The World (December 16th-31st, 2023)

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

1)Text Completion

Thanks to the record-breaking success of the Eras Tour, Taylor Swift became a billionaire in October—making her the rare recording artist \_\_\_\_\_ (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 \_\_\_\_\_\_ (show). Its first leg has added an \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ (estimate) $190 million, after tax, to Swift’s coffers (财源;金库), \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ (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 \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ (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 \_\_\_ hotels, restaurants and retailers. The Philadelphia Federal Reserve even cited Swift in its June Beige Book, noting that May—\_\_\_\_ month the Pennsylvania native performed at Lincoln Financial Field in Philly for three nights—marked the \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ (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 \_\_\_\_ people may have underestimated how big this thing could be, \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ (economy). I don’t think anybody doubts that today.”

2)Reading Comprehension

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)Translation

博物馆正在举办这位艺术家早期作品的回顾展。\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

到目前为止，这些电影的票房总收入已超过了5.9亿英镑。

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

1)Text Completion

The Great Wall of China \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ (protect) from erosion by a “biocrust” of moss, lichen and cyanobacteria, much as the wall once shielded the country \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ northern invasions. The wall, built and rebuilt many times between about 200 BC and the Ming dynasty, which lasted from 1368 until 1644, once \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ (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 \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ (create) structures.

Bo Xiao at China Agricultural University in Beijing and his \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ (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 \_\_\_ dry and protected from wind and water erosion. The biocrust also acts as an insulator, reducing temperature extremes and \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ (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 \_\_\_\_\_\_\_ (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 \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ helps buffer and protect the \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ (stable) of the structure of the walls.”

2)Reading Comprehension

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)Translation

植树造林减轻了土壤侵蚀。

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这家公司受到了与种植者签订长期合同的保护。

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1. ***The Guardian* (22nd December 2023 Page 11)**

1)Text Completion

Covid is in the air this Christmas, data has revealed, with experts warning that a new variant is \_\_\_ the rise around the world.

According to data from the Office for National Statistics and the UK Health Security Agency (UKHSA), \_\_\_ estimated 4.2%, or one in 24 people, in England and Scotland had Covid on 13 December \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ (compare) with 1.8%, or one in 55, on 29 November. The data is based on self-reported lateral flow device results from about 150,000 \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ (participate) across England and Scotland, who provide, in total, up to 30,000 test results a week. It was also revealed that while prevalence had increased across all age groups, it was \_\_\_\_\_\_ (high) in people aged between 18 and 44 years than in those over 65. “The prevalence \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ (increase) in every English region over the past two weeks and in particular London and the south-east,” the report adds. The figures come days after the World Health Organization said a new sub-variant of Omicron, labelled JN.1, had been classified as a “variant of interest” after \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ (spend) rapidly in the Americas, western Pacific and European regions. The sub-variant has already turned up in the UK, \_\_\_\_\_\_\_ it accounted for 43% of sequenced cases as of 16 December, and in the US and Singapore.

JN.1 is \_\_\_\_\_\_\_ (close) related to another variant called BA.2.86, or Pirola, and both were previously tracked together. According to the US Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC), JN.1 and BA.2.86 differ \_\_\_ a single change in the spike protein of the virus.

2)Translation

这种运动是由棒球演变而来的。

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医生们发现肥胖症的发病率在上升。

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1. ***The Wall Street Journal*  (21st December 2023 A14 )**

1)Text Completion

After weeks of rumbling and ominous \_\_\_\_\_\_\_ (signal), a volcano erupted Monday on the Reykjanes Peninsula in southwest Iceland. The fissure is a little over two miles long and is near the \_\_\_\_\_\_\_ (coast) town of Grindavik, which had been evacuated after monitoring indicated magma was lurking underneath.

The eruption is visible from \_\_\_\_ nation’s capital, Reykjavik, about 30 miles away. It’s also not far from Keflavik, the site of Iceland’s major airport and a hub for travelers going to and \_\_\_\_\_ continental Europe.

The Iceland volcano will not affect holiday air travel. This eruption will not produce the kind of fine ash \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ choked the atmosphere and shut down air travel across much of Europe during the 2010 eruption of the icecovered volcano Eyjafjallajokull.

The big question is \_\_\_\_\_\_ will it go. Many eruptions in Iceland are in remote places, but this one is only a couple of miles from the fishing town of Grindavik, population 3,300. There is a major power plant nearby as well.

For the moment the town and the power plant \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ (spare). The lava is coming into contact with cold air, so it quickly forms a skin and \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ (freeze). It has yet to form the kind of heat-sustaining channels that allow lava \_\_\_\_\_\_\_ (flow) great distances, said Jessica Ball, a volcanologist with the U.S. Geological Survey.

“Fissure eruptions like this, they \_\_\_\_\_\_\_ (usual) have this initial phase where there’s a spectacular fountaining, but they’re not putting out a lot of ash, like the 2010 eruption,” Ball said. “So they’re mostly creating a hazard on the ground from lava flows and volcanic gases that are being released.”

2)Translation

已敦促各雇员立即从办公室撤出。\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

大家都明白吸烟的危害。

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1. **BBC News 12/21/2023**

1)Text Completion

An earthquake in northwest China has killed at least eight people. The quake of approximately 5.9 \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ struck Gansu province at midnight local time. A number of buildings are reported to \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_. Chinese state media say rescuers are searching through rubble about 100 kilometers southwest of Lanzhou.

A volcano has erupted in southwestern Iceland following weeks of intense earthquake activity. Nearly 4,000 people were \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ from the town of Grindavik. Footage posted on social media shows a huge red blast \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ and lava fountain shooting upwards.

The Supreme Court in the US state of Colorado has \_\_\_\_\_\_ the former President Donald Trump from running in the presidential primary \_\_\_\_\_\_\_ there in March. The majority ruling said he wasn’t an eligible candidate because he had engaged in insurrection on January 6th, 2021 when his supporters \_\_\_\_\_\_\_ the Capitol in Washington.

There’s been another \_\_\_\_\_\_\_ in efforts at the UN Security Council to agree a draft resolution calling for a \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ of hostilities in Gaza. The vote which was meant to take place on Monday has been further \_\_\_\_\_\_\_ until Wednesday.

2)Translation

炸弹把那片房子炸成了一堆瓦砾。

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