1. ***Forbes* (December 2023/January 2024 Pages 20-21)**

1)语法填空

Thanks to the record-breaking success of the Eras Tour, Taylor Swift became a billionaire in October—making her the rare recording artist \_to hit\_ (hit) ten-figure status, joining the likes of Jay-Z (net worth: $2.5 billion) and Rihanna ($1.4 billion). A three-and-a-half-hour concert retrospective of her career, the tour has grossed nearly $850 million over 63 US \_\_shows\_\_\_\_ (show). Its first leg has added an \_estimated\_\_ (estimate) $190 million, after tax, to Swift’s coffers (财源;金库), \_\_boosting \_\_ (boost) her net worth to $1.1 billion. The show will head to Europe and Asia next year.

The so-called Taylor Swift Effect casts a wide \_\_financial \_\_ (finance) halo, meanwhile. Two nights of her tour in Denver added an estimated $140 million to Colorado’s GDP thanks to fans spending an average $1300 apiece \_on \_\_ hotels, restaurants and retailers. The Philadelphia Federal Reserve even cited Swift in its June Beige Book, noting that May—\_\_the\_\_ month the Pennsylvania native performed at Lincoln Financial Field in Philly for three nights—marked the \_\_strongest \_\_ (strong) month for city hotel revenue since before the pandemic. The US.Travel Association estimates that collectively, the U.S. leg of the tour added more than $5 billion to state economies. “She’s like a big corporation, essentially, that’s in many sectors,” says labor economist and University of Chicago professor Carolyn Sloane. “Her audience has skewed so young and so female for so long \_\_that \_\_ people may have underestimated how big this thing could be, \_\_economically\_\_ (economy). I don’t think anybody doubts that today.”

2)阅读理解

1. What does the underlined word “gross” in paragraph 1 mean?

A. Turn down. B. Bring in.

C. Use up. D. Throw away.

2. Which of the following statements is correct?

A. Swift is one of the many billionaire recording artists.

B. Swift fans’ consumption in Denver contributed to Colorado’s economy.

C. Swift’s tour pumped over $5 billion to the Pennsylvania economy.

D. Sloane didn’t anticipate the economic impact of Swift’s U.S. leg of the tour.

3)句子翻译

博物馆正在举办这位艺术家早期作品的回顾展。（重点词汇：retrospective）The museum is having a retrospective exhibit of the artist’s early works.

到目前为止，这些电影的票房总收入已超过了5.9亿英镑。（重点词汇：gross）

So far the films have grossed more than £590 million.

1. ***New Scientist* (16th December 2023 Page 11)**

1)语法填空

The Great Wall of China \_is being protected\_\_\_ (protect) from erosion by a “biocrust” of moss, lichen and cyanobacteria, much as the wall once shielded the country \_from / agianst \_ northern invasions. The wall, built and rebuilt many times between about 200 BC and the Ming dynasty, which lasted from 1368 until 1644, once \_stretched \_ (stretch) for more than 8800 kilometres. Today, less than 6 per cent of its total length remains well-preserved, and much has vanished. Many sections of the wall were built with rammed earth, which is when natural materials such as soil and gravel are compacted \_to create\_\_ (create) structures.

 Bo Xiao at China Agricultural University in Beijing and his \_\_colleagues \_\_ (colleague) have sampled a 600-kilometre-long section of the wall and observed that more than two-thirds of it is covered in biocrust. The team found that this layer of lichens, mosses and cyanobacteria contributes to strengthening the wall, keeping \_it\_\_ dry and protected from wind and water erosion. The biocrust also acts as an insulator, reducing temperature extremes and \_lowering \_\_ (lower) the effects of salinity.

 Biocrust-covered sections were less porous, with reduced water-holding capacity, erodibility and salinity, says the team. These areas also showed increased resistance to \_various \_ (vary) forms of mechanical assault. The findings could change the way managers of heritage sites around the world regard vegetation on ancient structures, says Xiao.

 The biocrusts may mitigate the extremes of hot and cold the wall faces, says Brett Summerell at the Botanic Gardens of Sydney. “They would provide an environment \_which / that\_\_ helps buffer and protect the \_stability \_ (stable) of the structure of the walls.”

2)阅读理解

1. What can we learn from the Great Wall of China?

A. It stretches for over 8800 kilometres at present.

B. It once defended China from Japanese invasions.

C. Only a small part of it is currently well-preserved .

D. It was only built in the Qin and Ming dynasty.

2. What’s Brett Summerell’s attitude towards the function of the biocrusts?

A. Dismissive. B. Doubtful.

C. Favourable. D. Tolerant.

3)句子翻译

植树造林减轻了土壤侵蚀。（重点词汇：mitigate）

Soil erosion was mitigated by the planting of trees.

这家公司受到了与种植者签订长期合同的保护。（重点词汇：buffer）

The company is buffered by long-term contracts with growers.