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American track and field athlete Jacqueline Joyner-Kersey once said, "Age is no barrier. It's a limitation you put on your mind." And 50-year-old Indian Lakshmi Syiemlieh stands an evidence for this saying. She recently cleared her Class 12 board exams. Lakshmi, who has four children and two grandchildren, decided to go after her higher secondary education over three decades after dropping out of school. Earlier this year, she was one of the 24,267 students who appeared for the state board's Higher Secondary School Leaving Certificate(HSSLC) exam. Lakshmi took part in the exams for the arts stream and had chosen subjects like Khasi, English, Political Science, Economics, and Education as her areas of specialization.

On July 13, 2020, when the results were announced, she was excited. "Though I only got the third division(分段), my children were still so excited that they started shouting, hugging, and kissing me when the results were declared," said Lakshmi.

In fact, the grandmother of two has expressed her interest in pursuing(追求) higher studies in the field of local language. Lakshmi took up a distance education course offered by a university in 2015. She stopped going to school because mathematics was too difficult for her to understand. She was offered a job to teach in a preschool in 2008, and that was the beginning of her love for re-learning.

Being the oldest student in the class, most of Lakshmi's classmates called her as "Mei", which means "mother" in the local language. Besides concentrating on academics, she also participated in after-class activities like field trips, dance competitions, and singing challenges, among others.

Age is not a problem when one is in search of education. Lakshmi Syiemlieh is an example for everybody, and especially for those who give up studies midway.

【1】When did Lakshmi probably drop out of school?

A. In 2008. B. In 1998. C. In 1988. D. In 1968.

【2】Which of the following caused Lakshmi to stop going to school?

A. Her family was too poor to afford her education.  
B. She had too much difficulty in learning one subject.  
C. She was offered so good a job that she couldn't refuse.  
D. She had many children to raise and had no time to study.

【3】Which can best describe Lakshmi's performance at school?

A. Independent. B. Reasonable. C. Outstanding. D. Active.

【4】What can we learn from Lakshmi's story?

A. Live and learn. B. Hard work pays off.  
C. Many hands make light work. D. Education is the key to success.

2. 阅读理解

As an elementary school student in New York City, Robert Lee would stare in disbelief at his classmates throwing away half-eaten sandwiches after lunch. His Korean immigrant parents had taught him not to waste food.

While studying finance and accounting at New York University, Robert remembered this lesson all the time. When Robert and his friend Louisa Chen entered a college entrepreneurship(创业) contest, they proposed an idea for a food-rescue nonprofit group. Their program would deliver leftovers from the dining hall to homeless shelters seven days a week all by volunteers. Their idea won the competition. With the \$ 1,000 prize, they founded Rescuing Leftover Cuisine (RLC) in July 2013. In just the first few weeks, Robert's team delivered a donation of enough spaghetti and meatballs to feed 20 people at a New York City homeless shelter.

Robert, who had taken a job as an analyst at J. P. Morgan, devoted his spare time to creating a network of New York City restaurants, from small delis(熟食店) to large chains like Starbucks and Panera Bread, agreeing to donate food, and he enlisted volunteers to make food deliveries. After RLC received national press attention, homeless shelters and soup kitchens in Portland, Oregon, Washington, DC and other cities reached out to Robert for partnership advice. The organization now reaches 16 cities around the country.

Only a year into his finance job, Robert gave up his six-figure salary to focus on RLC. "I compared one hour of impact at J. P. Morgan to one hour at RLC, and the difference was just tremendous," he says. "One shelter told us that our donations allowed them to provide entire dinners for more than 300 people, three nights a week," Robert says. "Things like that make me gladly quit my job."

【1】How did Robert feel when his classmates threw away food?

A. Astonished. B. Embarrassed.  
C. Disappointed. D. Interested.

【2】What do we know about the RLC?

A. It won \$ 1,000 prize.  
B. It got supported by many restaurants.  
C. It asked the homeless shelters for advice.  
D. It has branches all over the world.

【3】Why did Robert leave his job at J P Morgan?

A. One shelter spoke highly of him.  
B. RLC offered him six-figure salary.  
C. He could make a bigger difference in society.  
D. The work at J. P. Morgan was not suitable for him.

【4】Which of the following best describes Robert?

A. Confident. B. Modest.  
C. Humorous. D. Selfless.

3.

When we think of a generation gap we usually think of conflicting tastes in music, or pastimes. But now the generation gap is handwriting. After one teacher in Tennessee discovered that she had students who couldn't read the assignments she was writing on the board, she posted it on the Internet saying handwriting should be taught in schools.

Opponents claim that handwriting has become out of time in our modern world. Typed words have become a primary form of communication. Once a practical skill handwriting is no longer used by the vast majority of Americans. It is no longer taught in schools, and some claim that the time that it would take to teach it could be put to better use, for instance, by teaching the technical skills.

But even in today's world there are still plenty of reasons to pick up a pen and apply it to paper. Many American institutions still require original signatures, for instance, signing for a registered letter and buying a house. And original signatures are much more difficult to forge(伪造) than their digital counterparts. There is also strong evidence that writing by hand is good for the mind. It activates a different part of the brain, and improves fine moving skills in young children. People also tend to