

1.

"Music is a moral law. It gives soul to the universe, wings to the mind, flight to the imagination, and charm and joy to life and to everything," the ancient Greek philosopher Plato said.

This is one of Don Spencer's favorite mottos that he firmly believes. "We know that music brings joy and comfort, and makes us feel happy," Spencer says. "But research has also discovered music plays a powerful role in the mental development of children. Music inspires creativity, imagination and self-expression. It also builds self-respect and is good for memory skills."

The power of music

Much research supports both Spencer and Plato. A Stanford University study found that musical training improves the way the brain processes the spoken word.

Research from Canada found that children aged four to six years old who had music lessons had better memories, as well as higher ability to read and write and math's levels.

Not in the curriculum

Research from Australia shows it's not that smart kids play music; it's that music makes kids smarter. It supports Spencer's call for music to be a standard part of the school curriculum, like English and Math.

"Music is everywhere, but not at 75 percent of public schools around Australia who don't have a devoted music teacher," Spencer says. "It's sad that many children don't have access to formal musical education, particularly when it has such an effect on a child's development."

Ideally, Spencer would like every child to learn an instrument. "Kids can access cheap instruments like a ukulele, recorder or harmonica," Spencer says. He says the Internet has a lot of free videos which teach you how to play instruments.

"I can't stress enough how important music is," he says. "It builds relationships, unites people and, most importantly, it is fun."

21. Plato's words are mentioned at the beginning of the text to show that \_\_\_\_\_.

- A. music has magic power      B. everything is based on music  
C. Spencer admires Plato      D. music was important in ancient time

22. From the research from Australia mentioned in the passage, we can learn \_\_\_\_\_.

- A. music can make children smarter  
B. children aged four to six have better memories  
C. there are no professional music teachers in Australia  
D. music is a standard part of the school curriculum in most schools

23. What might be the best title for the passage?

- A. When Music is Taught      B. Why Music Matters  
C. Why We Learn Instruments      D. How Children Learn Music

2.

Good manners are important, but you can easily make a social blunder when you visit a foreign country, because sometimes good manners in one place are bad manners in other places.

Suppose you visit some friends in Mongolia and they ask you to eat with them. What kind of manners do they want you to have? They want you to give a loud "burp" after you finish eating. Burping shows that you like your food. But in some other countries, if you give a loud "burp", you are supposed to say, "Excuse me, please."

In many places people like to eat together. But in some parts of Polynesia it is bad manners to be seen eating together. People show their good manners by turning their backs on others while they eat.

What are manners like in an East African town? The people try not to see you. When you are visiting a friend, he may not see you at all. If you are polite, you will sit down beside him. You will wait until he finishes what he is doing. Then he will talk to you.

If you visit a friend in Arabia you should walk behind other tents until you come to his tent. If you pass in front of other tents, you will be asked into each one. The people will ask you to eat with them. And it is bad manners if you say no.

Manners are different all over the world. But it is good to know that all manners help people show that they want to be friends.

24. People turn their backs to others while they eat in some places in \_\_\_\_\_.

- A. Mongolia      B. an East African town  
C. Polynesia      D. Arabia

25. In an East African town, people try not to see you. This is because \_\_\_\_\_.

- A. they are not your friends