

1. 阅读理解

European architecture in Tianjin is a window showing China's historical changes. In a one-day tour, you can see some old western-style private residences, former Imperial Gardens and enjoy Tianjin snacks, like a time traveler.

The Garden of Jingyuan

The Garden of Jingyuan was constructed in 1921. It's now an excellent example of an old private residence in Tianjin, which is now well-preserved. The last emperor of the Qing Dynasty, Puyi, once lived here after his abdication(退位), from July 1929 to November 1931. He changed the name to Jingyuan, which references his desire to strengthen and ennoble his spirit by living in a peaceful environment.

Address: 70 Anshan Road, Heping District

Transport: Anshan Road (Subway Line 1)

Tickets & Opening Hours: Closed Monday; Tuesday to Sunday, 8:30-5:00p.m. RMB ¥20 per person

Zhangyuan Garden

This grand mansion was built in 1915 by Zhang Biao, a former high-ranking official in the Qing Court. In 1924, Dr. Sun Yat-sen and his wife Soong Ching Ling stayed in it for several months. In 1925, Puyi, the last emperor of China, had a brief stay here after his abdication from Beijing. It is certainly a strange coincidence that the founder of the Republic of China and the last emperor chose exactly the same place to live, though at different times.

The mansion is visible from the street, but the buildings and gardens are not open to the public at present.

Italianate Street

Nearly 200 European-style buildings have been conserved in the old Italian Concession(租借地) and form the modern Italian-style Street on the north bank of the Haihe River. The street has been developed as a shopping center and entertainment district. A square named after Marco Polo is surrounded by numerous Italianate large buildings. Pictures of their former residences will be a highlight of your photo albums.

Address: The Cross Between Shengli Road and Ziyu Road, Hebei District

Transport: Jianguo Road (Subway Line 2)

Tickets & Opening Hours: Access all day for nothing

If you want to feel old-people's lives and taste snacks in Tianjin, you can tour to Confucian Temple near the Ancient Culture Street. Most snacks in Tianjin are made of flour. Some are deepfried or baked while some are made into sticky sweets. Goubuli steamed stuffed baozi, ear-hole fried cake and Guifaxiang fried dough twists are the top three local snacks.

【1】 What can we know from Puyi's renaming the place to Jingyuan?

- A. He wanted to feel old-people's lives and taste snacks.
- B. He desired to strengthen and ennoble his imperial palace.
- C. He was determined to well preserve this Chinese-style residence.
- D. He would like to lead a quiet and calm life after his abdication.

【2】 Which of the following tourist attractions is not open to the visitors?

- A. The Garden of Jingyuan
- B. Italianate Street
- C. Zhangyuan Garden
- D. Confucian Temple

【3】 What's the best thing you can do in Italianate Street?

- A. Buying Italian clothes for your family.
- B. Taking pictures with Italian friends.
- C. Enjoying European-style buildings.
- D. Walking around the Marco Polo Square.

2. 阅读理解

I grew up in Hastings, a small coastal town in East Sussex, famous for 1066 years of history and seaside charm. I have a memory as a boy, saving my pocket money by placing it in a special drawer, the golden pound coins collecting into a neat pile. When I was 14 in 2007, I saved up money for a gap year, by working at a bingo hall, and I put the money into a savings account. I remember getting £70 (\$91) interest rates one year, which made me feel very rich indeed.

Skip forward to 2018 and I was living and working in Beijing, China, as a journalist. All around me Beijing residents were paying for everything using just their smart phones. They would walk up to a counter of a restaurant, shop, or convenience store, and offer up a QR code(二维码) for the cashier to scan. Once scanned, the online system would immediately deduct(扣除) the exact amount owed from the payer's e-wallet. No reaching for cash and waiting for change. The transaction would take seconds.

But I was a stubborn holdout. My friends, both Western and Chinese, would make fun of me for being so traditional – for sticking to —dirty cash. But there were a couple of reasons why I kept using physical money and avoided getting into e-payments and e-wallets. Firstly, it felt safer. I wasn't really aware of how electronic money would work on my smart phone and I feared it would somehow get easily taken away. Secondly, I feared that by moving to e-payments, I would end up spending more. I would lose all sense of how much, day by day, I would be spending.

Were these fears justified? As more and more people across the world escape cash, these are essential issues for me to consider.

【1】 Which of the following made the writer feel very rich?

- A. Saving £70 (\$91) by placing it in a special drawer.
- B. Collecting £70 (\$91) coins into a neat pile.
- C. Putting £70 (\$91) into a savings account in bank.
- D. Getting £70 (\$91) interest rates from a bank.

【2】 Which's not the advantage of e-payments?

- A. No reaching for cash.
- B. No waiting for change.
- C. Taking only few seconds.
- D. Spending more money.

【3】 Why didn't the writer like to accept the e-payments at first?

- A. Because he was too traditional to save money.
- B. Because he liked the sense of paying in cash.
- C. Because he thought e-payments would deduct more.
- D. Because he knew how e-payments work on smartphones.

【4】 What can we infer about the writer from the last paragraph?

- A. He accepted the idea that money is abstract.
- B. He eventually turned to using e-payments.