
C12T5P2 测试练习

COLLECTING AS A HOBBY

Collecting must be one of the most varied of human activities, and it's one that many of us psychologists _____ find fascinating _____. Many forms of collecting have been dignified _____ with a technical _____ name: an archtophilist collects teddy bears _____, a philatelist collects postage stamps _____, and a deltiologist collects postcards. Amassing hundreds or even thousands of postcards, chocolate wrappers _____ or whatever, takes time _____, energy and money that could surely be put to much more productive _____ use. And yet there are millions of collectors around the world. Why do they do it?

There are the people who collect because they want to make money - this could be called an instrumental _____ reason for collecting; that is _____, collecting as a means to an end. They'll look for, say, antiques that they can buy cheaply and expect to be able to sell at a profit _____. But there may well be a psychological element _____, too - buying cheap and selling dear _____ can give the collector a sense of triumph _____. And as selling online is so easy, more and more people are joining in.

Many collectors collect to develop their social life, attending meetings of a group of collectors and exchanging information on items _____.

This is a variant _____ on joining a bridge club _____ or a gym _____ , and similarly brings them into contact with like-minded _____ people.

Another motive _____ for collecting is the desire _____ to find something special, or a particular example _____ of the collected item, such as a rare _____ early recording _____ by a particular singer.

Some may spend their whole lives in a hunt for this. Psychologically, this can give a purpose to a life that otherwise _____ feels aimless _____. There is a danger, though, that if the individual is ever lucky enough to find what they're looking for, rather than celebrating _____ their success, they may feel empty, now that the goal that drove them on has gone.

If you think about collecting postage stamps, another potential _____ reason for it - or, perhaps, a result of collecting – is its educational value. Stamp collecting opens a window to other countries, and to the plants, animals, or famous people shown on their stamps. Similarly, in the 19th century, many collectors amassed fossils _____ , animals and plants from around the globe _____ , and their collections provided a vast _____ amount of information about the natural world. Without those collections, our understanding would be greatly inferior _____ to what it is.

In the past - and nowadays, too, though to a lesser extent _____ - a popular form of collecting, particularly among boys and men, was trainspotting _____. This might involve trying to see every locomotive _____ of a particular type, using published data that identifies each one, and ticking off _____ each engine _____ as it is seen. Trainspotters exchange information, these days often by mobile phone, so they can work out where to go to, to see a particular engine. As a by-product _____, many practitioners _____ of the hobby become very knowledgeable about railway operations, or the technical specifications _____ of different engine types.

Similarly, people who collect dolls _____ may go beyond simply enlarging _____ their collection, and develop an interest in the way that dolls are made, or the materials that are used. These have changed over the centuries from the wood that was standard in 16th century Europe, through the wax _____ and porcelain _____ of later centuries, to the plastics _____ of today's dolls. Or collectors might be inspired to _____ study how dolls reflect _____ notions _____ of what children like, or ought to like.

Not all collectors are interested in learning from their hobby, though, so what we might call a psychological reason for collecting is the need for a sense of control, perhaps as a way of dealing with insecurity _____.

Stamp collectors, for instance, arrange _____ their stamps in albums _____, usually very neatly _____, organising their collection according to certain commonplace _____ principles - perhaps by country in alphabetical order _____, or grouping stamps by what they depict - people, birds, maps, and so on.

One reason, conscious _____ or not, for what someone chooses to collect is to show the collector's individualism _____. Someone who decides to collect something as unexpected as dog collars, for instance, may be conveying _____ their belief that they must be interesting themselves. And believe it or not, there is at least one dog collar museum in existence, and it grew out of a personal collection.

Of course, all hobbies give pleasure, but the common factor in collecting is usually passion: pleasure is putting it far too mildly _____. More than most other hobbies, collecting can be totally engrossing _____, and can give a strong sense of personal fulfilment _____. To non-collectors it may appear an eccentric _____, if harmless, way of spending time, but potentially, collecting has a lot going for it.