducted by *Reader's Digest* researchers to see how polite people are around the world.

From Thailand to Finland, from Buenos Aires to London, people worry that courtesy is becoming a thing of the past. Service in shops has become surly; they say, youngsters have lost respect for their elders. Lynne Truss, in her international best-seller *Talk to the Hand*, claims that we live in "an age of lazy moral relativism combined with aggressive social insolence" where common courtesies are "practically extinct".

But is such pessimism justified?

We sent undercover reporters—half of them men, half women in 35 countries to assess the citizens of their most populous city. In each location we conducted three tests;

- We walked into public buildings 20 times behind people to see if they would hold the door open for us.

● We bought small items from 20 shops and recorded whether the sales assistants said “Thank you”.

● We dropped a folder full of papers in 20 busy locations to see if anyone would help pick them up.

To let us compare cities, we awarded one point for each positive outcome and nothing for a negative one, giving each city a maximum score of 60. We did not attempt a strict scientific survey; it was world’s biggest real-life test of common courtesy, with more than 2,000 separate tests of actual behavior. Here’s what we discovered.

Wonderful Town

They have a reputation for being big-headed, but New Yorkers showed they are big-hearted too, by finishing first in our global courtesy ratings.

They placed in the top five in all three tests and were particularly polite at holding doors open, with only two people failing to do so. “I don’t even think about it,” said Kirsten Chieco, who held the door of one of the Starbucks coffee shops where the tests were done. “Most New Yorkers are courteous.”

Surprised? Not former mayor Ed Koch. Asked to react to our findings, Koch pointed to a rise in New York niceness since the terror attacks on the city five years ago. “After 9/11, New Yorkers are more caring. They understand the shortness of life.”

The second most courteous place: prosperous Zurich, Switzerland. In a feat matched only in Stockholm, Sweden, Zurich shop assistants thanked us for our purchase in every store we visited. Old-fashioned customer service was very much in evidence.

“I am friendly to people whether they are dressed shabbily or wearing an expensive fur coat,” said Frieda Liltolf after we purchased \$2 worth of chocolate from confectioners Sprüngli. “Everyone I deal with is served attentively even those who are rude to me.”

T for Tolerance

Toronto, Canada, came third among our 35 cities. In the trendy Queen Street West area we were helped with a dropped folder by Mike Parson, a 28-year-old street artist. “I sit out here doing drawings all day and I find people to be really good and cheerful. Toronto is very tolerant, very polite,” Litigation lawyer Mark Ellis, 48, agreed. “I’ve seen more politeness in Canada than in many other places I’ve been, particularly Europe.” He told our male reporter after holding the door open in the financial district.

Still, two European cities—Berlin, Germany, and Zagreb, Croatia—did well in our tests, tying with São Paulo, Brazil, for fourth place. Brazil Zagreb residents were world leaders in helping with dropped paper, Josip, aged 72, tried to bend down to pick up our female reporter’s documents despite having arthritis and a bad back. “I always help someone in trouble,” he said. “if I can !”

Doors Wide Shut

But we found plenty of discourtesy outside Asia too. Moscow, Russia, and Bucharest, Romania, ranked as the least polite European cities. When an affluent-looking lady in her forties failed to hold a door in Moscow’s Prospekt Vernadskogo, she chided us: “I’m not a doorman. It’s not my job to hold doors. If someone gets hurt, they should be quicker on their feet.”

What can we learn from our results? While two of the world’s most affluent cities—Zurich and New York—came top of our rankings, we found plenty of courtesy in poorer areas too. In Johannesburg, South Africa, our researcher concluded: “The better dressed the person, the less likely he or she was to help. This applied across the board, irrespective of race.”

Nonetheless, it was prosperous cities that were at the top of our rankings. Charles Mosley, editor of British etiquette publisher Debrett's, ventures this explanation: "Wealthier cities aren't generally as crowded and competition for resources is less intense."

Fear of Crime

Our other two tests produced less heartening worldwide results. Just over half of people held doors open for us and only one third helped pick up our paper. Many in the latter category said they were more scared of crime—or being seen as a criminal—than rude. "I've heard that pickpockets use tricks like that," said a 50-year-old woman in Prague, capital of the Czech Republic. "One drops something, you help them pick it up and their accomplice robs you while you're not looking."

So did the world pass our courtesy test? Overall our 35 cities showed it 55 percent of the time. "It is the oil that keeps society running," says one social values expert. If so, our check of the level of the world's courtesy suggested that, in most places, there's plenty of oil in the engine, but some cities could use a top-up. Some of our researchers were disappointed by the treatment they received from their compatriots. Our French reporters were so upset with the lack of help with dropped papers in Paris that they considered abandoning the test altogether. But elsewhere our researchers were pleasantly surprised. "It was great to find that the vast majority of our subjects not only passed the test," says Salvador Garc, a man of Mexico City. "but said they think we are part of a culture of kindness despite our daily problems."

1. In Mexico City a slim girl was injured by a young man because he was in a hurry.
2. In Germany the woman who helped pick up scattered documents must have had one arm injured or handicapped.
3. Cities with positive outcome must score as high as 60.
4. New Yorkers are known to be proud but now they prove to be considerate and courteous as well.
5. New Yorkers are become more polite after the 9/11 incident.
6. In Zurich, in shops you are served attentively unless you are rude to the shop assistant.
7. The Toronto street artist believes there is more politeness in Canada than in Europe.
8. The fourth most courteous cities are _____.
9. It is implied that Asia _____.
10. One social scientist compared _____ to oil that keeps society running.

Passage 3

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, 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.

Love and Money Reshape Family in China

China has gone from arranged matches to the 8-minute date in the span of one generation.

Zhu waited years to find a husband like Gao. It was Zhu, a little saucy, who first phoned Gao, a little quiet. They hit it off: both are under 30, engineers, smart, living in Beijing, and, most crucial, they are from the same province, Shanxi, which means annual visits home together. They lived together unmarried for 14 months, something illegal until last year, before Zhu, tired of waiting, proposed. Gao

right away said OK.

Getting married in Today's China is far easier than even four years ago: The couple took a number, waited in line, and said "I do" in just over an hour. The certificate costs about \$ 1.15. Marriage forms no longer ask frightening questions about parents' history or Communist Party affiliations. Nor must couples seek permission from their "work unit" boss, a major shift from last year. Marriage and public security bureaus are reportedly no longer connected.

Today, urban Chinese are free as never before to pursue what have become the twin engines of family dynamics here: love and money. In the 200 cities with more than a million people, love and money are dictating historic changes in the traditional family that had already been shrinking due to the one-child policy. Dating and romance are in, living with parents is out, wives and daughters enjoy enhanced roles. A new galaxy of attitudes and values is transforming the basic building block of Chinese society.

Yet if it is easier to tie the knot in urban China, little else about marriage and family is so simple in a country constantly rebuilding, protean, where the pursuit of wealth and the sense of time are accelerating.

"It is easier to meet people now, but it is harder to find the right one," says a young female Junior exec as she sips from her water bottle. "We never had cell phones or text messages before, and we can meet many new people every day. But our expectations for a partner are so high that few can match them."

Love and Money

Now, for the first time on a wide scale, Chinese may pursue a spouse of their own choosing. Only 2 in 10 young Chinese used to choose their life partner; today, 9 in 10 say they have or will, according to a *China Daily* report. Along with this, a discourse of "feeling" and "emotion" that used to exist mainly in elite circles is now heard at all levels, from tycoons to taxi driver. Shops advertise "passion styles" for cars and kitchens. Romance novels are a rage.

In the past, couples often did not demonstrate affection inside a strict, loyalty-based family hierarchy. It was better not to, as Harvard sociologist Martin Whyte points out, since it might suggest a son's loyalty was not entirely clear. Couples always lived with the husband's parents, and in times of argument, sons were expected to side with family elders, not wives. Sons were dependent on parents. Divorce was discouraged and nearly non-existent. Marriages were arranged among families or inside "work unit"; a main criterion was the communist or "revolutionary" credentials of the spouse's family.

"My parents were teachers. They found themselves put together by their work unit," says Qi Mei, a consultant for a paint company in Beijing. "Spouses didn't use to have an identity, so much as a role. But now marriage is based on feeling. That will make us a more open society."

"I want to fall in love," says Ms. Xin, a 19-year-old student at a shopping mall. "I don't want to moan forever about money and jobs. Love is first. Other things are important but not first."

Yet the dreams of young women like Xin can be tempered by economic realities. She's part of the first generation who must find their own jobs and earn their own wages. This creates some anxiety. Apartments are no longer subsidized; jobs no longer guaranteed. Many parents have no advice for their offspring about a China evolving at a bewildering rate. Wealth, it turns out, has caused many urban Chinese to think and behave in ways that don't always include families. Boarding schools have tripled in the past decade. Extramarital relations have skyrocketed. As the cost of living increases in urban China, many young women, often from outside the city, are subsidized by men.

Typical is Yu Weijing, 25, who stays in Beijing by being enrolled in graduate school. Her boyfriend is 40, divorced, has a son, and owns a pharmacy. They stay together five days a month. He pays her rent. She is now dating another businessman, and wonders if she should change income sources, since she hears the pharmacist is also dating. She wants a “short cut” to financial security and a good life, and repeats a saying here that “a good date is better than a good job”. Officials are considering transparency laws requiring husbands to show family earnings to wives; many divorce cases exist now where wives are suddenly left only with the furniture.

A new concept: dating

China has 3,000-plus years of feudal order, guaranteed partly by a stable family. That family is now undeniably changing. Consider these structural shifts: dating is a new concept, maybe four years old. Before, one never talked about a “boyfriend” or “girlfriend”. A special friend was a “partner”, and it implied an impending marriage. In the city, females will ask males out. Young Chinese want to get to know one another. The American “eight-minute date” has just hit Beijing.

In China’s shift to a market economy, one key marriage player has been phased out: the work-unit boss. For 50 years, the boss was a de facto sergeant inside state-run enterprises. He or she policed behavior among the sexes, assisted with family problems, often helped set up single women approaching the unofficial “spinster” age of 30 and approved all matches.

“If you turned 28 and were still single, the ‘danwei’ manager or boss would step in and help,” says Yu Jiang, a single 27-year-old who recently quit a U. S. -China joint venture. Now the work-unit boss no longer approves marriages; the position is disappearing along with state-run businesses.

Weddings in pre-1980 China were simple, short and cheap. Today, 70 percent of the weddings done by Purple House, a Beijing agency, are Western - style-vows, white dressed, churches, receptions, says Shi Yu. Mr. Yu is Purple House’s master of ceremonies, a combination minister-DJ for the ceremony. Weddings used to cost \$40. Now they easily run \$4,000 and are a status symbol.

Once married, Chinese couples are no longer choosing to live with parents at home, a huge change. Some 60 to 70 percent of couples no longer live with parents, and in the reporting for this series, virtually no young Chinese said they would live at home if they could afford not to. “No way,” says Jun Yaolin, who was married two years ago. “We will fight.” One counter-trend is to live a “bowl of soup” distance away—move to within a few blocks. This neatly supplements another new trend: full-time care of children by grandparents.

Divorce, once seen as antisocial, is now high by Chinese standards and increases yearly. In Shanghai in 2001, 1 in 3 marriages failed, according to Xinhua news agency.

The maturing of the one-child policy, combined with the ability of couples to buy their own apartments is creating its own “empty nest” condition. This means that older people are starting to experience an often terrible new loneliness. China is still a country with respect for elders. Yet a public-service ad on Chinese TV shows an elderly lady cooking all day. As she sets the table for dinner, the phone calls come one by one. “I can’t make it. Can I come tomorrow?” the ad ends with a solitary figure sitting at a table of food—and the words, “Don’t forget your parents.”

“The traditional family has changed, become diluted, atomized,” says Dong Zhiying, a scholar at the Chinese Academy of Social Sciences in Beijing. “It used to be assumed that kids would take care of parents. Now it no longer is. In the past, older people in the family were dominant. Young people had no choice but to respect them. Parents’ authority was based on money and power; if you don’t respect

them, you lose forever.”

“Today, the intellectual and market development in China has come quickly, and transformed the family. Young people aren’t worshipping elders. They can rely on their own ability—go to university, be independent, make their own choices.”

- Which of the following statements is true according to the text?
 - People could get the marriage certificate without permission of the leader of their “work unit” before last year.
 - People could not get the marriage certificate without permission of the leader of their “work unit” before last year.
 - People could get marriage without certificate before last year.
 - None of the above.
- Marriage in the country is _____ it is in urban area.
 - as easy as
 - easier than
 - harder than
 - as hard as
- In Ms. Xin’s opinion, what do today’s young people care about?
 - Only love.
 - Anything but love.
 - Love but nothing.
 - Love and other things.
- _____ the young women from outside the city are subsidized by men.
 - Most of
 - Many of
 - All of
 - None of
- According to the text, what is the main reason for low divorce rate in China?
 - Deep love between wives and husbands.
 - The long-time feudal order.
 - The effect of the policy of government.
 - Wives are afraid of their husbands.
- Which of the following is not the word the author uses to describe the pre-1980 wedding?
 - Simple.
 - Short.
 - Cheap.
 - Boring.
- According to Dong Zhiying, the traditional family has _____.
 - disappeared
 - become diluted and atomized
 - become more and more
 - become stronger and stronger
- According to the report, people describe moving to within a few blocks as living a _____ distance away.
- It is a huge change that Chinese couples now are no longer choosing to _____ at home, if they could afford not to.
- The “empty nest” condition is created mostly because of the development of _____ and the ability of couples to buy their own apartments.

Passage 4

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 1-8, choose the best answer from the three choices marked A, B, C. For questions 9-10, complete the sentences with the information given in the passage.

Has the Bright Promise of the Space Programme Faded ?

A Symbol of the Brave Human Spirit

Throughout the 1960s, an enduring development that gave America faith in both itself and the future of mankind was the program to successfully conquer space. It has almost been forgotten that the U. S. space effort was a catch-up operation all the way, ever since the rude shock of the (former) Soviet's successful launch of Sputnik, the world's first artificial earth satellite, in 1957, well ahead of any comparable U. S. effort. The Soviets had much more thrust power; they launched the first inhabited capsule with a dog in it, and then in 1961 made Cosmonaut Yuri Gagarin the first human to orbit the earth.

After the U. S. had put Astronaut John Glenn into orbit three times around the earth, President Kennedy made a pledge that this country would be the first to land a man on the moon. This was not simply competitiveness. The Soviet success had stung many parts of the American consciousness. It made Americans question the adequacy of the American school system and their basic competence and progress in science and technology, in terms of both pure and applied research. The space program became a major symbol of their dedication to the pursuit of excellence.

A Dream That Seemed to Blow up Right Before Your Eyes

After the 1969 moon landing, the space program focused most of its efforts on the shuttle program, whose purpose was both to add to the growing application of satellites in space to commercial purposes and to satisfy the military's need for development of space vehicles and operations. The missions seemed less dramatic, and there were some who questioned whether in a time of budget crisis, the National Aeronautics and Space Administration (NASA) program was worth spending billions on.

Yet when public opinion was tested in 1981, a substantial 63%~33% majority said that the space program was worth the money and should be continued. The original enthusiasm remained essentially unchanged, even though people did not watch the launches or follow the shuttle flights.

Then on a cold morning in Florida on January 28, 1986, after several delays, the Challenger was launched, apparently successfully at first, but suddenly blew apart in sight of those on the ground and millions more watching television. Among those aboard was a civilian, Christa McAuliffe, the first schoolteacher to travel in space.

A nearly unanimous 92% of the American people reported that they had been personally upset at the tragedy. With 63% saying they were deeply upset, as though they had lost a member of their own family. A 78% majority felt that there should be no further shuttle flights "until they find out what went wrong". A 66%~29% majority thought a hard look should be taken to " see if more flights can be taken which don't require risking human life". A 54%~41% majority preferred concentrating on orbiting unmanned craft such as Voyager, which were capable of conducting " important experiments and learning important facts without risking human life". Significantly, however, a 56%~41% majority rejected abandoning the practice of putting civilians on board space flights.

When asked if they, as civilians, were selected to go up on a space shuttle, whether they would go on a flight, a 56%~43% majority said they now would not. However, the division was essentially along