The World (March 16th-31st, 2024)

1. ***BBC Wildlife* ( March 2024 Page 10)**

 1)Text Completion

Come march, the breeding season is \_\_\_ full swing for several British birds - ravens \_\_\_\_\_\_\_ (include). By now most ravens will be incubating eggs and some pairs, especially in southern England and Wales, will have hungry chicks \_\_\_\_\_\_\_ (feed). Nesting so early in the year is not a problem for such \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ (adapt), omnivorous birds. After all, there’s plenty of carrion to be found.

 Once, ravens were more \_\_\_ less restricted to hill country and were associated with cliffs, desolate peaks and wilderness, \_\_\_\_ in recent decades, following a welcome decline in persecution, they \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ (return) to many of their former haunts throughout the lowlands. A few ravens have even started nesting again in the arable \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ (landscape) of East Anglia. The giant crow’s dramatic change in fortune is matched by the comeback of the peregrine, buzzard and \_\_\_ number of other much-persecuted birds.

 In lowland areas ravens often nest in Scots pines and on pylons, and \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ (occasion) on tall buildings. Resident pairs perform acrobatic displays above their nest site to strengthen pair bonding and -who knows? - perhaps also out of pure joy.

2)Translation

猪是杂食性动物。

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这个采矿小镇荒凉而丑陋。

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1. ***New Scientist* ( 23rd March 2024 Page 13)**

 1)Reading Comprehension

 Recycled wood can be turned into an ink for 3D printing, which could offer a more sustainable way to make furniture or build houses. “Wood has been used for building and structural purposes for centuries,” says Muhammad Rahman at Rice University in Texas. But using it isn’t especially efficient, because cutting wood down to size can result in lots of waste.

 To make use of this leftover material, Rahman and his colleagues split it into lignin and cellulose-molecules that are key to the stiff structure of wood-and broke these down to form nanofibres and nanocrystals. They then recombined the cellulose and lignin with water to make a clay-like substance that could be used as an ink. The researchers used this substance for 3D printing by forcing it through a nozzle and building up layers of ink.

 To boost the strength of the 3D-printed objects, the team freeze-dried them to remove moisture and then heated them up to 180℃ (356℉) to make the lignin soften and fuse with the cellulose. “We can actually mimic all the visual, textural and olfactory properties of natural wood,” says Rahman. The product was found to be nearly six times as durable as natural balsa wood in compression tests and up to three times as flexible in bending tests.

 So far, the researchers have managed to create miniature furniture and honeycomb structures using the ink, but they hope it could eventually be used to build larger objects, such as houses.

 “We need to rethink how we can make structures without cutting down trees,” says Rahman. “If we can recycle waste wood using 3D printing instead of conventional manufacturing, that would be a good step forward.”

1. What leads to the inefficiency of wood using in building structures?

A. The poor skills of the carpenters B. The produced leftover material

C. The low quality of the wood D. The insufficiency of funds

2. What’s the main idea of Paragraph 2?

A. The future of 3D printing technology. B. The usage of recycled wood.

C. The process of producing inks. D. The qualities of the researchers.

3. Which of the following can replace the underlined word “mimic”?

A. imitate. B. develop. C. compare D. destroy.

2)Translation

她在学我们办公室里各种人的样子。

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我为我侄女的娃娃屋买了一些微型家具。

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1. ***The Times* (19th March 2024 P31)**

1)Text Completion

The head of the Michelin Guide has bemoaned the absence of women at the top of French cuisine after awarding the coveted three-star rating to another two male \_\_\_\_\_\_ (chef).

 The guide is widely criticised but remains the most influential in France, \_\_\_\_\_ its star ratings able to make or break careers. Gwendal Poullennec, the guide’s director, sought to fend off \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ (criticise) over its failure to honour more women in a speech in which he claimed that there were \_\_\_\_\_\_\_ (simple) not enough of them running prestigious restaurant kitchens.

 “It is not the first time we \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ (notice) this,” he said, adding that although there were an increasing number of women working in restaurant kitchens “too few” of them made \_\_\_ to the top.

The issue is inflammatory following widespread accusations of sexism and sexual in French restaurants in recent years.

 Perhaps aware that the issue would arise, Poullennec introduced a short film at the Michelin

ceremony \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ (show) women chefs at work across France. He said he believed they would rise to senior positions and be in line \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ (honour) by the guide in years to come.

 This year, however, men still \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ (dominate). All the eight chefs elevated to two stars were men, as were the vast majority of those \_\_\_\_\_ obtained a single star for the first time.

2)Translation

大学和其他研究机构抱怨经费不。\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

她设法避开了关于新增赋税的问题。

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煽动性的话更有可能鼓励更多的人参与进来。\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

他被提拔到总裁的职位。

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1. ***Time* (25th March 2024 P13)**

1)Text Completion

The Smokehouse Creek Fire was named for the place it began on Feb. 26, the grasslands lining a tributary to the Canadian River north of Amarillo, Texas. \_\_\_\_ within days, dry winds had blown it into the second largest wildfire in U.S. history—\_\_ galloping, aptly named conflagration that by March 6 had burned 1.1 million acres and caused the \_\_\_\_\_\_ (dead) of two people.

Three other wildfires—the Windy Deuce, the Magenta, and the Grape Vine Creek—also raged into the first week of March, \_\_\_\_\_\_ (take) in a few days nearly half as many acres as wildfires had burned across the entire nation in all of 2023. As of March 7, only the Magenta had been contained.

Evacuations were ordered across the region, and at least 500 structures were destroyed. But in cattle country, most of the losses were animals—thousands of head \_\_\_\_ (lose) among the millions that graze grasslands that had grown \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ (especial) tall over the past year.

On the other end of the state, President Biden \_\_\_\_ (pay) tribute to first responders during a visit \_\_ the border at Brownsville. “\_\_\_\_\_\_ disasters strike, there is no red state or blue state where I come from, he said. “There are just communities and families looking for help.” He noted that Texas had received $13 billion in relief funding under his presidency, and that the \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ (frequent) of disasters flowing from extreme weather has ticked up sharply.

2)Reading Comprehension

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

A. A natural disaster. B. A destructive fire.

C. A serious disease. D. A severe drought.

2. Which of the following statements is correct?

A. The Smokehouse Creek Fire is the largest wildfire in America.

B. Three other wildfires had been put out by March 7.

C. Most of the losses were the infrastructure.

D. Biden called for unity during his visit to Brownsville.

3)Translation

这不是对我们状况的恰当描述。\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

部长向与大火搏斗的人们致敬。

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1. **CNN News 03/22/2024**

1)Text Completion

All right, we begin today in Iceland where a volcano has erupted again.

It’s the fourth time since December a volcano has erupted in southwest Iceland. This time forcing the \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ of the popular tourist destination Blue Lagoon, as well as the nearby town of Grindavik. According to officials who spoke with Iceland’s public broadcaster RUV, this eruption is considered as the most \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ of recent seismic activity. Iceland is one of the most \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ on the planet. So, despite the \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ dangers, the country is well prepared for these events, utilizing anti-lava barriers and other measures to protect people and critical infrastructure. Our Michael Holmes has the latest for us, and the why, as this latest event is something tourists were hoping to \_\_\_\_\_\_\_.

A siren wails at the world-famous Blue Lagoon Spa in Iceland. The orange plume \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ the night sky means it’s time to evacuate again. For some tourists, this is part of the \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_, one of the reasons they came to Iceland: to see its active volcanoes. And there has been a lot of activity lately. This is the fourth time since December that a volcano has erupted in Southwest Iceland, less than an hour from the country’s capital Reykjavik. The fissure is \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ to be roughly three kilometers long and flowing once again towards the town of Grindavik, where \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ are working to reinforce the town’s \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_.

2)Translation

紧闭的窗户外狂风呼啸。

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所有建筑现在都已经加固，以抗地震。

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