

第一章 大学英语六级阅读考试简介

第一节 大学英语六级阅读考试基本要求

我国教育部颁布的《大学英语教学大纲》(以下简称《大纲》)指出:大学英语教学的目的是培养学生具有较强的阅读能力,一定的听的能力,以及初步的写和说的能力,使学生能以英语为工具,获取专业所需要的信息,并为进一步提高英语水平打下较好的基础。可见,阅读是我国大学英语课程的重要培养目标。在大学英语考试试卷构成中,各部分得分经过加权处理,阅读部分的得分比例最大,这也是为了体现阅读能力是大学英语课程的主要培养目标这一思想。

所谓较强的阅读能力,包括阅读速度和阅读理解两个方面。在阅读速度方面,《大纲》规定六级要求每分钟阅读 70 个英语单词。这样的阅读速度意味着每小时能读 10~12 页原版书,具有相当的实用价值。大学英语六级考试试卷构成中阅读部分占 35 分钟。根据上述阅读速度的要求,六级的阅读材料篇幅约为 1 400 词。如果学生不具备这样的阅读速度,来不及在规定的时间内读完全部材料,就会影响阅读部分的得分。

大学英语考试中的阅读理解部分主要测试下述能力:

1. 掌握所读材料的主旨和大意;
2. 了解说明主旨和大意的事实和细节;
3. 既理解字面意思,也能根据所读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。

上述能力在平时学习和模拟训练过程中，可具体为以下几个方面的要求。

一、熟练掌握词汇、语法

1. 词汇是语言的建筑材料。提高阅读能力必须扩大词汇量。

《大学英语教学大纲》规定六级要求掌握 5 300 个单词，此外还有一定数量的短语。

2. 语法是语言中的结构关系，用一定的规则把词组织到句子中，表示一定的思想。熟练掌握语法也是阅读理解的基础。如动词时态的用法、虚拟、语气的确切意义、非谓语动词的用法、动词的接续关系、省略和倒装、复杂的复合句等。

二、正确理解事实和细节

对阅读理解来说，理解字面含义是最起码的要求，也就是说起码应该理解文字明确表达的意思。当然，这里也需要运用综合和判断的能力。因此，阅读时要仔细，答题时尤其不能凭常识想当然地猜测。

三、理解隐含的意义和深层的含义

阅读时不但要理解字面意思，还要能根据所读材料进行一定的判断和推论，进而理解文章隐含的意义和深层的含义。

四、语篇水平上的阅读理解

阅读时不能只停留在句子水平上，孤立的句子好像是理解了，但整篇文章讲的是什么则不甚了解。因此，在高级阅读技能的训练过程中，必须把句子水平的阅读理解提高到语篇水平的阅读理解，这样才能避免在阅读中见树不见林，才能真正理解文章的意思。

语篇水平上的阅读理解包括：

1. 在宏观上理解上下文的逻辑关系；
2. 跟上作者思路的展开，掌握文章的主题思想；
3. 通过概括得出结论；
4. 了解作者的观点和态度；
5. 根据上下文推测词义；

6.具备预期能力(触发读者原有的知识来加深阅读理解的能力)

综上所述,阅读理解的要求是综合、全面的。阅读训练也是一种比较复杂的多种技能的综合训练,不仅要求提高语言能力,还要注重不同层次上阅读技能的训练。因此,阅读训练时明确目标,有的放矢才能事半功倍收到较好的效果。

第二节 大学英语六级阅读考试题型简介

根据《大纲》对大学英语六级阅读测试能力的要求,六级考试阅读题型大致可归纳为四种形式,即主旨题、语义题、细节题和推断题。下面就这四种题型的提问形式和答题技巧,逐一介绍。

一、主旨题

主旨题旨在测试考生正确理解文章的主题、总结归纳文章大意的能力,这类题目一般排在前面或后面,考生需将文章通读两到三遍后才能作出判断。主旨题提问形式如下:

1. What's main idea of this passage?
2. The central thought of the passage is _____.
3. Which of the following sentences best expresses the main idea?
4. The topic sentence of this passage is _____.
5. What's the author's main point?
6. The title of the passage would be _____.
7. Which of the following can best sum up the passage?
8. The main purpose of this passage is _____.
9. What topic is discussed (described, treated, illustrated ...) in this passage?
10. The primary objective (or subject) of the passage is

做主旨题的技巧归纳如下:

1. 阅读文章前先浏览所有题目，根据主旨题惯用结构和句型找出主旨题的答案。

2. 依次完成细节、语义、推论等其他题目，并通过答题过程熟悉文章内容，进而把握各种信息的分布和文章的组成方式。

3. 快速通读全篇文章，此时阅读重点为全面透彻地理解全文以及作者所阐述的问题，根据选择项提供的信息，确立文章的中心思想，确定答案。

二、语义题

语义题主要测试考生利用语法知识猜词技巧，根据上下文推测词义以及通过语义联系判断词义的能力。语义题提问形式如下：

1. "... " means that _____.
2. "... " refers to _____.
3. The word/phrase "... " is closest to _____ in meaning.
4. The word/phrase "... " could be replaced by _____.
5. By "... " the author means _____.

做语义题可借助以下四个方面：

1. 利用上下文中提到的相关词，如近义词、反义词等去推测答案。

2. 利用构词法知识，如前缀、后缀、词根等来判断词义。一般来说 前缀改变词义 后缀改变词性。

3. 利用语法知识及标点符号来理解各成分的内在联系。

4. 利用对已知信息的正确理解来排除所考词不可能有的词义。

三、细节题

细节题是测试考生准确理解文章具体细节的有效手段。这种题型要求考生在读懂文章的同时，综合运用自己的语言技能、知识积累和判断能力，对所提供的选择项目进行筛选，排除模棱两可的信息。细节题提问形式如下：

1. Which of the following is not the evidence of ... _____?
2. All of the following statements are true except _____.

3. Which of the following statements is false (not correct, not true) according to the passage?

4. The author mentions all of the items listed below except _____.

5. Which of the following statements is true?

6. All of the following statements are not true except _____.

做细节题要注意以下问题：

1. 正确理解细节题的题意，即考点是什么。

2. 按照考题的提示，迅速找到考题所涉及的内容在文章中的位置。

3. 从文章的具体信息，如举例、对比、因果、转折、递进、时间、地点或数据等方面判断和缩小寻找范围，以便节省时间。

四、判断题

判断题要求考生对文中信息进行思考和分析。从文中找出相关事实、数据、论点、例子等，正确推断出文中所隐含的作者观点、态度以及事物的发展趋势。判断题提问形式如下：

1. The author's attitude toward ... is _____.

2. Implied but not stated is _____.

3. This passage comes to the conclusion that _____.

4. The author implies that _____.

5. One could conclude from the passage that _____.

6. We can infer from this passage (fact, example, evidence, paragraph) that _____.

7. With which of the following statements would the author be most likely to agree?

8. Upon reading this passage, one might draw a conclusion that _____.

9. The author seems to be in favor of _____.

10. An inference from this passage is _____.

做推断题时，考生应运用自己在句法、逻辑推理、文化背景等方面的知识，仔细合理地推断，得出结论。一般来说，推断题包含的信息可分为四类：①对文中信息的重复（restatement）；将文中信息进行推理得出结论（inferences or conclusions）；③与文中信息相反（false information）；与文中信息无关（irrelevant）考生如能正确判断信息类型的话，做推断题应该是胜券在握。

第三节 英语六级阅读考试样题分析

在前两节，我们介绍了英语六级阅读考试的要求及基本题型，本节我们以近年全国大学英语六级考试试卷中的阅读部分为例，分析一下前面介绍过的题型。

Passage One

Questions 21 to 25 are based on the following passage:

In the 1920s demand for American farm products fell, as European countries began to recover from World War I and instituted austerity (紧缩) programs to reduce their imports. The result was a sharp drop in farm prices. This period was more disastrous for farmers than earlier times had been, because farmers were no longer self-sufficient. They were paying for machinery, seed, and fertilizer, and they were also buying consumer goods. The prices of the items farmers bought remained constant, while prices they received for their products fell. These developments were made worse by the Great Depression, which began in 1929 and extended throughout the 1930s.

In 1929, under President Herbert Hoover, the Federal Farm Board was organized. It established the principle of direct

interference with supply and demand, and it represented the first national commitment to provide greater economic stability for farmers.

President Hoover's successor attached even more importance to this problem. One of the first measures proposed by President Franklin D. Roosevelt when he took office in 1933 was the Agricultural Adjustment Act, which was subsequently passed by Congress. This law gave the Secretary of Agriculture the power to reduce production through voluntary agreements with farmers who were paid to take their land out of use. A deliberate scarcity of farm products was planned in an effort to raise prices. This law was declared unconstitutional by the Supreme Court on the grounds that general taxes were being collected to pay one special group of people. However, new laws were passed immediately that achieved the same result of resting soil and providing flood-control measures, but which were based on the principle of soil conservation. The Roosevelt Administration believed that rebuilding the nation's soil was in the national interest and was not simply a plan to help farmers at the expense of other citizens. Later the government guaranteed loans to farmers so that they could buy farm machinery, hybrid (杂交) grain, and fertilizers.

21. What brought about the decline in the demand for American farm products?
 - A. The impact of the Great Depression.
 - B. The shrinking of overseas markets.
 - C. The destruction caused by the First World War.
 - D. The increased exports of European countries.
22. The chief concern of the American government in the area of agriculture in the 1920s was _____.

- A. to increase farm production
 - B. to establish agricultural laws
 - C. to prevent farmers from going bankrupt
 - D. to promote the mechanization of agriculture
23. The Agricultural Adjustment Act encouraged American farmers to _____.
- A. reduce their scale of production
 - B. make full use of their land
 - C. adjust the prices of their farm products
 - D. be self-sufficient in agricultural production
24. The Supreme Court rejected the Agricultural Adjustment Act because it believed that the Act _____.
- A. might cause greater scarcity of farm products
 - B. didn't give the Secretary of Agriculture enough power
 - C. would benefit neither the government nor the farmers
 - D. benefited one group of citizens at the expense of others
25. It was claimed that the new laws passed during the Roosevelt Administration were aimed at _____.
- A. reducing the cost of farming
 - B. conserving soil in the long-term interest of the nation
 - C. lowering the burden of farmers
 - D. helping farmers without shifting the burden onto other taxpayers

【答案】

21. B 22. C 23. A 24. D 25. B

【分析】

这是一篇叙述性文章，介绍了美国政府为保护农业所采取的一

些政策、措施。这篇文章考的五道题全部是事实判断题。主要考查学生对文章内容有关细节是否读懂、掌握。其中 21 题涉及第一段内容，其余四题则涉及第二段及第三段的有关内容。

Passage Two

Questions 26 to 30 are based on the following passage :

In the 1950s, the pioneers of artificial intelligence (AI) predicted that, by the end of this century, computers would be conversing with us at work and robots would be performing our housework. But as useful as computers are, they're nowhere close to achieving anything remotely resembling these early aspirations for humanlike behavior. Never mind something as complex as conversation; the most powerful computers struggle to reliably recognize the shape of an object, the most elementary of tasks for a ten-month-old kid.

A growing group of AI researchers think they know where the field went wrong. The problem, the scientists say, is that AI has been trying to separate the highest, most abstract levels of thought, like language and mathematics, and to duplicate them with logical, step-by-step programs. A new movement in AI, on the other hand, takes a closer look at the more roundabout way in which nature came up with intelligence. Many of these researchers study evolution and natural adaptation instead of formal logic and conventional computer programs. Rather than digital computers and transistors, some want to work with brain cells and proteins. The results of these early efforts are as promising as they are peculiar, and the new nature-based AI movement is slowly but surely moving to the forefront of the field.

Imitating the brain's neural (神经的) network is a huge step

in the right direction, says computer scientist and biophysicist Michael Conrad, but it still misses an important aspect of natural intelligence. "People tend to treat the brain as if it were made up of color-coded transistors," he explains. "But it's not simply a clever network of switches. There are lots of important things going on inside the brain cells themselves." Specifically, Conrad believes that many of the brain's capabilities stem from the pattern-recognition proficiency of the individual molecules that make up each brain cell. The best way to build an artificially intelligent device, he claims, would be to build it around the same sort of molecular skills.

Right now, the notion that conventional computers and software are fundamentally incapable of matching the processes that take place in the brain remains controversial. But if it proves true, then the efforts of Conrad and his fellow AI rebels could come out to be the only game in town.

26. The author says that the powerful computers of today

- _____.
- A. are capable of reliably recognizing the shape of an object
 - B. are close to exhibiting humanlike behavior
 - C. are not very different in their performance from those of the 1950's
 - D. still cannot communicate with people in a human language

27. The new trend in artificial intelligence research stems from

- _____.
- A. the shift of the focus of study onto the recognition of the shapes of objects
 - B. the belief that human intelligence cannot be duplicated with logical, step-by-step programs

- C. the aspirations of scientists to duplicate the intelligence of a ten-month-old child
 - D. the efforts made by scientists in the study of the similarities between transistors and brain cells
28. Conrad and his group of AI researchers have been making enormous efforts to _____.
- A. find a roundabout way to design powerful computers
 - B. build a computer using a clever network of switches
 - C. find out how intelligence developed in nature
 - D. separate the highest and most abstract levels of thought
29. What's the author's opinion about the new AI movement?
- A. It has created a sensation among artificial intelligence researchers but will soon die out.
 - B. It's a breakthrough in duplicating human thought processes.
 - C. It's more like a peculiar game rather than a real scientific effort.
 - D. It may prove to be in the right direction though nobody is sure of its future prospects.
30. Which of the following is closest in meaning to the phrase "the only game in town" (Line 3, Para. 4)?
- A. The only approach to building an artificially intelligent computer.
 - B. The only way for them to win a prize in artificial intelligence research.
 - C. The only area worth studying in computer science.
 - D. The only game they would like to play in town.

【答案】

26. D 27. B 28. C 29. D 30. A

【分析】

这是一篇科普性质的叙述性文章，介绍了人工智能的最新趋势及其根源。26 题为事实辨认题。27、28、29 题均为推断题。其中 27 题考核文章第二段的主旨大意。29 题考核考生是否准确理解作者的态度。30 题考核推测词义，即文中“the only game in town”这个短语的正确意思。虽然没有生词，但要正确理解，还是要依靠上下文。

Passage Three

Questions 31 to 35 are based on the following passage:

Cars account for half the oil consumed in the U. S., about half the urban pollution and one fourth the greenhouse (温室) gases. They take a similar toll of (损耗) resources in other industrial nations and in the cities of the developing world. As vehicle use continues to increase in the coming decade, the U. S. and other countries will have to deal with these issues or else face unacceptable economic, health-related and political costs. It is unlikely that oil prices will remain at their current low level or that other nations will accept a large and growing U. S. contribution to global climatic change.

Policymakers and industry have four options: reduce vehicle use, increase the efficiency and reduce the emissions of conventional gasoline-powered vehicles, switch to less harmful fuels, or find less polluting driving systems. The last of these — in particular the introduction of vehicles powered by electricity — is ultimately the

only sustainable option. The other alternatives are attractive in theory but in practice are either impractical or offer only marginal improvements. For example, reduced vehicle use could solve traffic problems and a host of social and environmental problems, but evidence from around the world suggests that it is very difficult to make people give up their cars to any significant extent. In the U. S. , mass-transit rider ship and carpooling (合伙用) have declined since World War II. Even in western Europe, with fuel prices averaging more than \$ 1 a liter (about \$ 4 a gallon) and with easily accessible mass transit and dense populations, cars still account for 80 per cent of all passenger travel.

Improved energy efficiency is also appealing, but automotive fuel economy has barely made any progress in 10 years. Alternative fuels such as natural gas, burned in internal-combustion engines, could be introduced at relatively low cost, but they would lead to only marginal reductions in pollution and greenhouse emissions (especially because oil companies are already spending billions of dollars every year to develop less polluting types of gasoline).

31. From the passage we know that the increased use of cars will _____.

- A. consume half of the oil produced in the world
- B. have serious consequences for the well-being of all nations
- C. widen the gap between the developed and developing countries
- D. impose an intolerable economic burden on residents of large cities

32. The U. S. has to deal with the problems arising from vehicle use because _____.

- A. most Americans are reluctant to switch to public

transportation systems

- B. the present level of oil prices is considered unacceptable
 - C. other countries will protest its increasing greenhouse emissions
 - D. it should take a lead in conserving natural resources
33. Which of the following is the best solution to the problems mentioned in the passage?
- A. The designing of highly efficient car engines.
 - B. A reduction of vehicle use in cities.
 - C. The development of electric cars.
 - D. The use of less polluting fuels.
34. Which of the following is practical but only makes a marginal contribution to solving the problem of greenhouse emissions?
- A. The use of fuels other than gasoline.
 - B. Improved energy efficiency.
 - C. The introduction of less polluting driving systems.
 - D. Reducing car use by carpooling.
35. Which of the following statements is TRUE according to the passage?
- A. The decline of public transportation accounts for increased car use in western Europe.
 - B. Cars are popular in western Europe even though fuel prices are fairly high.
 - C. The reduction of vehicle use is the only sustainable option in densely populated western Europe.
 - D. Western European oil companies cannot sustain the cost of developing new-type fuels.

【答案】

31. B 32. C 33. C 34. A 35. B

【分析】

这是一篇议论文，谈论汽车污染环境问题及其治理对策。 31. 32. 34 题均为事实辨认题。33 题为细节辨认题，要求考生在读懂第二段的基础上，根据上下文的逻辑关系进行正确的判断。 35 题为判断题，要根据文中信息选出正确选项。

Passage Four

Questions 36 to 40 are based on the following passage :

Reebok executives do not like to hear their stylish athletic shoes called “footwear for yuppies (雅皮士，少壮高薪职业人士).” They contend that Reebok shoes appeal to diverse market segments, especially now that the company offers basketball and children’s shoes for the under-18 set and walking shoes for older customers not interested in aerobics (健身操) or running. The executives also point out that through recent acquisitions they have added hiking boots, dress and casual shoes, and high-performance athletic footwear to their product lines, all of which should attract new and varied groups of customers.

Still, despite its emphasis on new markets, Reebok plans few changes in the upmarket (高档消费人群的) retailing network that helped push sales to \$ 1 billion annually, ahead of all other sports shoe marketers. Reebok shoes, which are priced from \$ 27 to \$ 85, will continue to be sold only in better specialty, sporting goods, and department stores, in accordance with the company’s view that consumers judge the quality of the brand by the quality of

its distribution.

In the past few years, the Massachusetts-based company has imposed limits on the number of its distributors (and the number of shoes supplied to stores), partly out of necessity. At times the unexpected demand for Reeboks exceeded supply, and the company could barely keep up with orders from the dealers it already had. These fulfillment problems seem to be under control now, but the company is still selective about its distributors. At present, Reebok shoes are available in about five thousand retail stores in the United States.

Reebok has already anticipated that walking shoes will be the next fitness-related craze, replacing aerobics shoes the same way its brightly colored, soft leather exercise footwear replaced conventional running shoes. Through product diversification and careful market research, Reebok hopes to avoid the distribution problems Nike came across several years ago, when Nike misjudged the strength of the aerobics shoe craze and was forced to unload huge inventories of running shoes through discount stores.

36. One reason why Reebok's managerial personnel don't like their shoes to be called "footwear for yuppies" is that

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- A. they believe that their shoes are popular with people of different age groups
 - B. new production lines have been added to produce inexpensive shoes
 - C. "yuppies" usually evokes a negative image
 - D. the term makes people think of prohibitive prices

37. Reebok's view that "consumers judge the quality of the brand by the quality of its distribution" (Line 5, Para. 2) implies

that _____.

- A. the quality of a brand is measured by the service quality of the store selling it
 - B. the quality of a product determines the quality of its distributors
 - C. the popularity of a brand is determined by the stores that sell it
 - D. consumers believe that first-rate products are only sold by high-quality stores
38. Reebok once had to limit the number of its distributors because _____
- A. its supply of products fell short of demand
 - B. too many distributors would cut into its profits
 - C. the reduction of distributors could increase its share of the market
 - D. it wanted to enhance consumer confidence in its products
39. Although the Reebok Company has solved the problem of fulfilling its orders, it _____.
- A. does not want to further expand its retailing network
 - B. still limits the number of shoes supplied to stores
 - C. is still particular about who sells its products
 - D. still carefully chooses the manufacturers of its products
40. What lesson has Reebok learned from Nike's distribution problems?
- A. A company should not sell its high quality shoes in discount stores.
 - B. A company should not limit its distribution network.
 - C. A company should do follow-up surveys of its products.
 - D. A company should correctly evaluate the impact of a new