

1. 阅读理解

Letter to My Younger Self

Dear 17-year-old self,

When your Laker (洛杉矶湖人队球员) dream comes true tomorrow, you need to figure out a way to invest in the future of your family and friends. This sounds simple, but you have to take some time to think it over.



I said invest.

I did not say give.

Let me explain.

Purely giving material things to your siblings (兄弟姐妹) and friends may appear to be the right decision. You love them, and they were always there for you growing up, so it's only right that they should share your success and all that comes with it. You buy them a car, a big house, and pay all of their bills. You want them to live a comfortable life, right?

But the day will come when you realize that as much as you believed you were doing the right thing, you were actually holding them back.

You will come to understand that you were taking care of them because it made you feel good to see them smiling. That was extremely selfish of you. While you were feeling satisfied with yourself, you were slowly eating away at their own dreams and ambitions. You were adding material things to their lives, but taking away the most precious gifts of all: independence and growth.

Understand that you are about to be the leader of the family. This involves making tough choices, even if your siblings and friends do not understand them at the time.

Invest in their future; don't just give.

Use your success, wealth and influence to put them in the best position to realize their own dreams and find their true purpose. Put them through school, set them up with job interviews and help them become leaders in their own right. Hold them to the same level of dedication (全身心投入) that it took for you to get to where you are now and where you will eventually go.

I'm writing you now so that you can begin this process immediately and don't have to deal with the struggle of getting rid of the addiction you caused. That addiction only leads to anger and jealousy from everybody involved, including yourself.

There's plenty more I could write to you, but at 17, I know you don't have the attention span (注意力持续时间) to sit through 2,000 words. Trust me, setting things up right from the beginning will avoid a ton of tears and heartache, some of which remains to this day.

Much love,

Kobe

【1】According to Bryant, "giving" could make ____.

- ①him feel satisfied with himself
- ②him stand out from other players
- ③his siblings and friends live a comfortable life
- ④his siblings and friends depend on him

A. ①②③ B. ①②④

C. ①③④ D. ②③④

【2】According to the article, Bryant probably ____.

- A.had never dreamed of playing for the Lakers
- B.spent a large sum of money buying houses for himself
- C.has a circle of supportive friends
- D.had trouble handling family relationships

【3】According to the article, Bryant should have ____ when he was younger.

- A.shared his success with others
- B.refused to live with his siblings
- C.looked for well-paid jobs for his siblings
- D.inspired his siblings to achieve their goals through hard work

2. 阅读理解

For the past 3000 years, when people thought of money, they thought of cash. From buying food to settling bar tabs, day-to-day dealings involved paper or clinking bits of metal. Over the past decade, however, digital payments have taken off — tapping your plastic on a terminal or swiping a smartphone has become normal. Now this revolution is about to turn cash into an endangered species in some rich economies. That will make the economy more efficient, but it also poses new problems that could hold the transition hostage.

Countries are eliminating (消除) cash at varying speeds. But the direction of travel is clear, and in some cases the journey is nearly complete. In Sweden the number of retail cash transactions per person has fallen by 80% in the past ten years. Cash accounts for just 6% of purchases by value in Norway. Britain is probably four or six years behind the Nordic countries. America is perhaps a decade behind. Outside the rich world, cash is still king. But even there its dominance is being eroded. In China, digital payments rose from 4% of all payments in 2012 to 34% in 2017.

Cash is dying out because of two forces. One is demand — younger consumers want payment systems that plug seamlessly (无缝地) into their digital lives. But equally important, suppliers such as banks and tech firms (in developed markets) and telecoms companies (in emerging ones) are developing fast, easy-to-use payment technologies from which they can pull data and pocket fees.

In the main, the prospect of a cashless economy is excellent news. Cash is inefficient. In rich countries, minting (铸造), sorting, storing and distributing it is estimated to cost about 0.5% of GDP. But that does not begin to capture the gains. When payments disappear, people and shops are less vulnerable to theft. Governments can keep closer tabs on fraud or tax evasion. Digitalization vastly expands the playground of small businesses and sole traders by enabling them to sell beyond their borders. It also creates a credit history, helping consumers borrow.

【1】What is the purpose of Paragraph 1?

- A.To show an example of using cash. B.To introduce the main topic of the text.
- C.To present the development of cash. D.To explain the history of digital payments.