

2000年 考研英语（旧卷）阅读理解（四选一） 第2篇·15-18 题答案与解析

QUESTIONS & ANALYSIS • 阅读理解题和解析

阅读理解题和解析 · 15-18 题

本页 15-18 题的答案与逐题解析由懒笔记基于2000年 考研英语（旧卷）阅读理解（四选一）原卷逐题核对整理。与试卷排版同一卷面：先是 Directions 与 3 段原文（段首标 P1-P3 段号、逐段附中文翻译）；之后 4 道题逐题排列，每题英文题干与选项后紧接本题解析——题干与选项中译、答案、题型判定、题干拆句、定位句中英对照与逐选项对错归因。

考研真题(2000)

Section II Part A (2)

Directions:

Each of the passages below is followed by some questions. For each question there are four answers marked [A], [B], [C] and [D]. Read the passages carefully and choose the best answer to each of the questions. Then mark your answer on **ANSWER SHEET 1** by blackening the corresponding letter in the brackets with a pencil. (40 points)

Text 2

P1 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.

作为男性历来都是危险的。每100个女性出生时对应约105个男性，但这一比例在成年时降至接近平衡，而在70岁的人群中，女性数量是男性的两倍。但男性死亡率这一重大普遍现象正在改变。现在，男婴的存活率几乎与女婴一样高。这意味着，有史以来第一次，在那些寻找配偶的关键年龄段将出现男性过剩。更重要的是，自然选择的另一个机会被消除了。五十年前，婴儿（尤其是男婴）的存活机会取决于其体重。体重过轻或过重一公斤几乎意味着必死无疑。如今这几乎没有什么区别。由于大部分差异是由基因造成的，进化的又一个推动力已经消失。

P2 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 diminished. India shows what is happening. The country offers wealth for a few in the great cities and poverty for the remaining tribal peoples. The grand mediocrity of today—everyone being the same in survival and number of offspring—means that natural selection has lost 80% of its power in upper-middle-class India compared to the tribes.

还有另一种方式导致进化上的自杀:活着,但生育更少的孩子。很少有人像过去那样多产。除了一些宗教团体,很少有女性生育15个孩子。如今出生人数,就像死亡年龄一样,已经变得平均化。我们大多数人的后代数量大致相同。同样,人与人之间的差异以及自然选择利用这些差异的机会都减少了。印度展示了正在发生的情况。这个国家为大城市中的少数人提供财富,而为其余部落人民提供贫困。当今的大众平庸——每个人在存活率和后代数量上都相同——意味着与部落相比,自然选择在印度中上层阶级中已经失去了80%的作用力。

P3 For us, this means that evolution is over; the biological Utopia has arrived. Strangely, it has involved little physical change. No other species fills so many places in nature. But in the past 100,000 years—even the past 100 years—our lives have been transformed but our bodies have not. We did not evolve, because machines and society did it for us. Darwin had a phrase to describe those ignorant of evolution: they "look at an organic being as a savage looks at a ship, as at something wholly beyond his comprehension." No doubt we will remember a 20th century way of life beyond comprehension for its ugliness. But however amazed our descendants may be at how far from Utopia we were, they will look just like us.

对我们而言,这意味着进化已经结束;生物学意义上的乌托邦已经到来。奇怪的是,它几乎没有涉及身体上的变化。没有其他物种能在自然界中占据如此多的位置。但在过去10万年——甚至过去100年——我们的生活已经被改变,但我们的身体却没有。我们没有进化,因为机器和社会替我们完成了进化。达尔文有一句话来描述那些对进化无知的人:他们"看待有机生物就像野蛮人看待船只一样,视为完全超出其理解范围的东西"。毫无疑问,我们会记住20世纪的生活方式,因其丑陋而令人难以理解。但无论我们的后代对我们离乌托邦有多远感到多么惊讶,他们的样子都会和我们一样。

题目与逐题解析

15. What used to be the danger in being a man according to the first paragraph?

- [A] A lack of mates.
- [B] A fierce competition.
- [C] A lower survival rate.
- [D] A defective gene.

根据第一段,过去作为男性的危险是什么?

A) 缺少配偶。 B) 激烈的竞争。 C) 较低的存活率。 D) 有缺陷的基因。

【答案】 C (细节题)

【判型】 What used to be the danger in being a man 问的是"过去那种危险具体是什么", 是回原文找一个客观事实, 不要求推理或概括。

【拆句】 What used to be the danger in being a man according to the first paragraph 是一个 What 引导的特殊疑问句，主干是 What used to be the danger, used to be 表示"过去曾经是"，暗含"现在已不再如此"的对比；according to the first paragraph 是状语，限定证据来源。无陷阱。

【定位】 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.

做个男人一直都很危险。每出生 100 个女婴大约对应 105 个男婴，但到成年时这个比例就降到接近 1:1，而到了 70 岁这一代，女性是男性的两倍。

【选项】 A) 时间错位类干扰

A lack of mates 利用了 there will be an excess of boys in those crucial years when they are searching for a mate, 但原文说的是"将来"会男多女少 (for the first time)，是变化后的新情况，不是 What used to be the danger 问的过去的危险。

B) 无中生有

A fierce competition 在 P1 找不到对应；原文只谈男婴出生率、男性死亡率、出生体重，没有任何"竞争"语义。

C) ✓ 正确

among 70-year-olds there are twice as many women as men ↔ A lower survival rate

Now, boy babies survive almost as well as girls do ↔ A lower survival rate

预判出"男性活下来概率更低"，正好就是 A lower survival rate 的中文翻译；C 是定位句的客观抽象。

D) 偷换概念

A defective gene 利用了 Since much of the variation is due to genes, one more agent of evolution has gone, 但原文说的是"出生体重的差异由基因决定"，根本没说男性有缺陷基因——variation due to genes ≠ defective gene。

16. What does the example of India illustrate?

- [A] Wealthy people tend to have fewer children than poor people.
- [B] Natural selection hardly works among the rich and the poor.
- [C] The middle class population is 80% smaller than that of the tribes.
- [D] India is one of the countries with a very high birth rate.

印度的例子说明了什么？

- A) 富人往往比穷人生育的孩子少。 B) 自然选择在富人和穷人之间几乎不起作用。
- C) 中产阶级人口比部落人口少80%。 D) 印度是出生率非常高的国家之一。

【答案】 B (例证目的题)

【判型】 What does the example of India illustrate 明确把 India 定性为"例子"，问的是它服务于哪个论点，符合例证目的题的典型句式。

【拆句】 What does the example of India illustrate 是 What 引导的特殊疑问句，主干 What does the example illustrate, of India 是后置定语限定 example。无陷阱。

【定位】 The grand mediocrity of today—everyone being the same in survival and number of offspring—means that natural selection has lost 80% of its power in upper-middle-class India compared to the tribes.

今天的"大同质化"——每个人在存活和子女数量上都差不多——意味着，与部落人群相比，自然选择在印度中上阶层身上已经失去了 80% 的力量。

【选项】 A) 答非所问

Wealthy people tend to have fewer children than poor people 哪怕属实，也是例子本身的细节，不是 India 例子"illustrate"的那个论点；而且原文也没正面说富人比穷人少生孩子，只说"今天大家生育数趋同"。

B) ✓ 正确

natural selection has lost 80% of its power in upper-middle-class India compared to the tribes ↔

Natural selection hardly works among the rich and the poor

Again, differences between people and the opportunity for natural selection to take advantage of it have diminished

↔ **Natural selection hardly works among the rich and the poor**

预判出"贫富两端自然选择都失效"，正好是 Natural selection hardly works among the rich and the poor 的字面意思——B 是 India 例子真正要证明的论点。

C) 偷换概念

The middle class population is 80% smaller than that of the tribes 利用了 natural selection has lost 80% of its power in upper-middle-class India compared to the tribes 里的 80%，但原文 80% 修饰的是 power（自然选择的力量），不是 population（人口）。

D) 无中生有

India is one of the countries with a very high birth rate 在 P2 完全无对应；原文谈的是"现代社会大家生得差不多"，根本没说 India 出生率高。

17. The author argues that our bodies have stopped evolving because_____.

- [A] life has been improved by technological advance
- [B] the number of female babies has been declining
- [C] our species has reached the highest stage of evolution
- [D] the difference between wealth and poverty is disappearing

作者认为我们的身体已经停止进化,因为_____。

- A) 技术进步改善了生活
- B) 女婴的数量一直在下降
- C) 我们的物种已经达到了进化的最高阶段
- D) 贫富差距正在消失

【答案】 A (细节题)

【判型】 The author argues that our bodies have stopped evolving because 形式上是补全句子，实质是问"作者给出的原因是什么"，是对原文一句具体表述的客观转述。

【拆句】 The author argues that our bodies have stopped evolving because___ 是一个待补全陈述句。主句 The author argues + that 宾语从句 our bodies have stopped evolving, stop doing 表"停止做某事"; because 引导原因状语从句，从句缺失，由四个选项补出。无陷阱。

【定位】 But in the past 100,000 years—even the past 100 years—our lives have been transformed but our bodies have not. We did not evolve, because machines and society did it for us.

但在过去 10 万年——甚至过去 100 年——我们的生活方式已被彻底改变，可我们的身体却没变。我们没有进化，因为机器和社会已经替我们进化了。

【选项】 A) ✓ 正确

machines and society did it for us ↔ life has been improved by technological advance
our lives have been transformed but our bodies have not ↔

life has been improved by technological advance

预判出"机器与社会替进化做了事"，正好就是 life has been improved by technological advance 的实质——technological advance 是机器和社会的总称，improved life 是它带来的结果。

B) 与原文相反

the number of female babies has been declining 与 P1 中 105 男婴比 100 女婴的事实方向相反——原文是"男婴多于女婴"，且只在出生比上提到，未说女婴在 declining; 与 Q17 因果完全无关。

C) 过度推断

our species has reached the highest stage of evolution 利用了 the biological Utopia has arrived, 但 Utopia 在原文是带反讽口吻的措辞（紧接着作者就吐槽 our descendants may be at how far from Utopia we were）——原文从未说人类已是进化的最高阶段，且这也不是 Q17 问的"原因"。

D) 偷换概念

the difference between wealth and poverty is disappearing 利用了 The grand mediocrity of today 的语义，但作者说的是"存活与子女数趋同"，不是"贫富差异在消失"——而且 Q17 问的是"身体停止进化"的原因，不在贫富差异。

18. Which of the following would be the best title for the passage?

- [A] Sex Ratio Changes in Human Evolution.
- [B] Ways of Continuing Man's Evolution.
- [C] The Evolutionary Future of Nature.
- [D] Human Evolution Going Nowhere.

以下哪项是这篇文章的最佳标题？

A) 人类进化中的性别比例变化。 B) 延续人类进化的方式。 C) 自然的进化前景。

D) 人类进化走向终结。

【答案】 **D** (主旨题)

【判型】 Which of the following would be the best title for the passage 问的是全文最佳标题，必须覆盖全文，不能只对应某一段。

【拆句】 Which of the following would be the best title for the passage 是一个 Which 引导的特殊疑问句，would 是虚拟语气表"在所给选项中应是"，主干 Which would be the best title。无陷阱。

【选项】 A) **以偏概全**

Sex Ratio Changes in Human Evolution 只触到 There are about 105 males born for every 100 females 这部分内容，P2 与 P3 完全装不进，作为全文标题严重以偏概全。

B) **与原文相反**

Ways of Continuing Man's Evolution 默认了进化可以"继续"并给出方法，但全文论断恰恰是 evolution is over——作者根本不主张"如何继续"。

C) **偷换概念**

The Evolutionary Future of Nature 利用了 No other species fills so many places in nature 里的 nature 一词，但全文真正讨论的对象是 human/man，不是 nature 整体；标题主语偷换。

D) **✓ 正确**

evolution is over ↔ **Human Evolution Going Nowhere**

natural selection has lost 80% of its power ↔ **Human Evolution Going Nowhere**

another chance for natural selection has been removed ↔ **Human Evolution Going Nowhere**

D 项的 Human Evolution 覆盖全文话题，Going Nowhere 同时对接 P1、P2、P3 三段的论据走向，并保留作者的微讽口吻——是唯一全覆盖且口吻一致的标题。

SENTENCE INSIGHTS • 句子精讲

11 句真题句逐层精讲

下列真题句各有独立的句子解析页——中文翻译、结构树逐层拆解、成分与时态、考点讲解与真题高频词。点击句子进入完整解析。

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.

第1段，第2句

并列句是四六级和考研常考句式，there be 存在句和比较结构也是高频考点。本句展示的 but 转折 + and 顺承的多重并列模式以及 there be 与比较结构的结合具有较强的代表性和复用价值。

Now, boy babies survive almost as well as girls do.

第1段，第4句

比较状语从句中的谓语承前省略 ("as girls do") 是考试中常见的比较结构，具有一定代表性，但整体句式较为简单，不如多层嵌套或复杂修饰的句子典型。

Today it makes almost no difference.

第1段，第9句

涵盖主谓宾和时间状语四种成分，结构简单但基本句型完整，适合初学者巩固最基础的成分划分，但缺乏复杂成分和易错点，训练价值有限。

Since much of the variation is due to genes, one more agent of evolution has gone.

第1段，第10句

原因状语从句位于句首是常见的学术和正式写作句式，现在完成时也是四六级和考研常考时态。整体结构具有一定代表性，掌握后可应用于类似的因果关系表达。

There is another way to commit evolutionary suicide: stay alive, but have fewer children.

第2段，第1句

本句涵盖 "There be" 句型、不定式作定语、冒号引出的同位性补充说明、以及并列结构等成分，成分种类较为丰富。"There be" 句型中真假主语的区分是常见易错点，具有一定训练价值。

Few people are as fertile as in the past.

第2段，第2句

覆盖了主语、系动词、表语三个基本成分，且表语中包含 "as...as" 比较结构，适合练习比较结构的成分划分，但成分种类较单一，缺少宾语、状语从句等更丰富的类型。

Again, differences between people and the opportunity for natural selection to take advantage of it have diminished.

第2段，第6句

并列主语 + 现在完成时谓语 + 主语内含不定式后置定语，是四六级和考研阅读中高频出现的句式。掌握如何在冗长并列主语中定位谓语、如何识别不定式作后置定语，可直接迁移到大量真题长难句的分析中。

The grand mediocrity of today—everyone being the same in survival and number of offspring—means that natural selection has lost 80% of its power in upper-middle-class India compared to the tribes.

第2段，第9句

主句 + 宾语从句是四六级和考研真题的高频句式，"means that..." 结构在学术和说明文中极为常见。插入语对主语的解释、现在完成时在从句中的使用、比较状语 "compared to" 的出现，都是真题中反复考查的典型语言现象。掌握本句结构可迁移到大量类似句子。

But however amazed our descendants may be at how far from Utopia we were, they will look just like us.

第3段，第8句

本句覆盖主语、谓语、表语、让步状语从句、宾语从句等多种成分，并涉及系动词结构、情态动词结构、however 引导的让步从句倒装、how 引导的宾语从句等多个训练点。句子结构紧凑但成分丰富，是练习从句识别和成分划分的优质材料。

What used to be the danger in being a man according to the first paragraph?

第15题 题干

"What used to be..." 疑问句结构在阅读理解题干中较为常见，且 "used to" 表过去习惯的用法是四六级和考研高频考点；主系表加介词短语状语的模式也具有一定代表性。掌握后可迁移到同类疑问句和过去状态表达的分析，典型性较高。

Wealthy people tend to have fewer children than poor people.

第16题，A

"主句 + than 比较分句" 是英语中非常典型的比较结构，在四六级和考研阅读中频繁出现。掌握这种结构及其省略规则，可以帮助学生快速识别和理解大量类似句子，迁移价值高。

本篇出现的 49 个考研英语（旧卷）真题高频词

下列单词既在本篇真题中出现，又是 **考研英语（旧卷）** 历年真题的高频词（在该考试真题中出现的句子数均不少于 8）。每个词标注本篇 出现次数与该考试真题句频，点击可查看该词的释义、音标、词形与真题例句。

evolution

B2

n. 进化

本篇7次·真题 22 句

selection

B1

n. 挑选

本篇4次·真题 17 句

rate

A2

n. 速度

本篇2次·真题 72 句

species

B2

n. 物种

本篇2次·真题 36 句

survive

B1

v. 幸存

本篇2次·真题 19 句

evolve

B2

v. 逐渐发展;进化

本篇2次·真题 17 句

female

A2

adj. 女性的

本篇2次·真题 16 句

poverty

B2

n. 贫穷

本篇2次·真题 16 句

evolutionary

C1

adj. 进化的

本篇2次·真题 11 句

male

A2

adj. 男性的

本篇2次·真题 10 句

would

A1

aux. (will 的过去式) 将要，会

本篇1次·真题 304 句

author

A2

n. 作者

本篇1次·真题 209 句

following

B1

adj. 接下来的

本篇1次·真题 91 句

power

A2

n. 权力

本篇1次·真题 90 句

community B1

n. 社区

本篇1次·真题 71 句

tend B1

v. 倾向于, 往往会

本篇1次·真题 71 句

argue B1

v. 争论

本篇1次·真题 63 句

involve B1

v. 包含

本篇1次·真题 61 句

decline B2

v. 下降

本篇1次·真题 56 句

average A2

adj. 平均的

本篇1次·真题 55 句

opportunity B1

n. 机会

本篇1次·真题 50 句

lack B1

v. 缺少

本篇1次·真题 41 句

physical B1

adj. 身体的

本篇1次·真题 40 句

according B1

prep. 根据

本篇1次·真题 35 句

advance B1

v. 前进

本篇1次·真题 33 句

particularly B2

adv. 尤其, 特别 (强调某事物)

本篇1次·真题 32 句

due B1

adj. 预期的

本篇1次·真题 31 句

balance B1

n. 平衡

本篇1次·真题 30 句

remove A2

v. 移开

本篇1次·真题 25 句

agent B2

n. 代理人

本篇1次·真题 24 句

illustrate B2

v. 说明

本篇1次·真题 23 句

gene B2

n. 基因

本篇1次·真题 21 句

technological B2

adj. 技术的

本篇1次·真题 20 句

being B1

n. 存在

本篇1次·真题 18 句

crucial B2

adj. 至关重要的

本篇1次·真题 17 句

phrase B1

n. 短语

本篇1次·真题 17 句

religious B1

adj. 宗教的

本篇1次·真题 15 句

transform B2

v. 使彻底改变;使转变

本篇1次·真题 14 句

roughly B1

adv. 大约, 大概

本篇1次·真题 13 句

stage A2

n. 阶段

本篇1次·真题 13 句

biological B2

adj. 生物的

本篇1次·真题 11 句

commit B2

v. 承诺、保证做某事

本篇1次·真题 11 句

sex A2

n. 性别

本篇1次·真题 11 句

disappear A2

v. 消失;不见

本篇1次·真题 10 句

universal B2

adj. 普遍的

本篇1次·真题 10 句

suicide B2

n. 自杀

本篇1次·真题 9 句

diminish C1

v. 减少

本篇1次 · 真题 8 句

nowadays B1

adv. 现在

本篇1次 · 真题 8 句

wealthy B2

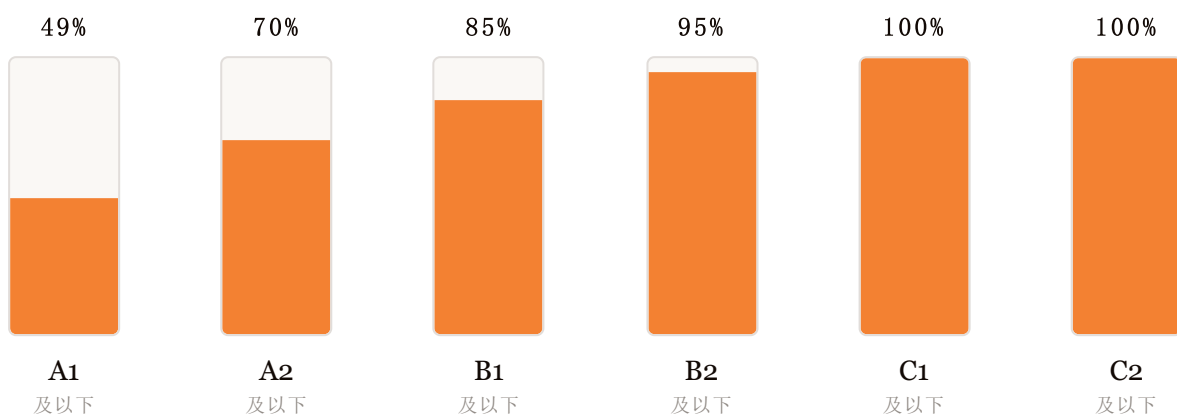
adj. 富有的

本篇1次 · 真题 8 句

VOCABULARY · 词汇难度分布

全文 200 词按 CEFR 难度累积覆盖

全文去重后共 **200** 个单词，按欧框 CEFR 等级统计。每根柱表示「该等级及以下」的累积占比（CDF），最右一柱为 100%。B2 以上（C1/C2）为高阶词，本篇共 11 个 · 约 6%。



每柱为「按 CEFR 等级及以下」的累积覆盖率（CDF）· 数据为全文去重词 200 个 · 末柱为 100%

去重总词数

200

B2 以上难词

6%

B1 及以下覆盖

85%

考研英语（旧卷） 2000年 · 全卷构成

Section I	完形填空（四选一）	题目解析 →
Section II Part A (1)	阅读理解（四选一）	题目解析 →
Section II Part A (2)	阅读理解（四选一）	本题
Section II Part A (3)	阅读理解（四选一）	题目解析 →
Section II Part A (4)	阅读理解（四选一）	题目解析 →
Section II Part A (5)	阅读理解（四选一）	题目解析 →
Section II Part B	英译汉（划线句子翻译）	题目解析 →
Section III	写作	题目解析 →