

1.

Charles Dickens (1812-1870), the great nineteenth century English novelist, was born near Portsmouth. His father ran heavily into debt and when he was twelve, he had to go and work in a factory for making boot polish. The only formal education he received was a two-year schooling at a school for poor children. In fact, he had to teach himself all he knew. He worked for a time as junior clerk in a lawyer's office. After that, he worked as a reporter in the law courts, and later in parliament, for London newspapers. His career as a writer of fiction began in 1833 with short stories and essays in periodicals, and in 1837 his comic novel *The Pickwick Papers* made him the most popular author at his time in England.

He was a great observer of people and their places because he was attracted by life and conditions in mid-nineteenth century London. He wrote 19 novels all his life and in many of them, Dickens gave a realistic picture of all classes of England society, showing deep sympathy for the poor and unfortunate, exposing the injustice and inhumanity of the bourgeoisie (资产阶级).

Many of his novels like *Oliver Twist*, *David Copperfield*, *Nicholas Nickleby*, *Great Expectations*, *A Tale of Two Cities* and so on drew attention to the unsatisfactory social conditions that existed in England over a hundred years ago.

Dickens criticized capitalist (资本主义) society from the point of view of bourgeois humanism. He wished to see improvement in the living conditions of the poor, but failed to find any effective means to achieve that end.

21. Dickens only received a little formal education because \_\_\_\_\_.

- A. he wanted to teach himself
- B. he was too poor to afford any more formal education
- C. he wanted to work and made a lot of money
- D. he wanted some working experiences to be a novelist

22. According to Dickens, the society at his time in England was \_\_\_\_\_.

- A. just
- B. poor
- C. unsatisfying
- D. comfortable

23. Which of the following novel made Dickens the most popular writer at his time in England?

- A. *Oliver Twist*
- B. *A Tale of Two Cities*
- C. *The Pickwick Papers*
- D. *Great Expectations*

24. According to the passage, which of the following about Dickens is TRUE?

- A. He began to write fictions when he was 21 years old.
- B. He only wrote about poor people and showed deep sympathy for them.
- C. He didn't go to school at all.
- D. He found some effective ways to improve the living conditions of the poor.

2.

Some people don't mind being fat. Other people can keep slim without any effort. But a lot of people do put on weight and don't like it. The question is: what can they do about it?

Some believe exercise can be helpful. But the trouble is that it only makes you want to eat more. You might sweat out a couple of pounds playing tennis or climbing a mountain, but you put it all back on again with a big steak or bread and jam.

A helpful way is food choosing. But what sort of food should you choose? Some believe that the less they eat, the slimmer they will be. They don't eat anything until they become weak with hunger. Some stick to milk and bananas. You'll find you need a lot of bananas, and unless you live where they grow, they aren't cheap. Another says that if you eat things like hard-boiled eggs, and apples with their skins on which are hard for your stomach to digest (消化), the more you eat, the thinner you get. This is because you use up the fat in your body to get the energy to digest the food.

For most of us these methods are too extreme. The simplest way is just to cut down on the carbohydrates (糖类) that means not eating bread, potatoes, cakes, sugar, rice, and so on and eating anything else you like. It's straight forward and often quite effective.

Still others like to be more scientific. They get a table, which tells them that, for example, 100 grams of roast leg of lamb gives you 330 calories and a 50 gram helping of pudding gives you 130 calories.

25. There seems nothing wrong with exercise except that \_\_\_\_\_.

- A. it makes you sweat
- B. it's hard work
- C. it makes you eat more
- D. it tires you out

26. According to the passage, the best way to keep slim is \_\_\_\_\_.

- A. exercising
- B. hunger
- C. eating milk and bananas
- D. food-choosing

27. The practical method suggested here means \_\_\_\_\_.

- A. not eating many carbohydrates
- B. sticking to bananas
- C. eating as little as possible
- D. eating things that are hard to digest.