

1. 阅读理解

My violin is like a soul mate that whispers words of wisdom to me. Together, we've gone through both tears and happiness.

About 12 years ago, I made acquaintance with it following an order from my mom. Many hours of boredom were spent practicing it. And to make things worse, the disappointment in my teacher's eyes as I played the wrong notes was like an invisible hammer, striking on my heart. One day, I finally decided: I hate it!

By chance, things changed when I was seven. I was at home lying on the sofa, wondering how those famous violinists dealt with this terrible dilemma. I searched online for the E-minor Concerto, a well-known violin work by German composer Felix Mendelssohn, and listened to it.

A beautiful and mysterious sound came from the violin as the bow moved across it. It was like the music slid over the flowers, rose up, and started to fill the air. The violin's voice woke up the sun, made the trees green, and freshened the air. As the music changed, the sky turned back to gray. A gloomy shade covered the grass as all the sunshine disappeared. I could hear children crying and men shouting. It was like an invisible claw had grabbed my heart tightly, making it unable to beat.

That glorious day set off my passion and interest in violin—I grabbed mine and never let it go. Before the memories faded, I stared at my instrument. Without hesitating, I picked it up, rosined(用松香擦) the bow, and began to play. Peace filled my heart.

My violin has been by my side for 12 years. When I feel happy, an energetic tune makes it even better; when I'm deep in sorrow, a peaceful tune washes it away, when I'm walking on air, feeling especially pleased with my achievements, solemn(庄严的) tunes calm me down. Gradually, it has become a part of my life.

My violin, shall I compare you to a summer's day?

【1】What further contributed to the author's dislike of violin-playing?

- A. Orders from mum. B. Boredom of practice.
C. Loss of passion for violin. D. Disappointment in the teacher's eyes.

【2】What can be inferred from Paragraph 4?

- A. The author's feeling was continuously influenced by the music.
B. The weather actually changed because of the tune.
C. The sudden change made the author's heart unable to beat.
D. The scenery outside the room was quite attractive.

【3】Why did the author pick up the violin again?

- A. The invisible hammer and claw are gone.
B. The beautiful imagination changed his attitude.
C. A famous tune aroused his interest and passion.
D. He was crazy about Felix Mendelssohn's works.

【4】Which of the following can be the best title for the text?

- A. Deep love for music B. My dislike and like of violin
C. An inspiring story of violin D. Musical soul mate—violin

2. 阅读理解

Visit the grocery store on an empty stomach, and you will probably come home with a few things you had not planned to buy. But hunger is not the only culprit behind such purchases. The location of store displays also influences our shopping and may make or break some healthy eating habits.

The checkout area is a particular hotspot for junk food. Studies have found that the products most commonly found there are sugary and salty snacks—and a few studies have suggested that simply swapping in healthier choices can shift customer behavior. A 2012 study in the Netherlands found that hospital workers were more likely to give up junk food for healthy snacks when the latter were more readily available on canteen shelves, for example, in 2014 Norwegian and Icelandic researcher likewise found that replacing unhealthy items with healthy ones in the checkout area significantly increased last-minute sales of healthier foods.

These findings caught the attention of the New York City Department of Health and Mental Hygiene, which has been working with more than 1,000 store owners to encourage them to stock and promote consumption," says Tamar Adjoian, a research scientist at the department. "Making healthy food more convenient or appealing can lead to increased sales of those products."

Adjoian and her colleagues wondered if such findings would apply to their city's dense urban checkout areas, so they recruited three Bronx supermarkets for their own study. They gave one checkout line in each store a healthy makeover, replacing candy, cookies and other processed snacks with fruit, nuts and similar items containing 200 or fewer calories per serving. Then they recorded purchases over six three-hour periods in each store for two weeks.

Of the more than 2,100 shoppers they observed, just 4 percent bought anything from the checkout area. Among those who did, however, customers in the healthy lines purchased nutritious items more than twice as often as those in the standard lines—and they bought unhealthy items 40 percent less often. The findings were reported in September in the Journal of Nutrition Education and Behavior.

The potential influence may seem small, but Adjoian believes that changing more checkout lines would open customers' eyes to nutritious, lower-calories foods. Health department officials are now exploring ways to expand healthy choices at checkout areas throughout New York City.

【1】The underlined word "culprit" in paragraph 1 is closest in meaning to _____ in the passage.

- A. something to blame B. something related to culture
C. something that results D. something concealed

【2】The findings of the 2012 study and the 2014 study proved that _____.

- A. shops put great emphasis on increase in last-minute sales of food
B. healthier choices were rarely seen in company canteens or in supermarket
C. customers' shopping behavior could be changed by what is easily available
D. sugary and salty snacks were among the most common items in checkout areas

【3】Why does the writer say "the potential influence may seem small" in the last paragraph?

- A. Only a little attention has been drawn to Adjoian's research.
B. Only several healthy items are displayed and then purchased.
C. Only three Bronx supermarkets have been involved in the study.
D. Only a small proportion (部分) of shoppers buy things from checkout areas.

3. 阅读理解

Spotify can tell if you're sad. Here's why that should scare you. Want to figure out if someone is a patient with a mental disability? Ask them what their favorite song is. A New York University study last year found that people who loved Eminem's Lose Yourself and Justin Bieber's What Do You Mean? were more likely to have trouble with mental disabilities than people who were into Dire Straits.

Over the past few years, Spotify has been improving the ability to analyze information to help businessmen target consumers with advertisements made specially for their