

1.

There are some Christmas traditions between the United Kingdom and the United States.

Letters to Santa Claus

In the United States, kids usually write letters to Santa and put them in the mailbox. However, in England we throw them directly into the fire. We don't plan to make kids cry because burning the letters can send them to the North Pole where Santa can read your Christmas wishes in the smoke. It may seem strange but it does save on postage.

Hanging stocking

Traditionally, American kids hang stockings around the fireplace for Santa to fill with presents. But in the UK, we hang stockings around the bed; being surrounded by presents is a fantastic way to wake up on Christmas morning.

Christmas pudding

Americans prefer to have pumpkin and pecan pies for the Christmas dessert; while we British are fond of Christmas pudding, which is a cake flavored with dried fruits and spices.

Dealing with Christmas tree

We British chose to take down the Christmas trees and the decorations within 12 days of Christmas, because we hold the belief that keeping them beyond that time can bring bad luck. This is probably a tradition that Americans should consider adopting. I have seen people keep their old, brown, dry and withered Christmas trees until almost July 4.

【1】How do the British people deal with "Letters to Father Christmas"?

- A. Emailing them to Santa. B. Hiding them in the mailbox.
C. Putting them in the stockings. D. Throwing them straight into the fire.

【2】Why do the British take down the Christmas tree as early as possible?

- A. To stop it from drying. B. To expect good luck.
C. To save money. D. To reuse it for the next year.

【3】What do Christmas traditions between Britain and America have in common?

- A. Writing letters to Santa. B. Making pumpkin pudding.
C. Hanging stockings around the bed. D. Keeping Christmas trees for months.

2.

I am Tony, a volunteer stem cell courier. Since March 2019, I have done 99 trips — of those, 56 have been abroad. I have 42 hours to carry stem cells in my little box because I've got two ice packs and that's how long they last. In all, from the time the stem cells are harvested from a donor to the time they can be implanted (移植) in the patient, we've got 72 hours at most. So I am always conscious of time.

Last year, I had a trip where I was caught by a hurricane in America. I picked up the stem cells in Providence, Rhode Island, and was meant to fly to Washington then back to London. But when I arrived at the check-in desk at Providence, the lady on the desk said: "Well, I'm really sorry, but I've got some bad news for you - there are no flights to Washington." So I took my box and put it on the desk and I said: "In this box are some stem cells that are urgently needed for a patient - please, please, you've got to get me back to the United Kingdom." She just dropped everything. She arranged for a fight on a small plane to be held for me, rerouted (改道) me through Newark and got me back to the UK even earlier than originally scheduled.

For this courier job, I'm consciously aware that in that box I've got something that is potentially going to save someone's life.

【1】What does the underlined word "courier" mean in paragraph 1?

- A. provider. B. collector. C. delivery man. D. medical doctor.

【2】Why does Tony have to complete his trip within 42 hours?

- A. The operation needs that much time.
B. The donor can only wait for that long.
C. He can't stay away from his job too long.
D. The ice can only last such a period of time.

【3】Why did the woman arrange a new flight for Tony?

- A. To help save a patient. B. To avoid being hit by Tony.
C. To get the stem cell. D. To drop everything.

【4】What does the author think of his job?

- A. Tiresome. B. Interesting. C. Meaningless. D. Significant.

3.

The famous British writer Charles Dickens, who penned the letter that led the signatures of resistance to street music in 1864, would be pleased to hear that, to be a busker (街头艺人) in London today, one must pass a strict "interview" first. Each busker must go through a shortlist process and then perform live in one of underground stations in front of three judges. Each musician must perform two songs (one prepared by themselves and the other selected by judges from a submitted set list). The judging process reviews the musician's songs, musicality, technique skill and performance. If successful, the musician will receive a 12-month license to perform in the street. Last year, more than 600 musicians attended the "interview" and only 70 got license.

The method of tipping buskers is changing. London is the first city in the world to introduce the electronic payment system (EPS). London mayor (市长) Sadiq Khan described London as "a powerhouse of music". "For London to keep its status as a global capital of music, it's vitally important that we support the stars of tomorrow," Khan said. "Busking helps them show their talent and gives them the chance to perform in front of huge numbers of people. The new method means more people will now be able to show their support for the capital city's many street performers because it's more convenient for them to do so."

Charlotte Campbell is one such busker who's been helping to trial the project. After only two weeks, she said it had "already had a significant effect on the contributions I've received." She's noticed when one person taps the reader to donate, others who witness the act often follow suit, suggesting people are more than willing to adopt the new way of rewarding buskers.

【1】What was Charles Dickens' attitude towards street music in London?

- A. Favorable. B. Disapproving. C. Optimistic. D. Cautious.

【2】What is the 1st paragraph mainly about?

- A. The long history of street music. B. The way of playing street music.
C. The buskers' competition to get a license. D. The introduction of buskers in London.

【3】Why did London mayor promote the new scheme?