

英语四六级快训系列

英语六级阅读 15 天快训

(精华版)

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内容提要

本书按照最新颁布的《大学英语教学大纲(修订本)》、《大学英语六级考试大纲》,结合近年来六级考试新题型编写。针对学生测试中常出现的问题,提供了做阅读理解题和简短回答题的具体方法;分天讲解训练的形式,更提高了本书训练的目的性和阶段性。本书短文选材新颖、仿真,每道题都附有讲解。

本书适于作为大学英语六级考试考前强化指导书,也可供报考 TOEFL 和硕士研究生的人员使用。

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代 序

“英语四六级快训系列”至今已出版两版,经过许多考生和老师的使用,证明该套书编排合理、科学、实用,已成为四六级考试图书中的精品。由于近几年四六级考试题型和模式基本稳定,因此本次修订只是对少部分练习进行了调整,重点是对注释和讲解进行严格推敲及增删,可以说,是该系列书多年锤炼的“精华版”。

“英语四六级快训系列”改变了以往传统的训练模式,强调“快速”、“准确”、“有效”。专家合理分配时间,瞄准考试重点、难点,反映最新考试信息。具体表现在:

1. 紧扣“新大纲”,体现科学性、先进性、实用性和灵活性的原则。
2. 录音读速加快。
3. 阅读文章更长,在相同的时间内阅读量增大或难度加大。
4. 新增加的词汇分布在各练习之中。
5. 增加了答案详解。
6. 作文难度更大,文章更长。
7. 仿真度高,接近真题。

作者还对近年来英语教学情况和四六级考试结果进行了分析和研究。学生在学习和考试中暴露出来的语言基础应用能力以及应试技巧等方面的不足之处,可按照书中提供的方式训练,并能在短时间内有较明显的突破。在短时间取得成效后还应及时攻固和

不断提高,只有通过日积月累的磨练和学习,才有可能使英语水平真正达到一个新的高度。

考试只是对自己英语水平的测试和鉴定,而不是学习的最终目的。希望考生能借助这套书顺利通过四六级考试,但同时希望考生能以此为基点全面提高英语的应用能力。

附新旧大纲比较:

四级要求:

	旧大纲	新大纲
词 汇	3800~4000	4200
阅读能力	50 词/分钟	70 词/分钟
听的能力	120 词/分钟	130~150 词/分钟
写的能力	半小时写出 100 词左右的短文	半小时写出 120~150 词的短文

六级要求:

	旧大纲	新大纲
词 汇	5000~5300	5500
阅读能力	70 词/分钟	70 词/分钟(文章难度加大)
听的能力	140 词/分钟	150~170 词/分钟
写的能力	半小时写出 120 词左右的短文	半小时写出 150~180 词的短文

读者在使用本系列书过程中,如有什么感想、要求及建议,请与我们联系,并欢迎投稿。

E-mail: chenfeng-book @china. com

晨 风

2001.9

第 2 版前言

《大学英语教学大纲(修订本)》中较高要求中规定:阅读能力应“能顺利阅读语言难度较高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,并能就文章的内容进行分析、推理、判断和综合概括,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,能正确理解中心大意,抓住主要事实和有关细节,阅读速度达到每分钟 120 词”。另外,为了更好地测试学生的阅读理解能力和表达能力,近几年英语六级考试又增加了主观题型(简短回答),因而对考生提出了更高的要求。

按照新大纲要求以及《大学英语六级考试大纲》并结合近年来英语六级考试中出现的新题型,针对学生测试中常常出现的问题,我们编写了《英语六级阅读 15 天快训》一书,旨在给学生提供做阅读理解题和简短回答题的具体方法,帮助学生解决理解中的难点,提高阅读理解能力,顺利通过六级考试。

本书主要涉及阅读技巧和解题方法,确定中心思想,推论,逻辑推理,猜测词义及句义,确定错误的选择项,简短回答题;主要特点是分类训练,分开讲解,全面介绍略读,查读,全面理解文章的方法,提高学生的语言技能、理解技能和快速获取信息的能力,使学生能一天天感觉到自己的进步。

书中所选文章题材广泛,有人物传记、社会文化、政治经济、现

代科技等 ,体裁多样 ,有议论文、记叙文、说明文。素材均选自国外书刊 ,内容新颖、丰富 ,信息量大 ,且有较强的知识性、时代性和趣味性 ,有助于增强学生的兴趣 ,培养学生的语感 ,提高学生的阅读能力。

鉴于水平有限 ,书中谬误疏漏之处在所难免 ,敬请广大读者不吝赐教。

编 者

2001 年 9 月

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第 1 天 阅读技巧和解题方法

I. 略谈阅读理解测试

根据《大学英语六级考试大纲》,阅读理解部分一般由四篇内容、难度和体裁不同的短文构成,阅读量在 1 400 词左右。考生必须在 35 分钟内读完这些短文并回答 20 个与短文内容有关的选择题。这些文章内容广泛,涉及物理、化学、动物、植物、文学、历史、天文、地理、名人名著、社会文化、政治经济、现代科技等。文章体裁多样,包括记叙文、论说文、说明文和应用文。

试题设计主要为下列几种:

- 1) 确定中心思想
- 2) 推论句、段以及文章的意思
- 3) 逻辑推理
- 4) 猜测词义
- 5) 确定没有提及或错误的选择项

阅读理解要求考生既能掌握所读材料的主旨大意、事实和细节,又能根据所读材料进行判断和推理。一般来说,同一篇短文选择题的先后顺序是根据文章内容的先后安排的(除了推理性问

题) 跳躍现象较少。

这里所讲的阅读理解是篇章理解。当语段组成语篇时,各个语段之间都存在着不同的逻辑关系,可以表示并列、顺序、递进、转折、总分、解释、因果等关系。并列关系指句子之间、段落之间处于平等的地位;顺序表示句子、段落是按事物的发展顺序来写的;递进关系是指句子是按语义的轻重、认识的深浅,即由轻到重,由浅入深来安排的;转折关系经常用对比和对照的方法写;总分关系一般是主题句后边的句子为主题句服务;解释关系是后边的句子对前边的句子作解释、引申、例证;因果关系也可以说是一种特殊的解释关系。句子就是由上述方法构成语篇的统一性(unity)、连贯性(coherence)和粘着性(cohesion)。

II. 阅读技巧和解题方法

阅读方法一般有三种:带着问题去阅读;读懂文章后做题;粗读后,再看题找答案。不同体裁、类别的文章其阅读方法不尽相同。

1. 确定中心思想

一篇文章的主旨大意往往只有一个,各个语段都必须围绕其中心话题。

Example 1

Doctors are of the opinion that most people cannot live beyond 100 years, but a growing number of scientists believe that the aging process can be controlled. There are more than 12,000 Americans over 100 years old who receive Social Security benefits, and their numbers are increasing each year. Dr. James Langley of Chicago claims that, theoretically and under ideal conditions, animals, including man, can live six times longer than their normal period of growth. A person's period of growth lasts approximately twenty -

five years. If Dr. Langley 's theory is accurate , future generations can expect a life span of 150 years.

Which sentence best expresses the main idea ?

- A) Within a few generations , most people will probably live for 150 years.
- B) Social Security pensioners are steadily increasing in number.
- C) Physicians and scientists disagree regarding man 's possible life span.
- D) Man 's normal period of growth compares with that of animals.

答案 C) 第一句话就点明主题。

Example 2

What is the cause of chronic fatigue syndrome ? Past research has suggested a link to the Epstein-Barr virus , but now many scientists are questioning that connection. New findings suggest that the Epstein-Barr virus is not a primary cause , but it may still trigger the illness. The symptoms may be due to a variety of things rather than just one. Still , some researchers are sticking with the idea of Epstein-Barr virus causing the illness. They say that it is premature to make such a judgment.

Chronic fatigue syndrome has been dubbed the“ yuppie disease ” by some since it is often diagnosed in professional women in their twenties and thirties. It may be the result of never recovering completely from illnesses such as the flu. Though the cause is not clear , the symptoms are. To be called a chronic fatigue sufferer , one must have the debilitating illness for more than six months and must exhibit at least eight of the eleven symptoms , including sore throat ,

mild fever , and muscular aches.

With which of the following subjects is the passage mainly concerned ?

- A) A disagreement between scientists.
- B) Diseases affecting yuppies.
- C) Causes and symptoms of an illness.
- D) The relationship between a virus and an illness.

答案 C) 第一段讨论慢性疲劳综合症的诱因 ,第二段讨论其症状。 A) 不对 ,文章讲到科学家们的不同观点 ,但不是本文的主题。 B) 不对 ,本文并非涉及到所有导致慢性疲劳综合症的疾病。 D) 不对 ,文章讲到 the Epstein-Barry virus 和慢性疲劳综合症的关系 ,但第二段并没有涉及。

做这类选择题时 ,我们可以(1)略读(skimming)全文以获取总体印象 (2)在重要句子和作者的观点下画线(underlining) (3)推敲所画线部分 ,确定其题目和主旨大意。

Example 3

To keep clear of concealment , to keep clear of the need of concealment , to do nothing which he might not do out on the middle of Boston Common at noonday — I cannot say how more and more it seems to me to be the glory of young man 's life. It is an awful hour when the first necessity of hiding anything comes. The whole life is different thenceforth. When there are questions to be feared and eyes to be avoided and subjects which must not be touched , then the bloom of life is gone. Put off that day as long as possible. Put it off forever if you can.

The main idea of this passage is _____.

- A) a time for concealment
- B) noonday on Boston Common

C) a code for living

D) penalties for putting things off

答案 C) 作者在推荐一种没有欺骗、没有隐瞒的生活准则。A) 和 B) 不是主题 ,D) 与最后两句意思相反。

让我们看下列图解 :

(1)

Topic
sentence

Africa — The fight against starvation in six West African
nations is being hampered by the rainy season.

Supporting
sentences

Heavy rains are turning the dirt roads into
muddy rivers. Relief will have to wait for
a dry spell which seems nowhere in
sight. The weather bureau
is maintaining silence
for fear of causing
increased
alarm.

(2)

Supporting
sentences

If the
wind be-
comes gusty
after a period of
calm , you should
seek shelter. The sky
needs careful watching ,
too. Gradual darkening and
“ boiling ” clouds should quicken
your pace. Lightning and thunder
are common enough storm indicators ,
but few people realize that the brightness
of the lightning is not nearly as important as
the number of lightning flashes. The signs of
an oncoming storm are many , and a person 's
life may depend on his ability to interpret them.

Topic
sentence

(3)

Supporting sentence	Despite the fact that cars from Germany and Japan are flooding the American market , Ford , General Motors and Chrysler are hiring more workers than ever before.
Topic sentence	The flood of cheaper foreign cars has not cost American auto workers their jobs as some ex- perts predicted. Ford operates as far as Asia , and General Motors is considered Aus- tralia 's biggest employer. Yet GM
Supporting sentences	has its huge American work force and hires hundreds of people every day to meet the needs of an insatiable society.

(4)

Supporting sentences or supporting details = Implied main idea	Joshua Bingham studied four years at the University of Paris and decided to leave before his gradua- tion. He transferred to the Uni- versity of Berlin and graduated with honors. Harvard Law School and , later , Boston College provided him with an excellent legal background. He is presently a corporation lawyer in Miami , Florida.
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图(1)的第一句话是主题句 ,我们用倒三角形▼(an inverted triangle)来表示 ;图(2)的最后一句话是主题句 ,我们用三角形▲(a regular triangle)来表示 ;图(3)的主题句在中间 ,我们用菱形◆(the shape of the diamond)来表示 ;图(4)没有主题句 ,需要我们分析推敲其主旨大意 ,我们常用长方形■(a rectangle)来表示。

从上面图解可知,段落一般都是由一个主题句(topic sentence)和若干个辅助句(supporting sentences)构成。主题句还常常带有关键词,这些关键词对全段内容起主导作用。辅助句必须围绕着主题句,否则就会损害段落的统一性。在段落中,主题句可在不同位置,但最常见的位置还是在段首。这对作者来说,比较容易突出中心思想;对读者来说,也比较容易把握作者的思路。所以,只要读者仔细分析,认真思考,中心思想是不难确定的。

请做下列试题:

(1) Pity the poor steelhead trout. As if it weren't risky enough dodging fishermen and hungry predators, some of the luckless fish fight their way miles upstream to mate, only to be stopped by a high waterfall or an impassable dam. Because of this problem, thoughtful water officials have installed special ladders and pools at their pumping stations. Now as the fish swim upstream they encounter a new series of low rock dams and pools instead of the 4-foot waterfall that made a difficult jump for the steelhead. And during the entire migrating season a fish ladder will allow fish to make it over the wooden dam, even when the company pumps are operating.

This passage is mainly about _____.

- A) a problem for fish
- B) waterfalls that are too high
- C) company pumps
- D) the mating season for trout

(2) Originator of the Montessori method of education for preschool children, Maria Montessori was the first woman to receive a medical degree in Italy. After receiving her degree in 1894, she

worked with subnormal children as a psychiatrist at the University of Rome. It was there that she pioneered in the instruction of retarded children , especially through the use of an environment rich in manipulative materials. The success of Maria 's program with retarded children led her to believe that the same improvements could be made in the education of normal preschool children. This led her to open the first day care center in Rome. With its success similar institutions were opened in other parts of Europe and in the United States. In the early part of this century , however , interest in the Montessori method declined because of those who argued that education should be more disciplined. But by the late 1950s the Montessori method experienced a renaissance , and in the 1960s the American Montessori Society was formed. The chief components of the Montessori method are self-motivation and autoeducation. Followers of the method believe that a child will learn naturally if put in an environment with the proper materials. The teacher acts as observer and only interferes if help is needed. Educators in this system are trying to reverse the traditional system of an active teacher and a passive class.

The best title for this passage is _____.

- A) Self-Motivation
- B) The Montessori Method
- C) Educating Subnormal Children
- D) A New System of Education

(3) Edwin Forrest , often acknowledged as America 's first national idol of American theater , was born in Philadelphia in 1806. He was only 14 years old when he played Young Norval in Home 's Douglas. He gained experience supporting Edmund Kean in

Shakespearean roles. In 1826 he established himself as one of the great tragedians of the century with his role as Othello in a New York debut. His acting was bold and forceful , though he was also criticized for his boasting and loud language. His violent temper did not injure his reputation as an actor though and his last appearance as Richelieu in Boston in 1871 was greeted with acclaim.

Which of the following statements is best supported by this passage ?

- A) Though Edwin Forrest was criticized , his reputation was not damaged.
- B) Forrest was a great actor , but was brought down by his uncontrollable temper.
- C) Though bold in his acting , in reality , Forrest 's life was a tragedy.
- D) Forrest became a national idol at age 14 , but was ruined later.

(1) 答案 A)

第一、二句话告诉我们本文讲鱼所遇到的问题。B)只是问题的一个例子 ,C)是问题所发生的地方 ,D)也只是问题发生时的一个例子。

(2) 答案 B)

这篇文章总的介绍了 Montessori 方法。A)和 C)只是其方法的一个方面 ,D)是错误的 ,因为这种教学法始于本世纪初期。

(3) 答案 A)

最后两句话告诉我们 ,人们批评他说话口气太大 ,但他当演员的声誉并没有受到影响。B)正好与 A)相反。C)本文没有讲到 Forrest 的生活是个悲剧。D)不对 ,因为他 14 岁时 ,并没有成为民族的偶像 ,只是第一次登台表演。

2. 推论句子、段落以及文章的意思

推论性选择题指文章里作者没有明确地说明他/ 她想要表达的思想 ,需要读者根据文中信息 ,推论出文章中所隐含的意思。

Example 1

The turkey that graces your table today is as different from the bird your grandfather brought home as a Ford compact is from a Model T.

The contemporary Thanksgiving turkey is the compact model , an engineered product , streamlined and marketed by giant turkey factories for modern consumers.

And while Americans will be eating more turkeys this year than ever before , and nine and a half times more than their grandfathers , according to consumer-research groups , today 's consumer has less choice in what kind of turkey to buy and will pay 20 percent more for it this year than last.

Gradually over the last two decades , the small turkey farms all across the country have disappeared , giving way to large “ integrated ” turkey producers that concentrate their operations in a handful of states.

The fresh-killed turkey , once sold in great flocks at Thanksgiving and Christmas , has also disappeared , replaced by frozen processed turkey and turkey products designed to sell the year round.

Although some feel that the taste has been designed out of the turkey by substituting additives for natural fat , industry and Government spokesmen disagree , asserting that the standardized product has improved quality. Their criteria for quality , however , are volume of meat per pound and volume of turkeys sold.