

Getting rid of dirt, in the opinion of most people, is a good thing. However, there is nothing fixed about attitudes to dirt.

In the early 16th century, people thought that dirt on the skin was a means to block out disease, as medical opinion had it that washing off dirt with hot water could open up the skin and let ill in. A particular danger was thought to lie in public baths. By 1538, the French king had closed the bath houses in his kingdom. So did the king of England in 1546. Thus began a long time when the rich and the poor in Europe lived with dirt in a friendly way. Henry IV, King of France, was famously dirty. Upon learning that a nobleman had taken a bath, the king ordered that, to avoid the attack of disease, the nobleman should not go out.

Though the belief in the merit (优点) of dirt was long-lived, dirt has no longer been regarded as a nice neighbor ever since the 18th century. Scientifically speaking, cleaning away dirt is good to health. Clean water supply and hand washing are practical means of preventing disease. Yet, it seems that standards of cleanliness have moved beyond science since World War II. Advertisements repeatedly sell the idea: clothes need to be whiter than white, cloths ever softer, surfaces to shine. Has the hate for dirt, however, gone too far?

Attitudes to dirt still differ hugely nowadays. Many first-time parents nervously try to warn their children of touching dirt, which might be responsible for the spread of disease. On the contrary, Mary Ruebush, an American immunologist (免疫学家), encourages children to play in the dirt to build up a strong immune system. And the latter position is gaining some ground. (303 words)

- ① Underline the main idea sentence
- ② Underline the topic sentence of each paragraph
- ③ Paraphrase (改写)

1. What is the main idea? (改写)

The attitude towards dirt had changed for many times.

2. What are the supporting ideas (改写)?

believe
At the 16th century, people believe the dirt can prevent disease.
Since 18th century, people hate dirt.
Nowadays, people have different attitude towards dirt.

Write a summary according to the article in no more than 60 words.

| | | | | | |
|-----------|----------|-----------|-----------|-----------|----------|
| People's | attitude | towards | dirt | has | changed. |
| for | many | times. | in | 16th | century, |
| dirt, | known | as | a | block, | lies |
| harmony | with | people, | the since | 18th, | it |
| turns | to | another | side | that | people |
| extremely | hate | it | And | nowadays, | people |
| have | a | mixed | attitude | towards | dirt. |
| for | most | people | think | about | getting |
| rid | of | it | but | some | riders. |
| it. | finally, | attitudes | to | a | lot. |

to emphasize how severe the problem really is.

V. Translation

Directions: Translate the following sentences into English, using the words given in the brackets.

72. 让我大吃一惊的是他的态度转变得如此之快。(sudden)

What made me surprise is that his sudden change of attitude

73. 除非你在一周内给我满意的答复，否则我将诉诸法律。(Unless)

Unless you give a satisfying reply to me in a week, or I will take it into law.

74. 出国留学有助于学生学习外语和了解外国文化，但学生应该考虑可能遇到的困难。(consideration)

To study abroad can help students learn about the foreign language and culture, but students should take the difficulties they may meet into consideration.

75. 研究表明，当人们有压力时，看看有趣的电影或向朋友倾诉是排遣恐惧和忧伤的有效方法。(get)

The research found out that when people get pressured, watching interesting movies or talking with friends is a good way to escape from fear and sadness.