基礎閱讀 **16-20**

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16.

If you want to build up your muscles, you go to the gym. If you want to exercise your brain, you listen to music. According to research from Johns Hopkins University, there are few things that stimulate the brain the way music does. Listening to or playing music reduces anxiety, blood pressure, and pain as well as improving sleep quality, mood, mental alertness, and memory. The researchers at Johns Hopkins had jazz performers and rappers improvise music while undergoing MRI examinations. They wanted to see which areas of the brain lit up. Music, of course, is formed by the relationships between notes. This might sound simple, but actually our brains have to do a lot of work to structure the notes to make sense of the whole thing. __(3)__ First, instead of sticking to the genre of music you usually listen to, try some new music. This challenges the brain in a way that familiar music doesn't. You might feel uncomfortable at first, but it is the unfamiliarity that forces the brain to work harder to understand the new sound. Second, if you want to recall a memory, you can listen to music that stems from the same time period. Third, music can help you become a better runner. Studies have found that runners listening to music completed the first 800 meters of a run faster than when they ran without music. Last but not least, music raises our IQ and even helps improve our academic performance. If you're frustrated by your schoolwork, singing or playing an instrument might help. Listening to music or playing an instrument improves mental well-being and boosts physical health in surprising and astonishing ways. So, why not pick up an instrument and play or just listen to some music right now?

( ) (1) What is the purpose of this article? (A) To persuade readers to listen to a new type of music. (B) To explain research done at Johns Hopkins University. (C) To demonstrate the effects of different music genres. (D) To introduce the benefits to listening to or playing music.

( ) (2) Which of the following benefits of music is NOT mentioned in the article? (A) It lowers stress. (B) It elevates mood. (C) It refreshes the memory. (D) It keeps us sharp in old age.

( ) (3) Which of the following best fits in the blank "(3)" in Line 10? (A) In addition, music strengthens learning and memory. (B) The following are reasons why music makes you happier. (C) They also found some interesting benefits that music brings. (D) Moreover, there are a lot of benefits of being a pop musician.

( ) (4) According to the article, which of the following statements is true? (A) Runners are slower if they listen to music while running. (B) Always

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listening to the same genre of music is beneficial to health. (C) Playing an instrument or singing distracts students from their studies. (D) Listening to unfamiliar music may be painful but is helpful to the brain.

( ) (5) Where would we most likely read this article? (A) On a website about a healthy lifestyle. (B) In a journal about new technology. (C) In the review of a psychological test. (D) In a paper on a geographical study.

17.

Wolfgang Amadeus Mozart was a world-famous musician who died young, at the age of 35. After his death, Mozart was considered one of the greatest composers of all time. His music presents a bold expression, oftentimes complex and dissonant, and requires high technical mastery from the musicians who perform it. His works remained popular throughout the 19th century as biographies about him were written and his music enjoyed constant performances and renditions by other musicians. His work influenced many composers that followed – most notably Beethoven. Along with his friend Joseph Haydn, Mozart conceived and perfected the grand forms of symphony, opera, string ensemble, and concerto that marked the classical period. In particular, his operas display a deep psychological insight, unique to music at the time, and continue to exert a particular fascination for musicians and music lovers today.

( ) (1) What is this passage mainly about? (A) The family and educational background of Mozart. (B) The major features of Mozart's musical compositions. (C) The disadvantages and limits of Mozart's works in classical music. (D) The contributions Mozart made to music in the 19th century.

( ) (2) Which of the following types of music is NOT mentioned in the passage? (A) Opera. (B) Concerto. (C) String ensemble. (D) Chamber music.

( ) (3) What is the author's attitude toward Mozart's operas? (A) Critical. (B) Objective. (C) Approving. (D) Suspicious.

( ) (4) According to the passage, which of the following statements is NOT true? (A) Mozart achieved great fame and fortune before his death. (B) Mozart's music is complex and difficult for beginners to perform. (C) Mozart contributed greatly to the development of classical music. (D) Mozart's music work has inspired many composers since his death.

( ) (5) Which of the following is NOT mentioned in the passage as a feature of Mozart's music? (A) It has a rather complicated structure. (B) It sometimes does not sound harmonious. (C) It is expressed in a straightforward and bold manner. (D) It is so difficult that it has not become popular until the present day.

18.

Falcons are powerful birds that may be trained to hunt in cooperation with humans. The art of training falcons as "hunting dogs of the skies" is called falconry. It was developed in the ancient Arabian Desert around 4000 B.C. In the past, falconry mainly involved hunting with falcons to supplement one's diet. But now, it has become the favorite sport and pastime in the Arabian Peninsula.

Falconry includes three major processes: acquiring the falcons, training them, and hunting with them. Every year, falconers begin capturing wild falcons in June and July, the migration season. The best birds to catch are the ones with naturally nurtured hunting skills, aged one or two years. Once the falcons are captured, their heads are

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immediately covered with a leather hood. This is essential because they imprint as their master whomever they see first after the hood is removed. Right after a bird is caught, the training process starts. It begins by depriving the bird of food to make it easier to tame. The birds are taught to know their own name and respond to their master when called. Arab falconers live with their birds day and night in order to build a strong relationship with them.

By the end of October or mid-November, the trained falcons are ready to hunt in the desert. They have excellent vision, 2.6 times greater than that of a human. They are also the fastest divers on the planet. One hunting technique that sets them apart from other animals is that they can be trained to deliver their prey, without killing it first. This is vital in Islamic culture because animals used for food must still be alive to ensure that the meat is *halal*, that is, properly prepared according to Islamic law.

Falcons have played such a crucial role in traditional Islamic cultures that a number of countries in the Middle East have made them their national bird. Falconry has grown so popular that specialist hospitals have been established to take care of these magnificent birds. Falcons are even issued their own passports. They are the only animals in the United Arab Emirates that are legally allowed to travel inside planes, enjoying a level of luxury that some humans can only dream of.

( ) (1) What makes falcons a unique animal for hunting in Islamic culture? (A) Falcons are relatively easy to train for hunting. (B) Falcons can form a strong bond with their owners quickly. (C) Falcons' vision is particularly suitable for hunting in deserts. (D) Falcons keep their prey alive before delivering it to falconers.

( ) (2) What is the main reason for Arabic people to hunt with falcons today? (A) To supplement their diet. (B) To serve as entertainment and exercise. (C) To worship their national bird. (D) To replace the practice of hunting with dogs.

( ) (3) According to the article, what privilege do falcons enjoy in the Arab world? (A) Free air ticket. (B) Passports issued by the King. (C) Meals that are *halal*. (D) Access to specialized medical care.

( ) (4) Which of the following statements is true? (A) Falconers deprive the falcons of food in order to capture them. (B) Falcons are not allowed to see their masters during the training process. (C) The trainers' names are imprinted on the hoods covering the birds' heads. (D) Wild falcons with natural hunting skills are most ideal for falconers to catch.

19.

If picky eating were an Olympic sport, would your child be a gold medal winner? If you think so, you're not alone. Many parents are troubled to find their children excelling at pushing food around their plate during mealtimes. How can parents turn a meal into a family-friendly hour as opposed to an all-out war? Here are some suggestions.

First, be patient. Don't force your children to eat if they refuse to finish their meal. At the same time, offer a variety of foods along with **those** you know they like. Also, parents may look for "fun" foods. Scan the supermarket for foods that you know children will enjoy. Foods with fun shapes and kid-friendly flavors are more likely to appeal to children. Lastly, parents should set an example. Children learn by example. If they see grown-ups eating a variety of foods and enjoying them, they are

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more likely to copy the behavior.

( ) (1) What is the best title for the passage? (A)"Chaos in the Kitchen? Tips for Getting Your Kids to Eat" (B)"The Importance of Patience" (C)"Foods to Choose in Supermarkets" (D)"An all-out war in Campus Canteens"

( ) (2) What does **those** refer to in second paragraph? (A) Parents (B) Children (C) Foods (D) Manners.

( ) (3) According to the author, which of the following is true about fun-shaped foods? (A) They are more expensive. (B) They are not nutritious. (C) They would sell better. (D) They would appeal to children.

( ) (4) What does the author NOT suggest about making a family-friendly hour at dinner table? (A) Parents set example for their children to follow. (B) Parents prepare foods that attract children. (C) Parents do not force their children. (D) Parents play soft music during meals.

( ) (5) What is the author's attitude towards children's picky eating habits? (A) They happen rarely. (B) They are beyond remedy. (C) They can be fixed. (D) They need to be broken immediately.

20.

Momoko Sakura, creator of the much-loved "*Chibi Maruko-chan*" manga and anime series about a little girl called Maruko, debuted as a manga artist in the 1980s in the monthly manga magazine Ribbon. She first began writing and submitting her work in her final year of senior high school, with an intent to write "essays in manga form." The series proved to be extremely popular and in 1990 was made into an anime series, which is a big success to this day. Many stories are inspired by incidents in her own life, and some characters are based on her family and friends.

The title character, Maruko, is a nine-year-old third-grade student raised in a modest family of six. The nostalgic（懷舊的）, honest and thoughtful tone of the strip led to its becoming popular among a wide audience. The anime series has been aired in more than 60 countries and regions and was especially popular in Taiwan. It will celebrate its 30th anniversary in 2020. Though its creator passed away in 2018, the nostalgic mood and childlike innocence of the **autobiographical** animation has made Sakura Maruko a cultural icon in Japan and Asia as a whole.

( ) (1) When did Momoko Sakura start creating comic strips? (A) At the age of nine. (B) In her teens. (C) In her twenties. (D) At the age of 30.

( ) (2) In the passage, what is NOT said about "Chibi Maruko-chan? (A) The stories were written in the creator's final year of high school. (B) Some characters are based on the creator's friends. (C) Some characters are based on the creator's family. (D) Many of the stories are inspired by the creator's own life.

( ) (3) How popular is *Chibi Maruko-chan*? (A) Its anime series has been aired in over sixty countries. (B) Taiwan is the only country where its anime series is aired. (C) It was successful in the 1990s. (D) It has been translated into twenty languages.

( ) (4) What does **autobiographical** in the last paragraph mean? (A) A business being able to grow. (B) Being sent automatically. (C) Describing or based on the writer's life. (D) A signature of a famous person.

( ) (5) Which of the following is not said about Chibi Maruko-chan? (A) It's nostalgic. (B) It's honest. (C) It's thoughtful. (D) It's childish.

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