1. ***Daily Express* (9th December 2023 Page 10)**

1)语法填空

Visitors have been stopped \_\_from \_\_ seeing loved ones in some hospitals hit by an outbreak of winter vomiting bug norovirus.

 Cases have jumped 15% in a week and already this season there have been double the number of people \_\_needing \_\_ (need) hospital care. A total of 498 NHS beds have been occupied by norovirus patients or closed as part of infection control measures around England. Wards have also been closed to new \_\_admissions \_ (admit) in North Wales. The measures have been introduced in an attempt \_\_to control\_\_ (control) the spread of the \_highly \_ (high) infectious illness that causes diarrhoea and vomiting.

 Sufferers usually recover within a few days \_\_but\_\_ a spike in cases can put extra pressure on hospitals \_\_that/which\_\_ are also caring for patients with winter flu, Covid and other seasonal illnesses. NHS England figures have revealed that cases of flu have soared \_\_by\_\_ more than 50% in a week, with an average of 234 people in hospital with the illness every day last week. Health chiefs also fear new Covid variant JN1 could spark a wave of infection. Three wards \_\_were closed\_\_ (close) yesterday at the James Cook University hospital in Middles-brough and visiting hours axed at Cheshire’s Ellesmere Port Hospital and the Countess Of Chester Hospital. Southampton General Hospital closed a ward after a five-fold increase in patients within a week, and wards have also been closed and visiting restricted at Wrexham Maelor Hospital in North Wales.

Professor Julian Redhead, NHS chief for urgent and emergency care, said: “As we experience more spells of cold weather and people gathering indoors, we expect to see a \_\_continued/ continual/ continuing/ continuous\_\_ (continue) increase in winter viruses.”

2)翻译句子

在过去的六个月里，失业率急剧上升。

In the last six months, there has been a spike in unemployment.

重点词汇spike：a sudden large increase in sth 猛增；急升

该公司宣布计划裁员300人。

The company announced plans to axe 300 jobs.

重点词汇axe: to get rid of a service, system, etc. or to reduce the money spent on it by a large amount 精简（机构等）；大量削减（经费等）

***2.National Geographic* (December 2023 BREAKTHROUGHS)**

1)语法填空

A species of tiny freshwater fish \_\_found \_\_ (find) in the Amazon Basin and in home aquariums around the world was discovered to possess something \_\_that \_\_ a surprising number of people appear to lack: the ability \_\_\_\_to wait\_\_\_ (wait) their turn. In a new study published in Scientific Reports, researchers ushered schools of neon tetras (Paracheirodon innesi) through \_a\_ narrow opening in their tank and found that the fish used queuing to navigate the close quarters \_\_without \_\_ clogging up and impeding passage. The “courteous” creatures, which are only about an inch long, did not collide into one another as they swam near the opening. \_\_ugh/Although/While\_\_ the dexterity to exit without bottlenecking has been observed in ants, no other animal \_\_was known\_\_ (know) to have the skill. The study’s authors believe that the neon tetras’ \_\_seemingly \_\_ (seem) polite behavior might have evolved to help them pass between rocks in their river habitat. These findings, the authors say, could be used to improve traffic-control \_\_strategies\_\_ (strategy) for \_\_autonomous\_\_ (autonomy) cars–and perhaps for crowds of people too.

2)翻译句子

我领他去办公室。

I ushered him into the office.

重点词汇usher: to take or show sb where they should go把……引往；引导；引领

楼房的施工因天气恶劣而停了下来。

Work on the building was impeded by severe weather.

重点词汇impede: to delay or stop the progress of sth阻碍；阻止