

## 1. 阅读理解

A Uber driver stopped her work day so she could help a new mother with a sick child.

Nicole Ihus's son John Henry was born last month with a rare disease called congenital diaphragmatic hernia. Nicole and her husband, who live in Kansas City, got in touch with doctors from Minnesota and Missouri in hopes of finding a doctor who could treat John Henry for the condition — but to no avail.

Luckily, Nicole managed to get in contact with the “best doctor in the world for this condition” at Johns Hopkins All Children in St. Petersburg, Florida — so she traveled all the way to the Sunshine State to give her newborn son a fighting chance.

After John Henry was born into the hands of the NICU, Nicole felt sad and alone in the new state, although she knew that she had to leave her son's side in order to buy him some new clothes.

After ordering an Uber ride to the nearby Rhea Lana children's clothing store, she was picked up by a woman named Belinda. Shortly after Nicole got into Belinda's car, the new mother couldn't help but told her heartbreaking story.

“She told me her story,” Belinda said in the interview below. “She was in tears a couple of times and I was really concerned about her.”

Rather than simply dropping Nicole off at the store, however, Belinda parked the car and was firmly determined to accompany her passenger into the store.

“She was like, ‘I'm going to help you buy some clothes for your son.’ I asked her, ‘Are you serious?’ I can't even imagine,” said Nicole. “For this stranger to go completely out of her way — stop what she was doing and stop making money — to come to be with me for a couple of hours while we shopped together, that was just unbelievable.”

【1】What does the writer mean by saying “to no avail” in Para.2?

- A. Henry's condition became worse.
- B. The couple lost hope of finding a doctor.
- C. The doctor didn't want to treat John Henry.
- D. The couple didn't find the doctor they wanted.

【2】How did Belinda help Nicole after hearing her story?

- A. By offering her a free ride.
- B. By going shopping with her.
- C. By buying new clothes for her.
- D. By chatting with her for hours.

【3】What is the writer's purpose of writing the passage?

- A. To advise readers to help the baby.
- B. To tell a story of a helpless mother.
- C. To speak highly of the driver's kindness.
- D. To call on people to learn from the driver.

## 2. 阅读理解

What were you like as a teenager? I was a nightmare. I was rude to my parents, always stayed out late, never did my homework, hung out with the wrong people and made lots of bad decisions. Obviously, this is the age when teenagers are out of control and behave badly. Maybe, if you're a teenager now, you think this is unfair judgment or it's not your fault. Well, you might be right!

Experts have found that it's a teenager's brain that is to blame. Between the ages of about 13 to 19 — a period known as adolescence, the brain is still developing in areas that control behavior. This has an influence on learning and multitasking, stress and memory, sleep, and decision-making. For parents, these results often make them notice lots of behaviors that they may have earlier blamed on hormones (荷尔蒙) or just moodiness.

So our brains are still developing much later than it was thought before. Is this the perfect excuse for teenagers to walk around aimlessly and not get their homework done on time? Of course not! According to Professor Sarah-Jayne Blakemore, who made the new discovery, it's to do with our prefrontal cortex that's the part of our brain right at the front, just behind the forehead. She says “It takes part in a whole area of very high-level cognitive (认知的) tasks such as decision making and planning — we know that this area is going through very large amounts of development during the adolescent years”. This is the part of the brain which plays an important role in planning, and, for a teenager, this hasn't developed yet. So getting organised to do their homework, for example, can come as a bit of challenge.

I wish I'd known about this because instead of telling my teacher I'd left my homework on the bus or that the dog had eaten it. Now I could say, “Sorry sir, my brain isn't developed enough for the cognitive task of planning my homework.”

【1】Which of the following is common in teenagers?

- A. Doing some bad deeds.
- B. Being blamed for their age.
- C. Stopping their brain development.
- D. Making excuses for their bad behaviors.

【2】What do we know about the new discovery?

- A. The brain develops in the first few years of life.
- B. The forehead stops developing during adolescence.
- C. Hormones take responsibility for teenagers' behaviors.
- D. The prefrontal cortex affects us performing cognitive tasks.

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

- A. Behind the adolescence
- B. Inside a Teenager's Brain
- C. For the Naughty Teenagers
- D. About the brain Development

## 3. 阅读理解

Clothing rental (租赁) is a hot new industry and businessmen are trying their best to attract shoppers. This past summer alone, Urban Outfitters, Macy's, Bloomingdale's, and American Eagle have all announced rental subscription services — a sure sign of changing times.

But is renting fashion actually more environmentally-friendly than buying it, and if so, how much more? Journalist and author Elizabeth Cline researched this question in an article for Elle, and she concluded that it's not as green as it seems.

Take shipping, for example, which has to go two ways if an item is rented — receiving and returning. Cline writes that consumer transportation has the second largest footprint of our fashion habit after producing.