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专注留学 · 飞跃梦想

雅思复习攻略

之

雅思考官QA精选

By 寄托天下

前言

十六年来，寄托不给予、不索求，仅仅只是存在着，就足以让留学路上能找到志同道合小伙伴们的版友得到慰藉。在无数 GTers 的共同努力下，寄托论坛沉淀了丰富的留学考试申请的资源与信息。

作为一个有情怀的留学生活交流平台，寄托一直希望能够做些什么来回馈给支持我们的众多小伙伴们，因此留学史上第一套电子书——寄托电子书诞生啦！！！寄托整合了论坛上的优质资源，在小编与众多寄托版友的共同努力下，推出了寄托电子书系列。该系列囊括不同国家留学申请的各个阶段，包括考试，申请，选校，签证，租房等等。希望能够帮助众多 GTers 以及其他留学小伙伴们在留学道路上少走弯路提高效率。

今日为大家推送我们的第一份考试攻略——雅思考官 Q&A 问答精选。本攻略的内容来自雅思考试中心，转载请注明出处。

预祝各位童鞋在今后的留学申请中一切顺利，多姿多彩哈！

By 寄托天下

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一、概述

留学申请的道路并不好走，要过五关，斩六将。而语言考试，是以往让众多留学生非常头疼的一大拦路虎。没有达标的语言成绩，意味着距离梦校又远了一步。到底语言这个大关该如何过？不如我们来听听考官的建议。本文整理了雅思考官与学生的 Q&A 问答，分别从听、说、读、写四个方面给予备考的同学相应的建议哦。

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二、 Listening Section Q & A

1. How to effectively capture the key points in listening materials?

One of the most important things to do is to focus on the questions. In each test you will have time to read the question paper before you listen.

While you read, I would recommend writing suggestions in English or Chinese as to what the answers might be. This could be like: "date" "地点". Listen for these words during the test.

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2. I am poor at matching types of questions which I found extremely difficult to even keep up to the audio in listening test. Are there any tips?

The IELTS test can be difficult for listening when they speak quickly. The best advice for this is... Lots of listening practice! In particular, get used to the kinds of questions that they often use in the test (The Essential guide to IELTS can help with this:

https://www.chinaielts.org/guide/essential_guide.shtml)

Also, make sure you analyze the question so that you can listen out for individual words. If you know the answer is, for example, a day of the week, you might be able to hear the word "Tuesday" even if you don't understand the rest of the dialogue.

3. I found it's difficult to understand British accent but I think my listening is good enough to understand the daily conversation. Is there any shortcut which can make me transfer American accent into British accent quickly?

I'm not sure what your question means... If you are asking how to speak with a British accent, then don't try! An American accent is fine, if you already have one.

If you are talking about making listening easier, the best way is to practice listening to English accents, such as on the BBC. You can also try watching British English TV, though this can be harder to understand.



4. **In listening part, how can I distinguish a pronunciation is a word, two words or words with -? For example, under sea, undersea or under-sea.?**

Often you can't distinguish just by listening. I would say all these three words in exactly the same way.

However, you can make sure you listen clearly to what kind of word it is. Sometimes words will be spelt differently if they are used as an adjective or as a noun, for example. The only way to be correct is to make sure you know which words are spelt in one word, like undersea or in two, like ice cream/ice-cream.

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5. **I have some trouble in IELTS listening part, is it necessary for me to listen the same section again and again until I understand every word and sentence when I take the Cambridge IELTS series books 5-9 ?**

You won't be tested on your ability to understand every word. Rather you are tested on your ability to listen and identify facts and details, listen and identify the main ideas or speaker opinions etc. Also Cambridge books are there to help you get familiar with the assessment tasks used in the listening test. You won't hear the same samples in your actual test. Our preparation tool Road to IELTS has more advice about listening skills and the IELTS test http://www.chinaielts.org/guide/road_to_ielts.shtml. My advice is to listen widely... listen to the BBC, NPR radio etc. Here is some more advice http://www.ieltspractice.com/pdf/sss_predictingwords.pdf

6. **How can we prepare the text, especially listening and writing part, more efficiently?**

You need to make decisions about what is most important. Many students try to do everything or focus on those parts of an exam that they are best at or prefer. It can be a good idea to work out which skills (listening, reading, writing, speaking) you are best at and which you need to improve. Then spend your time working on the those areas you need to improve. A good English teacher will be able to help you identify the areas you need to work on. Good luck!



二、Speaking Section Q & A

1. How to improve oral English without a partner just by myself?

It really is better to find someone else – a classmate, friend, someone on the internet...

If you can't, you can use this as a good opportunity to practice part 2. Prepare a number of topics and time yourself – make sure you can speak for 1 minute, then 2 minutes, then 3, without stopping or pausing too much.

2. What kinds of materials that I can use to improve my speaking ability?

I think one of the most important things is to create a number of different topics and kinds of speaking. For example, you need to talk about lots of subjects (both in life and in the IELTS test), so try to look for materials that cover many different topics.

Then, make sure you are doing lots of different things – making speeches, arguing, explaining, asking questions... Try to create suitable ways of speaking with the material you have. Don't just do what the textbooks say – try to use the material in the way that best helps you.

3. Many people say that it is not good to memorize the answers. But what is the right way for speaking test preparation?

Those people are right. The Examiner in the speaking test could ask you hundreds or thousands of different questions. You can't prepare for all of them!

What you can do is prepare to do different things – practise explaining, describing, arguing, disagreeing, etc. The best way to prepare is by talking, though. Make sure you speak as much as you can, so that you feel comfortable and natural speaking in English.

4. Does my answer must cover all the three or four sub-questions of one topic card in speaking part 2?

The simple answer here is: no! The important thing is that you talk about the main topic, not something else. You should think of the sub-questions as something that can help you: if you don't know what to say, these can give you some good ideas. However, a good answer to most of the questions will include some, if not all, of the sub-questions, too.



5. In the Speaking Test part 2, what should I do if I am not familiar with the topic and do not have too much to say?

This is a problem! You must MAKE yourself talk, and keep going for the full 2 minutes.

One way to do this is to go into more detail for each part of your answer. For example, if you start part 2 by saying, "I went with my friend to Hainan last summer on holiday." You can talk for at least 1 minute about this sentence! Who is your friend, what does she look like, how do you know her? Why did you choose Hainan, what was it like there, the weather, the people? What do you usually do in the summer? Where do you normally go on holiday?

By adding lots of detail, you can fill up 2 minutes very easily!

6. Is intonation important in the speaking test?

The answer is, of course! We use intonation to show our opinions, to ask questions, to stress words... It is important and it is also difficult, because Chinese intonation is very different to English intonation.

I recommend listening to MP3 of foreigners speaking sentences and trying to copy their intonation. However, you must be natural – trying too hard to use different intonation can make you sound very strange!

7. How to make a conversation as fluent as a native speaker?

Fluency comes when you are thinking only in that language. For example, I'm very fluent in Chinese because when I speak in Chinese, I'm thinking only in Chinese, too. I may make many mistakes, but I'm very fluent!

To do this, you must open your mouth and talk. Don't worry about making mistakes or saying exactly the right word. Also, don't allow yourself the time to translate English into Chinese. Make yourself think in English and then use the words you think.

8. How to overcome the tension in IELTS speaking test especially when talking to a foreigner?

There is no tension from the examiner! Examiners are all experienced teachers and have often been examining for many years. They want you to speak well. They want to have an interesting conversation and they want to give you a high mark.



For me, the best way to overcome tension is to do something many times. Talk to foreigners if you can. If you can't, talk to Chinese friends or classmates. Ask them to give you a mock IELTS test, with all three parts of the test. Do this again and again. If you have done the test 10 times at home, it will be much easier in the real exam.

9. How much influence does speaking slowly in oral English have on the score of IELTS?

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It can have a big impact. If you speak VERY slowly, your pronunciation will probably be bad, you will only be able to answer a few questions (there will be no time for more!) and you won't have the time to show how much English you know.

However, some people speak faster than others. This does not mean the fast ones always get the high scores! If you speak slowly naturally, then don't worry too much about it.

In IELTS it is important why you are slow. Are you slow because you are trying to find words or grammar? Or are you slow because you are thinking about the answer? If the slowness is from thinking about the answer, that is probably ok. If you are slow because you are translating from Chinese or are trying to remember words, that will be a problem.

10. I always feel frustrated and confused, because I think these questions are quite hard to generate answers in part 3, Could you give me some tips?

Always remember that the IELTS test is about your English. As long as you answer the Examiner's questions, you can decide exactly how you want to answer.

Listen to the questions and give your answer. As you do this think about what else you can say: You can explain your answer, perhaps with examples. You can expand your answer with more details. You can rethink your answer, giving the other side of the question.

There are many ways to generate answers, but the only important thing is to keep generating good English!



11. In what degree is the accuracy more important than fluency in speaking test? How can I behave better although I don't have a huge vocabulary?

First, your second question. IELTS is about communication. You don't have to have a huge vocabulary to communicate – if you have a reasonable vocabulary but use it well, that will be fine.

http://www.chinaielts.org/guide/band_descriptors_speaking.shtml talks about the band descriptors. It shows that fluency and accuracy are both important. Your first question is difficult to answer. If your fluency is good but you are making many bad mistakes, of course it will be better to slow down and focus on accuracy. If you are speaking very accurately but with very bad fluency, it will be better if you ignore accuracy and just speak!

For most Chinese students, fluency is more of a problem than accuracy. For those “哑巴英语” students, they must just open their mouths. However, you should focus on that part of your English that is the weakest.

12. What are the basic requirements if I want to make the speaking grade above or equal to 6?

Make sure you know what is needed to get a band 6: http://www.chinaielts.org/guide/band_descriptors_speaking.shtml will show you this.

I don't have the space to go through these descriptors in detail here. I would say that for a band 6 you need to be able to talk about many different topics at some length, talking for the full 2 minutes of part 2. You must be able to communicate your ideas, so your grammar and vocabulary must be good enough to do this.

13. Is Chinglish speaking style a problem in speaking test?

The answer to your question is “Yes, but.”

Yes, it's a problem. Chinglish is not English, and if you want to get a band 9, then you will have no Chinglish in your speech. But... for Chinese candidates, almost all will use some Chinese pronunciation and grammar. That means you can have a little Chinglish and you can still be band 8!

You are Chinese and you will probably always have some Chinglish when you speak English, just like I will have some Englese (!) when I speak Chinese. Just try to minimize it, and make sure that it doesn't affect communication.



14. Do you think it is more important that a student has a good intonation in speaking part or a well organised thought? Will intonation and pronunciation influence too much on the score?

Please look at the band descriptors to help this:

http://www.chinaielts.org/guide/band_descriptors_speaking.shtml

Your speaking score will be $\frac{1}{4}$ based on pronunciation. Your grammar is $\frac{1}{4}$, vocabulary is $\frac{1}{4}$ and fluency and coherence are $\frac{1}{4}$. Having “well organized thoughts” is important and will affect your score for fluency and coherence.

However, you should always focus on your English. What is your problem? Is it pronunciation or coherence? Make sure you focus on your weakest area, so if your intonation is poor, it is more important that you focus on that than on organizing your thoughts.

15. How to improve coherence in speaking?

Firstly, you just need more practice on speaking. The more you speak, the more you will get used to organizing your thoughts coherently.

You should also try to use as many different connectives and cohesive features that you can. But, however, nevertheless, having said that, as I told you earlier, although... Make sure you can use a variety of these accurately, and practice using them in your speech.



三、Writing Section Q & A

1. What's the difference between the band 5.5 and 6?

You can learn about the band descriptors here:

http://www.chinaielts.org/guide/band_descriptors_writing.shtml

In China, the reason many candidates fail to reach band 6 is that they don't answer the whole question in task 2, they have spelling or grammar errors that make reading the answers difficult or they are using language that is too simple. You can read on the band descriptors what you have to do to get a band 6 or higher for each of the bands.

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2. What is the key to get 6+ in writing?

You can learn about the band descriptors here:

http://www.chinaielts.org/guide/band_descriptors_writing.shtml

In China, the reason many candidates fail to reach band 6 is that they don't answer the whole question in task 2, they have spelling or grammar errors that make reading the answers difficult or they are using language that is too simple. You can read on the band descriptors what you have to do to get a band 6 or higher for each of the bands.

3. Do you seriously take handwriting into consideration when marking ielts essay?

They almost never take handwriting into account. If examiners can't read a word or sentence, they will ask someone else to help. If they really can't read something then that candidate may get a lower mark. If they can't understand anything at all, they can't give any marks!

Almost all Chinese students write with very good handwriting. This will almost never be a problem.

4. How could I improve the logical structure of my IELTS writing?

I recommend using a clear overall structure in task 2 – an introduction, paragraphs with your main ideas, then a conclusion.

For each main paragraph, think about this structure – present your main idea, explain it, then provide evidence for it.



There are many good books that can help you with this. You might like to try the Essential Guide: https://www.chinaielts.org/guide/essential_guide.shtml

5. **In the last paragraph of Writing Task 2 response, do I have to repeat or paraphrase the main idea which appears in the first paragraph? Is it better to extend the idea and say something new?**

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Yes, it's a good idea to repeat the overall opinion you have as a conclusion in the final paragraph. But yes, it's better to extend it or add something. Often IELTS questions give you a "do you agree or disagree?" kind of topic. If your final conclusion is that you agree, it might be useful to add some conclusions based on this – if you agree, how should you, people, the government, etc. change their actions? For example, if your conclusion is: "I agree that science is more important than English at school", you could add, "So the government should reduce the score of English in exams and schools must..."

6. **What do you think of fancy words used in IELTS writing or simple word is better?**

"Fancy words" are better IF you use them both accurately and appropriately. Don't just throw in difficult or strange words just because you think they are complex or fancy.

IELTS is a test of communication in English. Your examiner is looking for the correct word to communicate your ideas. It is much better to use simple words correctly than to use fancy words incorrectly. Make sure you focus on communication, not trying to impress the examiner.

7. **Are there any recommended structures for the writing? There are many IELTS guide books and some of which give us some templates and structures. Could I use them when I write my essay?**

Yes, you can use a general structure. However, try not to use a template that gives you long passages to remember. Many students use these templates and it is very obvious when they have been used – especially if the examiner has seen it 10 times already.

Use a structure that gives a logical way to answer the question. Don't memorize whole sentences in a structure however, just words, phrases and the general structure itself.



8. Many students worry about various vocabulary problem in reading and writing. Could you recommend some books or reading materials they can use to practice vocabulary ?

You can find some advice on vocabulary here:

https://www.chinaielts.org/guide/suggestion_professional/294.shtml

I recommend that you read a lot. The guardian website is good www.theguardian.com, as is the BBC, VOA, etc. Also invest in a good dictionary (paper or digital) that has lots of good example sentences. You can learn a lot from these.

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9. Which aspect matters more in writing: good wording and grammar or topic development?

Please read the band descriptors for writing:
http://www.chinaielts.org/guide/band_descriptors_writing.shtml

As you can see, $\frac{1}{4}$ of your overall score will be for each of grammar and vocabulary. Another $\frac{1}{4}$ will be based on the answer you give, including how well the topic is developed. So, the answer is that they are all important.

You should focus on the aspect of your English is weakest. That will be the area you need to improve most.

10. would you tell me how to improve my speaking and writing when my listening and reading is good enough?

These two parts tend to be the weakest for Chinese candidates – they are the active parts when you must create your own English, rather than the passive parts where you just have to understand.

The most important thing is to be active. Many students try to improve speaking by listening more or by learning more words. The important thing though is to actually speak! Make yourself speak as much as you can and practice writing essays. The more you use English, the easier it will be to keep using it.



四、Reading Section Q & A

1. Do you have some advice to distinguish N or F from NG ? Sometimes it is really hard to tell for me.

That is quite a difficult question to answer! Some students can waste a lot of time looking for True or False, when actually it is Not Given.

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Obviously the first thing to do is check if something is true or false. The first check should be to look for the same words in the question as in the text, then to see if that gives you the answer. Then look for similar words: for example, if the question says “the building is red”, look for words like ‘structure’, ‘wall’, ‘scarlet’, ‘ruby’ etc. in the text.

2. How to prepare my reading test?

That's a big question! Here are a few answers:

First, read a lot. Do practice papers and use books like the Essential Guide: https://www.chinaielts.org/guide/essential_guide.shtml

Try to learn to read faster. I recommend forcing yourself to read as fast as you can whenever you read something. Then read it again, but slower, and without a dictionary. Try to get used to reading quickly and guessing when you don't understand.

Finally, read a lot more! The guardian website is good www.theguardian.com, as is the BBC, VOA, etc. Also invest in a good dictionary (paper or digital) that has lots of good example sentences. You can learn a lot from these.

3. What is the most significant ability in reading test and how could we conquer it?

The most important ability is getting the correct answers! Sorry, that's a bad answer. However, the most important thing for you is what is stopping you from doing this.

For some students, this is because of vocabulary. If so, you need to focus on this. You can find some advice on vocabulary here:

https://www.chinaielts.org/guide/suggestion_professional/294.shtml



For other students, time is the big problem. For that, try to learn to read faster. I recommend forcing yourself to read as fast as you can whenever you read something. Then read it again, but slower, and without a dictionary. Try to get used to reading quickly and guessing when you don't understand.

4. In all of IELTS reading passages, how long do you think should we distribute time in all the passages we take?

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You need to find the best time to suit you. When I look at these questions, I first read the passage very quickly, then read the questions, then search for the answers in the text. However, English is my first language, so I can do this very quickly. If you read more slowly, it might be better to read the questions carefully first, before then reading the test.

I would recommend trying several different ways of distributing your time. Then use the method that helps you most and will give you the best score!

5. How can I memorize vocabulary more effectively? could you recommend some methods?

You can find some advice on vocabulary here:
https://www.chinaielts.org/guide/suggestion_professional/294.shtml

One thing is that you should think about active and passive vocabulary. Some vocabulary is passive – you will probably never need to speak or write it, but you need to be able to read and understand. This vocabulary can be learnt quickly and as a single word.

Other vocabulary is active – you need to use it yourself. Here, make sure you know how to use the word – which situations is it used? Which words is it used with? Use a good dictionary which has example sentences to help you.

Finally, it is better to try to memorize vocabulary in many short periods than trying to learn, say, 500 words in one evening. Learn a few words at a time, then review them soon after.

6. Could you tell why we can catch the main idea of the passages, however, it is always false when I do the reading! It is so crazy, how to solve it?

I'm not sure why this is difficult for you... Many students can have a problem because "they can't see the wood for the trees." This means that they are so focused on details – individual words, for example – that they are not focusing on what the whole passage is talking about.



One thing I recommend trying is to read the passage once, very quickly, at the beginning. This should be done in about 1 minute or less – very fast! This can help in giving a quick overall feel to the topic of the passage. It will also help your reading speed if you practice this a lot.

7. How to conclude the meaning of the paragraph and identify the significant world in the context?

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There are many things you can help to do this. Most (but not all) paragraphs will begin with a 'topic sentence' that gives the purpose of the paragraph. The final sentence is often also very helpful for this.

For guessing words (not worlds!) in context, try to get used to guessing. Many students will read their textbooks/newspapers with a dictionary, stopping every time they see a new word to check in the dictionary. Make sure you never do this! Read the whole article or passage first without a dictionary, guessing any words you don't know. If you need to, go back later to check those words in a dictionary.



五、Reference

以下总结了本文所提到的网址：

1. https://www.chinaielts.org/guide/essential_guide.shtml 雅思官方指南
2. http://www.chinaielts.org/guide/road_to_ielts.shtml 雅思之路-备考建议与练习平台
3. http://www.ieltspractice.com/pdf/sss_predictingwords.pdf 词汇预测练习
4. http://www.chinaielts.org/guide/band_descriptors_speaking.shtml 雅思口语评分标准
5. http://www.chinaielts.org/guide/band_descriptors_writing.shtml 雅思写作评分标准
6. http://www.chinaielts.org/guide/suggestion_professional/294.shtml 词汇量提高建议
7. <http://www.theguardian.com/international> 英国卫报，阅读帮助提高词汇量



六、特别鸣谢

寄托天下特别鸣谢雅思考试中心分享的详细问答，转载请注明出处！

