

第一章 英语专业四级阅读考试简介

一、英语专业四级阅读理解简介

阅读理解是语言学习中最重要的技能之一，同时也是测试一个人语言能力的重要手段之一，所以，在许多综合语言考试中都设置了阅读理解(Reading Comprehension)测试，而且阅读理解部分的分值在整个考试中占相当大的比重。考生这部分的得分直接影响到整个考试的成败。因此，无论是什么形式的语言测试，对阅读理解部分大家都给予特别的重视。

英语专业四级的阅读理解分为两个小节：即阅读理解 (section A)和快速阅读 (section B)。根据国家教育部批准的《高等学校英语专业基础阶段英语教学大纲》中对基础阶段英语阅读教学内容和要求的规定，要求参加四级考试的考生在阅读理解方面能读懂英美国国家出版的中等难度的各种材料和文章(其中包括新闻、短文、电信、文教、科普、史地等文章)，其难度相当于 *Reader's Digest* 的报刊、杂志文章，掌握阅读材料的主旨和大意；了解说明主旨和大意的事实和细节；既能理解字面的意思，也能根据阅读材料进行一定的判断和推论；既理解个别句子的意义，也理解上下文的逻辑关系；掌握作者的观点和写作意图。而快速阅读 (Skimming and Scanning) 则要求考生能在 5 分钟内速读 900 词左右的中等难度的文章，掌握阅读材料的主旨和大意并理解事实和细节。

英语专业四级阅读理解题型为多项选择题。Section A 阅读理解 (Reading Comprehension) 共有 4~5 篇文章，每篇字数在 250

300 之间,总的阅读量为 1 500 词,而所给时间为 25 分钟。每篇短文后有若干道多项选择题,共 15 题。快速阅读 (Skimming and Scanning) 一般有 5~6 篇。共设置选择题为 10 题。英语专业四级的阅读理解所选题材广泛,包括社会、文化、教育、政治、经济、科普等方面的知识或常识,几乎包含所有考生日常生活、学习中可能涉及或关心的领域,尽量贴近考生的实际生活经历,所选体裁多样,包括记叙文、议论文、说明文、新闻文体等 文章的语言难度中等,基本控制在教学大纲所规定的要求之内,短文内容新,有意义,具有一定可读性。

二、阅读理解的应试技巧

1. 通读和细读结合

有些学生不管在平时还是在考试时,一拿到文章后,马上就开始仔细阅读文章中的每个句子。这样,往往一段读下来,还不知该文章的主题是什么,既浪费时间,理解效果也不好。较可取的方法是先通读全文,然后再细读每个句子,如果在考试中时间不允许,那么至少也应该读一段前几个句子,然后再逐句细读,其目的就是为了了解全文或某一段的大致内容,既有利于读者在上下文条件下选择合适的词义,分析词和词,句与句之间的关系,也有利于考生根据文章内容涉及的领域、人物、地理等背景情况,结合自己对文章所涉及的知识领域和背景知识的了解,更好地理解原文,提高阅读效率。

2. 带着问题预读原文

在仔细阅读短文之前,以下的步骤能帮助应试者更有效地组织思路,更好地理解原文 仔细阅读文章中斜体字、黑体字等内容,快速浏览图表、数字,了解主题内容和写作目的,阅读文章的第一段和以后各段的第一句和最后一句。因为短文的作者往往将他们要表达的中心大意放在段落的第一句或最后一句。另外,通读时还应带着疑问进行,这将有助于应试者在细读时正确回答问题。

(1) 我是否熟知作者所涉及的话题。

(2) 文章的写作风格、体裁是什么样的？

(3) 对这篇文章，我是否能以较快的阅读速度来达到较高的理解程度。

(4) 作者的意图是什么？

(5) 文章的语言难度如何？

(6) 作者通过这篇文章想告诉我们什么？

3. 正确处理理解与速度的关系

阅读的目的是要正确地理解原文，在正确掌握了原文意义的基础上，提高阅读速度才有意义，否则会影响考试成绩。因此，在考试时应合理安排时间，通读完全文或是读一下该短文的重点句，搞清楚是否是自己熟悉的题材或者话题，依此来决定自己是否能以较快的阅读速度来达到较高的理解程度。

4. 记住理解题目再读原文

记住选项的理解题目再细读原文，即就是我们常说的带着问题到文章中寻找答案。英语专业四级考试的阅读理解要求考生在 30 分钟内共读完 10~12 篇短文，并在理解这些短文的基础上解答 25 道理解题。所以，应试者必须提高解题速度。根据我们的经验，带着问题到原文中寻找答案，既省时，正确率又高。

三、阅读理解试题类型

1. 细节题(Specific Questions)

细节题是根据短文提供的信息和事实进行提问，选择的依据必须是短文本身提供的信息。

What does the passage say about .

What is the author's opinion of .

When did scientists discover that ...

When did Chicago's first railroad service begin?

Where did Jane spend most of her childhood?

Where in the passage does the author mention ...

Which of the following is most clearly an example of ...

Which of the following is NOT referred to by the author as ...

How far has research on echolocation progressed?

How many different types of birds are referred to in the passage?

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

According to the passage, how do students in class often react to ...

According to the passage, what is being damaged?

According to the passage, when does the koala look for food?

According to the passage, who has the greatest degree of control in ...

According to the passage, where were large deposits of iron ore uncovered?

According to the passage, why is Carol unhappy in ...

According to the passage, at what age does a child probably begin to ...

According to the passage, district courts are also known as ...

The Mandan tribes could best be classified as ...

The color of honey in its final stage depends on ...

The use of the word "ominous" shows that the author believes

...

The experiment described in the passage was most likely carried out by .

2. 主旨题(Topic Questions)

主旨题用来测试考生对整篇短文的理解能力，可以问短文的标题、主要内容、主题、作者的态度、目的、短文的基调等。

What does the passage mainly discuss?

What is the best title for the passage?

What is the main subject of the passage?

What is the main idea expressed in the passage?

Which of the following is the best title for the passage?

Which of the following is the most appropriate title for the passage?

With what topic is the passage primarily concerned?

With which of the following topics is the passage primarily concerned?

3. 推理题(Inference Questions)

推理题的答案往往在短文的字面上不会出现。因此，推理题有一定的难度。

What is probably the main reason that .

What does the passage imply about .

Which of the following can be inferred from the passage about ...

Which of the following can most probably be inferred from the passage?

Why does the author mention Colonel Clark's expedition?

Why was G. Washington's choice for the site of the capital not very surprising?

It can be inferred from the passage that ...

It can be assumed that the paragraph preceding the passage most probably discussed ...

The passage is probably taken from a book about ...

The passage suggests that the early shops for making tools were ...

The paragraph preceding this one most probably discussed ...

The paragraph following the passage most probably discusses ...

The author of this passage is most probably a ...

The author's attitude toward ... can best be described as somewhat ...

For whom is the author probably writing this passage?

For what purpose was the instrument originally designed?

4. 指代题(Reference Questions)

指代题用来测试考生在短文中理解词义和词组意义的能力。

In line 3, what does "it" refer to?

The word "spotted" (line 6) means ...

What does the author define in lines 1-2?

As used in line 14, the word "cousins" refers to ...

In the passage, the author refers to a young bird as all of the following EXCEPT a ...

To which of the following is the phrase “in its own right” in line 8 closest in meaning?

第二章 英语专业四级阅读练习

Unit 1

Passage 1

The importance and focus of the interview in the work of the print and broadcast journalist is reflected in several books that have been written on the topic. Most of these books, as well as several chapters, mainly in, but not limited to, journalism and broadcasting handbooks and reporting texts, stress the “how to” material is based on personal experiences and general impressions. As we know, in journalism as in other fields, much can be learned from the systematic study of professional practice. Such study brings together evidence from which broad generalized principles can be developed.

There is, as has been suggested, a growing body of research literature in journalism and broadcasting, but very little significant attention has been devoted to the study of the interview itself. On the other hand, many general texts as well as numerous research articles on interviewing in fields other than journalism have been written. Many of these books and articles present the theoretical and empirical (经验的) aspects of the interview as well as the training of the interviewers. Unhappily, this plentiful general literature on interviewing pays little attention to the journalistic interview.

The fact that the general literature on interviewing does not deal with the journalistic interview seems to be surprising for two reasons. First, it seems likely that most people in modern Western societies are more familiar, at least in a positive manner, with journalistic interviewing than with any other form of interviewing. Most of us are probably somewhat familiar with the clinical interview, such as that conducted by physicians and psychologists. In these situations the professional person or interviewer is interested in getting information necessary for the diagnosis (诊断) and treatment of the person seeking help. Another familiar situation is the job interview. However, very few of us have actually been interviewed personally by the mass media, particularly by television. And yet, we have a vivid acquaintance with the journalistic interview by virtue of our roles as readers, listeners, and viewers. Even so, true understanding of the journalistic interview, especially television interviews, requires thoughtful analysis and even study, as this book indicates.

1. The main idea of the first paragraph is that _____.
 - A. generalized principles for journalistic interviews are the chief concern for writers on journalism
 - B. importance should be attached to the systematic study of journalistic interviewing
 - C. concepts and contextual implications are of secondary importance to journalistic interviewing
 - D. personal experiences and general impressions should be excluded from journalistic interviews
2. Much research has been done on interviews in general _____.
 - A. so the training of journalistic interviewers has likewise been strengthened

- B. though the study of the interviewing techniques hasn't received much attention
- C. but journalistic interviewing as a specific field has unfortunately been neglected
- D. and there has also been a dramatic growth in the study of journalistic interviewing
3. Westerners are familiar with the journalistic interview, _____.
A. but most of them wish to stay away from it
B. and many of them hope to be interviewed some day
C. and many of them would like to acquire a true understanding of it
D. but most of them may not have been interviewed in person
4. Who is the interviewee in a clinical interview?
A. The patient.
B. The physician.
C. The journalist.
D. The psychologist.
5. The passage is most likely a part of _____.
A. a news article
B. a journalistic
C. a research report
D. a preface

Passage 2

Conventional wisdom about conflict seems pretty much cut and dried. Too little conflict breeds apathy (冷漠) and stagnation (呆滞). Too much conflict leads to divisiveness (分裂) and hostility. Moderate levels of conflict, however, can spark creativity and

motivate people in a healthy and competitive way.

Recent research by Professor Charles R. Schwenk, however, suggests that the optimal level of conflict may be more complex to determine than these simple generalizations. He studied perceptions of conflict among a sample of executives. Some of the executives worked for profit-seeking organizations and other for not-for-profit organizations.

Somewhat surprisingly, Schwenk found that opinions about conflict varied systematically as a function of the type of organization. Specifically, managers in not-for-profit organizations strongly believed that conflict was beneficial to their organizations and that it promoted higher quality decision-making than might be achieved in the absence of conflict.

Managers of for-profit organizations saw a different picture. They believed that conflict generally was damaging and usually led to proper quality decision making in their organizations. Schwenk interpreted these results in terms of the criteria for effective decision-making suggested by the executives. In the profit-seeking organizations, decision-making effectiveness was most often assessed in financial terms. The executives believed that consensus rather than conflict enhanced financial indicators.

In the not-for-profit organizations, decision-making effectiveness was defined from the perspective of satisfying constituents. Given the complexities and ambiguities associated with satisfying many diverse constituents executives perceived that conflict led to more considered and acceptable decisions.

6. In the eyes of the author, conventional opinion on conflict is

A. wrong

B. oversimplified

- C. misleading D. unclear
7. Professor Charles R. Schwenk's research shows _____.
A. the advantages and disadvantages of conflict
B. the real value of conflict
C. the difficulty in determining the optimal level of conflict
D. the complexity of defining the roles of conflict
8. We can learn from Schwenk's research that _____.
A. a person's view of conflict is influenced by the purpose of his organization
B. conflict is necessary for managers for-profit organizations
C. different people resolve conflicts in different ways
D. it is impossible for people to avoid conflict
9. The passage suggests that in for-profit organizations _____.
A. there is no end of conflict
B. expression of different opinions is encouraged
C. decisions must be justifiable
D. success lies in general agreement
10. People working in a not-for-profit organization _____.
A. seem to be difficult to satisfy
B. are free to express diverse opinions
C. are less effective in making decisions
D. find it easier to reach agreement

Passage 3

Discoveries in science and technology are thought by "untaught minds" to come in blinding flashes or as the result of dramatic accidents. Sir Alexander Fleming did not, as legend would have it, look at the mold on a piece of cheese and get the idea for penicillin there and then. He experimented with antibacterial sub-

stances for nine years before he made his discovery. Inventions and innovations almost always come out of laborious trial and error. Innovation is like soccer; even the best players miss the goal and have their shots blocked much more frequently than they score.

The point is that the players who score most are the ones who take the most shots at the goal — and so it goes with innovation in any field of activity. The prime difference between innovators and others is one of approach. Everybody gets ideas, but innovators work consciously on theirs, and they follow them through until they prove practicable or otherwise. What ordinary people see as fanciful abstractions, professional innovators see as solid possibilities.

“Creative thinking may mean simply the realization that there’s no particular virtue in doing things the way they have always been done.” Wrote Rudolph Flesch, a language authority. This accounts for our reaction to seemingly simple innovations like plastic garbage bags and suitcases on wheels that make life more convenient; “How come nobody thought of that before?”

The creative approach begins with the proposition that nothing is as it appears. Innovators will not accept that there is only one way to do anything. Faced with getting from A to B, the average person will automatically set out on best-know and apparently simplest route. The innovator will search for alternate courses, which may prove easier in the long run and are bound to be more interesting and challenging even if they lead to dead ends.

Highly creative individuals really do *march to a different drummer*.

11. What does the author probably mean by “untaught minds” in the first paragraph?

- A. A person ignorant of the hard work involved in experimentation.
 - B. A citizen of a society that restricts personal creation.
 - C. A person who has had no education.
 - D. An individual who often comes up with accident.
12. According to the author, what distinguishes innovators from non-innovators?
- A. The variety of ideas they have.
 - B. The intelligence they possess.
 - C. The way they deal with problems.
 - D. The way they present their findings.
13. The author quotes Rudolph Flesch in paragraph 3 because _____.
- A. Rudolph Flesch is the best-known expert in the study of human creativity
 - B. the quotation strengthens the assertion that creative individuals look for new ways of doing things
 - C. the reader is familiar with Rudolph Flesch's point of view
 - D. the quotation adds a new idea to the information previously presented
14. The phrase *march to a different drummer* suggests that highly creative individuals are _____.
- A. diligent in pursuing their goals
 - B. reluctant to follow common ways of doing things
 - C. devoted to the progress of science
 - D. concerned about the advance of society
15. According to the passage, the word "mold" in the fourth line of paragraph one probably mean _____.
- A. melt sugar

- B. a soft greenish growth on decayed food
- C. a kind of tiny insect
- D. irregularly-shaped, different-colored markings

Passage 4

The invention of the incandescent light bulb by Thomas A. Edison in 1879 created a demand for a cheap, readily available fuel with which to generate large amounts of electric power. Coal seemed to fit the bill, and it fuelled the earliest power stations (which were set up at the end of the nineteenth century by Edison himself). As more power plants were constructed throughout the country, the reliance on coal increased. Since the First World War, coal-fired power plants have accounted for about half of the electricity produced in United States each year. In 1986 such plants had a combined generating capacity of 289,000 megawatt and consumed 83 percent of the nearly 900 million tons of coal mined in the country that year. Given the uncertainty in the future growth of nuclear power and in the supply of oil and natural gas, coal-fired power plants, could well provide up to 70 percent of the electric power in the United States by the end of the century.

Yet, in spite of the fact that coal has long been a source of electricity and may remain one for many years (coal represents about 80 percent of United States fossil-fuel reserves), it has actually never been the most desirable fossil fuel for power plants. Coal contains less energy per unit of weight than natural gas or oil; it is difficult to transport, and it is associated with a host of environmental issues, among them acid rain. Since the late 1960's problems of emission control and waste disposal have sharply reduced the appeal of coal-fired power plants. The cost of ameliorating

these environmental problems, along with the rising cost of building a facility as large and complex as a coal-fired power plant, have also made such plant less attractive from a purely economic perspective.

Changes in the technological base of coal-fired power plants could restore their attractiveness, however. Whereas some of these changes are evolutionary and are intended mainly to increase the productivity of existing plants, completely new technologies for burning coal cleanly are also being developed.

16. What is the main idea of the passage?

- A. Coal-fired plants are an important source of electricity in the United States and are likely to remain so.
- B. Generating electricity from coal is comparatively recent in the United States.
- C. Coal is a more economical fuel than either oil or nuclear power.
- D. Coal is a safer and more dependable fossil fuel than oil gas.

17. It can be inferred from the passage that coal became the principal source of electricity in the United States because it

- A. required no complicated machinery
- B. was comparatively plentiful and inexpensive
- C. was easy to transport
- D. burned efficiently

18. In the author's opinion, the importance of coal-generated electricity could increase in the future for which of the following reasons?

- A. The possible substitutes are too dangerous.
- B. The cost of changing to other fuels is too great.

- C. The future availability of other fuels is uncertain.
D. Other fuels present too many environmental problems.
19. According to the passage, which of the following is one of the goals of the new technology in coal-fired plants?
A. To adapt the plants to other kinds of fuel
B. To reduce the cost of building more plants.
C. To lengthen the lives of plants already in use.
D. To make the plants already in use more productive.
20. It can be inferred from the passage that “incandescent” the first line of paragraph one means _____.
A. carefully-designed
B. cheap and convenient
C. causing fires
D. giving a bright light when heated

答案及详解

Passage 1

【短文大意】

这篇短文谈论的是有关系统研究采访的话题，文章第 1 部分提出采访的重要性在某些书中得到反映，可大多数只着重讨论如何进行新闻采访，而从理论上如何认识采访则探讨不够；第 2 部分指出很多发表的文章只对非新闻领域的采访进行了分析，却对新闻采访不予以注重。

【答案详解】

1. 【B】主旨题。该题要求归纳第 1 段的中心思想。该段大意为：采访的重要性在某些书中已得到反映，可大多数是着重讨论如何进行新闻采访，而从讨论上如何认识采访则探讨得不够，即使有一些论述，大多也是基于个人经验和一般观念。只有系统地研究专业的实际过程才能在大量材料的基础上总结出普遍适用的原则。