

1.

While homework in kindergarten requires coloring and learning the ABC's, the high school homework load has become increasingly difficult and time-consuming. (耗费的) "I think homework takes a long time to do," Ross Perry, Grade 10, said. "It helps you learn sometimes, but not really that much. I stay up until midnight doing homework and sometimes there is no point in even starting to do it." Hallie Rojas, a junior high teacher, tries not to give her classes homework, hoping not to discourage students. "I try to give minimal (最小限度的) homework because students should be playing and taking exercise more than working inside all day. Students usually don't have good study habits when they come into the 7th and 8th grade. I offer a necessary after-school assignment (功课) so they will learn them." Teenagers are encouraged to get 8-9 hours of sleep and participate in sports or physical activity outside school. With 2-3 hours of homework it can be difficult to do everything.

Homework takes different amounts of time based on what courses students take. "I give my Spanish students little bits of homework," Melody Downie, a Spanish teacher, said. "That is about what we learned in class, because for a foreign language you need to do work that reinforces (巩固) what we learn. I hardly give my history class homework." "When students do their homework they should be in a quiet area," Hallie Rojas said. "They also need to do work for 30 minutes and then take a 10-minute break because it is hard for students to keep focused for a long time." The University of Michigan found in a recent study that the amount of homework had increased by 51% since 1981. Harris Cooper at Duke University says that students who do small amounts of homework do better on their tests, but when they exceed 60-90 minutes of homework, the test scores fall. "Homework is given to motivate students to learn," Principal Gary Schultz said. "Repeating what they learn in school helps them to remember and learn things for tests. Some kids do not need homework to learn but most do. I believe practice makes perfect."

21. According to Ross Perry, doing homework _____.

- A. is really a waste of time B. is sometimes unnecessary for students
- C. is usually a great help to students D. is always a good way of learning

22. The reason why Hallie Rojas gives her students minimal homework

is that she thinks _____.

- A. too much homework will make students' test scores fall
- B. students should learn good studying and living habits
- C. little bits of homework will reinforce what students learn in class
- D. it is too hard for students to focus on school assignment for a long time

23. The underlined word "exceed" can be replaced by _____?

- A. finish B. do C. are against D. are beyond

24. What is the main idea of the passage?

- A. Students do not like doing too much homework.
- B. Proper amounts of homework are necessary.
- C. Students do not need to do after-school homework.
- D. More homework should be given to motivate students.

2.

The clock struck eleven at night. The whole house was quiet. Everyone was in bed except me. Under the strong light, I looked sadly before a huge pile of troublesome stuff they call "books". I was going to have my examination the next day. "When can I go to bed?" I asked myself. I didn't answer, in fact I dared not. The clock struck 12. "Oh, dear!" I cried, "ten more books to read before I can go to bed!" We pupils are the most wretched creatures in the world. Dad does not agree with me on this. He did not have to work so hard when he was a boy. The clock struck one. I was quite hopeless now. I forgot all I had learnt I was too tired to go on. I did the only thing I could. I prayed, "Oh, God, Please help me pass the exam tomorrow. I do promise to work hard afterwards, Amen." My eyes were heavy, so heavy that I could hardly open them. A few minutes later, with my head on the desk, I fell asleep.

25. When the author was going over his lessons, all the others in the house were _____.

- A. outside B. working in bed C. asleep D. quietly laughing at him

26. Reviewing his lessons didn't help him because _____.

- A. it was too late at night B. he was very tired
- C. he hadn't studied hard before the examination
- D. his eyes lids were so heavy that he couldn't keep them open

27. What do you suppose happened to the author?

- A. He went to a church to pray again B. He passed the exam by luck
- C. He was punished by his teacher D. He failed in the exam

28. The best title for the passage would be _____.

- A. A Slow Student B. Working Far into the Night