

 文都教育

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考研英语阅读 80 篇经典

主编：张磊 王建华

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前言

今日的中国，大学本科生屈指可数的时代已一去不复返。据统计 2005 年考研网上报名的人数竟然高达一百七十多万，最后实报人数共有一百三十多万。很难估计 2006 年的考研人数将会达到什么数字。面对如此激烈的竞争，考生必须作好充分的准备。工欲善其事，必先利其器。对广大考生来讲，“器”就是你手头的复习资料。因为阅读在考研英语考试中占有极其重要的地位，所以，一本好的阅读辅导书就是敲开考研之门的金砖。

现在市场上的阅读辅导书五花八门：有按文章体裁、题材选编的；有按模拟题选编的；也有按教科书选编的。但是惟独还没有按考试大纲要求的考点选编的。而本书即是按照教育部颁发的《全国硕士研究生入学统一考试英语考试大纲》所要求的八大考点选编的。每个考点选了 10 篇阅读文章，共 80 篇，篇篇经典。每 10 篇阅读文章中均将某一类考点题突出并加以精讲。本书即是按此思路，让考生明确考点，此谓直击考点。目的是帮助广大考生有的放矢，审时度势，对自己准确定位。找到自己的真实差距，才能找到正确的解决途径，合理安排复习计划，有条不紊地进行考前准备。

阅读学习应以一定难度水准为起点，效果才能显著，这一点已成为不争事实。专家一致认为，如果学习材料能比学习者现有水平高一些，收获才最大。因为这样既有利于提高挑战意识和进取精神，又能潜移默化地提高语言水平。

本书的最大特点是针对性强。作者完全按照最新研究生英语入学考试大纲的要求，既概括出内容的重点，又解决了考生的难点。这样，考生经过全书内容的学习和操练，不仅能巩固加深英语语言知识，而且能大大提高应试能力。

另外，作者在选择文章时，既考虑到读者的兴趣因素，又强调读者的阅读水平提高。在选编文章体裁、题材方面尽最大可能给读者更大空间。研究生入学考试文章体裁范围广泛，涉及文章类型主要以议论文和说明文为主；文章题材则贴近大纲要求，包括社会科学、自然科学各个领域。具体内容包括社会、教育、心理学、经济、管理、金融、物理、生化、工程、计算机、医学、农业、哲学、文学、语言、新闻等诸多方面。广泛的阅读既能提高阅读理解部分的成绩，也可以巩固和提高词汇水平，达到一石双鸟的目的。

本书无论在复习方法的宏观指导方面，还是在具体技能的微观训练方面都对内容进行了认真的组织和精心的设计，潜移默化地引导考生巩固基础知识，帮助考生熟练掌握答题技巧，深入理解细节内容，稳步提高，走向成功。

由于编者水平有限，时间仓促，不当之处还望各位专家及广大读者提出宝贵意见，以便及时修改订正。

本书编者

二〇〇五年四月于北京

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绪

教育部颁发的《全国硕士研究生入学统一考试英语考试大纲》对阅读的要求如下：

考生应能读懂不同类型的文字材料(生词量不超过所读材料总词汇量的 3%),包括信函、书报和杂志上的文章,还应能读懂与本人学习或工作有关的文献、技术说明和产品介绍等。根据所读材料,考生应能:

- ☆ 理解主旨要义;
- ☆ 理解文中的具体信息;
- ☆ 理解文中的概念性含义;
- ☆ 进行有关的判断、推理和引申;
- ☆ 根据上下文推测生词的词义;
- ☆ 理解文章的总体结构以及单句之间、段落之间的关系;
- ☆ 理解作者的意图、观点或态度;
- ☆ 区分论点和论据。

本书按照考试大纲所要求的八大考点选编。每个考点选了 10 篇阅读文章,共 80 篇,篇篇经典。每篇阅读文章中均将某一类考点题突出并加以精讲。本书即是按此思路,让考生明确考点,此谓直击考点。目的是帮助广大考生有的放矢,审时度势,对自己准确定位。找到自己的真实差距,才能找到正确的解决途径,合理安排复习计划,有条不紊地进行考前准备。





第一章主旨题阅读10 篇经典



导读：

主旨题的目的是考查学生是否理解文章的整体意思,这也是阅读的首要任务。读完一篇文章,连大意都没搞懂,还谈什么理解,更不用说选对答案了。主旨题分为文章主旨题和段落主旨题两种。What is the main idea of the passage 是问文章的主旨大意;而 What is the main idea of the third paragraph 是问第三段的主旨大意。主旨题的提问方式主要有:

1. What is the topic of this passage 是问文章的主旨。
2. What is the main idea of the passage 是问文章的中心思想。
3. Which of the following would be the best title 是让读者给文章起一个题目。

主旨题的解题方法是用 skimming 略读,即抓主题句。如果问题问的是某一段的大意,抓住该段的主题句,问题就迎刃而解了。如果问题问的是段落的中心思想,我们就以本段的主题句为答题的依据。如果问题问的是全篇的中心思想,一定要通篇考虑每一段的内容,切勿“以段代篇”。另外,无论文章后是否有主旨题,一定要自己先问自己,这篇文章的大意是什么,因为这是其他类型问题的答题基础。

Passage 1

The most easily recognizable meteorites are the iron variety, although they only represent about 5 percent of all meteorites falls. They are composed of iron and nickel along with sulfur, carbon, and traces of other elements. Their composition is thought to be similar to that of Earth's iron core, and indeed they might have once made up the core of a large planetoid that disintegrated long ago. Due to their dense structure, iron meteorites have the best chance of surviving an impact, and most are found by farmers plowing their fields.

One of the best hunting grounds for meteorites is on the glaciers of Antarctica, where the dark stones stand out in stark contrast to the white snow and ice. When meteorites fall on the continent, they are embedded in the moving ice sheets. At places where the glaciers move upward against mountain ranges, meteorites are left exposed on the surface. Some of the meteorites that have landed in Antarctica are believed to have come from the Moon and even as far away as Mars, when large impacts blasted out chunks of material and hurled them toward Earth.

Perhaps the world's largest source of meteorites is the Nullarbor Plain, an area of limestone that stretches for 400 miles along the southern coast of Western and South Australia. The pale, smooth desert plain provides a perfect backdrop for spotting meteorites, which are usually dark brown or black. Since very little erosion takes place, the meteorites are well preserved and are found just where they landed. Over 1,000 fragments from 150



meteorites that fell during the last 20,000 years have been recovered . One large iron meteorites, called the Mundrabilla meteorite, weighed more than 11tons .

Stony meteorites, called chondrites, are the most common type and make up more than 90 percent of all falls . But because they are similar to Earth materials and therefore erode easily, they are often difficult to find . Among the most ancient bodies in the solar system are the carbonaceous chondrites that also contain carbon compounds that might have been the precursors of life on Earth .

1 .Where can we find meteorites easily ?

- [A] In the fields. [B] On the mountain ranges.
[C] In the plains of Australia. [D] On the glaciers of Antarctica.

2 .The word“ stark ” (in line 2, paragraph 2) can be replaced by .

- [A] strong [B] strict [C] complete [D] sharp

3 .Which title suits this passage best ?

- [A] Classification of Meteorites [B] Where to find meteorites ?
[C] Characteristics of Meteorites [D] Where do meteorites come from ?

4 .In what aspect, is Null arbor Plain similar to Antarctica glaciers ?

- [A] Its size. [B] Its height. [C] Its color. [D] Its location.

5 .Which of the following statements is NOT true ?

- [A] Meteorites are composed of almost the same elements .
[B] Iron meteorites are harder than stony meteorites .
[C] Meteorites in Antarctica are something from planets .
[D] Carbon compounds may be the ancestors of life on Earth .



文章大意

最容易辨认的陨石是含铁的陨石,尽管它们只占有所有陨石的 5%。它们是由铁、镍,以及硫、炭和少量的其他元素组成的。人们认为它们的成分与地球的铁核成分相似。确实,一颗多年前风化分裂了的巨大的小行星的核心可能就是由这些成分组成的。由于它们结构紧密,铁陨石最能抵御撞击,因此,大多是农夫在犁地时发现的。

最好的寻找铁陨石的地方之一便是在南极洲的冰河上,这些黑色的石头与那白色的冰雪形成强烈对比,很明显。当这些行星落在这个大陆上时,它们便被嵌入那些移动的冰块上。当这些冰块逆着山脉向上移动时,陨石就被露在表面留了下来。人们已发现了在过去二万年间落下的 150 颗流星的 1000 多块碎块。有一颗叫孟卓贝拉的大铁陨石,重达 11 吨多。

石质陨石,称为球粒陨石,是最普通的种类,占有所有陨石的 90% 多。但由于它们和地球成分相似,所以很容易被侵蚀,往往很难找到。在太阳系中最古老的星体是含炭的球粒陨石,它们是含炭的化合物。这些炭的化合物可能就是地球生物的先辈。





试题详解

1. [答案] D

[注解] 这是一道细节题。看起来四个答案似乎文中都提到了,但我们在哪里能很容易发现陨石呢?选项 A 的意思是在庄稼地里,这是不对的,因为第一段最后一句只是说,由于铁陨石很硬,通常不容易受侵蚀,常常在农夫耕地时被发现,并不是说,我们在地里就能很容易找到它们。选项 B 是说在山脉上,也不对,因为文中提到的是在南极洲,冰块逆着山脉向上移动时,陨石就露在表面了,并不是泛指所有的山脉。选项 C 指的是在澳大利亚的平原上,也不对。文中只是说到在澳大利亚的奴拉伯平原上,由于都是白色的石灰石,所以很容易发现陨石,并非泛指所有的澳大利亚平原。选项 D 是指在南极洲的冰块上,这是正确的,从文中第二段第一句话可以看出,最好的寻找陨石的地方之一就是南极洲的冰块上。

2. [答案] D

[注解] 这是一道词义题。从整句话的意思来看,最好的寻找陨石的地方之一就是南极洲的冰块上。在这里,这些黑色的石头与那白色的冰雪形成 stark 对比,所以我们可以猜出白与黑形成强烈对比。在英语中,有短语 in sharp contrast to“与…形成强烈对比”,但我们不能说 in strong contrast to。

3. [答案] B

[注解] 这是一道主旨题。全文讲到了铁陨石是由铁、镍、硫等元素组成的,它们大多是一些行星爆炸的碎块,它们的颜色,以及石陨石的组成。表面看来 C、D 两项似乎都对。但事实上,我们在理解这类题时,主要是要找出文章或各段的主题句。第一段的主题句是 The most easily recognizable meteorites are the iron variety,即最容易辨认的陨石是含铁的陨石。第二段的主题句是 One of the best hunting grounds for meteorites is on the glaciers of Antarctica,即寻找陨石的最佳地方是在南极洲冰块上。第三段的主题句是 Perhaps the world's largest source of meteorites is the Nullarbor Plain,即世界最大的陨石源是奴拉伯平原,也是讲找陨石的地方。第四段的主题句 Stony meteorites, are often difficult to find,即由于石陨石易侵蚀,所以很难找到,因此,四个主题句都是讲 where to find meteorites。

4. [答案] C

[注解] 这是一道细节理解题。问题问在哪一方面,奴拉伯平原和南极洲冰块有相似之处。我们可以从文中看到,在南极洲冰块上很容易发现陨石,因为它们是白色的,而陨石是黑色的;在奴拉伯平原上也很容易发现陨石,因为那里有大面积的石灰石,而石灰石的颜色也是白色的,因此,可以推断出它们的相似之处在于都是白色的。

5. [答案] D

[注解] 这是一道判断题。注意题目要求选出不正确的一项。A 项是说陨石几乎都是由同样的元素组成的。文中提到铁陨石的组成是铁、镍、硫等不易受蚀的元素组成,而石陨石是易受侵蚀的,因此组成成分肯定与铁陨石不同,故 A 项不正确。由此也能推出选项 B 是正确的。文中第二段说到南极洲的陨石可能来自于月球或火星,而月球和火星都是 plan-





et 行星,因此能推断出选项 C 是正确的。文章最后一句 carbon compounds that might have been the precursors of life on Earth 中 precursor 即指 ancestor,因此能推断出选项 D 是正确的。

Passage 2

For years, the towering buttes along Interstate 40 in Arizona were surpassed in majesty only by the desert's night sky—a ceiling of ink glittering with stars and frosted with iridescent wisps of Milky Way. Today, however, the once pristine views from I-40 and various scenic byways across the U.S. are being whitewashed by floodlit roadside businesses whose commercial glow obscures the heavenly lights.

“The stars are an endangered species,” complains Wini Brewer, a Morongo Valley, Calif. Artist who purchased five acres of desert property for its starry vista in 1996 but is now mired in squabbles with the owners of what she considers grossly over-lit homes and businesses. “Ruining the sky”, she says, “is no different from ruining the view of Yosemite.” Light pollution, a term coined by astronomers trying to protect mountaintop telescopes from the encroaching glare of urban sprawl, is fast becoming a national concern. Legislation to “bag the beam,” as one campaign refers to it, is pending in four states, including New York and Massachusetts. Last summer Texas and New Mexico enacted tough laws to restrict outdoor light, and just last week officials in Fauquier County, Va., joining hundreds of regional enforcement efforts, voted unanimously in favor of similar restrictions. Even Inuits living more than 300k north of the Arctic Circle have reportedly begun to complain about the lights.

Thanks in part to the publicity surrounding Comet Hale-Bopp and other heavily hyped celestial events, “light pollution went from a non-issue to something that’s on everyone’s mind,” says Maryann Arrien, a documentary-film maker and an amateur astronomer in Putnam Valley, N.Y. Efforts to curb light pollution are under way from the Australian Outback to Britain’s Sherwood Forest, according to the International Dark-Sky Association (I.D.A.), which boasts 3,600 members in 70 countries.

The lights won’t wink out without a fight. Homeowners view brightly lighted streets as a crime deterrent and tend to feel more secure when their property shines like a Hollywood stage set. And business owners who pump a lot of money into outdoor signage insist that increased wattage is frequently all that sets them apart from the competition.

But there is such a thing as shining too much light on a subject. The Illuminating Engineering Society of North America studied commercial lighting and concluded that many companies use five times the amount of light necessary for effective marketing. “Business lights are out of control,” says Nancy Clanton, a lighting designer who helped the I.E.S.





draft new guidelines recommending that outdoor lighting be reduced as much as 80% .

Anti-light activists say it s possible to fight crime in residential areas without whiting out the sky .“ We re not suggesting you live in the dark . We re saying it s time to keep lights on the ground where we need them, ” says Tim Hunter, co-founder of the I .D .A . , who contends that at least 30% of all light is needlessly cast into the sky . Indeed, the solution to many light-pollution problems may be as absurdly simple as putting shields around outdoor bulbs to prevent their beams from traveling above the horizon .

1 . What is the passage mainly about ?

- [A] new methods for light pollution [B] business lighting
[C] the problem of light pollution [D] the stars are endangered

2 . What does the word“ bag ”(in line 2 , paragraph 3)mean ?

- [A] a container used for storing items [B] to put into or as if into a bag
[C] to cause to bulge like a pouch [D] to hang loosely

3 . Who does not complain about the light ?

- [A] Inuits [B] Businessmen [C] Wini Brewer [D] Astronomers

4 . Which of the followings dose not contribute to the awareness of people to light pollution ?

- [A] the publicity surrounding Comet Hale-Bopp
[B] other heavily-hyped celestial events
[C] some personal anti-light activities
[D] the development of business

5 . What does anti-light pollution mean ?

- [A] businessmen should turn off the light
[B] people should live in the dark
[C] people should turn off the light and save electricity
[D] People should prevent light beams from traveling too far



文章大意

许多年来,亚利桑那州 40 号州际公路两侧高耸的孤山的雄伟壮丽只有沙漠上的夜空可以与之媲美。然而现在,40 号州际公路两旁原本未受破坏的景观和美国其他许多尚未为人所知的偏僻景观正被灯火通明的路边商店照得黯然失色,广告的明亮掩盖了天堂的光辉。

光污染正逐渐成为全国人民关心的问题,这个术语是由那些努力保护山顶上的望远镜不受城市传过来的光的干扰的天文学家创造的。

但是,现在的问题是在一个物体上照射的灯光过多。一位灯光设计师南希克兰顿说:“商业用灯已经无法控制了”,他建议室外用灯应被减少多达 80%。

抵抗灯光的激进主义分子说不必将天空照得雪白也能制止住宅区的犯罪活动。的确,



许多光污染问题的解决方法可能简单得出奇,比如在户外的灯泡上加个保护罩,防止灯光传得过远。



试题详解

1. [答案] C

[注解] 这是一道主旨题。综观全文,从美丽的夜色被路边灯火通明的商店照得黯然失色,谈到了光污染问题正逐渐成为大家普遍关心的问题,以及这个问题所引起的一些争论。有些人认为这有助于商业的发展,制止犯罪的发生等,但有些人则持相反观点。文章只是在最后才说到解决的办法可能非常简单,但整体上来讲,还是在讨论光污染的问题,而不是解决的方法问题。

2. [答案] B

[注解] 这是一道词义题。bag 这个词我们都认识,但在文章中显然不是“书包,提包”的意思,而是一个动词。根据上下文,我们可以看出,既然已经说到了光污染问题,那么就要控制光了,所以制定的法律应当是要控制光,或把光遮掩起来,因此,应选 B。选项 C 是指“使膨胀得象囊一样鼓出”;D 是指“松散地垂挂”。

3. [答案] B

[注解] 这是一道细节题。关于光污染问题有很多争论,其中一方认为过多的光使原来的美丽景色照得黯然失色,并且天文学家认为它们也影响到了山顶的望远镜,还有文章第三段最后一句 Even Inuits living more than 300k north of the Arctic Circle have reportedly begun to complain about the lights, 所以我们可以看到抱怨的人是 A、C、D 三项,而 B 正是另一方,因为商人认为“把商店照得通明可以让他们在商业竞争中获得领先优势。”

4. [答案] D

[注解] 这是一道推断题。问题问哪一个没有促进人们意识到光污染问题。从文章的第四段的 Thanks in part to the publicity surrounding Comet Hale-Bopp and other heavily hyped celestial events, 我们可以判断 A、B 两项是正确的;通过前面提到的几个人抵抗光污染的实际情况也可以判断 C 是正确的;而选项 D 的“商业的发展只是一个笼统的概念”,确切地讲,应该是商业用灯过度的问题。

5. [答案] D

[注解] 这是一道概念性含义引申推断题。抵抗光污染到底指的是什么?选项 A 并不全面,因为商业灯光只是文章谈到的一个方面;而我们从文章最后一段的 We're not suggesting you live in the dark, 可以看出选项 B 也不正确;选项 C 指“省电”,而文章并未提到省电的问题,所以并非抵抗光污染的问题;我们从文章最后一句话 Indeed, the solution to many light-pollution problems may be as absurdly simple as putting shields around outdoor bulbs to prevent their beams from traveling above the horizon 可以看出,抵抗光污染实际上只是要防止灯光传得过远,所以只有 D 是正确的。



Passage 3

If you intend using humor in your talk to make people smile, you must know how to identify shared experiences and problems. Your humor must be relevant to the audience and should help to show them that you are one of them or that you understand their situation and are in sympathy with their point of view. Depending on whom you are addressing, the problems will be different. If you are talking to a group of managers, you may refer to the disorganized methods of their secretaries; alternatively if you are addressing secretaries, you may want to comment on their disorganized bosses.

Here is an example, which I heard at a nurses convention, of a story which works well because the audience all shared the same view of doctors. A man arrives in heaven and is being shown around by St. Peter. He sees wonderful accommodations, beautiful gardens, sunny weather, and so on. Everyone is very peaceful, polite and friendly until, waiting in a line for lunch, the new arrival is suddenly pushed aside by a man in a white coat, who rushes to the head of the line, grabs his food and stomps over to a table by himself. "Who is that?" the new arrival asked St. Peter. "Oh, that's God," came the reply, "but sometimes he thinks he's a doctor."

If you are part of the group which you are addressing, you will be in a position to know the experiences and problems which are common to all of you and it will be appropriate for you to make a passing remark about the inedible canteen food or the chairman's notorious bad taste in ties. With other audiences you mustn't attempt to cut in with humor as they will resent an outsider making disparaging remarks about their canteen or their chairman. You will be on safer ground if you stick to scapegoats like the Post Office or the telephone system.

If you feel awkward being humorous, you must practice so that it becomes more natural. Include a few casual and apparently off-the-cuff remarks which you can deliver in a relaxed and unforced manner. Often it's the delivery which causes the audience to smile, so speak slowly and remember that a raised eyebrow or an unbelieving look may help to show that you are making a light-hearted remark.

Look for the humor. It often comes from the unexpected. A twist on a familiar quote "If at first you don't succeed, give up" or a play on words or on a situation. Search for exaggeration and understatement. Look at your talk and pick out a few words or sentences which you can turn about and inject with humor.

1. To make your humor work, you should ____.

[A] take advantage of different kinds of audience

[B] make fun of the disorganized people





- [C] address different problems to different people
[D] show sympathy for your listeners
- 2 .The joke about doctors implies that, in the eyes of nurses, they are _____.
[A] impolite to new arrivals [B] very conscious of their godlike role
[C] entitled to some privileges [D] very busy even during lunch hours
- 3 .It can be inferred from the text that public services _____.
[A] have benefited many people
[B] are the focus of public attention
[C] are an inappropriate subject for humor
[D] have often been the laughing stock
- 4 . To achieve the desired result, humorous stories should be delivered _____.
[A] in well-worded language [B] as awkwardly as possible
[C] in exaggerated statements [D] as naturally as possible
- 5 . The best title for the text may be _____.
[A] Use Humor Effectively [B] Various Kinds of Humor
[C] Add Humor to Speech [D] Different Humor Strategies



文章大意

如果你想在谈话中用幽默的语言逗人笑,你就必须知道怎样去识别你与听众之间的共同经历、共同问题。针对不同的听众,要谈的问题有所不同。

比如说,我曾在一次护士大会上听到一个笑话,这个笑话很有效,因为听众对医生都有同样的看法。一个人来到了天堂,圣·彼得带他参观。他看到了豪华的住房,漂亮的花园,晴朗的天空等等。大家都很安静、礼貌、友善。然而到了排队吃饭的时候,新来者突然被一名穿着白大褂的人推到一边。只见那人冲到队伍的前面,抢过他的饭,噙噙地走到一张桌边坐下。“那人是谁?”新来者问圣·彼得。“噢,那是上帝,”他回答道:“但有时他以为自己是一名医生。”

如果你在幽默时感到很别扭,你就需要练习,才能变得更自然。

寻找幽默,幽默通常是出人意料的。



试题详解

1. [答案] C

[注解] 这是一道作者观点题。题意是:要使你的幽默奏效的话,你必须做什么? 本题考查考生对文章第一段的理解,本题题干其实就是第一段大意,只不过换了一种说法而已。考生要培养迅速将问题与文章内容建立对应转换关系的能力,尤其要注意正确理解段落主



干句的含义,如第一段第一句“identify shared experiences and problems”以及“relevant”就是很好的解题线索。A 是利用不同的听众,利用与文章意思不符;B 是“嘲笑,取笑”;所以 A、B 两项仅凭常识也可以排除,再去第一段印证,文中亦无此含义。从“Depending on whom you are addressing, the problems will be different”以及下面一句举的两个例子,这里强调的是幽默的针对性,选 C。C 对不同的人谈论不同的问题,强调要有针对性;D 同情你的听众,为干扰选项,虽然文中出现“in sympathy with their point of view”,但并不是“同情”之意,而是“同意,赞成”之意。

2. [答案] B

[注解] 这是一道概念含义推理题。要求从一则笑话推断出护士对医生的看法。本题考查考生对第二段的笑话能否充分理解,第二段第四句“Everyone is...polite...until, waiting...for lunch, the new arrival is...pushed aside by...”描述的就是上帝在午餐时间不排队,冲向队伍前面抢先领取午餐的情景,但这个笑话的实质并不停留在这一层面。而是借此来嘲笑医生,护士们也普遍认同这种嘲笑,因此选项 C 和 D 的正面表述都应排除。选项 A 对新来的人不礼貌,它只是说到的一个事例,不能代表他对特定新来的人不礼貌,就推断他对所有新来的人都不礼貌。只有 B 是护士对医生的看法,在她们眼中,医生们自以为像上帝一样。

3. [答案] D

[注解] 这是一道推论题。要从文中提到的信息推断有关公共服务行业的内容。题意是说,从文中可以推断,公共服务行业:A 造福许多人,B 是公众关注的焦点,C 不适合做笑料,D 常被人拿来当笑料。本题需要考生在文中仔细寻找与“public services”相对应的细节,考生如果不能找到 post office 与 public service 之间的逻辑从属关系,这题就很难下手。而从第三段最后一句话“you will be on safer ground if you stick to scapegoats, like the Post Office or the telephone system.”可以看出,拿邮局或电信系统这样的公共服务行业开玩笑是无伤大雅的,由此推论公共服务行业常常成为取笑的对象,因此选 D。用排除法,排除 A 和 B,因其与本文重点“humor”无关。

4. [答案] D

[注解] 这是一道作者观点题。题意是:幽默故事要以什么方式讲述,才能获得预期的效果?本题的关键在第四段的第二句,“Include a few casual and apparently off-the-cuff remarks which you can deliver in a relaxed and unforced manner.”这就暗示了幽默故事的讲述方式应是随意、轻松、不做作,由这几个关键词可以看出,D 为正确选项。

5. [答案] A

[注解] 这是一道主旨题。本题通过提供文章题目来考察考生对整篇文章的理解。题意是要为本文选择一个合适的题目:A 有效地使用幽默,B 各种各样的幽默,C 在言语中加进幽默,D 不同的幽默策略。从文章的结构来看,第一、二和三段讲的是要使幽默奏效,应该有针对性,对不同的听众讲不同的话题,否则会出现适得其反的效果。后两段讲的是怎样讲笑话才能取得最好的效果。全文都在围绕怎样才能有效地使用幽默。因此,排除 B 和 C,而在 A 和 D 之间,A 比 D 更准确,更能概括全文的内容,正确选项为 A。

Passage 4

Why do so many Americans distrust what they read in their newspapers? The American Society of Newspaper Editors is trying to answer this painful question. The organization is deep into a long self-analysis known as the journalism credibility project.

Sad to say, this project has turned out to be mostly low-level findings about factual errors and spelling and grammar mistakes, combined with lots of head-scratching puzzlement about what in the world those readers really want.

But the sources of distrust go way deeper. Most journalists learn to see the world through a set of standard templates (patterns) into which they plug each day's events. In other words, there is a conventional story line in the newsroom culture that provides a backbone and a ready-made narrative structure for otherwise confusing news.

There exists a social and cultural disconnect between journalists and their readers, which helps explain why the "standard templates" of the newsroom seem alien to many readers. In a recent survey, questionnaires were sent to reporters in five middle size cities around the country, plus one large metropolitan area. Then residents in these communities were phoned at random and asked the same questions.

Replies show that compared with other Americans, journalists are more likely to live in upscale neighborhoods, have maids, own Mercedeses, and trade stocks, and they're less likely to go to church, do volunteer work, or put down roots in a community.

Reporters tend to be part of a broadly defined social and cultural elite, so their work tends to reflect the conventional values of this elite. The astonishing distrust of the news media isn't rooted in inaccuracy or poor reportorial skills but in the daily clash of world views between reporters and their readers.

This is an explosive situation for any industry, particularly a declining one. Here is a troubled business that keeps hiring employees whose attitudes vastly annoy the customers. Then it sponsors lots of symposiums and a credibility project dedicated to wondering why customers are annoyed and fleeing in large numbers. But it never seems to get around to noticing the cultural and class biases that so many former buyers are complaining about. If it did, it would open up its diversity program, now focused narrowly on race and gender, and look for reporters who differ broadly by outlook, values, education and class.

1. What is the passage mainly about?

- [A] needs of the readers all over the world
- [B] causes of the public disappointment about newspapers
- [C] origins of the declining newspaper industry
- [D] aims of a journalism credibility project



- 2 . The results of the journalism credibility project turned out to be _____ .
[A] quite trustworthy [B] somewhat contradictory
[C] very illuminating [D] rather superficial
- 3 . The basic problem of journalists as pointed out by the writer lies in their _____ .
[A] working attitude [B] conventional lifestyle
[C] world outlook [D] educational background
- 4 . Despite its efforts, the newspaper industry still cannot satisfy the readers owing to its _____ .
[A] failure to realize its real problem [B] tendency to hire annoying reporters
[C] likeliness to do inaccurate reporting [D] prejudice in matters of race and gender



文章大意

为什么那么多美国人不相信报纸？美国报刊编辑协会正试图回答这个令他们头疼的问题。该组织正深入进行一次长期的自我分析调查。遗憾的是，这次新闻机构可信度调查发现的都是些肤浅的问题，诸如事实误差、拼写及语法错误，以及伴随着不少令人困惑的问题，不知读者到底想要什么。

记者和读者之间存在着社会和文化的隔阂，这就是为什么新闻编辑室的“标准模式”对许多读者来说那么陌生的原因。最近一次调查结果表明，与其他美国人相比，新闻记者们大多居住在富人区，有仆人，有奔驰车，炒股，而且他们不经常去教堂，不参加义务工作，也不会在某一社区长期定居。

记者们往往属于广义上所说的社会和文化精英的一部分，因此他们的工作往往反映了精英阶层的传统观念。对新闻媒体的惊人的不信任态度并非源于事实误差或是新闻报道水平低下，而是由于记者与读者的世界观的日常冲突。

如果新闻界真的注意到问题的关键，那么，它就会启动一个多样化计划，目前它只集中于种族和性别，并且要雇佣具有不同的世界观、价值观、教育背景及社会阶层的记者。



试题详解

- 1 . [答案] B
- [注解] 这是一道主旨题。本题属“短文主题思想”的提问方式，要求考生识别文章的中心议题。本文的主题我们在通读全文后，并根据文章第一段第一句“为什么这么多美国人不相信报刊上读到的东西？”可知全篇主要回答这一问句，在探讨的是为什么公众对报纸失望，因此 B“公众对新闻界感到失望的原因”为正确答案。A“全世界读者的需求”范围过宽，不符合题目要求。C“美国报刊业日趋衰退的原因”显得答非所问。D“新闻可信度调查项目的目的”在文章中未展开。





2. [答案] D

[注解] 这是一道细节题。本题是问新闻可信度调查项目的结果如何,要求考生对新闻的可信度调查结果描述。我们可以参照文章第二段第一句,很遗憾,该项目的调查结果大部分都是表面上,如事实误差、拼写及语法错误,以及这些读者究竟需要什么。这和 D“相当肤浅”一致,A“相当可信”与内容不符,B“有点矛盾”文章未提及,答案 C“非常有启发性”与事实相反,故选 D。

3. [答案] C

[注解] 这是一道细节题。本题问作者所指出的记者们存在的基本问题是什么。这道题,首先可以排除 A“工作态度”,文中未提及;B“传统生活方式”和 D“教育背景”都属于记者与读者不同的三个方面,是问题的次要方面,最主要的是他们的 outlook 和 values 间的冲突。这可以参照文章倒数第二段第二句“读者不相信新闻媒体不在于报道有误或报道技术差,而是在于记者与读者之间世界观方面的冲突。故答案 C“世界观”为正确答案。

4. [答案] A

[注解] 这是一道推断题。本题问尽管新闻界付出了努力,仍然不能满足读者需要的原因是什么?不是这些记者“讨厌”,B“往往雇佣令人厌烦的记者”,首先被排除,而是因他们的世界观存在问题;C“可能做有误的报导”,如前所说不是真正的原因;D“在种族和性别的问题方面有偏见”,文章没有具体谈种族和性别问题。我们参照文章最后一段可推测出:新闻界的问题症结在于没能对症下药。因此,A“没有认识到真正的问题所在”为正确答案,属概括性的答案,故选 A。

Passage 5

Being a man has always been dangerous. There are about 105 males born for every 100 females, but this ratio drops to near balance at the age of maturity, and among 70-year-olds there are twice as many women as men. But the great universal of male mortality is being changed. Now, boy babies survive almost as well as girls do. This means that, for the first time, there will be an excess of boys in those crucial years when they are searching for a mate. More important, another chance for natural selection has been removed. Fifty years ago, the chance of a baby (particularly a boy baby) surviving depended on its weight. A kilogram too light or too heavy meant almost certain death. Today it makes almost no difference. Since much of the variation is due to genes, one more agent of evolution has gone.

There is another way to commit evolutionary suicide: stay alive, but have fewer children. Few people are as fertile as in the past. Except in some religious communities, very few women have 15 children. Nowadays the number of births, like the age of death, has become average. Most of us have roughly the same number of offspring. Again, differences between people and the opportunity for natural selection to take advantage of it have

