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●ワード数: 272 words ●目標解答時間: 7分

Read each passage and choose the best word or phrase from among the four choices for each blank. Then, on your answer sheet, find the number of the question and mark your answer.

A Classical Music Composer's Peculiar Prank

Johannes Brahms is considered one of the masters of classical music. In fact, he is often said to be on the same level as the other "Three Bs" of the Romantic music period: Beethoven and Bach. He also has a lot in common with other famous composers of classical music: he was born more than 100 years ago, he was a brilliant piano player, and he had a full head of wildly flowing white hair. There was, however, one habit that (11). He had a chair in his apartment that was designed to fall over when a person sat in it. He asked someone to build him this special chair that would either cause his guests to fall forward on their knees or make them fall backward. According to his friends and his servant, he would roar with laughter every time someone got tricked by the chair.

You might be wondering why someone would want to do such a thing. Brahms was a musical genius, but he was not a happy man. (2), he had an unusual and tragic childhood. He grew up in poverty, and he had to start playing music in very low-class bars when he was just 12 years old. According to Brahms, the experience of being in these bars, where people were often drunk and behaving crudely, affected him deeply and made him angry and resentful. Considering this, he probably (3) in his early life. If he had had a decent life, he would have found a better way to entertain himself.

- (1) 1 represented his strange personality
 - 2 showed a key to his brilliant ability
 - 3 significantly influenced his life
 - 4 told him how to improve piano skills

(1) (1) (2) (3) (4)

- (2) 1 On the other hand
 - 2 Consequently
 - 3 In fact
 - 4 Nonetheless



- (3) 1 learned how to please people
 - 2 did not have a good role model
 - 3 earned enough money to succeed
 - 4 improved his musical talent

