**阅读理解——说明文作业**

**1.2019朝阳期末C**

**Learning to Run**

An article published in the scientific journal *Nature* discusses an important aspect of human evolution. According to Bramble and Lieberman, Professors at the University of Utah, humans possess a number of features that make them surprisingly good runners. “We are confident that the selection for running was important in the origin of the human body form,” says Bramble.

Traditional thinking has been that humans are poor runners compared to such animals as horses. However, this is only true if we consider running at high speed, especially over short distances. Even an athlete can hardly run as quickly as a horse does, and can only keep up a top speed for 15 seconds or so. But when it comes to long-distance running, humans will do astonishingly well. They can keep a steady pace for many kilometres, and their speed is at least at the same level with that of horses.

Bramble and Lieberman examined 26 parts of human bodies. One of the most interesting of these is the nuchal ligament (韧带). When we run, it is this ligament that prevents our head from moving back and forth or from side to side. Therefore, we are able to run with steady heads, held high. Then there are Achilles tendons at the backs of our legs, forming the mechanical links between the muscles to the bones. They act like strong strings and help to push us forward when we run. Besides, we have low, wide shoulders, a development which allows us to run more effectively. Add to this our light forearms, which swing in co-operation with the movement of our legs to assist balance, and one begins to appreciate the point that Bramble and Lieberman are trying to make.

But what advantage is gained from being good long-distance runners? One theory is that this ability may have permitted early humans to obtain food more effectively. Some scientists guess that early humans may have run after animals for great distances to make them tired before killing them. Running would also have shown another advantage: early humans might have eaten the meat left over from a kill by other large animals. They may have been warned of the existence of a freshly killed animal by vultures (秃鹰), and the faster they got to the scene of the kill, the better.

“Research on the history of human ability of running has traditionally been controversial,” says Lieberman. “At the very least, I hope this theory will make many people have second thoughts about how humans learned to run and why we are built the way we are.”

1. In Paragraph 2, the author mainly tells us that \_\_\_\_\_\_.

A. humans are poor runners compared to horses

B. humans are good runners over long distances

C. humans may run at high speed for a short time

D. humans can keep a constant pace when running

1. We can learn from Paragraph 3 that \_\_\_\_\_\_.

A. tendons are a successful adaptation for running

B. strong muscles and bones keep running effective

C. the shape of shoulders affects the position of heads

D. humans can run faster if they have longer forearms

1. What conclusion is drawn about early humans?

A. They followed birds to avoid danger.

B. They were unable to kill large animals.

C. They developed their big brains for running.

D. They evolved running due to the need for hunting.

41. What does Lieberman mean by saying the underlined sentence?

A. Proving that humans run in a comfortable position.

B. Informing people of the reasons why humans may run.

C. Expressing appreciation of the theory of human evolution.

D. Making people reconsider the idea about our body structure.

**2. 2019东城期末C**

**Why Black Friday Shoppers Still Crowd Stores**

To many of us, the ideas of rushing out to a superstore the day after Thanksgiving is appealing. Why would anyone race to crowded stores when they could stay in with family, or watch college football? We can’t say we know the answer for sure. But we do feel amazed at those who pour into stores looking for Black Friday bargains. Seemingly, nothing can stop them. Not the weather. Not the crowds. And not the fact that hurrying to a store in the age of instant e-commerce seems so…last century.

To be sure, holiday shopping habits do appear to be shifting. The National Retail (零售) Federation has stopped breaking up its holiday sales numbers by whether they come from e-tail purchases or from physical stores. It’s a pretty good sign that retailers don’t want to bring further attention to the declining fortunes of brick-and-mortar stores.

But there is no denying that people still love going to stores. Actual shopping in actual places remains an important part of the holiday ceremony for millions of Americans. To many, it’s the difference between playing a sport and playing a video game. As commercial as stores may be, they are still places where actual human beings interact. In a store, the “courageous” shopper performs the approving act of finding a present. That item might be heavily promoted by the store, but it doesn’t drop into one’s cart. It is picked up and examined before a decision is made. Maybe it gets put back on the shelf when the shopper changes his or her mind. Maybe there is a conversation with a sales clerk. The process is not that different than it would have been decades ago.

Online, the shopper has barely logged in before being faced with disturbing algorithmic (大数据的) suggestions based on earlier purchases. This hardly qualifies as shopping. This hardly qualifies as thinking.

Perhaps we are reading too much into the Black Friday phenomenon. But we suspect one reason Black Friday remains is that it involves an act of resistance against the Internet age. That would hardly be unreasonable. There aren’t many studies showing that time spent in stores is bad for one’s health, while there are quite a few drawing a link between time spent online and depression. Perhaps the people crowding into stores aren’t the crazy ones after all.

38.What can we infer from the first two paragraphs?

A. Physical stores are not so popular as before.

B. People spend more on Black Friday bargains.

C. Americans have an unhealthy shopping habit.

D. Goods in stores are cheaper than those online.

39.The author thinks people love to go holiday shopping mainly because\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_.

A. they feel tired of shopping online

B. they think it is good for their health

C. they hope to pass down the holiday tradition

D. they can have real communication with others

40.What does the author think of the Black Friday phenomenon?

A. Puzzling. B. Unusual.

C. Out-of-date. D. Understandable.

41.What is mainly discussed in the passage?

A. The psychology of shopping.

B. The development of retailing.

C. The influences of e-commerce.

D. The features of holiday economy.

**3. 2019西城期末**

Be nice to mice and they may return the favour.

Only one drug of every ten successfully tested in laboratory animals ends up working in people. One reason, of course, is that mice are not men. Another, though, might have to do with the fact that while human patients are afforded all manner of creature comforts, their animal proxies (代替物) are not.

Although medical science’s favourite creatures relish temperatures of a little over 30℃, laboratories routinely keep them at five or ten degrees below that. This is not in order to abuse the beasts but, rather, because when kept warm they are unmanageably aggressive.

The downside is that they have to eat more than they otherwise would, in order to keep their bodies warm. That changes their physiology (生理). And that in turn changes the way they metabolise (新陈代谢) drugs, with possibly confusing results. Joseph Garner, of Stanford University, thinks the answer is to keep the labs cool, but let mice deal with the low temperatures as they do in their natural habitat: not by eating more but by building nests.

So far, though, no one has a clear idea of how much nesting material is needed to keep mice happy. Dr Garner and his colleagues therefore decided to find out. They have just reported their results in the Public Library of Science. Dr Garner and his team let each of their mice, 36 males and as many females from three types commonly used in trials, wander free in two cages connected by a narrow tube. One cage was kept constant at one of six temperatures between 20℃ and 35℃. The other was maintained at 20℃ but was supplied with up to ten grams of very small pieces of paper, which the mice could use to weave a nest.

The idea was to check whether the animals would rather build a nest in the cooler cage or move to the warmer one, possibly pulling nesting material along with them little by little. The researchers found that the mice's preferences varied slightly between types, as well as between sexes (with females fond of higher temperatures, possibly because of their thinner protective layer of fat), confirming that there is no single set of conditions in which all mice feel cosy.

In general, though, with little nesting material around, the mice laboriously carried pieces of paper over to the warmer spot, one or two at a time. But leave at least six grams of paper in the chilly cage, and many mice will prefer instead to brave the cold and build a nest there.

That seems a small price to pay for better drug trials.

38. What does the underlined word “relish” in Paragraph 3 probably mean?

A. Resist B. Enjoy

C. Avoid D. Maintain

39. Mice eating more than they normally do may lead to \_\_\_\_\_\_.

A. better management of their behavior

B. their different body response to drugs

C. a slowdown in their metabolism

D. a confusion in their mind

40. Dr Garner and his team found that \_\_\_\_\_\_.

A. mice keep warm by moving pieces of paper

B. female mice better beat the cold than male mice

C. mice tend to fight the cold under certain conditions

D. different types of mice prefer very different temperatures

41. To have a better drug trial, researchers need to \_\_\_\_\_\_.

A. provide little food B. use other animal proxies

C. raise the lab temperature D. prepare enough nesting material

**4. 2019海淀期末**

**How to Make Friends, According to Science**

Friendship is one of life’s most important features, and one too often taken for granted.

The human desire for companionship may feel boundless, but research suggests that our social capital is finite—we can only handle a certain number of relationships at one time. Social scientists have used some creative approaches to measure the size of people’s social networks; these have returned estimates ranging from about 250 to about 5,500 people. Looking more specifically at friendship, a study using the exchange of Christmas cards to test closeness put the average person’s friend group at about 121 people. However vast our networks may be, our inner circle tends to be much smaller. The average American trusts only 10 to 20 people. Moreover, that number may be shrinking: From 1998 to 2017, the average number of trusted friends decreased from three to two. This is both sad and of important consequence, because people who have strong social relationships tend to live longer than those who don’t.

So what should you do if your social life is lacking? Here the research is instructive. To begin with, don’t refuse to consider the humble acquaintance（交情）. Even interacting with people with whom one has weak social ties has a meaningful influence on well-being. Beyond that, building deeper friendships may be largely a matter of putting in time. A recent study out of the University of Kansas found that it takes about 50 hours of socializing to go from acquaintance to casual friend, an additional 40 hours to become a “real” friend, and a total of 200 hours to become a close friend.

If that sounds like too much effort, renewing inactive social ties can be especially rewarding. Reconnected friends can quickly recapture the trust they previously built, while offering each other a dash of novelty（新奇）drawn from whatever they’ve been up to in the meantime. And if all else fails, you could start randomly to tell secrets to people you don’t know that well. Self-disclosure makes us more likable, and as a bonus, we are more likely to favor those to whom we have revealed our soul.

Longing for closeness and connection is common and everywhere, which suggests that most of us are stumbling（跌跌撞撞）through the world, expecting companionship that could be easily provided by the lonesome stumblers all around us. So set aside this article, turn to someone nearby, and try to make a friend.

58. From Paragraph 2, we can know that\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_.

A. a strong social relationship can guarantee a long life

B. real friendships are based on the exchange of presents

C. people’s inner circle is decreasing despite large social networks

D. people’s social networks depend on their desire for companionship

59. What does the author suggest to improve one’s social life?

A. Sharing secrets with close friends.

B. Choosing likable people as friends.

C. Avoiding the humble acquaintance.

D. Spending time for deeper friendships.

60. What is the passage mainly about?

A. The tips on how to develop friendship.

B. The reasons for seeking companionship.

C. The benefits brought by a good social life.

D. The relationship between friendship and happiness.

61. The author helps readers better understand his idea mainly by \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_.

A. using research results

B. making comparisons

C. giving some examples

D. telling personal stories

**5. 2018丰台期末**

  As global temperatures rise, trees around the world are experiencing longer growing seasons, sometimes as much as three extra weeks a year. All that time helps trees grow faster. For the past 100 years, trees have been experiencing fast growth in temperate regions from Maryland to Finland, to Central Europe, where the growth rate of some trees has even sped up nearly 77% since 1870. Assuming wood is just as strong today, those gains would mean more timber(木材) for building, burning, and storing carbon captured from the atmosphere. But is wood really as dense as it used to be?

    Hans Pretzsch, a forest scientist at the Technical University of Munich in Germany, and his colleagues wanted to find an answer. They carried out a study of the forests of Central Europe. They started with 41 experimental plots in southern Germany, some of which have been continuously monitored since 1870. Pretzsch and his team took core samples from the trees—which included Norway spruce, sessile oak, European beech, and Scots pine—and analyzed the tree rings using a high-frequency probe.

    They found that in all four species, wood density has decreased by 8% to 12%, they report online in Forest Ecology and Management. “We expected a trend of the wood density like this, but not such a strong and significant decrease,” Pretzsch says. Increasing temperatures, and the faster growth they spur, probably account for some of the drop. Another factor, Pretzsch says, is more nitrogen in the soil from agricultural fertilizer(化肥) and vehicle exhaust. Previous studies have linked increased fertilizer use to decreased wood density. Above all, the study suggests that the higher temperatures—combined with pollution from auto exhaust and farms—are making wood weaker, resulting in trees that break more easily and wood that is less durable.

    “I am getting worried,” says Richard Houghton, an ecologist at the Woods Hole Research Center in Falmouth, Massachusetts, who was not part of the new study. As the density of the samples dropped, so did their carbon content, by about 50%. That means forests may suffer more damage from storms and may be less efficient at soaking up the greenhouse gas carbon dioxide (CO2) than scientists had thought, Houghton says.

38. Paragraph 1 is written to\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_.

A .prove an idea B .introduce a topic

C .give an example D .describe a fact

39. The study of the forests shows\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_.

A .farming slows trees' growth

B .more areas are covered with forests

C .warming changes the quality of wood

D .pollution leads to higher temperatures

1. What Houghton says suggests\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_.

A .great loss might be caused B .storm damage can be prevented

C .the size of forests might be increased D .less greenhouse gases can be sent out

41. What is the best title for the passage?

A .We only have one earth B .Trees—our best friends

C .The influence of climate change D .Trees are getting bigger, but weaker

**6. 2019石景山期末C**

The Lumière Brothers had their film shows, taken over 100 years ago, to 100 paying customers on December 8, 1985. One of their earliest films was a 30-second piece which showed a section of a railway platform. As the train approached, panic started in the theatre: people jumped and ran away. In their confusion, the audiences feared that a real train was about to crush them. That was the moment when cinema was born.

Early cinema audiences often experienced the same confusion. In time, the idea of films became familiar, the magic was accepted — but it never stopped being magic. Film has never lost its unique power to embrace its audience and transport them to a different world.

One effect of this realism was to educate the world about itself. Cinema makes the world smaller. Long before people travelled to America or anywhere else, they knew what other places looked like and how other people worked and lived. Undoubtedly, in the lives recorded in film people knew more about American life. Hollywood has dominated the world film market. American imagery — the cars, the cities, the cowboys became the primary imagery of film. Film carried American life and values around the globe.

And, thanks to film, future generations will know the 20th century more familiarly than any other period. We can only imagine what life was like in the 14th century or in classical Rome. But the life of the modern world has been recorded on films. We shall be known better than any preceding generations.

The “star” was another natural consequence of cinema. The cinema star was effectively born in 1910. Because everybody in the world seems to know who they are, they appear more real to us than we do ourselves. The star as magnified human self is one of cinema‟s most strange and enduring legacies(遗产).

Cinema films originally were planned as short stories, because early producers doubted the ability of audiences to concentrate for more than the length of a reel. Then, in 1912, an Italian 2-hour film was hugely successful, and Hollywood settled upon the novel-length narrative that remains the dominant cinematic convention of today.

And it has all happened so quickly. Almost unbelievably, it is only 100 years since that train arrived and the audience screamed and fled, perhaps, suddenly aware that the world could never be the same again — that, maybe, it could be better, brighter, more astonishing and more real than reality.

38.The writer refers to the film of the train in order to show\_\_\_\_\_\_\_.

A. the effect of early films

B. the simplicity of early films

C. the short length of early films

D. the vivid imagination of early films

39.When cinema first began, people thought that\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

A. its future was uncertain

B. it would always tell stories

C. it should be used in fairgrounds

D. the audiences were unappreciative

40.What is the main idea of the Paragraph 3?

A. How fast cinema has changed.

B. How attractive the film actors are.

C. How cinema comes to focus on stories.

D. How cinema teaches us about other cultures.

41.What is the best title for this passage?

A. The Comparison Between Cinema and Novels.

B. The Domination of Hollywood.

C. The Rise of the Cinema Stars.

D. The Power of the Big Screen.