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大学英语四级考试 考点详解与技能突破

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前 言

《大学英语四级考点详解与技能突破》是我们编写的英语综合应试高分必备丛书之一,其读者面为广大大学英语四级应试者。

所谓综合应试,是强调以阅读理解为重点、以篇章分析为主,全面提高词汇、结构水平,全面促进完形填空、翻译和英语写作能力的提高。该书由六章组成。第一章阅读理解,以最近五年的 CET-4 考题为例,用汉语脚注、词汇结构、解题思路、答案详解、英译汉技巧和参考译文六种形式为读者提供一种综合性复习的思路。第二章完形填空选材和出处与第一章相同,只是采用快读、解题思路、答案详解和参考译文四种形式处理。第三章词汇结构取“词不离句”的思路,从《大学英语》精读教程 1—4 册的每单元中提取含有重要词汇或结构的句子,每单元 20 句,共 800 句,以汉英互译的形式帮助读者进行复习。第四章则从常用结构入手,提供可用于 CET-4 和 CET-6 英语写作中不同体裁、内容的实用句型和常用展句成段手段。该章还提供了 6 篇参考作文,旨在说明怎样紧扣主题、严谨布局以及有效、变通灵活地使用常用句型。第五、六两章分别讨论怎样做好英译汉题和简答题。

我们期待广大读者能在使用本书的过程中,促进学习习惯的转变和英语知识向语篇分析、理解能力的转变,力求在阅读理解、词汇结构、翻译和写作等能力方面有较大提高。

限于水平,本书难免出现疏漏和错误,欢迎广大读者批评和指正。

作 者

2003 年 1 月 20 日于长沙

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一、怎样做好阅读理解题

要做好阅读理解题,首先得了解该题型的考试内容和常用命题形式。

怎样命题？

- | | | |
|---|---------------------------|--|
| 1 | 掌握所读材料的主旨大意、阐述主旨的事实和相关细节。 | This passage is mainly about
The author seems to believe that
The best /most appropriate title for the passage is .
The fact is related to |
| 2 | 根据所读材料进行一定的判断和推理。 | Which is TRUE /NOT TRUE according to ?
The author cites to demonstrate
The author mentioned the example of to show /justify
The direct reason for is .
emerged as a result of
From the passage we can infer that . |
| 3 | 依上下文的逻辑关系理解词、短语和句子的意义。 | (Line X, Para Y) probably means .
By the 1 st /2 nd sentence in paragraph X the author means that |
| 4 | 领会作者的观点,判断作者的态度。 | What the author tries to suggest may best be interpreted as
The author is of the opinion that X's beliefs are
The author's attitude towards is |

了解了阅读理解的主要测试内容和基本命题类型(主旨题、细节题、推断题和词义/句义题)以后,我们通常可以从以下 10 个方面训练自己的解题思路。

预测的目的

- 1 找出关键词。凡在试题中出现两次或两次以上的词或短语,可以视为关键词。注意 关键词可以是同义或近义的词、短语形式。
 - 2 在找出关键词的同时,我们可尽量找出与其关系密切的词或短语。如果关键词是 ads,则相关词或短语会有 advertisers, manufacturers, consumers, the media (television, radio, the press), departments concerned, 如关键词是 education, 则相关词或短语会有 teachers, students /parents, management, government 或 the department concerned。依此,可预测待读的短文会讨论相关方面的两者或三者之间的关系。
 - 3 用题中已出现的事实(肯定的或否定的)、观点去推测作者等人的观点。
 - 4 明确需要回答的问题的题型,是问主旨、细节,做判断,还是解词解句,以求“心中有数”。
- 实践证明 预测后带着问题阅读,比起读完一遍后看题、再回头重读原文,时间合算些,效果也好些。

从语篇角度而言,英语文章的大体布局往往是 论点→理论上的论证或/和通俗化的说明→例证或/和引证→反证(理论和/和实例)→结论性句子。如果文章的开篇句/段中的论点和结论段中的论点一致,则文章脉络大致相同,相异之处只是其中一项或几项且不一定出现,而阐述、论证、例证等着墨多少不同罢了。



如果文章的开篇句/段中的论点和结论段中的论点恰好相反,则开篇句/段中多为某种传统观点、流行看法,或某专家学者的“反潮流”、标新立异的论点,在省略、浓缩上述结构后,会出现 however, but, nevertheless, opposite to, by contrast 等词语,引出相反观点、意见等。而此后又是上述结构的简化或浓缩。从整体上把握行文结构,有利于我们捕捉命题人的意图。例如 第一段或第几段中的第一句或第几句是什么意思? 如果这个句子是论点,则其下文的论证或阐述和它意思相同。反之,如果这个句子是论证或阐述,则它表达的就是该论点。又如 作者引用了某一个或多个例证,想说明什么? 作者引用了某位语言学家、经济学家或诗人的话,想说明什么? 例证、引言都是用来增强论点的说服力的,自然就是想要让读者接受作者倡导的某种理论或观点了。实践证明,了解英语文章的常见思路、布局,有助于我们把阅读理解从句子水平提高到语篇水平,即掌握文章的主题思想、从宏观上理解上下文之间的逻辑关系、顺着作者的思路去把握全文内容并概括出全文结论、了解作者对所讨论问题所持的观点、态度等。而不了解、不熟悉行文结构,则往往把句子看成是孤立的,彼此之间没有联系,则难免“只见树木不见森林”。

(三) 熟悉利用上下文、同义词(短语)、近义词(短语)和反义词(短语)理解句子、词或短语意义的技巧

我们应当牢记,阅读的文章的各个句子在全文中都有各自的地位和作用(提出论点、阐述论点、论证论点、叙述事实、补充细节等)。因此,任何一个句子的意思,或其中某个词、某个短语的意思,都可以在紧扣全文或某段落主题思想的前提下,找到用来强化作者倡导、支持的观点或驳斥其反对的观点的句子来。我们不妨采用公式化的语言来描述这种技巧。

若 某文章结构为 $S_1|V_1, S_2|V_2, \dots, S_x|V_x, S_{x+1}|V_{x+1}$

求 句子 $S_x|V_x$ 的意义,或句中某个词/短语的意义。

解 在了解了全文主题思想的前提下,把 $S_x|V_x$ 向前推一句或数句,看它是对主题思想或所在段落的主题句的阐述、论证还是反驳。若 $S_x|V_x$ 本身是个小的论点,则其后面的一句是对它阐述、论证或是反驳。若 $S_x|V_x = S_1|V_1$ 即是全文的开篇句,或全文的结论句,则分别只有下文或上文可相互映照了。文章内出现了表示转折、对照、对比等关联词,且全文重心出现明显转移,则结论句往往与开篇句的意义相反。若文章平铺直叙,一气呵成,则结论句和开篇句意义相同,表达方式、角度则多有变化。

有了清醒的上下文互解的意识,在平时做阅读理解练习时,不妨积累归纳一些同义词、近义词和反义词及相关短语互解的材料。如在关于民意测验的篇章中,下列词(短语)都表示同一意思 public opinion poll, public poll, the poll, the survey, the investigation, poll taking 等。而下列词都是表示“科研” research, study, investigation, observation。关于“动机”,在同一篇章中可以分别为 motive, motivation, ambition, stimulation, irritation, intention 等。而在同一篇章中表示“人生目标”,则有 the goal/object/objective/target/focus of the life/existence, the large picture, future/prospect in the mind 等。把反义词(短语)归类,也有利于在扩大词汇量的同时,加快理解、阐释词/短语意义的速度。例如,我们不妨把一些常见反义词(短语)归类并熟记。例如 positive—negative, horizontal—vertical, maximal—minimal, luxurious—economical, temporary—permanent, temporality—perpetuity, chronic—acute, overt—covert, extend—shrink, explicit—implicit/vague/ambiguous, in the affirmative—in the negative, by chance/accident—by design/on purpose, in cash/by check 等。

(四) 记忆典型句型,简化长句、难句

1 记忆一些典型句型,既有利于提高解题的速度和准确度,也有利于提高口头和书面表达能力。例如 A government has no more right than an individual

要是我们熟悉所谓“鲸鱼句型”——A whale is no more a fish than a horse is (鲸之非鱼,犹马之非鱼也。)则我们就知道这句话的意思是 任何个人无权杀人,政府同样无权使用极刑。

又如 Sunlight is no less necessary than fresh air to a healthy condition of body

要是我们熟悉 A whale is no less a mammal than a horse is (鲸和马一样,都是哺乳动物。)则我们就知道这句话的意思是 就人体健康条件而言,阳光和新鲜空气同样必要。

我们需要归类并用心记忆的典型句型甚多。下面再举数例

The oceans do not so much divide the world as unite it 与其说陆以洋分,毋宁说陆以洋和。句中,not/so much as = rather than, 而其中的 as 又可用 but rather 替代。如

The great use of a school education is not so much to teach you things but rather to teach you the art of

learning 学校教育的最大效用,不在教你知识,而在教你学习方法。

我们在英译汉、汉译英和写作各节里,还会分别介绍若干疑难句型和重要句型,读者在读完全书之后,不妨把它们集中起来,在理解、熟记的基础上,结合不同需要而灵活地运用。

(五) 熟悉强调、肯定和否定表示法

我们要十分注意行文中出现的 *It is/was that* 的表示强调的结构,因为被强调的部分往往是文中重要论点之一,特别是当被强调部分本身又含有较难理解的词语,或含有定语从句等,因而句子拖得较长时,更宜注意句子的意义。例如 *Thus, in the American economic system, it is the demand of individual consumer, coupled with the desire of individuals to maximize their incomes, that together determine what shall be produced and how resources are used to produce it.* (这样,在美国的经济体制中,正是消费者形形色色的需求,加上商人们谋取最大利益动机和消费者最大限度地发挥他们收入的作用的欲望,两者结合起来确定了该生产什么商品以及怎样利用原材料去生产这些商品。)这个长句,实际上是对美国经济体系是怎样运作的做出阐释。要是没有了解句子的意思,在就 “*The passage is mainly about _____*” 一题做出选择时,就可能把握不住 “*how American system works*” 这个正确选项,而误选 “*how American goods are produced*” 或 “*how American consumers buy their goods,*” 或 “*how American businessmen make their profits*”。而像 “*It does show that The phenomenon does set us thinking None of their evidence is convincing*” 之类表示 “的确”、“毫不” 之类的肯定、否定形式,则多用于作者强调自己倡导的观点或反驳对方的论点。例如 *But it (指 navigation computer) is a developing technology—meaning prices should eventually drop—and the market does seem to be growing* (CET-6, 2002, 1) (虽然电脑导航这项技术仍处于开发阶段,这意味着其价格最终还会下降,但现在的市场看来却还在不断扩大。)要是没有理解 “*the market does seem to be growing*” 的意思,就很难在推论题 “*We learn from the passage that navigation computers _____.*” 中找出正确的选项 “*are likely to be accepted by more drivers*”。同样,熟悉全部否定、部分否定、双重否定等表示法,如 *None of the villagers can be trusted* (那些村民没有一个靠得住。)*All is not gold that glitters* (闪闪发光的未必都是金子。)*No one can read it without crying* (无人读此而不泪下。)*There is scarcely a man but has his weak side* (人皆有缺点。but=who/that/which not) *The value of health is not esteemed until it is lost* (人要到失去了健康才知道健康之可贵。)*The boy is not sick but he can come to school* (那男孩并不是病得不能上学。)*The seed does not complain because there are stones and turf in its way* (种子并不因为有石头和草皮挡路而抱怨。)还有一些得依语境做出分析才能确认其否定或肯定意思的词,如 *few, little, a few, a little* 等。且看一例 *Few animals are as well adapted to the dry, hot desert as the kangaroo rat* (几乎没有几种动物能像袋鼠那样充分适应干燥、炎热的沙漠生活。)该句对袋鼠持充分肯定的看法,但在下面这句中 *He little knew what trouble he was going to have* (他那时完全不知道他将遭遇什么困难。)句中 *little*=not at all,是全部肯定。在以 “*Which of the following statements is TRUE or NOT TRUE?*” 形式出现的命题中,往往会出现带有 *all, every, none, never, always, completely, entirely, no exception* 之类的选择项,而采用这类绝对肯定或否定的措辞,多与西方人行文风格相佐。因此多有以局部代替全局、以个性代替共性之嫌,作判断时宜对此持提高警惕的态度。

(六) 熟悉逻辑关联词或词语

英语是一种重形式、重形合的语言,也是一种重逻辑、重分析的语言,其形式逻辑体系在行文中的表现之一就是使用逻辑关联词或词语来表示句子之间的逻辑关系。这些逻辑关系有增加、递进、转折、前提、结论、对照、对比、原因、结果等。例如,表示原因的逻辑关联词有 *result from, because of, on the ground of, on account of, thanks to, owing to, due to* 等,表示结果的则有 *result in, as a result, consequently* 等。熟悉这些词语所连接的句子之间的逻辑关系,有利于我们在阅读中较快、较准确地把握住作者思路,提高解题的速度和正确率。例如,2001 年高考阅读理解中有一道这样的题 *Shanghai's car rental industry is growing so fast mainly due to _____* 而文章中出现的句子是 *The major market force rests in the growing population of white-collar employees, who can afford the new service* (租用汽车的市场主力存在于越来越多的白领雇员之中,因为他们购买得起这种新型服务。)问题中 “*mainly due to*” 是问其主要原因,而文章中 *rest is become based or founded* 的意思,说明 *the growing population of white-collar employees* 构成了市场的主力,即租用汽车顾客的主要部分。若梳理不出其中的因果关系,则难以避免答非所问。

(七) 归类整理说明作者态度、写作目的和文章主题的词语

试题中经常用于判断作者态度的选择项的词语有 表主观的 subjective, 客观的 objective, 表乐观的 optimistic, 悲观的 pessimistic, 表关心的 concerned, 漠不关心的 indifferent, 表赞许的 approving, 批评的 critical, 挑剔的 fault-finding, 表公平的 impartial, 偏袒 / 片面的 partial, 带有偏见的 biased / prejudiced, 不满的 dissatisfied, 容忍的 tolerant, 怀疑的 suspicious, 表肯定的 positive, 否定的 negative, 中立的 neutral。

而常用于评议作者观点的词语有 表肤浅的 superficial, 有远见卓识的 insightful, 表保守的 conservative, 急 / 激进的 radical, 表令人迷惑的 puzzling / confusing, 有教育意义的 instructive, 能启迪人的 enlightening, 表富于想象的 imaginative, 想象中的 / 不真实的 imaginary, 切实可行的 practicable, 表自相矛盾的 inconsistent / self-contradictory, 有说服力的 convincing / compelling / persuasive, 很有道理的 well-informed 等等。

判断作者的写作目的, 常见的词语有 倡导某种观点 (to advocate), 介绍某种科学新发现或技术新发明 (to introduce), 批评某种社会现象 (to criticize), 驳斥某种错误观点或陈旧观念 (to refute), 评议某一新闻事件 (to comment on), 分析某一事物发展方向 (to analyze), 预测某事物发展方向 (to predict), 就某种现象向社会发出警告或呼吁 (to warn the society of or appeal to the society for), 强调某一事物或某种因素的重要性 (to emphasize), 等等。

归纳文章主题则多以 what, which, how 和 why 引出一个句子。如果文章紧扣的是某事物、某现象的内容, 而全文又是采用平行结构分别叙述、说明该事物或现象的若干方面, 则 what + S + V 是先对文章主题的概括。而文章对在某事物上的多种观点进行比较, 或对完成、实现某事物的多种方法做出权衡, 并且在结论部分作者直接或间接亮出自己的选择, 则以 which 为主语或主语的定语 (which method / way) 多为最佳选择。要是文章属于说明文体, 其内容又是从若干方面、步骤介绍怎样做好某事 (如怎样制定计划、怎样准备应聘面试等), 则全文主题是向读者说明 "how to do something"。相对而言, 由 why 引出的句子概括主题的选择项就比较容易理解些。因为不论文章是讨论 / 分析某事物的原因, 还是分析、评议其利弊, 文章使用的衔接顺序的词语 (To begin with / First of all, Second, Finally), 表示对比的词语 (in comparison, contrary to, opposite to), 表示对照的词语 (by contrast, in contrast), 或分述不同方面 (On the one hand, On the other hand) 等都能展示出作者行文的思路。而且综合文章的开篇句和结论句, 往往也能让我们看到作者的评议、感慨是因 "why" 而发, 其建议或预测也往往是针对克服造成该事物的原因而做出的。这种技巧, 可能比较抽象。在此后的实例分析中, 可能读者会感到好理解、好接受的。

(八) 根据答案均衡分布率, 对没有把握的题重新审核

为避免考生投机取巧, 设计多项选择题时要求答案均衡分布, 即整份试卷试题的正确答案不集中在某一两个选择项上。事实证明, 这种设计是十分合理的。全国大学英语四、六级考试委员会下设的武汉考试中心曾进行过一次实验 让一个班的小学生在四级考试答卷纸上按四中选一的要求随意用铅笔划出答案, 结果是人均 26 分。这些小学生没有学过英语, 也不知各题的要求是什么, 所谓 "答案" 无非是随意勾划罢了。这就说明, 答案均衡分布, 有助于克服考生投机取巧的心理, 也有利测试出考生的真实成绩因而有利于挑选人才。因为, 不论哪种考试, 试题再难, 也不可能把录取线定在 30 分以下。我们曾对四、六级考试和研究生入学考试中第一次失利的一部分考生进行过非正式调查。他们普遍反映 填完答题卡后对选得最多一项中的某几道没有把握的题重新审定, 很有实际意义。

(九) 熟悉常用的干扰项设计方法

在 "Which is true? Which is not true? All of the following statements are true except" 之类的命题中, 往往涉及一些干扰项的设计方法, 即我们平时所说的 "文字游戏"。下面简述几种。

张冠李戴, 即更换前提、大范围等。如原文 Learning disabilities are very common They affect perhaps 10 percent of all children 而干扰项则改为 Reading disabilities are a common problem that affects 10 percent of the population 又如原文 The first of these was the case of Ruth Ellis who was hanged for shooting her lover 而干扰项则改为 Ruth Ellis was shot by his lover 对这种张冠李戴、移花接木的干扰, 我们不妨小结一下, 以示提醒。

偷梁换柱。把分散在句子中的 A 而 B 导致 C 的因果关系, 改换成是 B 导致了 C。如原文是 The sensors will work through the central home computer, and they will do much more than just turn the fire and

lights on and off for you the computer will call the fire brigade 而干扰项则改为 The sensor will detect fire and make an emergency call

混淆是非。把文章否定的观点“篡改”成文章提倡的观点。如原文 Traditional institutions, such as schools and colleges, will provide training at some non-traditional places of learning, such as supermarkets, pubs and churches The theory is that in such places students will feel more at ease, and therefore will be better motivated, than in a classroom. 而干扰项则改成了 Students will be better motivated in a classroom

改变时态。如原文 Doctors used to look at us like, "What spaceship did you guys get off of?" Now they're thirsty to know more 但干扰项却改成了 Doctors in the U S used to be thirsty to know more about the new medical field

文字游戏。如原文是 A wise man once said that the only thing necessary for the triumph of evil is for good men to do nothing (一位有识之士曾经说过, 好人若无动于衷, 势必会邪恶横行。)这句话可阐释为 It's certain that evil will prevail if good men do nothing about it 但命题人采用文字游戏技巧, 把它设计成 "It's only natural for virtue to defeat evil " "It's desirable for good men to keep away from evil " "It's unnecessary for good people to do anything in face of evil " 等干扰项。

此外, 还有无中生有、反客为主、画蛇添足、本末倒置等技巧。我们认为, 面对干扰项, 总的原则为 既要 从语篇上把握全文主旨, 敏锐地觉察偏离或违背中心思想的命题, 又要注意细节, 细微地排除歪曲或篡改论据、例证中时间、地点、人名、数据等因素的“误导”选择项。

(十) 灵活处理解题的顺序

一般说来, 阅读理解题的各篇文章的难度大抵相近, 按题序往下做也是理所当然的。但我们也注意到, 某些考试中, 相对而言, 难度最大的一篇或两篇安排在前面的情况并非绝无仅有, 特别是大学英语六级统考、全国考研英语的考题中不止一次出现过类似的安排。不少考生在考后反映, 阅读量过大, 时间到了还没有做完。若细问他们花在各篇上的具体时间, 则大都在做第一、二篇时各花掉了 15~20 分钟! 我们往往向这样的考生建议 要是在预测时连题目都难以看懂(但请注意, 超出了考试大纲词汇表范围又直接影响答题的单词或短语通常会在文章中给出汉语注释), 不妨采用“逆序法”——从最后一篇做起。因为做完比较容易的题以后再去做比较难的题, 不仅时间合算一些, 更重要的是遵循了先易后难的认知规律, 能让考生增添几分自信, 减轻些许压力。当然, “逆序法”并非万灵之药, 若某考生觉得每篇都难, 顺序、逆序又有何差异? 所以, 我们在本书中所提供的任何一种方法、技巧和思路, 对不同学习环境、不同英语基础和不同学习习惯的读者而言, 都难免会带有这种或那种局限性、片面性。我们恳切希望广大读者批判性地参考, 并在备考过程中结合自身特点对我们的意见加以去伪存真、去粗取精。

下面对 2001 年 6 月 CET-4 试题阅读理解的第一篇文章进行实例分析。

People living on parts of the south coast of England face a serious problem. In 1993, the owners of a large hotel and of several houses discovered, to their horror, that their gardens had disappeared overnight. The sea had eaten into the soft limestone cliffs on which they had been built. While experts were studying the problem, the hotel and several houses disappeared altogether, sliding down the cliff and into the sea.

Erosion (侵蚀) of the white cliffs along the south coast of England has always been a problem but it has become more serious in recent years. Dozens of homes have had to be abandoned as the sea has crept farther and farther inland. Experts have studied the areas most affected and have drawn up a map for local people, forecasting the year in which their homes will be swallowed up by the hungry sea.

Angry owners have called on the Government to erect sea defenses to protect their homes. Government surveyors have pointed out that in most cases, this is impossible. New sea walls would cost hundreds of millions of pounds and would merely make the waves and currents go further along the coast, shifting the problem from one area to another. The danger is likely to continue, they say, until the waves reach an inland area of hard rock which will not be eaten as limestone is. Meanwhile, if you want to buy a cheap house with an uncertain future, apply to a house agent in one of the threatened areas on the south coast of England. You can get a house for a knockdown price but it may turn out to be a knockdown home.

1 What is the cause of the problem that people living on parts of the south coast of England face?

- A) The disappearance of hotels, houses and gardens
 - B) The experts' lack of knowledge.
 - C) The rising of the sea level.
 - D) The washing-away of limestone cliffs
- 2 The erosion of the white cliffs in the south of England _____.
- A) will soon become a problem for people living in central England
 - B) has now become a threat to the local residents
 - C) is quickly changing the map of England
 - D) can be stopped if proper measures are taken
- 3 The experts' study on the problem of erosion can _____
- A) lead to its eventual solution
 - B) provide an effective way to slow it down
 - C) help to prevent it from worsening
 - D) warn people whose homes are in danger
4. It is not feasible to build sea defenses to protect against erosion because _____
- A) it is too costly and will endanger neighbouring areas
 - B) the government is too slow in taking action
 - C) they will be easily knocked down by waves and currents
 - D) house agents along the coast do not support the idea
- 5 According to the author, when buying a house along the south coast of England, people should _____.
- A) be aware of the potential danger involved
 - B) guard against being cheated by the house agent
 - C) take the quality of the house into consideration
 - D) examine the house carefully before making a decision

【解题思路】

· 先快读测试题。第一题告诉我们 居住在英格兰南部沿海部分地区的人面临了一个问题。这是以肯定形式出现的客观事实,要求回答其原因何在。第二题题目中出现的是一个长句子的主语部分,测试题的主干部分 英格兰南部沿海的白色峭壁被侵蚀。读者预测时不妨把它与第一题联系起来思考 这是不是第一题中提出的那个问题?第三题同样只出现了试题的主干部分 研究侵蚀问题的专家们能够_____。三道试题中两次出现"erosion",它很可能是关键词了。第四题指出 要建筑抗海水侵蚀的防御设施是不可能的,这就让我们更有把握地预测到,这篇短文讨论的就是海水对白色峭壁的侵蚀问题了。第五题问 依本文作者之见,若想在英格兰南部沿海购买房屋,则购买者宜_____? 有对前四道题的分析这一基础,紧扣关键词 erosion,则答案也就十分明显了。

【答案详解】

- 1 住在英国南部海岸的人们所面临的问题的原因是_____。
- A) 海水上涨 B) 石灰岩峭壁被海水洗掉
- C) 专家们知识缺乏 D) 旅馆、房屋和花园消失

根据预测得知 erosion 是关键词,是造成选择项 D 的原因,即人们忧虑的根源。这一预测主要为第一段第三句、第二段第一句所证实,全篇中还可从多处可见佐证。例如 从沿海某些地区的房屋角度来看,是 sliding down the cliff and into the sea, 是 be swallowed up by the hungry sea, 而从大海的角度来看,是 has crept further and further inland, 从人的角度来看,建筑防海水侵蚀墙之举 would merely make the waves and currents go further along the coast, shifting the problem from one area to another。因此,正确答案为 C。

附帶言之,考試大綱規定,凡超過教學大綱詞匯表範圍且影響答案的生詞,在試題中應

出现汉语注释。我们不妨依此而反推:凡试题中给了汉语注释的词,多为超纲且影响答题之词,宜重视。

2. 英国南部峭壁的侵蚀_____。

- A) (侵蚀)很快会成为英格兰中部居民的问题 B) (侵蚀)现已对当地居民构成威胁
C) 若采取恰当措施, (侵蚀)能够被制止 D) (侵蚀)在迅速改变英格兰的地图

全文第一句直指主题,说英格兰南部部分沿海地区的居民面临着一个严重的问题。第二句为解证,用事实说明是什么样性质的问题。第二段第一句进一步说明海水侵蚀问题存在已久,只是近些年来变得更加严重了。据此,正确答案该为 B。A 项中把南部部分沿海地区改为中部, C 项与文中的修筑防侵蚀墙只是转嫁危机的论述相反,而 D 项则纯属文字游戏,与文中所言的专家们绘制预测地图意思相去甚远,均应排除。

3 专家关于侵蚀的研究能_____。

- A) 对住房处于危险区的人们提出警告 B) 为延缓侵蚀提出有效办法
C) 有助于制止侵蚀恶化 D) 导致最终解决侵蚀问题

第二段最后一句说,专家们对受侵蚀最严重的地区进行了研究并绘制出地图,对海水将吞食他们住房的年代做出预测,这正是选项 A 的内涵。其他三个选项与第三段阐述的内容正好相反,故应排除(两个长句的理解,可参见译法指导)。

4 不可能修筑防海水侵蚀设施,因为_____。

- A) 房地产经纪人不支持这个意见 B) 造价昂贵,还会置邻近地区于危险之中
C) 政府采取行动过于迟缓 D) 它们容易被海水冲垮

第三段第三句说的正是选项 B 的意思。其余三项文内均未涉及,应排除。

5 依作者之见,在英格兰南部沿海购房,人们宜_____。

- A) 考虑房屋的质量 B) 提高警惕,以免被房地产经纪人欺骗
C) 仔细检查房屋后再做决定 D) 清楚其中涉及的潜在危险

既然全文讨论的主题是海水对沿岸石灰岩峭壁的侵蚀,且结论警告人们别贪图房价便宜而购买可能会沉没的房屋,因此正确答案为 D 项。至于房屋质量(A),谨防被骗(B)及先看后买(C),文中皆未涉及。

以下我们提供历届 CET-4 中的阅读理解题,做出精解,供读者备考和自测参考。

二、习题精解(2001~1997 CET-4 真题详解)

Passage 1

People living on parts of the south coast of England face a serious problem. In 1993, the owners of a large hotel and of several houses discovered, ① to their horror, that their gardens had disappeared overnight. The sea had ② eaten into the soft limestone cliffs on which they had been built. While experts were studying the problem, the hotel and several houses disappeared altogether, sliding down the cliff and into the sea.

Erosion (侵蚀) of the white cliffs along the south coast of England has always been a problem but it has become more serious in recent years. Dozen of homes have had to be abandoned as the sea has crept farther and farther inland. Experts have studied the areas affected and have drawn up a map for local people, forecasting the year in which their homes will be ③ swallowed up by the hungry sea.

Angry owners have ④ called on the Government to erect sea defenses to protect their homes. Government surveyors have pointed out that in most cases, this is impossible. [1] New sea walls would cost hundreds of millions of pounds and would merely make the waves and currents go further along the coast, shifting the problem from one area to another. [2] The danger is likely to continue, they say, until the waves reach an inland area of hard rock which will not be eaten as limestone is. Meanwhile, if you want to buy a cheap house with an uncertain future, apply to a house agent in one of the threatened areas on the south



coast of England [3] You can get a house for a knockdown price but it may turn out to be a knockdown home

- 1 What is the cause of the problem that people living on parts of the south coast of England face?
 - A) The rising of sea level
 - B) The experts' lack of knowledge.
 - C) The washing-away of limestone cliffs
 - D) The disappearance of hotels, houses and gardens
2. The erosion of the white cliffs in the south of England _____.
 - A) will soon become a problem for people living in central England
 - B) has now become a threat to the local residents
 - C) can be stopped if proper measures are taken
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- 3 The experts' study on the problem of erosion can _____.
 - A) warn people whose homes are in danger
 - B) provide an effective way to slow it down
 - C) help to prevent it from worsening
 - D) lead to its eventual solution
- 4 It is not feasible to build sea defenses to protect against erosion because _____.
 - A) house agents along the coast do not support the idea
 - B) it is too costly and will endanger neighbouring areas
 - C) the government is too slow in taking action
 - D) they will be easily knocked down by waves and currents
- 5 According to the author, when buying a house along the south coast of England, people should _____.
 - A) take the quality of the house into consideration
 - B) guard against being cheated by the house agent
 - C) examine the house carefully before making decision
 - D) be aware of the potential danger involved

【汉语脚注】

① 令某人恐惧

② 侵蚀, 蛀蚀

③ 吞没, 耗尽

④ 恳请, 请求

【词汇结构】

① to sb's horror 令某人恐惧。介词 to 的词义是 causing, 后面常接表示人的情感的名词, 如令人惊讶、烦恼、高兴、悲伤、满意、遗憾、松了一口气、悲哀等的表达分别是 to sb's surprise / annoyance / delight / sorrow / satisfaction / regret / relief / grief 等。该短语还可以和 great, much 等词搭配, 如 much to our satisfaction (使我们十分满意), to his great surprise (令他大吃一惊) 等。

② eat into destroy or use up (into) as if by eating 侵蚀, 蛀蚀, 即 erode (其名词形式为 erosion), 同义词为 wear away。例如 Metals are eaten into by acids 金属被酸侵蚀。

③ swallow up take in, exhaust, cause to disappear, use up 吞没, 耗尽, 使消失, 用尽。例如 The half darkness swallowed the tourists up 旅游者在朦胧中消失了。The aircraft was swallowed up in the clouds 飞机消失在云中。

④ called on appeal to, invite, require 恳请, 请求, 邀请, 要求。常用句型为 call on / upon sb to do sth, 例如 I called on (appealed to) him to keep his promise. 我恳求他信守诺言。I now call upon (invite) Mr Green to address the meeting 我现在请格林先生向大会演讲。

【解题思路】【答案详解】(略, 参见“怎样做阅读理解”)

【英译汉技巧】

[1] New sea walls would cost hundreds of millions of pounds and would merely make the waves and



currents go further along the coast, shifting the problem from one area to another

若要建筑海水防护墙,将会耗资数亿英镑;而且,即使筑了墙,也只能使海浪和激流沿着海岸向别处侵蚀,只是把问题由甲地转向乙地罢了。

根据上文(this is impossible)和下文(The danger is likely to continue),这个句子用的是虚拟语气,所以用“若要”译出。出于同样的分析, and 译作“即使筑了墙”。Shifting the problem 是现在分词短语,表示伴随,译作“只是 罢了”,既顺承了全句的虚拟条件,又保证了译文的流畅。new sea walls 用增补法译出,使原文意思明朗化。

[2] The danger is likely to continue, they say, until the waves reach an inland area of hard rock which will not be eaten as limestone is

他们说,只有坚硬的岩石才不会像石灰岩那样为海水所吞噬。除非海浪冲击到了内陆的坚硬岩石,否则,这种危险可能继续。

这是一个典型的结论在前、分析和解证在后的前重心句。根据汉语先分析和解证,然后做结论的思维方式 and 表达习惯,全句宜取逆序法译出。该长句由四个小句(S/V)构成,可先译第二小句,即插入的 they say。接着译第四小句,它是推理的前提。然后译第三小句,把它译作推理的条件,且根据全文句意把 until 译作“若不 则”或者“除非 否则”。

[3] You can get a house for a knockdown price but it may turn out to be a knockdown home

你可以用房主亏老本的价格购买一栋房屋,但这栋房屋最终会让你把老本都亏掉。

译好这句的关键是译出两次出现的 knockdown。动词短语 knock down 的意思是 cause or compel to reduce a price(致使或迫使减价),但 knock sb down 是击倒,打倒(strike to the ground or floor), knock sth down 则是拆除(demolish),拆除以节省运费和空间(take to pieces to save cost and space in transport)。复合形容词 knockdown 的意思是(of a piece) very low or substantially reduced, especially being the lowest acceptable to the seller。综合上述词义,还可译为“卖主伤心出手而自己伤心丢失”、“卖主忍痛出手而自己忍痛丢失”、“用烂便宜的价格购一套因便宜而烂掉的房子”等。

【参考译文】

居住在英格兰南部部分沿海地区的居民面临着一个严重的问题。1993年,一家大旅社的老板以及好几栋住房的房主们惊恐地发现,他们的花园一夜之间消失得无影无踪了。那些花园坐落在峭壁上,但大海把构成峭壁的松软的石灰岩吞噬殆尽。就在专家们还在对此进行研究之时,那家旅馆和那几栋房屋也全然消失了。它们沿峭壁滑坡,堕入海中。

英格兰南部沿海白色峭壁的侵蚀素来就是一个大问题,只是近些年来变得更为严重而已。由于大海已经越来越深入地侵吞内陆,好几十家人家的房屋不得不被抛弃。专家们已经对受侵蚀最严重的地区进行了研究并为当地居民绘制了地图,预测出他们的住房将在哪一年为“饥饿”的大海所吞食。

房主们愤怒了,已经要求政府建筑防侵蚀设施保护他们的家园。政府查勘人员指出 在大部分情况下设防是不可能的。若要建筑海水防护墙,将会要耗资数亿英镑;而且,即使筑了墙,也只能使海浪和激流沿着海岸向别处侵蚀,只是把问题由甲地转移到乙地罢了。他们说,只有坚硬的岩石才不会像石灰岩那样为海水所吞噬。除非海浪冲击到了内陆的坚硬岩石,否则,这种危险可能继续。同时,你要是想购买一栋价格低廉但前途未卜的房子,向英格兰南部受侵蚀威胁地区的任何一家房地产代理机构申请即可。你可以用房主亏老本的价格购买一栋房屋,但这栋房屋最终会让你把老本都亏掉。

Passage 2

Sport is not only physically challenging, but it can also be mentally challenging. Criticism from coaches, parents, and other teammates, as well as pressure to win can create an excessive amount of anxiety or stress for young athletes (运动员). Stress can be physical, emotional, or psychological, and research has indicated that it can lead to burnout. Burnout has been described as dropping or quitting of an anxiety that was at one time enjoyable.

The early years of development are critical years for learning about oneself. The sport setting is one

where valuable experiences can take place. Young athletes can, for example, learn how to cooperate with others, make friends, and gain other social skills that will be used throughout their lives. Coaches and parents should be aware, at all times, that their ❶ feedback to youngsters can greatly affect their children. Youngsters may ❷ take their parents' and coaches' criticisms to heart and find a *flaw* (缺陷) in themselves.

[1] Coaches and parents should also be cautious that youth sport participation does not become work for children. The outcome of the game should not be more important than the process of learning the sport and other life lessons. In today's youth sport setting, young athletes may be worrying more about who will win instead of enjoying themselves and the sport. Following a game, many parents and coaches ❸ focus on the outcome and ❹ find fault with youngsters' performances. Positive reinforcement should be provided regardless of the outcome. Research indicates that positive reinforcement motivates and has a greater effect on learning than criticism. [2] Again, criticism can create high levels of stress, which can lead to burnout.

6. An effective way to prevent the burnout of young athletes is _____.
- A) to reduce their mental stress B) to increase their sense of success
- C) to make sports less competitive D) to make sports more challenging
7. According to the passage sport is positive for young people in that _____.
- A) it can help them learn more about society
- B) it enable them to find flaws in themselves
- C) it can provide them with valuable experiences
- D) it teaches them how to set realistic goals for themselves
8. Many coaches and parents are in the habit of criticizing young athletes _____.
- A) believing that criticism is beneficial for their early development
- B) without realizing criticism may destroy their self confidence
- C) in order to make them remember life's lesson
- D) so as to put more pressure on them
9. According to the passage parents and coaches should _____.
- A) pay more attention to letting children enjoying sports
- B) help children to win every game
- C) train children to cope with stress
- D) enable children to understand the positive aspect of sports
10. The author's purpose in writing the passage is _____.
- A) to teach young athletes how to avoid burnout
- B) to persuade young children not to worry about criticism
- C) to stress the importance of positive reinforcement to children
- D) to discuss the skill of combining criticism with encouragement

【汉语脚注】

- ❶ 反馈,反应 ❷ 认真,感到悲伤 ❸ 集中 ❹ 挑剔,吹毛求疵

【词汇结构】

❶ feedback return of part of the output of a system to its source (so as to modify it) 反馈 (将部分产品送回制作原处以作修正), 回收, (colloquial use) information, etc (about a product) given by the user to the supplier, maker, etc, response (俗语) 使用者供给供应者或制造者 (有关某产品) 的资料, 反应。本文中指的是“反馈”, 即下面一句中所说的 “their parents' and coaches' criticisms”。

❷ take sth to heart be much affected by it, grieve over it 深为某事所感动, 为某事感到悲伤。例如 Don't take what he said to heart. He was just joking. 别把他说的话当真。他只不过是开玩笑罢了。take to heart 与 lay to heart 通用。但 take heart 是“振作精神、鼓起勇气”的意思。例如 As he grew stronger, the

invalid took heart and felt that he would get entirely well 由于身体逐渐强壮起来,病人有了信心了,认为自己会完全康复。

④ focus on concentrate on 集中。例如 focus one's attention / thoughts / efforts on a problem 对某一问题集中注意力/思想/努力。其过去式和过去分词可以是 focused,也可以是 focussed,ing 分词也有 focusing 和 focussing 两种写法。focus 作名词用时词义为“焦点、焦距、(地震的)震央、(疾病的)病灶”等。a focus of trouble between nations 国际纠纷的焦点, in focus 清晰, out of focus 模糊不清。

⑤ find fault with complain about, to criticize, usually too often 抱怨,挑剔,吹毛求疵。这个短语和 carp about 同义。例如 He complained that his boss was always finding fault with his work 他抱怨说,他的老板总是挑他工作上的错。学习下列短语 to a fault excessively 过分地。She is generous to a fault 她过于慷慨。at fault in the wrong, at a loss, in a puzzled or ignorant state 出错,茫然。例如 My memory was at fault 我记错了。/我忘记了。I was at a fault as to where to go 我那时不知道究竟该往哪里去。faulty 是有缺点/过失/漏洞,而 faultless 则是完美无缺的。

【解题思路】

先快读测试题,做出预测。第六题中肯定存在 the burnout of young athlete 的现象,问有效制止该现象的方法何在。第七题说许多教练和家长喜欢批评青年运动员,问题中三次出现 young athletes,可考虑为关键词。第九题说,依本文之见,教练和家长以怎样做为宜,coaches and parents 在题中也出现两次,可考虑全文是否与讨论青年运动员与他们之间的关系有关。最后一题是讨论作者的写作目的,可在浏览全文并回答前面四道题以后进行归纳。读者如能够逐步养成快读试题做出预测后浏览开篇句和结尾句的习惯,则会发现句中的 mentally challenging, high levels of stress, burnout,并马上联想到 这些与青年运动员和教练、家长之间的关系有什么联系。

【答案详解】

6 有效防止年轻运动员的心理灼伤的方法是_____。

- A) 减轻他们的心理压力 B) 增强他们的成功感
C) 使体育运动变得不那么具有竞争性 D) 使体育运动更具有挑战性

答案为[A]。据第一段第三句 压力可分为体力型、情感型或心理型。有研究表明 压力会导致心理灼伤。既然试题问的是“防止心理灼伤的有效手段”,而心理灼伤又是因为压力所致,所以,应当从减轻压力着手。此外,第三段结论部分(最后两句)指出 积极肯定能刺激动机,比批评更为有效。批评会产生高度压力,而压力又导致心理灼伤。这正是对“防止心理灼伤的有效手段”的具体解说。因此,正确答案为 A,并据此排除其他三个选项。

7 根据本文的内容,体育对年轻人的作用是积极的,因为_____。

- A) 体育运动能够帮助他们向社会学到更多的东西
B) 体育运动能帮助他们发现自身的缺陷
C) 体育运动能为他们提供有价值的各种体验
D) 体育运动能教会他们为自己树立现实的人生目标

注意 该题中的 in that 意义为 because。

答案为[C]。第二段第二句 运动背景是获得多种有价值的经验之处,这是该段的中心论点,与答案 C 相吻合,是该题的正确答案。第三句是例证,答案 A 只为其中一部分,故排除。第四句是对论点的进一步解证,答案 B 与此吻合。解证的句子起对论点包含的某个方面阐述、说明的作用,并不代表论点的全部内容,应排除。D 项文中未提及,也应排除。

8 许多教练和家长喜欢批评青少年运动员,_____。

- A) 认为批评对他们早期的发展有益 B) 而没有认识到批评可能会破坏他们的自信
C) 为了让他们铭记生活中的各种教训 D) 为了向他们施加更多的压力

答案为[B]。第三段第三句,作者实际上对教练和家长的挑剔委婉地进行了批评。接下去的两句,则是提出肯定他们的表现比批评效果更佳。全文最后一句,归到全篇的中心论点上 批评产生压力,而压力导致



心理灼伤。所以,正确答案为 B。选项 A 和 D 与全文中心论点相反,C 项仅仅是第三段的主题句(第一句)解证中的一个部分,所以都应排除。

9 根据本文,家长和教练应当_____。

- A) 应注意让孩子们以体育运动为乐 B) 帮助孩子们赢得每场比赛
C) 训练孩子们成功地对付压力 D) 使孩子们理解体育运动的多种积极方面

答案为[D]。全文主旨是家长,教练和青少年应正确对待体育比赛,而批评产生压力,压力导致心理灼伤。在第二段的前三句说明体育运动的好处之后,作者用 *coaches and parents should be aware* 和 *coaches and parents should also be cautious* 引出两个句子,规劝他们对孩子们不要过于挑剔,不要过于注重比赛结果。因此,正确答案为 D。答案 A 偏离主旨,也不全面。B,C 与主旨相反,应当排除。

10. 本文写作目的是_____。

- A) 教育青年运动员学会怎样避免灼伤心理 B) 劝说青少年无须为批评担忧
C) 强调对孩子们积极肯定重要性 D) 讨论把批评和鼓励融为一体的技巧

答案为[C]。综观全文,可以看出作者是在提倡积极肯定青少年对体育运动的参与,而劝说教练和家长对孩子多予肯定(如最后一段倒数第二句,第三句)。因此,正确答案是 C。此外,根据以题推题的应试技巧,以前面四道题为基础,我们也可以排除本题中的 A,B,D 三个选项。

【英译汉技巧】

[1] *Coaches and parents should also be cautious that youth sport participation does not become work for children.*

青少年参与体育活动,并不一定能产生他们所希望的结果,教练和家长对此也应十分慎重。

这个句子的译文把形容词 *cautious* 的宾语从句前移,是出于按原句的顺序译出,不符合汉语中的语感,就会比较拗口。*youth sport participation* 据上下文补充词义并转换词类,译为“青少年参与体育活动”。*work for children*,据上文 *The sport setting is one where valuable experiences can take place* 以及下文 *The outcome of the game should not be more important than the process of learning the sport and other life lessons*,两者都强调通过参与体育活动而习得人生经验,所以,意译为“产生他们所希望的结果”(即上文比赛的压力,下文中的挑剔、输赢、批评等句隐含的意思)。

[2] *Again, criticism can create high levels of stress, which can lead to burnout*

此外,批评会产生高度压力,而压力又会导致心理灼伤。

which 在逻辑推理中处于“因果链”位置,即 *which*(= *high levels of stress*) 因 *criticism* 而致,但它又导致 *burnout*,把这种 *which* 兼为因果的逻辑关系拆译出来,有助于译文文从意顺。*again* 取 *besides* 之义。

【参考译文】

体育运动不仅是对体力的挑战,也可能是对脑力的挑战。来自教练、家长和本队队员的批评,以及求胜的压力都会对青年运动员产生过度的焦虑即压力。压力可分属于体力型、情感型或心理型。有研究表明压力会导致心理灼伤。有人把灼伤感描述为对曾经乐于参与的体育运动热情减退或者不再参加。

青少年发育的最初数年了解自己的关键时期。运动背景是获得多种有价值的经验之处。例如,年轻的运动员可以学会怎样和别人合作,结交朋友,获得各种将受用终生的社交技巧。在任何时候,教练们、家长们都应该意识到他们对孩子们在运动中表现的反馈会给他们造成极大的影响。因为孩子们可能会认真对待父母和教练的批评,并且找出自身的不足之处。

青少年参与体育活动,并不一定能产生他们所希望的结果,教练和家长对此也应十分谨慎。体育运动的结果不应该比从体育活动和生活的其他方面习得经验的过程更重要。在现在的青少年参加体育运动的情况中,青少年运动员可能更多地为谁将获胜而担心,而不是以自身的参与和运动本身为乐。一场比赛刚结束,许多家长和教练只斤斤计较比赛的结果,对孩子们在比赛中的表现挑剔。不论输赢与否,都应当积极肯定。研究表明,积极肯定能刺激动机,而且,比批评更为有效。此外,批评会产生高度压力,而压力又会导致心理灼伤。

Passage 3

Humanity uses a little less than half the water available worldwide [1] Yet occurrences of shortages and droughts (干旱) are causing famine and distress in some areas, and industrial and agricultural by-products are polluting water supplies. Since the world's population is expected to double in the next 50 years, many experts think we are on the edge of a widespread water crisis.

But that doesn't have to be the outcome [2] Water shortages do not have to trouble the world — if we start valuing water more than we have in the past. Just as we began to ① appreciate petroleum more after the 1970s oil crisis, today we must start looking at water from a fresh economic ② perspective. [3] We can no longer afford to consider water a virtually free resource of which we can use as much as we like in any way we want.

Instead, for all uses except the ③ domestic demand of the poor, governments should price water to reflect its actual value. [4] This means charging a fee for the water itself as well as for the supply costs.

Governments should also protect this resource by providing water in more economically and environmentally sound ways. For example, often the cheapest way to provide irrigation (灌溉) water in the dry tropics is through small-scale projects, such as gathering rainfall in depressions (凹地) and pumping it to nearby cropland.

No matter what steps governments take to provide water more efficiently, they must change their ④ institutional and legal approaches to water use. Rather than spread control among hundreds or even thousands of local, regional, and national agencies that watch various ⑤ aspects of water use, countries should set up central authorities to coordinate water policy.

- 11 What is the real cause of the potential water crisis?
 - A) Only half of the world's water can be used
 - B) The world population is increasing faster and faster
 - C) Half of the world's water resources have been seriously polluted
 - D) Humanity has not placed sufficient value on water resources
- 12 As indicated in the passage, the water problem _____.
 - A) is already serious in certain parts of the world
 - B) has been exaggerated by some experts in the field
 - C) poses a challenge to technology of building reservoirs
 - D) is underestimated by government organizations at different levels
- 13 According to the author, the water price should _____.
 - A) be reduced to the minimum
 - B) stimulate domestic demand
 - C) correspond to its real value
 - D) take into account the occurrences of droughts
- 14 The author says that in some hot and dry areas it is advisable to _____.
 - A) build big lakes to store water
 - B) construct big pumping stations
 - C) build small and cheap irrigation systems
 - D) channel water from nearby rivers to cropland
- 15 In order to raise the efficiency of the water supply, measures should be taken to _____.
 - A) guarantee full protection of the environment
 - B) centralize the management of water resources
 - C) increase the sense of responsibility of agencies at all levels
 - D) encourage local and regional control of water resources

【汉语脚注】

① 珍惜,重视

② 看法,前途

③ 家庭的,国内的

④ 习俗的,传统的

⑤ 具体方面,外貌