

博士生入学考试英语辅导

（写作部分）

黄 年 根

解放军理工大学工程兵工程学院

Lecture on Writing

For Non-English Major Doctor Candidates

By Prof. Huang

Engineering Institute of Engineer Corps,

PLA University of Science and Engineering

Requirement

write a passage of 120--140 words in 30 minutes

Grading Criterion

1. coherence (内容切题) : related ideas, topic sentences in paragraphs;
2. construction: full development, unity, logic, cohesion, being clear and to the point;
3. transition and variation of sentences;
4. grammar and diction

Sample

Topic:

Do you think it a good idea to have the graduate students participate in more physical activities in the army, factories or the countryside instead of concentrating on their textbooks alone? Give your reasons to support your opinions

I think it a good idea to have the graduate students participate in more physical activities in the army, factories or the countryside instead of concentrating on their textbooks alone. It bases on the following reasons.

The most important of all, These activities is good to our health. By more physical activiteis in the army, factories or the countryside. Our body can be exerciesed stronger and more heathy. So It can deal with our poor health after long term studying. Secondly, It can make us connect the knowledge with the proactieces. Our knowledges are often limited to the textbooks and we often find it is impractcable after we graduate from colleges. So, It is useful to make out knowledge more reasonable. Thirdly, It help us develop the patrocism idea. And recognize our nation's real situaltion.

Based on the above reasons, I think we should participate in more such activities.

Appraisement

I think it a good idea to have the graduate students participate in more physical activities in the army, factories or the countryside instead of concentrating on their textbooks alone. It *bases on* the following reasons.

Para. 1 just a copy of the topic direction

Mistake in “It bases on...” It should be corrected as “It is based on....”

1. Capitalization:
2. Spelling mistakes
3. Grammar mistakes
4. Illogic
5. Poor diction

*Sample 2:*Not just on your textbooks

As a graduate student, you can not just pay attention to your textbooks. You should participate in more physical activities in the army, factories or countryside.

First of all, we are in a society that is full of all kinds of knowledge. It is necessary for us to learn them in this society. Then, if you want to be competitive in applying for a job after graduation, you had better participate in more physical activities. For a company, your social experience may be more important than your knowledge from your textbooks.

Not just on your textbooks

Finally, taking such activities can help you grasp your textbook better. When you solve the practical problem with your knowledge, you improve it also.

I would like to give the suggestion: Don't miss any opportunity to participate in physical activities.

评析：观点明确，文字连贯。应得 8 分。

Para.2 and Para. 3 can be combined to have a close-knitted passage.

Too simple conclusion.

Styles Of Writing

Description: describing the appearance, inner structure, etc of certain objects or the steps or stages of a process, a method, etc.

Sample:

The most famous of the Egyptian pyramids are the pyramids of Giza. These pyramids were built more than 5,000 years ago. The biggest of them is the Great Pyramid", the Pyramid of Khufu. It was 146 metres *high*, and each of the *four sides* measured 230 metres and *faces* exactly north, south, east or west. It was *made of* about 2,300, 000 blocks of stone, all exactly the same *shape*. The *weight* of each block is about 2.5 tons. The *inside* blocks were cut out of rock near the pyramid.

Styles Of Writing

Narration: recording a series of events that occur one after another. Events are often stated or narrated in their natural time order.

Sample:

The origins of Nanjing Engineering Institute can be traced to a department of Harbin Military Engineering Institute *in the 1950's*. *In 1964* it was moved to xi'an. *There* it went through various difficulties and obstacles. *15 years later* it merged with Nanjing Engineering School. It started to admit students from the national examination *in 1978*. *At the Threshold of the 21st century* it will see another major change and challenge.

Styles Of Writing

Exposition: explaining or expounding a physics law, a natural or social phenomenon, or applications of a new discovery, etc. With the aim of giving knowledge or information.

Sample:

What is stress? In simple medical terms, stress can be defined as the response of the body to any demand. Stress is the state you are in , not the agent that produces it which is called a stressor. Cold and heat, for example, are stressors. But in man,

Definition of stress and stressor

Styles Of Writing

Argumentation: raising or arguing for views to try to convince the reader of truth and reasons you provide.

Sample:

Some have begun to suggest that there are too many women in the workforce today. To solve the problem, some have suggested that some working women, not all, stay at home, while their husbands or brothers were given double wages. They argue that under these circumstances, families would retain their same level of income, and women could run the house and raise children much better.

The suggestion has been flatly rejected by 9 out of 10 people polled. This proves that most people reject the idea of women returning home. Women's liberation depends in the final analysis, on economic status, said one woman human rights advocator.

Popular Writing in the Exam

1. Write on the Title given either in English or in Chinese. Usually outlines are provided. And opening sentences may be displayed for you to continue. *E.g.*

（题目）： Good Health

（提纲）： （ 1 ） Importance of good health ;

（ 2 ） Ways to keep
fit ;

（ 3 ） My own
practices.

Opening sentence （起始句） : The desire for
good health is

Popular Writing in the Exam

2. Write on the basis of the situations, conditions, events or a specific scene set either in English or in Chinese.

E.g. (1)

A . Write an essay discussing the two opposite opinions given below , give both some reasons , and make your comments or suggestions . There are two main opinions concerning women's status in the society. Some advice that women should stay at home , while others say more women ought to go out working .

B . Time limit 40 minutes

C . Word limit: no less than 150 words D. Your essay must be written clearly on ANSWER SHEET II

Popular Writing in the Exam

2. Write on the basis of the situations, conditions, events or a specific scene set either in English or in Chinese.

E.g. (2) A Title : How To Prevent Pollution . Your essay should be based on the information given below .

在我国，环境污染问题非常严重。空气污染是我国城市存在的问题，大部分城市的空气为 2—3 级，有些城市达到 5 级。这给人们带来了疾病，植物的生长也受到一定的影响。另外，水环境的污染在全国也是很严重的。有的河流清水变成了黑水，这影响了人们的吃水，也破坏了鱼类的生存环境。解决这些问题已刻不容缓。我的意见是……

Popular Writing in the Exam

3. Write with the help of tables, figures, diagrams, pictures, statistics or a combination of them.

Sample:

FOOD\YEAR	1986	1987	1988	1989	1990
Grain	49%	47%	46.5%	45%	45%
Milk	10%	11%	11%	12%	13%
Meat	17%	20%	22.5%	23%	21%
Fruit/vegetables	24%	22%	20%	20%	21%
Total	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%

Writing on the help of graphs, figures or tables

Sample:

According to the above table, we can see that some changes have taken place in people's diet since 1986, which clearly indicates the improvement of people's living standard.

One of the big changes is the decrease of grain consumption with 49 percent in 1986 and 45 percent in 1990. On people's dinner tables the traditional dominant food—grain has given some way to milk and meat which were seldom seen on dinner tables before. Since the economic reform in 1978, various kinds of food have become popular in Chinese families.

Writing on the help of graphs, figures or tables

Sample:

However, there is a steady reduction of fruit and vegetables with 24 percent in 1986 and a three point drop by 1990. But this is not the main trend. As the living standard of the Chinese people is rising, we look forward to further changes in people's diet. The proportion of fruit and vegetables as well as milk and meat will definitely increase in the coming years.

Types of Paragraph Development

■ Narration:

- series of events that begin at a particular time and are organized chronologically.

■ Process:

- explain how something is done or made. Often a temporal element makes a step-by-step chronological arrangement possible and natural

Types of Paragraph Development

- Classification: consistence
- analysis: subjects of analysis is divided into parts and parts are related as causes or effects of the thing analyzed.
- Definition: explain sb or sth (formal or informal)
- comparison and contrast
- example
- description

Method of Writing

- Determining the topic and the theme 审题
 - avoid digression, but keep to the question
- Making a draft (material collecting and outline listing) 收集材料、列出提纲
 - calm down at a strange or unfamiliar topic, and broaden your view and deepen your thinking
 - narrow down to the topic when you have too much information
- Expanding the outlines into a passage 组织文章
- Polishing and improvement 修改

Method of Writing

Allocation of time:

- 8' ---- prepare an outline
- 5' ---- write introduction
- 7' ---- write the body
- 5' ---- write the conclusion
- 5' ---- review and revise

Method of Writing

■ Key words in the topic sentences

K.W. Unusual experience

Sent. We had an unusual experience yesterday.

K.W. Important decision


Sent. The central committee made an important decision that will influence Chinese diplomatic policy.

■ *Ex:*

three kinds of teachers, several simple steps,
A serious accident, how to become self-reliant,
the most popular, imaginative, different reasons,

Method of Writing

Sample topic sentences:

- ✗ A job applicant has the responsibility for ascertaining certain types of information prior to the interview.
- ✗ London's weather is very strange
- ✗ Baby  sitting with my little brother is no fun.
- ✗ Future generations can expect a life span (寿命) of 150 years

Method of Writing

Note in topic sentences:

- ✗ The topic sentence must be a complete one. Besides it should be neither too general nor too specific.

E.g. William Shakespeare is great. (*too general*)

The dictionary is small. (*too specific*)

- ✗ There should be coherence between each topic sentence in each paragraph of the passage.

E.g. Smoking is harmful.

Smoking does not only harm the smokers but also people around them.

Therefore, smoking is a bad habit.

Method of Writing

■ Expanding a topic sentence into a paragraph

Sample 1 You may go through several simple steps when you come to patch a bicycle tire. **First** you have to find the spot where the leak is. **Then** scrape the leaky place so the glue will stick when you patch the hole. **Next**, Put glue on the tire patch. **While** the glue is drying, check to see if the glue is dry. **Now** put the patch on the tire. **Let** the patch dry before you ...

Sample 2 There was a serious accident in the language lab last week. A careless teacher

Method of Writing

Expanding a topic sentence into a paragraph

***Sample 1** You may go through several simple steps when you come to patch a bicycle tire. **First** you have to find the spot where the leak is. **Then** scrape the leaky place so the glue will stick when you patch the hole. **Next**, Put glue on the tire patch. **While** the glue is drying, check to see if the glue is dry. **Now** put the patch on the tire. **Let** the patch dry before you ...*

***Sample 2** There was a serious accident in the language lab last week. A careless teacher*

Method of Writing

Asking Wh- Questions to expand the passage

- e.g. 1. Importance of good health (*Why?*)
2. Ways of keep fit (*how?*)
3. My own practices(*What?*)

Model:

- 1).The desire for good health is universal. My desire is to be ..., such as
- 2).But how to put the desire into practice? There are many ways to keep fit, for example,
- 3).I run, though slowly, for half an hour in the morning everyday, playmakes me strong... --my best wish

Method of Writing

Writing a concluding sentence of the paragraph

1. Answering the implied questions if there is any
 - But your efficiency in making summaries will increase in proportion to the time and effort you spend on perfecting your notetaking technique.
2. Using synonyms to make it in concert with the key words in the topic sentence
3. Summarizing the paragraph in the form of abstract
e.g. environment, goods and service: connecting them by the conjunctive phrase, not only...but also (ref. P.232)

Method of Writing

Writing a concluding sentence of the paragraph

4. Concluding the paragraph by asking a rhetoric question

- However, what happens if people skip breakfast or substitute a simple one for a high qualified meal?

5. Using the transition words

e.g. In brief tourism, according to my opinion should not be encouraged.

Transition Words

Addition and Sequence

✍ besides, also, moreover, furthermore, likewise, in addition,

✍ first, second, then, next, later, finally, while, when

Transition Words

Comparison and Contrast

~~✍~~ like, in the same way, similarly, too, both, also,
equally important, likewise, so,

~~✍~~ unlike, while, whereas, instead,

~~✍~~ in contrast, on the contrary, on the other hand

Transition Words

Cause and Effect

~~✍~~ because, as, since, for,

~~✍~~ therefore, consequently, accordingly, hence,

~~✍~~ for this reason, as a result, why so,

Transition Words

Summary

 **finally, hence, thus**

 **to sum up, to conclude,**

 **in short, in brief, in summary, in conclusion,**

 **on the whole, at last,**

Transition Words

Concession

- but, however, yet, still, nevertheless,
- although, despite, after all, in spite of, instead

Some sentence patterns commonly-used in controlled writing:

--- 关于利弊, 优缺点的句型:

1. S + have (or has) a lot of advantages over...(与 ... 相比有许多优点)

Compared with B, A has (or have) many advantages.

译: 1) 澳大利亚与中国相比, 其优点是人口少.

2) 英语是她的长处.

2. be of great benefit to sb./sth. (对 ... 有益)

译: 你的计算机知识对你将来的工作十分有利.

3. ...benefit sb./sth. (对 ... 有好处)

译: 这家新医院对整个社区有利.

Benefit from sth. (由于 ... 而受益)

译: 我们将从技术发明中受益.

4. ...do (a lot of) good to sb. (对 ... 有许多好处)

译: 早晨锻炼对你很有好处.

...be good for sb./sth. (对 ... 有益)

译: 蔬菜和水果有利于人的健康.

Some sentence patterns commonly-used in controlled writing:

--- 关于利弊, 优缺点的句型:

4. ... do damage to sth. (对 ... 造成损坏)

译: 这次地震对城市建筑损坏严重.

... do harm to sth. (对 ... 有害处)

译: 吸烟有害人的健康.

5. ...be as(not so) good as... What he does is not so good as what he says.

6. ...not so much ...as ... (与其说 ..., 不如说 ...)

He is not so much a writer as a reporter.

Some sentence patterns commonly-used in controlled writing:

--- 说明原因的句型：

1. There are some/two/many good reasons for.../to do...

Example: There are two reasons for the changes in people's living conditions. First, we have been carrying out an opening and reform policy. Second, our national economy is developing rapidly and the birth rate has been put under control.

2. We have two good reasons for...

Example: We have many good reasons to object to smoking in public places.

1. The reason for ... is that + 从句

Example: The reason for my being late was that I missed the bus.

Some sentence patterns commonly-used in controlled writing:

--- 表示不同看法的句型：

1. Different people have/hold different opinions/views on the question/problem/matter
Some believe that ... Others argue that ... Still others maintain that ...
2. They are quite different from each other in their opinions.
3. Some people hold the opinion that it is good to have a small family.
4. They think quite differently on this question.

**Example: Parents and children think differently on this question.
Parents hold that children should work hard and do well at school.
Children, however, maintain that they should have more freedom to spend their leisure time and to plan for their own future.**

Some sentence patterns commonly-used in controlled writing:

--- 表示必须, 紧急, 有困难做某事的句型:

1. It is important (necessary, urgent, difficult, easy, convenient, comfortable, expensive, desirable, advisable) for sb. to do sth.

Example:

- 1) It is expensive to run a car.
 - 2) It is convenient to get round in the city if you own a car.
 - 3) It is urgent for the government to take measures to control the birth rate in our country
 - 4) It is desirable to build more hospitals, shopping centres, recreation centres, cinemas, and public facilities to meet the increasing needs of the people.
2. ...have trouble/difficulty/a hard time/a difficult time (in) doing sth. (有困难做某事)
They have trouble finding a satisfactory job.
... have trouble with sth. (对 ... 有困难, 不好对付)

Some sentence patterns commonly-used in controlled writing:

--- 常用谚语 (在议论文中)

1. As a popular saying goes, "Every coin has two sides".
2. As a proverb says, "Everything has two sides". On the one hand, physical exercise is good for your health. On the other hand, if you don't deal with it properly, it will do harm to you health.
So we should look at the matter from two sides.
3. As a proverb says, "Where there is a will there is a way."
(有志者事竟成.)
4. As a popular saying goes, "A man is known by the company he keeps."(观其交友, 知其为人.)
5. As is known to all, "No pains, no gains".(没有苦, 就没有甜.)

Some sentence patterns commonly-used in controlled writing:

--- 关于因果关系的句型

1. The cause of /reason for higher prices was an increase in demand.
2. Because/As/Now that/Since the demand has increased, the prices are higher.
3. An increase in demand causes/results in/leads to/produces higher prices.
4. The demand has increased. Therefore,(/As a result,/For this reason,/Because of this,/Consequently,) the prices are higher.
5. If there is an increase in demand, then prices rise.(/go up. /boost./are higher.)

Some sentence patterns commonly-used in controlled writing:

--- 辩论中常用的句型

1. There is no doubt that ...
2. It is obvious/clear that ...
3. As is known to all, ...
4. (It's) no wonder... (难怪) He didn't work hard and no wonder he lost his job.
5. It goes without saying that ... (不用说 , 不成问题 , 很自然 ...)
6. What is more important, ...
7. I am convinced that ... (我深信 ...)

Some sentence patterns commonly-used in controlled writing:

--- 举例表示法：

1. For example, the people's economic status has been greatly improved.
2. For instance, the economic status of the people has been improved.
3. Let's have an example. TV sets, refrigerators and recorders have become household necessities.

Some sentence patterns commonly-used in controlled writing:

--- 概述 (用于图表作文)

1. According to the figures given in the table, -----
2. This chart shows that -----
3. As is shown by the graph, -----
4. It can be seen from the statistics that ----
5. It is generally believed that/accepted/thought/held -----
6. There is a slight/slow/steady/rapid rise(/increase /decrease /decline /reduction /fall /drop) in demand. /income. /population. /prices./production.
7. Be on the increase/decrease/rise/decline
(... 在不断的增加, 减少, 上升, 下降)

Example: The number of students in the college has been on the rise in recently years.

Some sentence patterns commonly-used in controlled writing:

--- 结尾句型：

1. In my opinion, I am in favor of owning a car.
2. Personally, I prefer to work in the country rather than in the city.
3. In short, parents and children should learn to get through to each other. Only in this way can the most difficult problems be solved properly.
4. In conclusion, we cannot achieve success without effort and hard work.
5. As far as I am concerned, I agree with the opinion that "No pains no gains."

Some sentence patterns commonly-used in controlled writing:

--- 结尾句型：

1. In my opinion, I am in favor of owning a car.
2. Personally, I prefer to work in the country rather than in the city.
3. In short, parents and children should learn to get through to each other. Only in this way can the most difficult problems be solved properly.
4. In conclusion, we cannot achieve success without effort and hard work.
5. As far as I am concerned, I agree with the opinion that "No pains no gains."

“Choosing A Career”

Directions: for this part, you are allowed 30 minutes to write a composition on the topic “Choosing A Career”. You must write at least 120 words and you should base your composition on the outline given (in Chinese) below. You should write the composition on the Composition Sheet.

1. 择业是每个青年人面临的问题。
2. 择业的标准是什么。
3. 我们应持的态度

Choosing A Career

All people in the world have to work in one way or another, for they spend most of their life at jobs. And only through work can people earn their living, change the world and conquer the forces of nature. Therefore young people, after leaving school, have to choose a career. A good career helps to develop themselves and brings happiness to family. In short, a right career means everything to them.

Since childhood people usually have many expectations in their careers. Some people want to be teachers, doctors or lawyers; others may like to become sportsmen, film stars or artists. Whatever careers you choose, you'd better pay attention to such basic questions as "Are you qualified for the career?" "Is it interesting and enjoyable?" "Is it lawful and beneficial to the people and the society?" "Is it rewarding with satisfactory income?"

When you plan your career, you must start to prepare yourself for it. To reach your goals, you must work hard at school. Of course, things are changing rapidly now. Certain jobs which you desired may have disappeared. In that case, you have to continue education and training to meet the new challenge. In the job market where there is fierce competition, you need to adopt a flexible attitude, take any job available. If it does not suit you in the long run, then drop it and look for new ones.

“A Few Remarks on Competition”

Directions: For this part, you are allowed 30 minutes to write a composition on “A Few Remarks on Competition”. Your composition should be no less than 100 words. Remember to write clearly. You should write this composition on the Composition Sheet.

1. 竞争是存在于如今社会的普遍现象。
2. 竞争的好处。
3. 竞争的同时不要忘记合作。

“A Few Remarks on Competition”

In our modern society you may feel competition everywhere. The athletes for example, fight with each other for championships. The students compete for prizes and scholarships at school. The unemployed struggle for any opportunities available in the job market. And every day in the business world the most fierce competition is taking place as each enterprise tries to get a bigger slice of the market.

Hard as competition is, it has certain advantages as well. Firstly, it provides citizens, whatever social status they have, with opportunities to achieve their goals. Everyone with his own efforts is equal on the way to success. Secondly, people usually feel stimulated by the challenges from rivals. Under competition one turns out to be more active and efficient. Furthermore, competition gives impetus to the fast development of the modern world, in which each person shows greater initiative at work .

However, a competitive society can never neglect the importance of cooperation, for competition does not mean the isolation from others. In fact, right cooperation with other people will make wiser and more effective use of our intelligence and energy, and thus increase the forcefulness of competition.

The Role of Migrant Workers

Directions: Migrant workers (外地民工) have made a great contribution to the prosperity of cities. In this part, you are to write 40 minutes a composition of not less than 150 words about "The Role of Migrant workers". You can agree and/or disagree, completely or partially to above statement. But no matter which position you take, you should give sound supporting reasons.

The Role of Migrant Workers

- As is known to all, migrant workers have made a great contribution to the prosperity of cities. They are an indispensable part of our force. Most of them work on construction sites. There is no doubt that without migrant workers many of the construction projects would have been held up for lack of manpower. In addition, a large number of migrant workers is a factor which stimulates the consumption of food and daily items. This helps to develop food industry and service industry in cities. All these are positive aspects of migrant workers in cities.

The Role of Migrant Workers

- However, as a popular saying goes, "Everything has two sides". The same is the case with migrant workers. First, they have trouble getting their children into child care centres and schools because they are unregistered residents in the city. As you know, illiterate people, who are usually ignorant of laws, tend to make troubles concerning law and order. Second, most of the migrant workers swarm into big cities just to make money. Being ignorant and incompetent, some of them would stop at nothing to get what they want. Therefore, they are a potential threat to the peace and stability of the society.
- In my opinion, in the appraisal of migrant workers, it is one-sided to affirm everything. We should appreciate the great contribution made by them, and at the same time pay enough attention to the problems caused by them. (240)

Prospects of Private Cars in China

1. 中国目前拥有私人小汽车的现状;
2. 制约中国私人小汽车发展的因素;
3. 我们应采取的对策。

Prospects of Private Cars in China

Private cars are not so popular in China as in developed countries. Of the millions of cars running on streets and highways, few belong to private owners. Having a private car in China is considered a luxury. At present only a small number of pop singers, film and sport stars, rich managers and businessmen can afford and enjoy such a luxury, though many people long to have their own cars.

Why are private cars not popular in China? To start with, China is still a developing country, and most people can't earn enough money to buy a car. Besides, living in densely-populated cities, people can hardly find any parking space even if they can afford cars. What is more, the old narrow streets and poor traffic control system often lead to traffic jams and accidents. The growth of private cars may only worsen the traffic situation.

To increase private cars in China, effective measures must be taken from now on. We should take advantage of technological advancements to develop new types of cars with better performance but less pollution. In addition, we have to step up the building of new roads as well as widen the old narrow ones. Furthermore, new policies and regulations should be passed to improve the traffic management. Apart from these, we can recommend cheap cars and encourage people to buy cars on installments. With these and other steps taken, it is not long before private cars enter Chinese homes in great numbers.

Writing Assignment

下次课

综合练习：听力、词汇、语法、写作

Good Bye!