

1. 阅读理解

The traditional Chinese lunar calendar divides the year into 24 solar terms. Minor Snow, the 20th solar term of the year, begins this year on Nov.22 and ends on Dec.6. Here are five things you should know about Minor Snow.

Light snow

An ancient Chinese book about plants explains that "in Minor Snow, the weather is cold and it is going to snow, but the snow is light and the earth is not frozen enough."

Drinking soup

During Minor Snow, indoor heating begins to work, making most people might find their noses and mouths feel a bit dry. The solution is to drink more hot soup, such as cabbage and bean curd soup, mutton and radish (小萝卜) soup and so on.

Eating glutinous (粘的) rice cakes

People have glutinous rice cakes around Minor Snow, which in ancient times, were a traditional festival offering to the bull god.

Making preserved pork

After Minor Snow, the temperature declines sharply and the air becomes dry. It is the best time to start making preserved pork to eat in the bitter winter, especially in the Spring Festival. In the past, when storage conditions were poor, people developed many ways to store food and preserved pork is one such example. Some even say preserved pork tastes more delicious than fresh meat.

Avoiding spicy food

On cold days, people may be greedy for some hot and spicy food to keep warm. Experts say it's wise not to eat overly spicy food since that will increase your inner heat.

【1】 Which of the following is true about Minor Snow?

- A. It will certainly snow in this term.
- B. It has the coldest days of the year.
- C. It is a term used in China's northern areas.
- D. It is a term concerned with weather in China.

【2】 Which food is recommended to eat in Minor Snow?

- A. Cabbage and bean curd soup. B. Preserved pork.
- C. Cakes. D. Spicy food.

【3】 Why did people make preserved pork in the past?

- A. Because people found it hard to store meat in cold winter.
- B. Because it was more delicious to eat than fresh meat.
- C. Because people couldn't afford to buy fresh pork.
- D. Because nowhere could people buy fresh pork in winter.

2. 阅读理解

One year, a newspaper of the United States published an announcement-the Horticultural (园艺) Institute offered a reward at a high price for the pure white marigold (金盏花). The high reward attracted so many people, but in nature besides golden, the marigold is brown; it is not easy to create the white one. So after they were excited for a time, many people forgot that announcement.

One normal day after 20 years, the Horticultural Institute accidentally received a letter and 100 seeds of pure white marigold. On that day the news spread like wildfire. It turned out to be an old woman of over 70 years old. The institute had always been hesitating over the fact that the letter stated with certainty that the seeds could bloom(开花) pure white marigold.

Those seeds finally took root in the earth. The wonder appeared after one year: large fields of pure white marigold swung in the light wind. As a result, the old woman became a new focus.

Originally, the old woman was just a flower-lover. When she happened to read the announcement 20 years ago, her heart kept beating wildly. But her eight children all opposed her decision. After all, a woman who never knew the seed genetics(遗传学) couldn't complete what the experts could never accomplish! Still, the old woman didn't change her mind and went on working without hesitation. She spread some of the most common seeds and took good care of them. A year later, when the marigold bloomed, she chose one faintest (暗淡) from those golden and brown flowers and made it wither (凋谢) naturally in order to get the best seed. The next year, she again grew them and chose the faintest from these flowers to plant Year after year, through many cycles of spring sowing and autumn harvest, the old woman's husband died; her children flew far and high; a lot of things happened in her life but only the desire to grow the pure white marigold took root in her heart. Finally, after 20 years on the day we all know, in the garden, she saw a marigold, which was not nearly white but as white as silver or snow.

Such a difficult problem as even experts couldn't cope with was readily solved by an old woman who didn't understand genetics. Was it a wonder? Take root in the heart and even the most common seed can grow into a wonder!

【1】 Why was a great reward offered by the Institute?

- A. White flowers could be sold at a higher price
- B. Pure white marigold was more beautiful in nature
- C. It was very difficult to develop pure white marigold
- D. Scientists wanted to know how marigold grew in nature

【2】 What can we know about the old woman from the passage?

- A. She was 70 when she first read the announcement.
- B. She sent pure white marigold flowers to the institute.
- C. She got professional support from scientists.
- D. She kept trying for years before she succeeded.

【3】 The underlined word "readily" in the last paragraph probably means .

- A. easily B. quickly
- C. honestly D. luckily

【4】 What is the best title for the text?

- A. Seeds Take Root in the Heart B. White Marigold is Never Alone
- C. Marigolds Grow from Bravery D. White Flowers Bring Success

3.

Try this: For an entire day, forget about the clock. Eat when you're hungry and sleep when you're tired. What do you think will happen?

You may be surprised to find that your day is much like most other days. You'll probably get hungry when you normally eat and tired when you normally sleep. Even