

CET-6

大学英语六级
考点解密

阅读

新东方四六级研究中心 • 编著



西安交通大学出版社
XI'AN JIAOTONG UNIVERSITY PRESS

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阅读理解部分在整套六级试卷中的比例为 35%，与听力部分持平。其题型呈现了多样化趋势，在原来单一的篇章阅读理解题基础上，增加了短句问答案理解和快速阅读理解。虽然分值比例从原来的 40% 降到了 35%，但考查难度加深，更加注重对学生实际阅读能力的考查。这就要求考生进一步提高阅读能力，灵活运用阅读技巧，以适应试题难度不断增加的趋势。

曾有人以“得阅读者得六级”的说法来形容阅读在六级考试中的地位。通过多年来对大学英语六级考生的跟踪调查，我们发现，考生备考时常常在阅读上倾注最多的时间和精力，但不知为何成绩却常常不尽如人意。对于六级阅读，考生经常有这些困惑：

1. 碰到生词就发懵，有时一篇文章遇到好几个生词，影响了情绪，整篇文章就囫囵吞枣无法看懂；
2. 有些长句结构很复杂，不知其所云，需花费很长时间反复阅读；
3. 有些文章看起来并不难，却总是让人不知所云，匆忙做题，也只能“跟着感觉走”；
4. 不知道答案在哪儿找，每次都花掉很长时间多次返回原文查找，后面的题没有时间细看，只能一扫而过，草草作答；
5. 文章读得很明白，但是题目却做不对；
-

这些可能是很多考生都曾经历过的，那么为什么会有这样的困惑呢？我们根据多年的教学经验以及常年跟考生的交流，总结出以下几点根源：

1. **基本功掌握不扎实：**阅读理解能力的提高包括阅读速度的提高与理解能力的增强，这就需要扎实的语言基本功。阅读理解中关于语言基本功的薄弱之处包括词汇量的不足，长难句分析理解能力差，忽视语篇水平上句子之间的逻辑关系、缺乏背景知识等。
2. **对六级考试阅读题型的特点不够了解：**不同的题型有不同的考查目的、不同的设题方式和设题点，对各个题型不熟悉、不了解，考试时就不能够运用相应的、有效的解题思路和方法答题。
3. **缺乏对答题技巧的掌握：**阅读考试有时间的限制，对于考试流程掌握不熟，就可能被考试牵着鼻子走，心里发慌，总觉得时间不够用。另外，没有掌握一定的定位技巧、猜词技巧、推断技巧以及归纳技巧，很难在如此有限的时间内完美作答。如果具备一定的阅读技巧，可以大大提高做题效率，节省宝贵的时间，不会再耽误后面的做题时间。
4. **高质量的模拟练习还不够：**俗话说“熟能生巧”，提高阅读能力实际上就是要培养“语感”，不多记、多读、多练，没有训练出“语感”，掌握再多的考试技巧和规律，也只是徒劳无功，并不能真正地提高阅读水平。再者，选择质量不高的练习资料和错误的练习方法，效果也不会明显。
5. **缺乏坚定的信念和毅力：**英语阅读水平的提高，是一个艰苦曲折的过程，需要很长时间的练习，并不能一蹴而就，考生需夯实基本功、了解题型特点、掌握考试技巧，再配合大量的练习，逐渐地，考试信心增强了，真上场时就不会过度紧张、思维也会变得活跃，兴奋点被激活，就能发挥出考生应有的水平。

本书特色

为了帮助考生科学攻克阅读难关、切实提高阅读成绩,针对考生所面临的真实困惑,本书对症下药,分别根据快速阅读、短句问答和篇章阅读这三大题型的不同特点,科学编排,最大程度地体现了本书的“实用性”。

真题自测首尾结合——全程检测:本书在第一章和第六章部分安排了六级阅读真题,供考生进行自我测试。第一章的真题自测供考生在阅读本书之前做一个初步的检测,了解自己的水平和阅读的薄弱环节,以便更有针对性地使用本书;第六章的最新真题作为考前的“热身”,帮助考生达到完美的临考状态,胸有成竹地参加考试。

题型特征逐一分析——有据可依:本书详细介绍了六级快速阅读、短句问答和篇章阅读的考查目的及考查形式,并附六级阅读各个题型历年真题的分析表格及结论,清晰明了地揭示了六级阅读各题型的命题特点及趋势。

文章考点完全揭秘——原形毕露:根据各种题型的特点,本书分别对其文章形式、考查要点做了充分独到的讲解。鉴于快速阅读需要准确的定位,本书通过5类定位信息的讲解帮考生快速定位题目出处,直击考点,准确作答。短句问答是篇章理解与归纳表达的综合。针对这一特点,本书全面讲解了短句问答的2类考查形式和4类题型。对于篇章阅读理解,本书分别介绍了细节题、推断题的常考出处,主旨题的出题形式、观点态度题的考查方向和语义题的考查要点,真正做到理论与实际相结合。

解题技巧娓娓道来——科学实用:针对各种题型本身的特点,本书分别介绍了快速阅读的定位技巧、短句问答的解题步骤及篇章阅读的答题技巧,帮助考生提高答题效率,增加准确度。书中大量的真题实例分析清晰、明了,考生在做题时可举一反三、如法炮制。

仿真模拟精准解析——实战演练:本书针对六级阅读的各个题型编排了高仿真模拟试题。考生通过大量的模拟训练,既可提高阅读能力,也可提高心理素质,达到完美的临场状态。答案解析详尽、准确、到位,力求从考生做题的角度来分析题目,引导考生按合理的步骤解题,解开做题时遇到的困惑。同时,在解答中启发考生的解题思路,让其在遇到类似题目时能够触类旁通,轻松解决。

相信考生在掌握有效的技巧并进行科学的练习后定可从容应对六级阅读考试。最后,祝所有备战六级考试的考生都能取得理想的成绩!

在本书的编辑过程中,世纪友好工作室的金莉、蒋志华、何静、李岩岩、张继龙等对本书的结构及编排提供了大量的帮助,在此特向他们表示诚挚的谢意。

编者

使用说明

1. 题型特征分析

全面介绍六级阅读各题型的考查内容,并附六级阅读各题型历年真题分析表格及结论,让考生全面了解六级阅读各题型的特点及命题趋势。



第一节

题型特征分析

快速阅读理解要求考生在15分钟内读完一篇1,200词左右的文章,并解答后面的10道题。考生要运用略读和查读技巧从文章中获取信息。略读考查考生通过快速阅读获取文章主旨或中心思想的能力,阅读速度约每分钟120词。查读考查考生利用各种提示,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。大纲的要求在某种程度上说明,“快速+准确”是今后六级阅读部分考查的重点。在备考过程中,考生务必有意识地训练自己的快速阅读能力,以便有效地应对本部分的测试。

表1: 六级真题快速阅读分析

年份	体裁	题材	具体内容	词数			
2009.06	议论文	文化教育	直升机父母与放养孩子	1,204	0	8	2
2008.12	议论文	医疗健康	导致肥胖的七个原因	1,221	1	7	2
2008.06	说明文	科技人文	50年后人类的生活	1,173	0	9	1
2007.12	说明文	科技人文	拯救地球的七种方法	1,242	0	10	0

快速阅读是六级考试改革后新增的题型。通过对2006年12月到2009年6月的六级快速阅读真题以及2006年大纲(修订版)样题的分析,我们可以看出:六级考试中,快速阅读文章的体裁多为议论文和说明文,题材涉及科技人文、自然环境、职场生活、医疗健康和文化教育等方面。

2. 考点全面归纳

全面介绍快速阅读的文章形式和考查形式、短句问答的考查形式和篇章阅读考查的题型,帮助考生了解、掌握六级阅读的全部考点,轻松应对考试。



第四节

5类考查形式

一、Y题

1. 题干是对原文的同义转述

题干一般不会照搬原文,而是通过转换词句和结构对原文进行同义转述。



第三节

4大推断题常考出处

推断题要求考生根据从文中获取的信息进行推理判断,因此考生不但要理解文章所表达的字面含义,还要有一定的逻辑判断能力,从文章表面推出更深层的含义。



第五节

2个观点态度题考查方向

阅读理解中常会问到作者或文中人物对文章中某一问题的态度(attitude)、全文的基调(tone)或对文章前后接续内容的判断等,这类问题可被统称为观点态度题。

对观点态度题的回答应考虑文章的体裁。一般而言,在说明文中,作者的态度是客观的或中立的;而在议论文中,作者的观点就会多种多样。

一、文中人物的观点

(2009-06第57题)

There are few more sobering online activities than entering data into college-tuition calculators and gasping as the Web spits back a six-figure sum. But economists say families about to go into debt to fund four years of partying, as well as studying, can console themselves with the knowledge that college is an investment that, unlike many bank stocks, should yield huge dividends.

57. What's the opinion of economists about going to college?

- A) Huge amounts of money is being wasted on campus socializing.
- B) It doesn't pay to run into debt to receive a college education.
- C) College education is rewarding in spite of the startling costs.
- D) Going to college doesn't necessarily bring the expected returns.

【解析】本题考查文中人物的观点。文章提到,经济学家说如果家长们意识到上大学是一种投资,将来一定会获得更多回报,那么那些打算负债供孩子上大学的家庭就可以以此来安慰自己,可见经济学家认为家长应该供孩子上大学,即使负债也没关系,因为将来一定会创造更多的财富的,故选C。

3. 定位技巧总结

根据阅读文章的特点,归纳出阅读文章中常用的答案定位信息,帮助考生快速定位题目出处,直击考点,准确作答。



第三节

5类定位信息

一、题目顺序与行文顺序基本一致

一般情况下,快速阅读的出题顺序与原文的行文顺序一致,且题目的分布比较均匀。也就是说,下一道题的题目出处一般位于前一道题的后面,且每两道题目出处之间的间距基本相同。把握这样一个原则有助于节省答题时间。

二、文章首尾及各段首尾

文章的首尾一般会点明文章的主旨,而各段的首尾则是该段主要内容的总结和概括,所以这些地方我们应格外注意。

文章首尾

(2007-12 第1题)

Forget the old idea that conserving energy is a form of self-denial—riding bicycles, dimming the lights, and taking fewer showers. These days conservation is all about efficiency: getting the same—or better—results from just a fraction of the energy. When a slump in business travel forced Ulrich Römer to cut costs at his family-owned hotel in Germany, he replaced hundreds of the hotel's wasteful light bulbs, getting the same light for 80 percent less power. ...

1. What is said to be the best way to conserve energy nowadays?

A) Raising efficiency.

C) Finding alternative resources.

B) Cutting unnecessary costs.

D) Sacrificing some personal comforts.

【解析】本题答案位于首段前两句。本题问的是:当今世界,什么方法被看作最好的节能方式。文章开篇建议大家忘掉过去那些自我牺牲的节能观念,接着指出,目前所谓节能就是指效率,故选A。

4. 题型完全剖析

系统总结并分析六级短句问答的题型特征,帮助考生准确判断题目类型。



第三节

4类题型剖析

一、细节题

对文章细节进行提问是短句问答中出现频率最高的题型。提问的形式多种多样,涉及文章中的各种细节,如人物、时间、地点或事件等,也可能涉及文中引用的材料或例证材料等,主要考查考生对文章事实和细节的理解与把握。题目的答案一般可以在文章中直接找到,因此可直接引用文中的词句。和阅读理解中的细节题不同的是,短句问答中的细节题更容易通过对应的关键信息词在原文定位,但也会有题干中的词在原文中找不到对应词的情况,这时就需要寻找这些词的同义词,这类题目的难度会稍大一些。

(2008-06 第51题)

【问题】

51. Carole O'Hare thinks that besides honoring the passengers and crew for what they did, the purpose of telling the story is to _____ about security.

【原文】

"This story has to be told to honor the passengers and crew for what they did," she says. But more than that, it raises awareness.

【答案】raise awareness

【解析】根据题干中的信息词 honor the passengers and crew for what they did 在原文中定位。文章指出,这个故事是为了纪念在“9·11”事件中遇难的乘客和机组人员,而更重要的则是为了提高安全意识。题干中的 besides 与原文中的 more than 是同一个意思;原文中的 that 即指上句提到的 honor the passengers and crew for what they did, 故得答案 raise awareness。

5. 科学答题步骤

针对阅读文章的特点,科学、明晰地为考生提供最适合阅读的答题步骤,让考生在有限的时间里取得最好的成绩。



第四节

4大答题步骤

一、浏览题目

为了阅读文章时更有针对性,考生可先浏览题目,弄清楚问题问的是什么,然后阅读全文查找相关线索,可在阅读文章时标出问题中的信息词。这样在做题时就可以快速地找出答案,并保证答案的准确性和完整性。

二、针对性阅读

做题时,可先根据题干中的关键词有针对性地阅读文章,然后再寻找文章中与题干对应的内容,在相关段落或者句子中找到正确答案。另外,还需要抓住文章中的关键词,因为关键词构成一篇文章的精髓,这样做既有助于理解文章的内容,又可以使表达言简意赅。与自己组织语言相比,使用关键词组织答案既准确简练,又省时省力。

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

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.

What Will the World Be Like in Fifty Years?

This week some top scientists, including Nobel Prize winners, gave their vision of how the world will look in 2056, from gas-powered cars to extraordinary health advances, John Ingham reports on what the world's finest minds believe our futures will be.

For those of us lucky enough to live that long, 2056 will be a world of almost perpetual youth, where obesity is a remote memory and robots become our companions.

We will be rubbing shoulders with aliens and colonizing outer space. Better still, our descendants might at last live in a world at peace with itself.

The prediction is that we will have found a source of inexhaustible, safe, green energy, and that science will have killed off religion. If they are right we will have removed two of the main causes of war—our dependence on oil and religious prejudices.

Will we really, as today's scientists claim, be able to live forever or at least cheat the ageing process so that the average person lives to 150?

Of course, all these predictions come with a scientific health warning. Harvard professor Steven Pinker says: "This is an invitation to look foolish, as with the predictions of domed cities and nuclear-powered vacuum cleaners that were made 50 year ago."

Living longer

Anthony Atala, director of the Wake Forest Institute in North Carolina, believes failing organs will be repaired by injecting cells into the body. They will naturally go straight to the injury and help heal it. A system of injections without needles could also slow the ageing process by using the same process to "tune" cells.

Bruce Lahn, professor of human genetics at the University of Chicago, anticipates the ability to produce "unlimited supplies" of transplantable human organs without the need for human donors. These organs would be grown in animals such as pigs. When a patient needed a new organ, such as kidney, the surgeon would contact a commercial organ producer, give him the patient's immunological profile and would then be sent a kidney with the correct tissue type.

These organs would be entirely composed of human cells, grown by introducing them into animal hosts, and allowing them to develop into an organ in place of the animal's own. But Prof. Lahn believes that farmed brains would be "off limits". He says: "Very few people would want to have their brains replaced by someone else's and we probably don't want to put a human brain in an animal body."

Richard Miller, a professor at the University of Michigan, thinks scientists could develop “authentic anti-ageing drugs” by working out how cells in larger animals such as whales and humans resist many forms of injuries. He says: “It is now routine, in laboratory mammals, to extend lifespan by about 40%. Turning on the same protective systems in people should, by 2056, create the first class of 100-year-olds who are as vigorous and productive as today’s people in their 60s.”

Aliens

Conlin Pillinger, professor of planetary sciences at the Open University, says: “I fancy that at least we will be able to show that life did start to evolve on Mars as well as Earth.” Within 50 years he hopes scientists will prove that alien life came here in Martian *meteorites* (陨石).

Chris McKay, a planetary scientist at NASA’s Ames Research Center, believes that in 50 years we may find evidence of alien life in ancient permanent frost of Mars or on other planets.

He adds: “There is even a chance we will find alien life forms here on Earth. It might be as different as English is to Chinese.”

Princeton professor Freeman Dyson thinks it “likely” that life from outer space will be discovered before 2056 because the tools for finding it, such as optical and radio detection and data processing, are improving.

He says: “As soon as the first evidence is found, we will know what to look for and additional discoveries are likely to follow quickly. Such discoveries are likely to have revolutionary consequences for biology, astronomy and philosophy. They may also change the way we look at ourselves and our place in the universe.”

Colonies in space

Richard Gott, professor of astrophysics at Princeton, hopes man will set up a self-sufficient colony on Mars, which would be a “life insurance policy against whatever catastrophes, natural or otherwise, might occur on Earth”.

“The real space race is whether we will colonise off Earth on to other worlds before money for the space programme runs out.”

Spinal injuries

Ellen Heber-Katz, a professor at the Wistar Institute in Philadelphia, foresees cures for injuries causing paralysis such as the one that afflicted *Superman* star Christopher Reeve.

She says: “I believe that the day is not far off when we will be able to prescribe drugs that cause *severed* (断裂的) spinal cords to heal, hearts to regenerate and lost limbs to regrow.”

“People will come to expect that injured or diseased organs are meant to be repaired from within, in much the same way that we fix an appliance or automobile: by replacing the damaged part with a manufacturer-certified new part.” She predicts that within 5 to 10 years fingers and toes will be regrown and limbs will start to be regrown a few years later. Repairs to the nervous system will start with optic nerves and, in time, the spinal cord. “Within 50 years whole body replacement will be routine,” Prof. Heber-Katz adds.

Obesity

Sydney Brenner, senior distinguished fellow of the Crick-Jacobs Center in California, won the 2002 Nobel Prize for Medicine and says that if there is a global disaster some humans will survive—and evolution will favour small people with bodies large enough to support the required amount of brain power. “Obesity,” he says, “will have been solved.”

Robots

Rodney Brooks, professor of robotics at MIT, says the problems of developing artificial intelligence for robots will be at least partly overcome. As a result, “the possibilities for robots working with people will open up immensely.”

Energy

Bill Joy, green technology expert in California, says: "The most significant breakthrough would be to have an inexhaustible source of safe, green energy that is substantially cheaper than any existing energy source."

Ideally, such a source would be safe in that it could not be made into weapons and would not make hazardous or toxic waste or carbon dioxide, the main greenhouse gas blamed for global warming.

Society

Geoffrey Miller, evolutionary psychologist at the University of New Mexico, says: "The U.S. will follow the UK in realising that religion is not a *prerequisite* (前提) for ordinary human decency."

"Thus, science will kill religion—not by reason challenging faith but by offering a more practical, universal and rewarding moral framework for human interaction."

He also predicts that "absurdly wasteful" displays of wealth will become unfashionable while the importance of close-knit communities and families will become clearer.

These three changes, he says, will help make us all "brighter, wiser, happier and kinder".

- What is John Ingham's report about?
 - A solution to the global energy crisis.
 - Extraordinary advances in technology.
 - The latest developments of medical science.
 - Scientists' vision of the world in half a century.
- According to Harvard professor Steven Pinker, predictions about the future _____.
 - may invite trouble
 - may not come true
 - will fool the public
 - do more harm than good
- Professor Bruce Lahn of the University of Chicago predicts that _____.
 - humans won't have to donate organs for transplantation
 - more people will donate their organs for transplantation
 - animal organs could be transplanted into human bodies
 - organ transplantation won't be as scary as it is today
- According to Professor Richard Miller of the University of Michigan, people will _____.
 - live for as long as they wish
 - be relieved from all sufferings
 - live to 100 and more with vitality
 - be able to live longer than whales
- Princeton professor Freeman Dyson thinks that _____.
 - scientists will find alien life similar to ours
 - humans will be able to settle on Mars
 - alien life will likely be discovered
 - life will start to evolve on Mars
- According to Princeton professor Richard Gott, by setting up a self-sufficient colony on Mars, humans _____.
 - might survive all catastrophes on Earth
 - might acquire ample natural resources
 - will be able to travel to Mars freely
 - will move there to live a better life
- Ellen Heber-Katz, professor at the Wistar Institute in Philadelphia, predicts that _____.
 - human organs can be manufactured like appliances
 - people will be as strong and dynamic as supermen
 - human nerves can be replaced by optic fibers
 - lost fingers and limbs will be able to regrow
- Rodney Brooks says that it will be possible for robots to work with humans as a result of the development of _____.
- The most significant breakthrough predicted by Bill Joy will be an inexhaustible green energy source that can't be used to make _____.
- According to Geoffrey Miller, science will offer a more practical, universal and rewarding moral framework in place of _____.

Part IV**Reading Comprehension (Reading in Depth)****(25 minutes)****Section A**

Directions: In this section, there is a short passage with 5 questions or incomplete statements. Read the passage carefully. Then answer the questions or complete the statements in the fewest possible words. Please write your answers on **Answer Sheet 2**.

Questions 47 to 51 are based on the following passage.

If movie *trailers* (预告片) are supposed to cause a reaction, the preview for *United 93* more than succeeds. Featuring no famous actors, it begins with images of a beautiful morning and passengers boarding an airplane. It takes you a minute to realize what the movie's even about. That's when a plane hits the World Trade Center. The effect is *visceral* (震撼心灵的). When the trailer played before *Inside Man* last week at a Hollywood theater, audience members began calling out, "Too soon!" In New York City, the response was even more dramatic. The Loews theater in Manhattan took the rare step of pulling the trailer from its screens after several complaints.

United 93 is the first feature film to deal explicitly with the events of September 11, 2001, and is certain to ignite an emotional debate. Is it too soon? Should the film have been made at all? More to the point, will anyone want to see it? Other 9/11 projects are on the way as the fifth anniversary of the attacks approaches, most notably Oliver Stone's *World Trade Center*, but as the forerunner, *United 93* will take most of the heat, whether it deserves it or not.

The real *United 93* crashed in a Pennsylvania field after 40 passengers and crew fought back against the terrorists. Writer-director Paul Greengrass has gone to great lengths to be respectful in his depiction of what occurred, proceeding with the film only after securing the approval of every victim's family. "Was I surprised at the agreement? Yes. Very. Usually there're one or two families who're more reluctant," Greengrass writes in an e-mail. "I was surprised at the extraordinary way the *United 93* families have welcomed us into their lives and shared their experiences with us." Carole O'Hare, a family member, says, "They were very open and honest with us, and they made us a part of this whole project." Universal, which is releasing the film, plans to donate 10% of its opening weekend gross to the Flight 93 National Memorial Fund. That hasn't stopped criticism that the studio is exploiting a national tragedy. O'Hare thinks that's unfair. "This story has to be told to honor the passengers and crew for what they did," she says. "But more than that, it raises awareness. Our ports aren't secure. Our borders aren't secure. Our airlines still aren't secure, and this is what happens when you're not secure. That's the message I want people to hear."

47. The trailer for *United 93* succeeded in _____ when it was played in the theaters in Hollywood and New York City.
48. The movie *United 93* is sure to give rise to _____.
49. What did writer-director Paul Greengrass obtain before he proceeded with the movie?
50. Universal, which is releasing *United 93*, has been criticized for _____.
51. Carole O'Hare thinks that besides honoring the passengers and crew for what they did, the purpose of telling the story is to _____ about security.

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 center.

Passage One

Questions 52 to 56 are based on the following passage.

Imagine waking up and finding the value of your assets has been halved. No, you're not an investor in one of those hedge funds that failed completely. With the dollar slumping to a 26-year low against the pound, already-expensive London has become quite unaffordable. A coffee at Starbucks, just as unavoidable in England as it is in the United States, runs about \$8.

The once all-powerful dollar isn't doing a Titanic against just the pound. It is sitting at a record low against the euro and at a 30-year low against the Canadian dollar. Even the Argentine peso and Brazilian real are thriving against the dollar.

The weak dollar is a source of *humiliation* (耻辱), for a nation's self-esteem rests in part on the strength of its currency. It's also a potential economic problem, since a declining dollar makes imported food more expensive and exerts upward pressure on interest rates. And yet there are substantial sectors of the vast U.S. economy—from giant companies like Coca-Cola to mom-and-pop restaurant operators in Miami—for which the weak dollar is most excellent news.

Many Europeans may view the U.S. as an arrogant superpower that has become hostile to foreigners. But nothing makes people think more warmly of the U.S. than a weak dollar. Through April, the total number of visitors from abroad was up 6.8 percent from last year. Should the trend continue, the number of tourists this year will finally top the 2000 peak. Many Europeans now apparently view the U.S. the way many Americans view Mexico—as a cheap place to vacation, shop and party, all while ignoring the fact that the poorer locals can't afford to join the merrymaking.

The money tourists spend helps decrease our chronic trade deficit. So do exports, which thanks in part to the weak dollar, soared 11 percent between May 2006 and May 2007. For the first five months of 2007, the trade deficit actually fell 7 percent from 2006.

If you own shares in large American corporations, you're a winner in the weak-dollar gamble. Last week Coca-Cola's stock bubbled to a five-year high after it reported a fantastic quarter. Foreign sales accounted for 65 percent of Coke's *beverage* (饮料) business. Other American companies profiting from this trend include McDonald's and IBM.

American tourists, however, shouldn't expect any relief soon. The dollar lost strength the way many marriages break up—slowly, and then all at once. And currencies don't turn on a dime. So if you want to avoid the pain inflicted by the increasingly pathetic dollar, cancel that summer vacation to England and look to New England. There, the dollar is still treated with a little respect.

52. Why do Americans feel humiliated?

- A) Their economy is plunging.
- B) They can't afford trips to Europe.
- C) Their currency has slumped.
- D) They have lost half of their assets.

53. How does the current dollar affect the life of ordinary Americans?

- A) They have to cancel their vacations in New England.
- B) They find it unaffordable to dine in mom-and-pop restaurants.
- C) They have to spend more money when buying imported goods.
- D) They might lose their jobs due to potential economic problems.

54. How do many Europeans feel about the U.S. with the devalued dollar?

- A) They feel contemptuous of it.
- B) They are sympathetic with it.
- C) They regard it as a superpower on the decline.
- D) They think of it as a good tourist destination.

55. What is the author's advice to Americans?

- A) They treat the dollar with a little respect.
- B) They try to win in the weak-dollar gamble.
- C) They vacation at home rather than abroad.
- D) They treasure their marriages all the more.

56. What does the author imply by saying “currencies don’t turn on a dime” (Line 2, Para. 7)?

- A) The dollar’s value will not increase in the short term.
- B) The value of a dollar will not be reduced to a dime.
- C) The dollar’s value will drop, but within a small margin.
- D) Few Americans will change dollars into other currencies.

Passage Two

Questions 57 to 61 are based on the following passage.

In the college-admissions wars, we parents are the true fighters. We’re pushing our kids to get good grades, take SAT preparatory courses and build resumes so they can get into the college of our first choice. I’ve twice been to the wars, and as I survey the battlefield, something different is happening. We see our kids’ college background as a prize demonstrating how well we’ve raised them. But we can’t acknowledge that our *obsession*(痴迷) is more about us than them. So we’ve contrived various justifications that turn out to be half-truths, prejudices or myths. It actually doesn’t matter much whether Aaron and Nicole go to Stanford.

We have a full-blown prestige panic; we worry that there won’t be enough prizes to go around. Fearful parents urge their children to apply to more schools than ever. Underlying the *hysteria*(歇斯底里) is the belief that scarce elite degrees must be highly valuable. Their graduates must enjoy more success because they get a better education and develop better contacts. All that is plausible—and mostly wrong. We haven’t found any convincing evidence that selectivity or prestige matters. Selective schools don’t systematically employ better instructional approaches than less selective schools. On two measures—professors’ feedback and the number of essay exams—selective schools do slightly worse.

By some studies, selective schools do enhance their graduates’ lifetime earnings. The gain is reckoned at 2-4% for every 100-point increase in a school’s average SAT scores. But even this advantage is probably a statistical *fluke*(偶然). A well-known study examined students who got into highly selective schools and then went elsewhere. They earned just as much as graduates from higher-status schools.

Kids count more than their colleges. Getting into Yale may signify intelligence, talent and ambition. But it’s not the only indicator and, paradoxically, its significance is declining. The reason: so many similar people go elsewhere. Getting into college isn’t life’s only competition. In the next competition—the job market and graduate school—the results may change. Old-boy networks are breaking down. Princeton economist Alan Krueger studied admissions to one top Ph. D. program. High scores on the GRE helped explain who got in; degrees of prestigious universities didn’t.

So, parents, lighten up. The stakes have been vastly exaggerated. Up to a point, we can rationalize our pushiness. America is a competitive society; our kids need to adjust to that. But too much pushiness can be destructive. The very ambition we impose on our children may get some into Harvard but may also set them up for disappointment. One study found that, other things being equal, graduates of highly selective schools experienced more job dissatisfaction. They may have been so conditioned to being on top that anything less disappoints.

57. Why does the author say that parents are the true fighters in the college-admissions wars?

- A) They have the final say in which university their children are to attend.
- B) They know best which universities are most suitable for their children.
- C) They have to carry out intensive surveys of colleges before their children make an application.
- D) They care more about which college their children go to than the children themselves.

58. Why do parents urge their children to apply to more schools than ever?

- A) They want to increase their children’s chances of entering a prestigious college.
- B) They hope their children can enter a university that offers attractive scholarships.
- C) Their children will have a wider choice of which college to go to.

- D) Elite universities now enroll fewer students than they used to.
59. What does the author mean by “Kids count more than their colleges” (Line 1, Para. 4)?
- A) Continuing education is more important to a person's success.
- B) A person's happiness should be valued more than their education.
- C) Kids' actual abilities are more important than their college backgrounds.
- D) What kids learn at college cannot keep up with job market requirements.
60. What does Krueger's study tell us?
- A) Getting into Ph.D. programs may be more competitive than getting into college.
- B) Degrees of prestigious universities do not guarantee entry to graduate programs.
- C) Graduates from prestigious universities do not care much about their GRE scores.
- D) Connections built in prestigious universities may be sustained long after graduation.
61. One possible result of pushing children into elite universities is that ____.
- A) they earn less than their peers from other institutions
- B) they turn out to be less competitive in the job market
- C) they experience more job dissatisfaction after graduation
- D) they overemphasize their qualifications in job applications



第二节

答案速查

Part II

1. D 2. B 3. A 4. C 5. C 6. A 7. D
8. artificial intelligence 9. weapons 10. religion

Part IV

Section A

47. causing a reaction 48. an emotional debate
49. The approval of every victim's family. 50. exploiting a national tragedy
51. raise awareness

Section B

Passage One

52. C 53. C 54. D 55. C 56. A

Passage Two

57. D 58. A 59. C 60. B 61. C