

考研英语阅读突破 圆象篇

(含 粤 月两种题型)

- 按最新大纲编写 ,符合标准试题要求
- 内容广泛 ,由浅入深 ,循序渐进

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前摇摇言

如果你想取得良好的考研英语成绩,你首先要做的工作便是突破英语阅读。从出题结构来看,英语阅读构成了整个考试内容的基础,除了阅读试题本身的 缘篇文章外,英语知识运用和英译汉中的 圆篇文章属于精确度更高的阅读试题(共占总分的 苑园%)。同时,圆篇写作也与阅读关系密切。可以说,考生解决了阅读的问题就基本上取得了考研英语的通行证。

本书所选的文章内容广泛,涉及政治、经济、文化、教育、科学、体育、历史、心理、生理等方面,能大大拓宽考生的知识面。同时选材时考虑不同题材和体裁,培养考生对不同文体格式文章的解题能力。

此外,根据大纲规定,文章的长度严格控制在 源园园至 源园园 字之间,难度适当,并对生词进行了注释,使考生能在上下文中学习词汇。

试题根据大纲要求,针对:主旨要义、具体信息、概念性含义、推理判断和引申、推测词义、结构关系、作者意图观点和态度以及论点和论据诸方面选题,符合考试真题的要求。同时附有精辟的答案解析,使考生能正确地了解解题思路,了解自己的阅读水平,及时找到突破的途径,增强考生的解题能力。

本书分为两部分,根据新大纲题型提供 A 节和 B 节两种题型阅读文章共计 圆缘篇。由于每年所出几篇阅读试题难度均有所不同,本书阅读文章根据循序渐进的原则,由浅入深地推出基础、中级和高级三种难度不同的阅读内容。其中第一章阅读 A 包括基础阅读 员园源篇,中级阅读 苑园篇,高级阅读 圆缘篇,第二章阅读 B 包括阅读 猿园篇。考生可根据两种试题形式、难度以及自己的水平和需要,对试题进行编排,组合成若干全真模拟试卷,进行实战练习。

最后,需要告诫考生的是:阅读突破的诀窍在于“持之以恒”,考生每天须安排至少 员小时的时间来进行针对性的阅读练习。开始时对阅读速度不必要求太高,员个月后开始注意限制时间,圆个月后可将速度提高到 源园分钟完成一份试卷的 缘篇阅读(源篇 A 节题,员篇 B 节题)。到第 源个月,考生会发现自己的阅读能力在发生从量变到质变的飞跃,从此登上一个崭新的台阶,对考试充满必胜的信心。

本书在编写过程中参考了部分国内外有关书籍,在此谨向有关作者表示诚挚的谢意,书中不当之处也希望得到专家和读者的指正。

编者于北京

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第一章 阅读 阅读 阅读

第一节 基础阅读 阅读原文

Passage 1

Because agriculture is so important to a nation's well-being, governments have always been concerned with it. For example, the United States and Canada have long produced surpluses that *complicate* their economies. Surpluses tend to lower prices to farmers and seriously endanger the agriculture industry. Governments have instituted systems of price supports to maintain a fair price when surpluses cause prices to drop. The system in the United States is a good example. A government program supports the prices paid to farmers for grains, and other agricultural products.

Support prices are based on parity, which is the ratio between the prices farmers receive for their crops and the prices they must pay for things they need. The government selected the period from 1909 to 1914 as a time when farm prices were in a fair ratio with farming costs. This is the base period now used to determine parity prices.

The idea is to assure farmers that what they get for a bushel(蒲尔) of wheat will buy the same amount of, say, seed as it did in the years of the base period. If prices drop too far below this ideal the government can help in a number of ways. For example, it may buy much of a surplus at parity prices. Governments have instituted a wide variety of other controls for prices and, also, for farm output, mainly at the request of the farmers themselves. Farm prices tend to fluctuate(波动) more than other prices do, and the incomes of farmers fluctuate along with farm prices.

Various measures for maintaining farm prices and incomes include tariff or import levies, import quotas(配额), export subsidies(补贴), direct payment to farmers, and limitations on production. All of these measures are useful and are used to some extent by most developed countries. An important example of such a program is the soil-bank plan, which aimed at limiting production while improving farmland.

The European Economic Community (EEC) established a common agricultural policy (CAP) for its member nations, called the Common Market countries. The aim is to create free trade for individual commodities within the community. When production of a

commodity exceeds EEC consumption, the EEC may buy the excess for storage, pay to have it reprocessed(再加工), or export it to countries outside the Common Market. In this way the EEC can maintain its members' farm prices at levels equal to or even higher than those in such market-competitive nations as the United States and Canada.

员 By saying that a country's agricultural surpluses often "complicate"(Line 猿, Para. 员) its economy, the author means _____.

- (A) they throw the country into great disorder
- (B) they entail more expenditure on the part of the government
- (C) they usually involve direct governmental support price
- (D) the government has to set up special pricing systems

圆 The function of parity system is to _____.

- (A) encourage farmers to produce more grains in the future
- (B) lower the cost of producing agricultural product
- (C) determine the prices below which grains will not be sold
- (D) ensure that the farmers' interest is properly protected

猿 It is obvious that the common agricultural policy aims to _____.

- (A) avoid competition among its member nations
- (B) limit production and improve farmland
- (C) ensure a balance between production and consumption
- (D) encourage free competition among its member nations

源 The reason for governments to show special concern for agriculture is _____.

- (A) that farm prices go up and down constantly
- (B) that farmers usually earn less than other income groups
- (C) that there isn't much arable farmland left
- (D) that farmers are confronted with fiercer competition

缘 The word "surplus" (Line 猿, Para. 员) probably means _____.

- (A) amount 摇摇摇摇摇摇摇摇 (B) excess
- (C) need (D) sum

答案与解析

员 (C) 第一段第三、四句指出,生产过剩使农产品价格下降,严重危及农业生产。此时,政府制订出价格扶持制度以维持一种公平的价格。

圆 (D) 第一段第一句指出,扶持价格基于平均价格,它是农场主的农产品销售价格和必须购买生产物资的价格之比。第二段第二句指出,如果农产品价格低于平均价格太多,政府就会以各种方式提供帮助。

猿 (A) 第五段指出,欧共体为自己的成员国制定了共同农业政策,目的是在共同体内部

建立一种自由贸易环境。如果产品超出共同体消费需要,它会买下储藏起来或再加工出口到共同体外的国家。这样它可以将成员国农产品价格维持在相当于或高于诸如美国或加拿大这样的市场竞争国家的价格。可见它是为了避免内部竞争。

源(A)第三段最后一句指出,农产品价格较其他产品的价格容易波动,而农场主们的收入也随着农产品的价格波动。

缘(B)surplus 意为“剩余,过剩”,与 in excess of“超过,过量”近义。

Passage 2

摇摇For most of us, work is the central, dominating part of life. We spend more than half our conscious hours at work, preparing for work, travelling to and from work. What we do there largely determines our standard of living and to a considerable extent the status we are accorded by our fellow citizens as well. It is sometimes said that because leisure has become more important the indignities and injustices of work can be pushed into a corner, that because most work is pretty intolerable, the people who do it should compensate for its boredom, frustrations and humiliations by concentrating their hopes on the other parts of their lives. I reject that as a counsel of despair. For the foreseeable future the material and psychological rewards which work can provide, and the conditions in which work is done, will continue to play a vital part in determining the satisfaction that life can offer. Yet only a small minority can control the pace at which they work or the conditions in which their work is done; only for a small minority does work offer scope for creativity, imagination, or initiative.

Inequality at work and in work is still one of the cruelest and most glaring forms of inequality in our society. We cannot hope to solve the more obvious problems of industrial life, many of which arise directly or indirectly from the frustrations created by inequality at work, *unless we tackle it head on*. Still less can we hope to create a decent and humane society.

The most glaring inequality is that between managers and the rest. For most managers, work is an opportunity and a challenge. Their jobs engage their interest and allow them to develop their abilities. They are constantly learning; they are able to exercise responsibility; they have a considerable degree of control over their own — and others' — working lives. Most important of all, they leave the opportunity to initiate. By contrast, for most manual workers, and for a growing number of white-collar workers, work is a boring, monotonous, even painful experience. They spend all their working lives in conditions which would be regarded as intolerable — for themselves — by those who take the decisions which let such conditions continue. The majority have little control over their work; it provides them with no opportunity for personal development. Often production is so designed that workers are

simply part of the technology. In offices, many jobs are so routine that workers justifiably feel themselves to be mere cogs in the bureaucratic machine. As a direct consequence of their work experience, many workers feel alienated (疏离的) from their work and their firm, whether it is in public or in private ownership.

员 Work is for most of us _____.

- (A) only a small part of our life
- (B) nothing but boredom, and frustrations
- (C) anything but material and psychological rewards
- (D) the most influential part of life

圆 Among all the brutal and obvious forms of inequality in our society, _____ is still the most serious one.

- (A) inequality between races
- (B) inequality between sexes
- (C) inequality at work and in work
- (D) inequality in opportunity of advancement

猿 For most managers, work is _____.

- (A) fame and imagination
- (B) entertainment and promotion
- (C) indignity and injustice
- (D) opportunity and challenge

源 From the author's point of view, which of the following statements is true? _____.

- (A) The indignities and injustices of work can be pushed into a corner — because people now have more leisure
- (B) People can hardly hope to create a decent society if the problem of inequality at work remains unsolved
- (C) Workers should concentrate their hopes on the other parts of their lives
- (D) Managers and office workers feel themselves to be cogs in the bureaucratic machine

缘 By saying that "unless we tackle it head on" (Line 源, Para. 圆) the author means that _____.

- (A) unless we think about it with our head
- (B) unless we throw away it immediately
- (C) unless we solve it directly
- (D) unless we explain it immediately

答案与解析

员 (D) 第一段第一句指出, 对我们大多数来说, 工作是我们生活的中心和主要内容。

圆 (C) 第二段第一句指出, 工作和工作中的不平等仍然是我们社会中最残酷和最严重的不平等形式。

猿 (D) 第三段第二句指出, 对于大多数管理人员来说, 工作是一种机会和挑战。

源 (B) 第二段第二、三句指出, 我们不愿意去解决工业生活中的最明显的问题, 大多数问题直接或间接地来自工作不平等所造成的挫折, 除非我们首先解决它。我们仍然很少希望去创造一个正派和仁慈的社会。

缘 (C) 第二段第二句指出, 我们并不希望解决工业生活中的更多明显问题, 它们中的多数直接或间接地产生于我们不平等工作挫折中, 除非我们直接解决这些困难。

Passage 3

摇摇 Why does the Foundation concentrate its support on basic research rather than applied research? Basic research is the very heart of science, and its cumulative product is the capital of scientific progress, a capital that must be constantly increased as the demands upon it rise. The goal of basic research is understanding, for its own sake. Understanding of the structure of the atom or the nerve cell, the explosion of a *spiral nebula* (螺旋星云) or the distribution of cosmic dust, the causes of earthquakes and droughts, or of man as a behaving creature and of the social forces that are created whenever two or more human beings come into contact with one another — the scope is staggering, but the commitment to truth is the same. If the commitment were to a particular result, conflicting evidence might be overlooked or, with the best will in the world, simply not appreciated. Moreover, the practical applications of basic research frequently cannot be anticipated. When Roentgen, the physicist, discovered X-rays, he had no idea of their usefulness to medicine.

Applied research, undertaken to solve specific practical problems, has an immediate attractiveness because the results can be seen and enjoyed. For practical reasons, the sums spent on applied research in any country always far exceed those for basic research, and the proportions are more unequal in the less developed countries. Leaving aside the funds devoted to research by industry — which is naturally far more concerned with applied aspects because they increase profits quickly — the funds the U. S. Government allots to basic research currently amount to about 苑 percent of its over-all research and development funds. Unless adequate safeguards are provided, applied research invariably tends to drive out basic research. Then, as Dr. Waterman has pointed out, “Developments will inevitably be undertaken prematurely, career incentives will gravitate strongly toward applied science, and the opportunities for making major scientific discoveries will be lost. Unfortunately, pressures to emphasize new developments, without corresponding emphasis upon pure science... tend to degrade the quality of the nation’s technology in the long run, rather than to improve it.”

员 Which of the following best expresses the idea of this passage? _____.

- (A) Foundation Funds
- (B) The Importance of Basic Research
- (C) Basic Research and Applied Research
- (D) The Attractiveness of Applied Research

圆 Industry is primarily interested in applied research because it _____.

- (A) provides better understanding
- (B) is frowned upon by the foundation
- (C) offers immediate profit
- (D) drives out basic research

猿 The importance of basic research is _____.

- (A) it leads to results that can be appreciated
- (B) it is driven out by applied research
- (C) it provides the basis for scientific progress
- (D) its results cannot be anticipated

源 It is clear that the federal government _____.

- (A) encourages basic research
- (B) devotes more than 80% of its research and development funds to applied research
- (C) spends far more on applied research than on military problems
- (D) opposes the foundation's grants to basic research

缘 By saying that "he had no idea of their usefulness to medicine" (Line 15, Para. 1), the author means that _____.

- (A) the physicist knew nothing about medicine
- (B) the physicist didn't know the usefulness of medicine
- (C) the physicist discovered X-rays for medical use
- (D) the physicist didn't know that X-rays was useful for medicine

答案与解析

员 (C) 第一段第一、二句指出,为什么基金要竭力支持基础研究而不是应用研究。基础研究是科学的心脏。第一段论述了基础研究的重要性,第二段讲述了应用研究的特点。

圆 (C) 第二段第三句指出,工业自然更关心应用研究,因为它们能很快提高利润。

猿 (C) 第一段第二句指出,基础研究是科学的心脏,它所积累的产品是科学进步的本钱。

源 (A) 第一段第一句和第二段第三句后半句指出,基金竭力支持基础研究而不是应用研究。美国政府目前分配给基础研究的资金达到它全部研发资金的 80%。

缘 (D) 发现 X 射线的物理学家伦琴最初并不知道它能广泛应用到医学上。

Passage 4

摇摇Revenge is one of those things that everyone enjoys. People don't like to talk about it, though. Just the same, there is nothing more satisfying or more rewarding than revenge. The purpose is not to harm your victims but to let them know that you are upset about something that they are doing to you. Careful plotting can provide you with relief from bothersome coworkers, *gossiping* friends, or nagging(唠叨的) family members.

Coworkers who make comments about the fact that you are always fifteen minutes late for work can be taken care of very simply. All you have to do is to get up extra early one day. Before the sun comes up, drive to each coworker's house. Reach under the hood(引擎盖) of your coworker's car and disconnect the center wire that leads to the distributor(分电器) cap, the car will be unharmed, but it will not start, and your friends at work will all be late for work on the same day. If you're lucky, your boss might notice that you are the only one there and will give a raise.

Gossiping friends at school are also perfect targets for a simple act of revenge. A way to trap either male or female friends is to leave phony messages on their lockers(有锁的储物柜). If the friend that you want to get is male, leave a message that a certain girl would like him to stop by her house later that day. With any luck, her boyfriend will be there. The girl won't leave his home for a month.

When Mom and Dad and your sisters and brothers really begin to annoy you, harmless revenge may be just the way to make them quiet down for a while. The dinner table is a likely place. Just before the meal begins, throw a handful of raisins(葡萄干) into the food. Wait about five minutes and, after everyone has begun to eat, cover your mouth with your hand and begin to make odd noises. When they ask you what the matter is, point to a raisin and yell, "Bug(臭虫)!" They'll dump their food in the disposal, jump into the car, and head for McDonald's. That night, you'll have your first quiet, peaceful meal in a long time.

A well-planned revenge does not have to hurt anyone. The object is simply to let other people know that they are beginning to bother you.

员 The intention of the passage is how to _____.

- (A) avoid nagging family members
- (B) silence gossiping friends
- (C) make a harmless revenge
- (D) deal with bothersome coworkers

圆 From the text, a harmless revenge is _____.

- (A) to react to those who bother you
- (B) to amuse the victim

(C) to prevent one from disturbing others

(D) to hurt nobody emotionally

猿 As a harmless revenge, you might come first and get a raise by _____.

(A) pleasing your boss

(B) getting up earlier than your colleagues

(C) destroying your colleagues' cars

(D) making your colleagues come late

源 Which of the following statements is TRUE according to the second example? _____.

(A) The girl received a phony message

(B) The victim was invited by the girl

(C) The girl managed to revenge the victim harmlessly

(D) The girl wasn't expecting the victim.

缘 The word "gossiping" is closest in meaning to _____.

(A) chatting

(B) talking

(C) tattling

(D) narrating

答案与解析

员 (C) 第一段第三句指出, 报复的目的不是为了伤害对方, 而是为了让他知道他所做之事使你感到不安。最后一段第一句指出, 精心策划的报复不会伤害任何人。

圆 (A) 最后一句指出, 报复的目的仅仅是让其他人知道他们在干扰你。

猿 (D) 第二段提到, 要报复经常说你迟到的同事很简单, 你只要在某一天起得特别早, 驱车到每一个同事家, 将他车上的中心点火线断开既可。如果你幸运, 老板会注意到你是惟一按时上班的人, 会给你加薪。

源 (D) 第三段提到, 要报复喜欢说别人闲话的同学很简单, 在他或她的衣柜上留下一张假信, 如果对方是男的, 信上说“某女孩希望他当天晚些到她家玩”, 碰巧她男朋友会在那里。如果女孩的男朋友来她家, 她自然不希望其他男同学再来玩。

缘 (C) chatting“聊天”, talking“谈话”, tattling“饶舌”, narrating“讲述”。gossiping 意为“说闲话, 饶舌”, 与 tattling 意义接近。

Passage 5

摇摇 If you have chosen the right, fairly easy, sort of book for your general reading practice, you will not need to use a dictionary for such an exercise. If you really must know the dictionary meaning of all the words you meet (a doubtful necessity) jot (略记) them down on a piece of paper to look up later. Actually, the meanings of many words will be clear from the sentences around them — what we call the “context”. Here is an example. Do you know the word “sou'wester”? It has two meanings in English as the following sentences

indicate :

a) In spite of the fact that the fishermen were wearing sou'westers , the storm was so heavy they were wet through.

b) An east or north-east wind brings cold , dry weather to England , but a sou'wester usually brings rain.

You should have guessed very easily that in sentence a) the word sou'wester refers to some kind of waterproof clothing , presumably quite thick and heavy since it is worn by fishermen in storms. In sentence b) it is clearly a kind of wind , coming from a south-westerly direction. Incidentally , you would have had the greatest difficulty in finding this word in most dictionaries since it often appears a long way down among the secondary meanings of south. If you did not know that sou' meant ' south ' in the first place you could only have found the word by the merest chance.

Most paragraphs have a ' topic sentence ' which expresses the central idea. The remaining sentences expand or support that idea. It has been estimated that between 1/4 and 1/2 of all expository(说明) paragraphs in English have the topic sentence first. Always pay special attention to the first sentence of a paragraph ; it is most likely to give you the main idea.

Sometimes , though , the first sentence in the paragraph does not have the feel of a ' main idea ' sentence. It does not seem to give us enough new information to justify a paragraph. The next most likely place to look for the topic sentence is the last sentence of the paragraph.

Take this paragraph for example :

Some students prefer a strict teacher who tells them exactly what to do. Others prefer to be left to work on their own. Still others like a democratic discussion type of class. *No one teaching method can be devised to satisfy all students at the same time.*

Remember that the opening and closing paragraphs of a passage or chapter are particularly important. The opening paragraph suggests the general direction and content of the piece , while the closing paragraph often summarizes the very essence of what has been said.

员 According to the passage , the use of a dictionary is _____.

- (A) advisable for speed reading practice
- (B) unnecessary for speed reading practice
- (C) essential for speed reading practice
- (D) of no help in improving general reading ability

圆 Words like sou'wester can rarely be found even in a dictionary , they may be _____.

- (A) spelled wrongly
- (B) listed under another word
- (C) only put in by chance

(D) taken from another language

猿 Most expository paragraphs in English have a clearly defined topic sentence which usually comes first _____.

(A) in about 1/4 of cases

(B) in about 1/2 of cases

(C) in about 3/4 of cases

(D) very rarely

源 The ending paragraph of a piece of writing _____.

(A) is not really very important

(B) is often unnecessary repetition

(C) often comes at the end

(D) often summarizes the essence of the passage

缘 The author probably suggests that _____.

(A) you should use a dictionary while reading

(B) you should write down the words you meet in reading

(C) it is not necessary to take down the words you meet in reading

(D) it is necessary to take down the words on a piece of paper

答案与解析

员 (B) 第一段第一句指出, 如果是为了阅读练习, 你不需要使用字典。

圆 (B) 第二段第三句指出, 随便提一句, 由于这个词常常出现在 south 的很长的第二类意义中, 你在大多数词典中找到它会极困难。

猿 (B) 第三段第三句指出, 据估计, 在英文中所有说明性段落中, 1/4 1/2 第一句是主题句。

源 (D) 最后一段最后一句后半句指出, 而结尾段常常总结了全文所说的最本质的内容。

缘 (C) 第一段第二句指出, 如果你确实需要了解你在阅读中遇到的所有词汇的词典意义 (值得怀疑很有必要), 把它们用一张纸略记下来以便日后查阅。可见作者并不赞成这样做, 而从后面的内容中, 作者认为词义完全可以从上下文中猜出。

Passage 6

摇摇摇摇摇摇摇摇

A computer is an "information processor". It is given information, called "data", and instructed to do certain things to it and then show us the results. The data put into the computer is called the "input" and the results which come out are the "output". Some people say the circle of large standing stones at Stonehenge (史前巨石柱) is a kind of computer. Prehistoric people worked out their calendar from the position of the shadows made by the sun