**(1)**

A “selfie” is a photo taken **of** oneself, usually **with a cell phone**, and shared online. The word was first used in 2002 by an Australian who **posted** his **self-taken picture** **on a web forum** accompanied by the caption “selfie”. Since then, **the popularity** of the word itself and the act it describes **has exploded** worldwide and in 2013 “selfie” **was named “word of the year**” by the Oxford Dictionary. Supporters believe that the **taking and posting of selfies** reflects the human need to connect and communicate with others. However, critics argue that selfies are nothing more than reflection of people’s increasing self-absorption and vanity, which value outer appearance over **inner character**.

**(2)**

A **Canadian** professor, Margaret Trainor, recently completed **a research on** the effects of music lessons on children’s **brain development**. The year-long study examined two groups of children **aged 4 to 6**, **one of which took music lessons and the other did not**. During the study, the two groups of children were asked to take different music memory tests and to **listen to** a group of numbers, remember them and repeat them back. Professor Trainor found that the children taking music lessons **showed more advantages** not only **in** musical listening but also **in** memory level. Trainor’s research was recently **publish**ed **in** the **journal** “The Brain”.

**(3)**

Recently, **a thesis** about a research on the effects of music classes on children’s brain development was published in the journal “The Brain”. **Conducted by** a Canadian professor, Margaret Trainor, the year-long research observed two groups of children **aged 4 through 6**, **with one group taking music classes while the other not**. In the process of the research, both groups were required to take music tests. What’s more, they were also asked to repeat a group of numbers after listening **to** and remembering them. Finally, the research showed that the children having music classes **made greater progress in** musical listening and in memory.

**(4)**

**The new scheme** of College Entrance Examination **was released** **on** December 16th, 2014. **According to it**, **the future examination will include three main subjects**, Chinese, math and English, **whose total scores** are respectively 150, **and** **three optional courses** **selected from** Politics, History, Geography, Chemistry, Physics and Biology. **Students will be graded respectively from** A level, **which will** cover 15% of the total students, B and C 30% each, **to** D and E 25% together on those optional courses, **while** **the rest of the subjects will only be judged with** “pass” or “failure”. **It is worth mentioning that** comprehensive quality will **be taken into account in** students’ admission to college. Via this new scheme, **not only** can we lighten students’ study burden, **but also** we are able to develop their interests and cultivate their competence.