

第一部分 阅读理解

一、阅读理解简介及应试技巧

1. 阅读理解简介

在我国目前大学英语教学中,虽然培养学生听和说的能力的呼声越来越高,但培养学生的英语阅读能力仍然被放在非常重要的位置。1999年新修订的《大学英语教学大纲》对大学英语基础阶段阅读能力的基本要求作了这样的规定:“能顺利阅读并正确理解语言难度中等的一般性题材的文章,掌握中心大意以及说明中心大意的事实和细节,并能进行一定的分析、推理和判断,领会作者的观点和态度,阅读速度达到每分钟70词。在阅读篇幅较长、难度略低、生词不超过总词数3%的材料时,能掌握中心大意,抓住主要事实和有关细节,阅读速度达到每分钟100词。”

在历次大学英语四级考试中,阅读理解部分都是四段短文,共设20个问题,每个问题2分,共计40分,是占总分比例最大的一个部分。阅读部分短文的单词量(不包括问题部分)约为1000词。规定完成的时间为35分钟。为了在大学英语四级考试的阅读部分获得高分,我们还有必要了解一下除了阅读量以外,《大学英语四级考试大纲》对大学英语基础阶段的英语阅读能力的测试还作了哪些方面的要求。

在阅读部分试题的选材方面,《大学英语四级考试大纲》规定:

1. 题材广泛,可以包括人物传记、社会、文化、日常知识、科普知识等,但是所涉及的背景知识应能为学生所理解;

2. 体裁多样,可以包括叙述文、说明文、议论文等;

3. 文章的语言难度中等,无法猜测而又影响理解的关键词,如超出教学大纲词汇表四级的范围,用汉语注明词义。

《大学英语四级考试大纲》还规定,阅读理解部分主要测试以下能力:

1. 掌握所读材料的主旨大意;

2. 了解说明主旨大意的事实和细节;

3. 既理解字面的意义,也能根据所读的材料进行一定的判断和推论;

4. 既理解个别句子的意思,也理解上下文的逻辑关系。

阅读理解部分的目的是测试学生通过阅读获取信息的能力,既要求准确,也要求有一定的速度。

根据对以上大学英语四级考试阅读理解部分的介绍,我们对这部分的内容和要求有了一个概括的了解。但是,从历次考试的实际情况看,阅读理解部分是丢分比较多的一个部分。要想在考试中拿到高分,还应进一步了解和掌握这一部分的试题类型以及解题技巧。

2. 阅读理解应试技巧

在大学英语四级考试中,《大纲》中规定的阅读能力是通过考核考生是否具备以下能力来测试的:即考生是否能熟练掌握词汇和语法、是否能正确理解事实和细节、是否能理解隐含的意义和深层的意义以及是否具备了在语篇水平上的阅读理解能力。四级考试一般使用的题型包括:

事实细节题 理解明确表达的概念、事实或细节;

推论题理解隐含表达的概念、事实或细节,如:进行推理、下结论、作出判断等;

主旨大意题辨别文章的中心思想,如:找出能归纳文章中心思想的要点;

词汇短语题根据上下文或构词法猜测词或短语的意思。

下面我们将按照这些题型,分别介绍一下解题方法和技巧。

(一)事实细节题

此类试题在四级考试阅读理解部分中最为常见,每次考试阅读部分的 20 道题中大约有 8 至 10 道题是事实细节题。对于阅读理解来说,理解明确表达的概念或细节,即字面意义,是最起码的要求。这种类型的题往往是以文章中用来论证或说明主旨的事实、细节或例证直接设题,因此答案一般可以直接在文章中找到。这类试题使用的试题形式主要是给出一个不完整的句子,要求学生根据文章内容从四个选项中选出正确答案将句子补充完整,例如:

1. A primary nurse can propose a different approach of treatment when

- A) the present one is refused by the patient
- B) the patient complains about the present one
- C) the present one proves to be ineffective
- D) the patient is found unwilling to cooperate

本题选自 1993 年 6 月四级考试阅读理解部分第 23 题,是事实细节题,正确答案是 C,可以从原文第三段找到:

The primary nurse stays with the patient through his hospitalization, keeping track with his progress and seeking further advice from his doctor. *If a patient at Beth Israel is not responding to treatment, it is not uncommon for his nurse to propose another approach to his doctor.* What the doctor at Beth Israel has in the primary nurse is a true colleague.

本题问责任护士(primary nurse)在什么情况下可以向医生提出不同的治疗方案建议,题目本身所用的语言 A primary nurse can ... treatment when 已经明确地告诉我们答案在文章的哪个部分在这段文章中,我们可以很容易地找到相应的部分:如果贝斯以色列医院的病人对治疗没有反应,他的护士向医生提出另外一种治疗方案也不是什么很特别的事

2. According to Fozard's argument, people can make their brains work more efficiently by _____.
- A) constantly doing memory work
 - B) taking part in various mental activities
 - C) going through specific training
 - D) making frequent adjustments

本题选自 1995 年 6 月四级考试阅读理解部分第 22 题,是事实细节题,正确答案是 B, 可以从原文第三段找到:

Many experts are so convinced of the benefits of challenging the brain that they are putting the theory to work in their own lives. "The idea is not necessarily to learn to memorize enormous amounts of information," says James Fozard, associate director of the National Institute of Aging. "Most of us don't need that kind of skill. Such specific training is of less interest than being able to maintain mental alertness." Fozard and others say they challenge their brains with different mental skills, both because they enjoy them **and because they are sure that their range of activities will help the way their brains work.**

本题检查考生是否读懂了第三段的意思,是否读懂了 Fozard 的论点。涉及本题答案的部分是以间接引语形式出现的,即“还因为他们相信各种活动将有助于大脑的工作。”

3. One reason why the loss of lives in the Los Angeles earthquake was comparatively low is that
- A) new computers had been installed in the buildings
 - B) it occurred in the residential areas rather than on the highways

- C) large numbers of Los Angeles residents had gone for a holiday
- D) improvements had been made in the construction of buildings and highways

本题选自 1997 年 6 月四级考试阅读理解部分第 21 题,是事实细节题,正确答案是 D, 可以从原文第三段找到:

Injuries and deaths were relatively less in Los Angeles because the quake occurred at 4:31 a. m on a holiday, when traffic was light on the city's highways. *In addition, changes made to the construction codes in Los Angeles during the last 20 years have strengthened the city's buildings and highways, making them more resistant to quakes.*

本段开头两句话分析了 1994 年洛杉矶地震造成的损失和伤亡比较小的原因是:地震发生在节假日的凌晨,公路上的车辆不多;由于建筑法规(construction codes)的修改,近 20 年来洛杉矶城市楼房和公路建筑都加固了,防震性能提高了。所以应选 D。

除了使用一个不完整的句子作为试题形式以外,这类试题还可能是提一个问题要求考生从给出的四个答案中选出正确的答案,例如:

4. What is said about the over 100 aircraft incidents in the past 15 years?
- A) They may have been caused by the damage to the radio systems.
 - B) They may have taken place during take-off and landing.
 - C) They were proved to have been caused by the passengers' portable computers.
 - D) They were suspected to have resulted from electromagnetic interference.

本题选自 1999 年 6 月四级考试阅读理解部分第 22 题,是事实细节题,正确答案是 D, 可以从原文第一段找到:

The biggest safety threat facing airlines today may not be a terrorist with a gun, but the man with the portable computer in business class. *In the last 15 years, pilots have reported well over 100 incidents that could have been caused by electromagnetic interference.* The source of this interference remains unconfirmed, but increasingly, experts are pointing the blame at portable electronic devices such as portable computers, radio and cassette players and mobile telephones.

选项 D“它们被怀疑是由电磁干扰造成的”正好与短文中第二句以及后面的句子的意思相同。在回答本题时还应注意选项 C 的干扰,原文中并没有提到“已经被证明是由旅客的便携式电脑造成的”,而只是说“这种干扰源仍未被证实……。”

事实细节题的另外一种形式要求考生对给出的选项对照文章内容做出判断。一般

情况下，在给出的四个选项中，有三个是文章中明确提到的事实或细节，有一个选项文章中未提及，或者有三个选项是文章中未提及的，只有个选项是文章提及的，由考生来选择这类题也称作是非判断题根据对历次考试的统计，是非判断题出现的次数较少。一次考试最多有两道这类问题，一般仅为一道题或没有。常见的问题形式有：

Which of the following is NOT MENTIONED in this passage?

According to the passage, which of the following statements is NOT TRUE?

All the following statements are true EXCEPT

为了避免考生看错题，否定意义的词或关键性的词语多用大写字母标出，提示考生注意

5. What is TRUE about lightning according to the passage?

- A) Only a small number of lightning flashes occur on earth.
- B) Lightning travels 5 times faster than thunder.
- C) Lightning flashes usually jump from one cloud to another.
- D) There are far more lightning strikes occurring on earth than we can imagine.

本题选自 1994 年 1 月四级考试阅读理解部分第 38 题，是一道判断与事实细节是否相符的事实细节题，正确答案是 D，可以从文章第三段找到：

Most lightning flashes take place inside a cloud, and *only a relative few can be seen jumping between two clouds or between earth and a cloud*. But, with about 2000 thunderstorms taking place above the earth every minute of the day and night, there's enough activity to produce about 100 lightning strikes on earth every second.

在文章的其他段落，找不到与选项 A, B, C 内容相应的事实细节

6. Which of the following is NOT true according to the passage?

- A) The EEC spends one billion pounds on imported energy each year.
- B) At the present level of research spending, it is difficult to make any significant progress in the provision of energy from the sun.
- C) The desired breakthrough could be obtained by the end of the next decade if investment were increased.
- D) The total yearly spending of the EEC on solar energy research amounted to almost 6 million.

本题选自 1991 年 6 月四级考试阅读理解部分第 29 题，是一道判断与事实细节是否相符的事实细节题，正确答案是 A，阅读全文便可知道，选项 B 和 C 均可在文章第 4 段中找到：

The senior West German scientist in charge of the Community's solar energy programme, Mr. Joachim Gretz, told journalists that *at present levels of research spending it was most unlikely that solar energy would provide as much as three per cent of the Community's energy requirements even after the year 2000. But he said that with a modest increase in the present sums, devoted by the EEC to this work it was possible that the breakthrough could be achieved* by the end of the next decade.

选项 D 可以在第四段里找到：

At present *the EEC spends about \$ 2.6 millions a year on solar research at Ispra*, one of the EEC's official joint research centres, and *another \$ 3 millions a year in indirect research* with universities and other independent bodies.

本段提到的两项投资合计大约 600 万美元，与选项 D 相符。只有选项 A 的内容文章内没提到，因此是 not true，即正确答案。

是非判断题除了可以让考生对事实细节做出判断外，还可以对主旨大意做出判断。我们将在下面主旨大意部分作讲解。

在做事实细节类的问题时，可以使用阅读技巧中的查阅方法，即快速阅读全文找出所需的具体信息。一般先要仔细阅读问题，弄清问题问的是什么并要熟悉四个选项，然后利用问题或选项中的关键提示词，运用查阅的方法，在文章中迅速查找，略过与问题无关的细节，找出相关的细节并与选项对照，以确定正确答案。以上面第 4 个例句为例，问题中有 over 100 aircraft incidents 和 in the past 15 years。同时选项主要是和造成事故的原因有关，因此带着这样的关键词查阅短文，便会很容易地找到与答案有关的部分，通过仔细阅读和分析找出正确答案。

(二) 推论题

推论题与事实细节题不同，推论题的答案并不是直截了当和明白无误地写在文章中，而是要求考生根据文章中提供的信息进行综合的推理和分析，理解隐含表达的概念或细节，找出正确的答案。推论题属于比较难的题型，据不完全统计，推论题的比例约占每次考试 20 道题中的四分之一。推论题包括推理、下结论、作判断等。

推理常用的提问方式有：

It is implied, (but not stated,) that _____.

It can be inferred that _____.

We can infer from the passage that _____.

The passage implies that _____.

下结论常用的提问方式有：

According to the passage, we can conclude that _____.

Which of the following conclusions can be drawn from the passage?

What can be concluded from the passage?

作判断常用的提问方式有：

What is the author's / writer's attitude towards/to _____?

What's the tone of the passage?

The author's view is _____.

The author suggests that _____.

According to the author, _____.

7. It is implied in the first paragraph that _____.

- A) the purpose of taste tests is to promote the sale of colas
- B) the improvement of quality is the chief concern of the two cola companies
- C) the competition between the two colas is very strong
- D) blind tasting is necessary for identifying fans

本题选自 1996 年 1 月四级考试阅读理解部分第 58 题，是推论题，正确答案是 C。推论的根据可以从原文第一段找到：

Taste is such a subjective matter that we don't usually conduct preference tests for food. The most you can say about anyone's preference, is that it's one person's opinion. **But because the two big cola (可乐饮料) companies - Coca-Cola and Pepsi Cola are marketed so aggressively**, we've wondered how big a role taste preference actually plays in brand loyalty. We set up a taste test that challenged people who identified themselves as either Coca-Cola or Pepsi fans: Find your brand in a blind tasting.

本题四个选项的内容均未在这一段中明确出现，然而，根据第三句话前半句的意思“但是因为两大可乐公司——可口可乐公司和百事可乐公司如此咄咄逼人地营销”我们可以推论出“两种可乐之间的竞争是非常激烈的”

8. We can infer from the passage that _____.

- A) English people, like most people in other countries, dislike living in flats
- B) people in most countries of the world today are not opposed to living in flats
- C) people in Britain are forced to move into high blocks of flats
- D) modern flats still fail to provide the necessary facilities for living

本题选自 1995 年 6 月四级考试阅读理解部分第 31 题，是推论题，正确答案是 B。推论的根据可以从原文开始部分找到：

Britain almost more than any other country in the world must seriously face the problem of building upwards, that is to say of accommodating a considerable proportion of its population in high blocks of flats. **It is said that the Englishman objects to this type of existence, but if the case is such, he does in fact differ from the inhabitants**

of most countries of the world today...

文章第二句话的意思是：英国人（在住房问题上）的确与当今世界上许多国家的居民有着不同的看法。如果情况的确是这样的，那么事实上，英国人与世界上许多国家的居民便不相同（意即世界上许多国家的居民不反对住高层公寓），这正是选项 B 的内容。

9. What can be concluded from the passage?
- A) Genuine writers often find their work interesting and rewarding.
 - B) A writer's success depends on luck rather than on effort.
 - C) Famous writers usually live in poverty and isolation.
 - D) The chances for a writer to become successful are small.

本题选自 1997 年 1 月四级考试阅读理解部分第 57 题，要求考生根据短文的内容做出结论，实际上也是一种推论。正确答案是 D。推论的根据可以从原文第二段找到：

The reality is that writing is a lonely, private and poor-paying affair. *For every writer kissed by fortune there are thousands more whose longing is never rewarded.* When I left a 20-year career in the U. S. Coast Guard to become a freelance writer (自由撰稿人), I had no prospects at all. What I did have was a friend who found me my room in a New York apartment building. It didn't even matter that it was cold and had no bathroom. I immediately bought a used manual typewriter and felt like a genuine writer.

第二段第二句说“每一个幸运成功的作家的背后还有众多的人永远无法实现自己的作家梦。”由此可以推论出：一个作家成功的可能性是很小的

10. It can be concluded from the passage that newspaper readers
- A) apply reading techniques skillfully
 - B) jump from one newspaper to another
 - C) appreciate the variety of a newspaper
 - D) usually read a newspaper selectively

本题选自 1998 年 1 月四级考试阅读理解部分第 18 题，需要考生根据文章中提供的信息自己做出结论，正确答案是 D。推论的根据可以从文章最后两句话找到：

... For all these reasons, no two people really read the same paper; *what each person does is to put together, out of the pages of that day's paper, his own selection and sequence, his own newspaper.* For all these reasons, reading newspapers efficient-

ly, which means *getting what you want from them without missing things you need but without wasting time*, demands skill and self-awareness as you modify and apply the techniques of reading.

这里作者谈到：各人所做的是从当日的报纸中根据自己的选择和顺序拼成一份他自己的报纸。另外，在下一句中又提到：获得所需的信息，不能白花时间但又不要漏掉所需的信息。因此，可以得出的结论是：阅读报纸的人通常都是有选择地阅读报纸。

11. What is the author's attitude towards the environmental effects of pesticides?

- A) Pessimistic. B) Indifferent.
C) Defensive. D) Concerned.

本题选自 1995 年 6 月四级考试阅读理解部分第 37 题，这是一道推论题，考查考生的综合判断能力，根据文章中提供的信息判断作者的态度，正确答案是 D，判断的根据可以从文章的第一段去找。

Where do pesticides (杀虫剂) fit into the picture of environmental disease? We have seen that they now pollute soil, water, and food, that they have the power to make our streams fishless and our gardens and woodlands silent and birdless. Man, however much he may like to pretend the contrary, is part of nature. *Can he escape a pollution that is now so thoroughly distributed throughout our world?*

作者在这一段里首先描述了杀虫剂对环境的破坏，并指出人类是自然的一部分，并由此引发感慨：(自然环境受到破坏，)人类可能会不受影响吗？由此我们可以得出作者对杀虫剂对自然环境的影响表示关切，即 concerned。

回答作者态度类问题应从篇章的体裁入手，一般来说，在说明文中作者的态度是客观的或中立的；而在议论文中，作者的观点才是各种各样的。用于表示态度常用的形容词或名词有：positive (adj. 积极的)；negative (adj. 消极的)；neutral (adj. 中立的)；approval (n. 赞成)；disapproval (n. 反对)；indifferent (adj. 漠不关心的)；sarcastic (adj. 讽刺的)；critical (adj. 批评的)；optimistic (adj. 乐观的)；pessimistic (adj. 悲观的)；subjective (adj. 主观的)；objective (adj. 客观的)等。

12. What is the author's overall attitude toward fridges?

- A) Neutral B) Critical C) Objective D) Compromising

本题选自 1997 年 6 月四级考试阅读理解部分第 15 题，需要考生判断作者对冰箱所持的态度，正确答案是 B，判断的根据要从全文中来找：

The fridge is considered a necessity. It has been so since the 1960s when pack

aged food first appeared with the label: "store in the refrigerator".

In my fridgeless Fifties childhood, I was fed well and healthily. The milkman came daily, the grocer, the butcher (肉商), the baker, and the ice-cream man delivered two or three times a week. The Sunday meat would last until Wednesday and surplus (剩余的) bread and milk became all kinds of cakes. Nothing was wasted, and we were never troubled by rotten food. Thirty years on, food deliveries have ceased, fresh vegetables are almost unobtainable in the country.

The invention of the fridge contributed comparatively little to the art of food preservation. A vast way of well-tried techniques already existed—natural cooling, drying, smoking, salting, sugaring, bottling...

What refrigeration did promote was marketing—marketing hardware and electricity, marketing soft drinks, marketing dead bodies of animals around the globe in search of a good price.

Consequently, most of the world's fridges are to be found, not in the tropics where they might prove useful, but in the wealthy countries with mild temperatures where they are climatically almost unnecessary. Every winter, millions of fridges hum away continuously, and at vast expense, busily maintaining an artificially-cooled space inside an artificially-heated house—while outside, nature provides the desired temperature free of charge.

The fridge's effect upon the environment has been evident, while its contribution to human happiness has been insignificant. If you don't believe me, try it yourself, invest in a food cabinet and turn off your fridge next winter. You may miss the hamburgers (汉堡包), but at least you'll get rid of that terrible hum.

作者在第一段说：冰箱被认为是一种必需品。在第二段，作者谈到 50 年代自己小时候没有冰箱照样吃得很好，身体也很健康。他以自己的亲身体会来说明冰箱并不是必需品。作者在第三段中进一步证明冰箱的发明并未给食品保存的方法带来多大的改进，因为人们已经有了各种保存食品的方法。在第四段，作者谈了自己对冰箱作用的想法，即冰箱不过是促进了设备、电、软饮料等的销售，使人们可以把冷冻的肉在世界各地市场上卖个好价钱。在第五段，作者指出在需要冰箱的地方却没有冰箱，而不需要冰箱的地方冰箱却嗡嗡地响个不停。在最后一段作者谈到，冰箱对于环境的影响是显而易见的，而它对于人类幸福所做的贡献却是微不足道的。分析全篇，作者对于冰箱的态度一目了然。他对冰箱持批评的 (critical) 态度。

做推论题时，要求考生运用全面理解 (reading for thorough understanding) 的阅读技巧，深刻领会文章的潜在含义，从字里行间读出作者的言外之意。考生在做推论题时，一定要保持正确的逻辑思维过程，以文章提供的事实为基础，以一般常识和经验为辅。不能超出文章的范围按照自己的想象去做推论，只有这样，才能得出合乎理性的结果。

(三) 主旨大意题

确定文章的中心思想或段落的人意是阅读理解的一个非常重要的方面。一般情况下,每次四级考试阅读理解的 20 个问题中有大约 1 至 5 道题是主旨大意题。

作者在写一个段落时会用一个主题句来表明主旨大意,段落中的其它句子都是用来解释、说明主题句或为主题句提供论证的。主题句在段落中的位置是相对固定的,一般位于段落开始处作者往往以概述开始,然后给出概述论点的支撑句。这种写法多见于说明文或议论文中。在推理性或归纳性文章中,主题句则常常出现在段尾,这时作者往往先给出事实依据,经过层层深入的推理论证,得出最终结论。有时主题句也可能出现在段落的中间,这时作者常常先谈具体事例,然后归纳主题,随后再围绕主题展开讨论。

在叙述文中,有些段落常常没有主题句,这时需要考生根据段落中各个细节之间的逻辑关系,总结和推论出能准确表达全段中心思想的主题句。

整篇文章的中心思想往往由各段的主题句综合构成,但有时某一段的主题句也可能就是文章的主题句。与段落中的主题句常出现在段首或段尾一样,文章的主题句也多出现于文章的首尾部分。作者常常在文章开始时提出所要论述的主题,然后在各段中围绕这个主题以事实或细节展开论述,在最后一段对文章进行总结、归纳,以使文章首尾呼应。

从以上对主题句的叙述中,可以看出要找出文章或段落的主旨大意,应该仔细阅读文章的首尾段落或一个段落的首尾句,确定了主题句也就找到了主旨大意。

常用于对文章或段落主旨大意提问的问题包括

What is the main topic/idea of the passage/paragraph?

What does the passage/paragraph mainly talk about?

The author's purpose in writing this passage is to

间或还会通过让考生为文章选个最好的标题来检查考生是否真正读懂了一篇文章并把握了文章的主旨大意。常用的问题有:

Which of the following may be the best title for the passage?

The best title for this passage would be

13. The author's purpose in writing the second paragraph is to show that children

- A) usually obey without asking questions
- B) are passive in the process of learning to speak
- C) are born cooperative
- D) learn to speak by listening

本题选自 1997 年 1 月四级考试阅读理解部分第 63 题,是主旨大意题,正确答案是 D。问题是问作者写第二段的目的是什么,也就是问第二段的主旨大意。原文的第二段如下:

Language learning begins with listening. Individual children vary greatly in the amount of listening they do before they start speaking, and late starters are often long listeners. Most children will “obey” spoken instructions some time before they can speak, though the word obey is hardly accurate as a description of the eager and delighted cooperation usually shown by the child. Before they can speak, many children will also ask questions by gesture and by making questioning noises.

本段的第一句话“语言学习始于听别人说话”是本段的主题句。后面的句子谈到，每个孩子在他们开始说话前听别人说话有多有少，说话晚的孩子听别人说话的时间往往很长。作者还用了两句话说明不曾开口说话的孩子由于听懂了别人的指示而乐于做出配合的动作或通过手势和 啾啾呀呀的声音来提问。这些句子从不同的侧面证明主题句的观点。因此，选项 D“儿童通过听别人说话学习语言”是作者写这个段落的目的。

14. The main idea of the passage is that

- A) teachers should do as little as possible in helping students learn to read
- B) teachers should encourage students to read as widely as possible
- C) reading ability is something acquired rather than taught
- D) reading is more complicated than generally believed

本题选自 1999 年 1 月四级考试阅读理解部分第 40 题，是主旨大意题，正确答案是 C。本题问的是全篇文章的主旨大意，因此需要仔细阅读全文才能确定。原文如下：

So long as teachers fail to distinguish between teaching and learning, they will continue to undertake to do for children that which only children can do for themselves. Teaching children to read is not passing reading on to them. It is certainly not endless hours spent in activities about reading. Douglas insists that “reading cannot be taught directly and schools should stop trying to do the impossible.”

Teaching and learning are two entirely different processes. They differ in kind and function. The function of teaching is to create the conditions and the climate that will make it possible for children to devise the most efficient system for teaching themselves to read. Teaching is also a public activity; It can be seen and observed.

Learning to read involves all that each individual does to make sense of the world of printed language. Almost all of it is private, for learning is an occupation of the mind, and that process is not open to public scrutiny.

If teacher and learner roles are not interchangeable, what then can be done through teaching that will aid the child in the quest (探索) for knowledge? Smith has one principal rule for all teaching instructions. “Make learning to read easy, which means making reading a meaningful, enjoyable and frequent experience for children.”

When the roles of teacher and learner are seen for what they are, and when both

teacher and learner fulfil them appropriately, then much of the pressure and feeling of failure for both is eliminated. Learning to read is made easier when teachers create an environment where children are given the opportunity to solve the problem of learning to read by reading.

本文第一段指出“只要教师搞不清楚教和学的关系,他们就会继续致力于做那些只有儿童自己才能做的事。”第二句进步解释了第一句的意思,即教儿童阅读不是教他们读书。教阅读不是把无数的时间花在阅读的活动上在第一段末尾,作者引用 Douglas 的话“阅读不是教会的,学校应该停止做这种不可能做到的事。”文章的第二段、第三段和第四段分别谈到教和学是两个完全不同的过程,教的过程是要创造使儿童能自己设计一种自己学会阅读的环境,而学会阅读则是说每个人尽自己的一切力量去理解所读的材料,用 Smith 的话说,教阅读的根本原则就是“使阅读变得简单,也就是说使阅读成为儿童的一种有意义的、令人愉快的和经常性的经历。”文章最后一段点出了本文的主题,即教师应创造一种环境,儿童在这种环境中有机会通过阅读来解决学习阅读过程中的问题,这样才能使学习阅读变得更加简单这个主题与选项 C“阅读能力是习得的而不是教会的”一致。

5. The best title for this passage would be _____
- A) The Atmosphere and Our Environment
 - B) Research on Radiation
 - C) Effects of Space Radiation
 - D) Importance of Protection Against Radiation

本题选自 1996 年 1 月四级考试阅读理解部分第 55 题。从问题的表面看,是要求考生给读过的文章配上一个合适的标题,实际上考核学生读完文章后能否把握文章的主旨,因此也是主旨大意题。正确答案是 C。只有在认真读过全文之后才能找出正确答案。原文如下:

Space is a dangerous place, not only because of meteors (流星) but also because of rays from the sun and other stars. The atmosphere again acts as our protective blanket on earth. Light gets through, and this is essential for plants to make the food which we eat. Heat, too, makes our environment endurable. Various kinds of rays come through the air from outer space, but enormous quantities of radiation from the sun are screened off. As soon as men leave the atmosphere, they are exposed to this radiation, but their spacesuits or the walls of their spacecraft, if they are inside, do prevent a lot of radiation damage.

Radiation is the greatest known danger to explorers in space. The unit of radiation is called “rem”. Scientists have reason to think that a man can put up with far more radiation than 0.1 rem without being damaged; the figure of 60 rems has been

agreed on. The trouble is that it is extremely difficult to be sure about radiation damage—a person may feel perfectly well, but the cells of his or her sex organs may be damaged, and this will not be discovered until the birth of deformed (畸形的) children or even grandchildren. Missions of the Apollo flights have had to cross belts of high radiation and, during the outward and return journeys, the Apollo crew accumulated a large amount of rems. So far, no dangerous amounts of radiation have been reported, but the Apollo missions have been quite short. We simply do not know yet how men are going to get on when they spend weeks and months outside the protection of the atmosphere, working in a space laboratory. Drugs might help to decrease the damage done by radiation, but no really effective ones have been found so far.

这篇文章虽然谈及“大气层”、“环境”、“辐射”、“辐射防护”等,但都不是文章谈论的主旨。从整篇文章看,作者的叙述顺序是:太空由于有各种辐射所以是危险的地方(第一段)——人离开防护就会受到辐射伤害(第一段)——辐射所造成的伤害短期内难以察觉(第二段)——人们也不知道长期在没有大气层保护的太空实验室工人会怎么样(第二段)——虽然药物可能会减轻辐射造成的伤害但目前尚无真正有效的药物(第二段)。从这样的叙述顺序和叙述内容,我们可以看出作者主要是在谈论太空辐射造成的影响和后果,因此选项 C “太空辐射的影响”是这篇文章最好的标题。

有时,主旨大意也可以以是非判断题的形式考查,即在四个选项中给出一个正确的主旨大意和三个干扰项,由考生在读懂全文的基础上做出判断。

16. According to the passage, which of the following statements is TRUE?
- A) New fashions in clothing are created for the commercial exploitation of women.
 - B) The constant changes in women's clothing reflect their strength of character.
 - C) The fashion industry makes an important contribution to society.
 - D) Fashion designs should not be encouraged since they are only welcomed by women.

本题选自 1993 年 6 月大学英语四级考试阅读理解部分第 39 题,正确答案是 A。要正确做出判断首先必须看懂原文,原文如下:

If women are mercilessly exploited year after year, they have only themselves to blame. Because they tremble at the thought of being seen in public in clothes that are out of fashion, **they are always taken advantage of by the designers and the big stores.** Clothes which have been worn only a few times have to put aside because of the change of fashion. When you come to think of it, only a woman is capable of standing

in front of a wardrobe(衣柜)packed full of clothes and announcing sadly that she has nothing to wear.

Changing fashions are nothing more than the intentional creation of waste. Many women spend vast sums of money each year to replace clothes that have hardly been worn. Women who cannot afford to throw away clothing in this way, waste hours of their time altering the dresses they have. Skirts are lengthened or shortened; neck lines are lowered or raised, and so on.

No one can claim that the fashion industry contributes anything really important to society. Fashion designers are rarely concerned with vital things like warmth, comfort and durability (耐用). They are only interested in outward appearance and they take advantage of the fact that women will put up with any amount of discomfort, as long as they look right. There can hardly be a man who hasn't at some time in his life smiled at the sight of a woman shaking in a thin dress on a winter day, or delicately picking her way through deep snow in high-heeled shoes.

When comparing men and women in the matter of fashion, the conclusions to be drawn are obvious. Do the constantly changing fashions of women's clothes, on wonders, reflect basic qualities of inconstancy and instability? Men are too clever to let themselves be cheated by fashion designers. Do their unchanging styles of dress reflect basic qualities of stability and reliability? That is for you to decide.

作者在文章的一开头就指出：“如果妇女年复年地受到无情的剥削的话，那只能怨她们自己。”这是为什么呢？文章接着谈到：女士们一想到自己在众目睽睽之下穿着一身过了时的服装就不寒而栗，因此她们总是被服装设计师和大商店占去便宜。这里的意思与选项 A 的意思相符，即新潮的时装是对妇女的商业剥削行为，这也是第一段的主旨，因此是正确答案。选项 B：妇女服装的不断变化反映了妇女性格的坚强，与文章最后一段的意思相反；选项 C：时装工业对社会做出了巨大贡献，与文章第三段意思相反；选项 D：时装设计只是受到妇女的欢迎，因而不应受到鼓励，这个意思在文章中并未谈到，因此后三个选项都不是 TRUE。

(四) 词汇短语题

词汇短语题也是大学英语四级考试阅读理解部分常用的题型，几乎每次考试中都出现，但所占的比例较小，一般大约有两到三题这类问题主要包括两类：语义类题和指代类题。

语义类题要求考生对文章中出现的单词或短语进行一定的分析，推测出其在文章中的意思，以便从四个选项中选出与其意义最相近的同义词、近义词或词组，或是选出能对其进行正确解释的选项。

一般情况下，我们在阅读中碰到不熟悉的词或短语可以用不同的方法得到它们的意思：查词典、根据上下文猜测、根据构词法猜测等。但是，在考试中般是不允许查词典的，因此可用的方法只有根据上下文猜测和根据构词法猜测了。四级考试阅读理解部

分的词汇短语题主要是考查学生是否能根据上下文推测词义，下面将重点介绍这方面的技巧。

首先我们应该确信，在很多情况下根据上下文我们有可能推测出一个我们不熟悉的词的词义。此外，就一般性阅读（如读报、读杂志或小说）而言，这样推测出来的词义可以满足阅读的要求。例如：

Unlike her gregarious sister, Jane is a shy, unsociable person who does not like to go to parties or to make new friend.

虽然我们不认识 gregarious 这个词，但是在读完整个句子后，我们根据 unlike 的词义已经可以大致猜出它的词义了。 gregarious 的词义是 not shy 或 sociable。如果一个人 gregarious，他或她应该是喜欢参加聚会和交朋友。这是一个比较简单的例子，再看下面的举例：

After a day of hunting, Harold was ravenous. Yesterday, for example, he ate two bowls of soup, salad, a large chicken, and a piece of chocolate cake before he was finally satisfied.

对于绝大多数考生来说，ravenous 是一个生词。但是，当它出现在上面这个语篇中时，我们就有可能根据上下文来推测它的词义。第一句说“在打了一天猎以后，哈罗德 ravenous 了。”根据英语语法我们知道这是一个形容词，描写哈罗德的状态到底是什么状态，累了？困了？受伤了？饿了？不高兴了？激动了？读了第二句话，我们就可以推测出 ravenous 的意思是 hungry，因为第二句说“他喝了两碗汤、吃了沙拉、还吃了只很大的鸡和一块巧克力蛋糕才算吃饱了。”如果 ravenous 的意思是累了或困了，那么按照逻辑后面的句子应该说他睡了多长时间多长时间，而不是吃了多少东西。虽然这样推测出的意思并不是十分准确（ravenous 的确切意义是 extremely hungry），但是已经可以满足句子理解的需要了。

再来看另一个例子：

When he learned that the club was planning to admit women, the colonel began to inveigh against all forms of liberalism; his shouting attack began with universal voting and ended with a protest against divorce.

这句话中的动词短语 inveigh against 同样也不太常用但是从分隔句子前后两部分的分号和后半部分的内容我们可以猜出它的意思。在英语中，分号的作用之一是表明其后面的句子是对前面部分的解释。后半部分的意思很好理解：他（即少校）从痛斥普选开始，以抗议离婚结束。“普选”和“离婚”是自由主义（liberalism）的不同形式，因此，inveigh against 的意思应该接近“痛斥”、“抗议”。

大学英语四级考试阅读理解部分的语义类题一般都能根据上下文找到解释。因此

只要考生在平时养成遇到生词时先猜词义后查词典的习惯，并在考试时认真仔细阅读所考生词或短语的上下文，就能答好这类问题。

语义类题的另外一种考查重点是将一个多义词或多义短语的四个意义在选项中列出，让考生根据上下文确定哪个意义最合适。

指代类题通常要求考生对文章中出现的某个代词所指代的究竟是选项中哪个词做出判断。做题时应首先找出该代词出现的原句，了解该句的确切意思，同时也要阅读该句之前的句子，因为指代词所指代的往往是离它最近并在性、数、格上相一致的词。指代类题常见的提问方式有：

The word “they” in line ... refers to which of the following?

In line... , the word “one” could best be replaced by which of the following words?

以下是历次四级考试阅读理解部分中部分词汇短语题的实例和解释：

16. The word *burnout* (Line 4, Para. 5) here refers to the state of

- A) being seriously burnt in the skin
- B) being unable to burn for lack of fuel
- C) being badly damaged by fire
- D) being unable to function because of excessive use

本题选自 1996 年 1 月大学英语四级考试阅读理解部分第 59 题，正确答案是 D。这个短语出现在文章的最后一段，原文如下：

While both groups did better than chance would predict, nearly half the participants in each group made the wrong choice two or more times. Two people got all four samples wrong. Overall, half the participants did about as well on the last round of tasting as on the first, so fatigue, or taste burnout, was not a factor. Our preference test results suggest that only a few Pepsi participants and Coke fans may really be able to tell their favorite brand by taste and price.

burnout 前面有 or 一词，or 在这里的意思不是“或”、“或是”，而是“也就是说”、“换句话说”的意思，其作用是引出同位语以便对前面的词语做进一步的解释或说明。在本句中，or 引出 burnout，进一步说明 fatigue 一词。因此，只要考生明白 fatigue 一词的意思，即可猜出 burnout 在本句中的意思应该是“味觉疲劳”。与选项 A、B 和 C 中的“燃烧”或“火”的概念无关。

17. The phrase *live up to* (Line 2, Para. 1) in the context means

- A) meet the standard of
- B) realize the purpose of