

01. 宝山区

(C)

You constantly find yourself apologizing to a friend when you've done nothing wrong. You feel you must obey someone's demands, or they will be upset with you or even harm you or themselves. An unclear or specific threat is made that causes you to fear that someone will reveal a secret or weakness, so you do what that person wants. Or perhaps a relative is trying to make you feel obliged to do something by saying, "That's what friends or family do for each other." They arouse feelings of guilt in you for not meeting their needs.

If you have had experience with any of these cases, then you are the victim of emotional *blackmail* (勒索). This style of handle controls you through your emotions. Fear, obligation and guilt - FOG - are used by an emotional blackmailer to get what they want from people.

Anyone - a friend, colleague, parent, partner or other family members - could be that person. Their demands are intended to control their victim's behavior in unhealthy methods. Intentional or unintentional, if your needs are always brushed aside in favor of the other person's, things need to change.

Dr. Susan Forward identifies six stages in emotional blackmail. Implied or obvious demands come first. "I don't think you should do things with that person. They're not good for you." After this kind of statement, the ball is in the victim's court, so stage two is resistance. The victim often avoids the blackmailer or suggests alternatives instead of saying no. Stage three is persistent pressure by the blackmailer: "If we were really friends, you'd do it." Stage four involves threats: "If you don't do this...then I will ..." The victim doesn't want the blackmailer to make good on their threats, so obedience, which is stage five, often leaves the victim feeling guilty or resentful. In stage six the blackmailer backs off until the next demand.

What can you do? First, recognize if you are being pressured, threatened or controlled. Stay calm, and stop so you can consider other possibilities. Identify your triggers; don't be pressured into an immediate response. Offer a *compromise* (妥协). Tell the blackmailer how you feel, and give them a chance to acknowledge their behavior and change. If they won't, walk away from the relationship. Under no circumstances should you let your fears be used against you.

63. According to the passage, emotional blackmail means _____.

- A. a kind of emotion that can be mailed to others online
- B. a kind of action to influence others by means of emotion
- C. a colour that can greatly influence others' emotion
- D. a situation where emotion can be stored and given out freely

64. What is the purpose of using Dr. Susan Forward's six stages in emotional blackmail?

- A. To illustrate the process of emotional blackmail.
- B. To explain the origin of emotional blackmail.
- C. To prove the existence of emotional blackmail.
- D. To demonstrate the theory of emotional blackmail.

65. The word resentful in the last paragraph but one most probably means _____.

- A. amazed
- B. frightened
- C. indifferent
- D. angry

66. We can conclude from the passage that _____.

- A. wherever you are, it is impossible to avoid emotional blackmail in life
- B. whenever you're emotionally blackmailed, just let it be with no response
- C. it's an advisable way to give a proper response when emotionally blackmailed
- D. it's a correct response to sincerely negotiate with emotional blackmailer then

答案: 63-66 BADC

02.崇明区

(C)

More than three billion people rely on the ocean to make a living, most of whom are in developing countries. As the global population increases, the demand for seafood is expected to rise, too.

Although ocean ecosystems are stretched to the limit by climate change, overfishing and more, studies nevertheless suggest that seafood can be expanded sustainably to meet future food demands. Success will depend on small-scale fisheries. These fisheries can be remarkably efficient. Almost everything that hand-to-mouth fisheries catch is consumed. By contrast, around 20% of the fish caught by industrial ships is estimated to be wasted, mainly because of unwanted by-catch.

Small fishers rarely have the right resources to expand their operations, or even to survive. If they do scale up, they might lose some of their current advantages or engage in the same harmful practices as do large commercial fisheries. Managed with care, however, small fisheries could provide win-wins for livelihoods and the environment.

Most nations already have management policies for marine ecosystems that provide for small-scale fisheries. But small-scale fishers' rights to access are often poorly defined, ineffectively enforced or unfairly *distributed* (分配). Government *subsidies* (补贴) also require reform. One estimate found that large-scale fishers receive about 3.5 times more subsidies than small-scale fishers do. Instead, subsidies and other funds should be directed towards small-scale fishers to let them expand their access to markets, while keeping them from adopting the negative practices of large-scale operations.

The total global loss and waste from fisheries is estimated at between 30% and 35% annually primarily due to a lack of technology, good manufacturing practices, and infrastructure such as decent roads and cold storage. Public and private investment in cold-storage facilities and processing equipment could help. One promising strategy is to pair international or national funding with direct contracts for feeding programmes linked to schools, hospitals and similar facilities. Such arrangements would provide small fisheries with large, consistent markets and storage infrastructure that boosts local consumption and does not *incentivize* (刺激) overfishing.

Moreover, simple incentive programmes could be conducted by funders, managers and local governments trying to promote sustainable fisheries. For example, local markets could display a rating system for individual fishers or small fisheries. This could include various elements of sustainability other than environmental ones — such as providing information on the type of fishing equipment, location of the catch and freshness. Promoting the rating as a social responsibility concept would inform consumers of the need to support sustainable fisheries.

Anyway, only joint problem-solving efforts can deliver seafood protein, sustainably, to a world that increasingly needs it.

63. The passage mainly tells us that ____.

- A. small fisheries can help the world if managed with care
- B. the global demand for seafood is increasing dramatically
- C. small-scale fisheries need to be commercialised urgently
- D. people in developing countries are more reliable on fishing

64. Small-scale fisheries are more efficient because ____.

- A. what they catch is hardly wasted
- B. their by-catch accounts for a larger share
- C. they catch fish by industrial means
- D. their operation is limited within a small area

65. What can be inferred about small fisheries' current situation?

- A. They gain no support from governments.
- B. They are expanding to meet local demands.
- C. They have little access to good resources.
- D. They impact marine ecosystems negatively.

66. To promote sustainable fisheries, which of the following is one of the author's suggestions?

- A. To initiate a rating system for small fishers to evaluate the local markets.
- B. To provide technology for small fisheries to boost their fishing efficiency.
- C. To inspire a sense of social responsibility in large-scale fishers and consumers.
- D. To facilitate direct cooperation between small fisheries and feeding programmes.

答案: 63. A 64. A 65. C 66. D

03.虹口区

(C)

The concept of **dynamic pricing** is simple—and easy for businesses to implement. Whether it's a Friday-evening flight, a hotel during the holidays, or a taxi ride in a downpour, we have all been burned by higher-than-normal prices due to excess demand. Raising costs when businesses are busiest is the norm across the travel industry. Perhaps the most well-known example of this is within ride-share companies, which have used surge pricing for years to charge riders when demand for cars rockets relative to the number of drivers available.

Outside travel, online stores are increasingly using this dynamic pricing, too, says Vomberg. "On Amazon.com alone, millions of price changes occur within a day, corresponding to a price change of about every ten minutes for each product." While consumers might not always pick up on these variations in price, Vomberg says time-based dynamic pricing will likely become a competitive standard at least in online markets. "AI-enabled tools can suggest the best prices via machine learning *algorithms* (算法). They can also track and learn competitor and customer responses to price changes," he says.

Now, surge pricing is happening in stores including bars and supermarkets as well. "Physical businesses are adopting electronic shelf labels that enable real time price adjustments depending on the time of day, stock levels and whether items are approaching their sell-by date," says Sarwar Khawaja, chairman of the Oxford Education Group. He says this technology is likely to cause prices in bars that use these signs to increase during the rushes of dinner, weekends or holidays, or for supermarkets to adjust prices throughout the day or week, depending on volume of shoppers.

The current economic climate is also driving the need for these pricing technologies. While creating competitive prices is always key to healthy profit margins, Khawaja says dynamic pricing enables businesses to optimise their pricing depending on the financial situations of their customer base. "Businesses can offer discounts during downturns, while increasing prices in better off areas," he says.

The changes, however, may not sit well with consumers. "Dynamic and surge pricing will likely expand to more industries and more companies in the long term, but just because a product may be popular does not mean that customers are willing to turn a blind eye to being charged more," says Khawaja. He adds surge pricing can cause customers to lose faith in a company if they believe they are being overcharged. "Perhaps dynamic pricing of a drink in your favourite pub might be a step too far for loyal customers."

63. Which of the following best explains "**dynamic pricing**" in paragraph 1?

A. A system of deciding what the prices should be. B. A means for companies to find target customers.
 C. A method that helps promote sharing economy. D. A strategy of offering discounts to attract clients.

64. It can be inferred from Arnd Vomberg's comments that online stores _____.
 A. offer the most competitive prices B. make profits by changing prices in real time
 C. confuse customers by changing prices D. rely too much on machine learning algorithms

65. According to the passage, why do physical businesses adopt dynamic pricing?
 A. To match supply and demand during peak hours. B. To lift customer experience and encourage loyalty.
 C. To maintain consistent pricing across all products. D. To compete with online stores and businesses.

66. Which of the following best predicts how customers may react to the expansion of dynamic pricing?
 A. Turn to whatever offers the lowest prices. B. Protest against it for being too annoying.
 C. Refuse to give in and are likely to resist. D. Take it for granted and accept it altogether.

答案: 63-66: ABAC

04. 黄浦区

(C)

①A group of 41 states and the District of Columbia began a legal case against Meta, the parent company of Facebook, Instagram, WhatsApp and Messenger, insisting that the company knowingly used features on its platforms to cause children to overuse them. The accusations in the lawsuit raise a deeper question about behavior: Are young people becoming addicted to social media and the internet? Here's what the research has found.

②David Greenfield, a psychologist and founder of the Center for Internet and Technology Addiction in West Hartford, Conn., said the devices tempt users with some powerful approaches. One is "intermittent reinforcement," which creates the idea that a user could get a reward at any time. But when the reward comes is unpredictable. Adults are easily influenced, he noted, but young people are particularly at risk, because the brain regions that are involved in resisting temptation and reward are not nearly as developed in children and teenagers as in adults. Moreover, the adolescent brain is especially accustomed to social connections, and "social media is all a perfect opportunity to connect with other people."

③For many years, the scientific community typically defined addiction in relation to substances, such as drugs, and not behaviors, such as gambling or internet use. That has gradually changed. In 2013, the Diagnostic and Statistical Manual of Mental Disorders, the official reference for mental health conditions, introduced the idea of internet gaming addiction.

④A subsequent study explored broadening the definition to "internet addiction." The author suggested further exploring diagnostic criteria and the language, for instance, noting that terms like "problematic use" and even the word "internet" were open to broad interpretation, given the many forms the information and its delivery can take.

⑤Dr. Michael Rich, the director of the Digital Wellness Lab at Boston Children's Hospital, said he discouraged the use of the word "addiction" because the internet, if used effectively and with limits, was not merely useful but also essential to everyday life.

⑥Greenfield agreed that there clearly are valuable uses for the internet and that the definition of how much is too much can vary. But he said there also were obvious cases where immoderate use disturbs school, sleep and other vital aspects of a healthy life. Too many young consumers "can't put it down," he said. "The internet, including social media like Meta, are the drugs affecting the mind."

63. What was Meta accused of?

- A. It added problematic features to its platform.
- B. It started a discussion to mislead young people.
- C. It tempted children to use social media too much.
- D. It conducted illegal research on its parent company.

64. According to David Greenfield, users tend to be addicted to social media and the internet due to _____.

- A. their under-developed brain
- B. the random pattern of rewards
- C. their desire to be socially connected
- D. the possibility of escaping from reality

65. What can be concluded about the study introduced in Paragraph 4?

- A. Addiction is something about behaviors instead of substances.
- B. The online language can be interpreted from a broad perspective.
- C. Current diagnostic criteria of "internet addiction" isn't satisfactory.
- D. There should be an agreement on the definition of the word "internet".

66. Dr. Michael Rich and David Greenfield both agree that _____.

- A. proper use of the internet does good to children
- B. the internet is to blame for disturbing healthy life
- C. there are cases against immoderate use of the internet
- D. the word "addiction" is improperly used on the internet

答案: 63-66 CBCA

05.金山区

(C)

If a scientist sees a *unicorn* (独角兽), she'll probably want to see more than one before telling the world about her discovery. But sometimes one unicorn is enough.

In 2007 an astronomer named Duncan Lorimer reported finding a new kind of astronomical event. It was a brief stream of energy so powerful that it could reach Earth from a galaxy billions of light-years away. He called it a fast radio burst (FRB). This remarkable find, if real, could make huge contributions to the study about universe. He predicted there would be many more – but that year, he spotted just one.

It's not unheard of for one event to kick off a whole new field of scientific inquiry. Still it's rare. When Lorimer's paper came out in the journal, it was not surprising that many were skeptical. "Sometimes, what seems like a remarkable scientific discovery turns out to be an error in the data," some commented.

Later, a young graduate student was assigned the task of finding more FRBs. Using the same radio telescope Lorimer once used, she found more bursts that just looked like FRBs. But because of the ways they appeared in the telescope data, she was virtually certain that they were some other kind of radio interference and gave them another name: perytons. As years ticked by and no more FRBs were discovered, some astronomers began to conclude Lorimer had found nothing more than an unusual example of one of these perytons.

Good news: in 2011, there was a report of a second FRB. Four more were found in 2013. Bad news: all of them came from the same Lorimer's radio telescope. But ultimately, in 2014, there was a report from another radio telescope. More discoveries started showing up from other telescopes on a somewhat regular basis. At last the conversation about FRBs shifted – from whether they were real to where they came from.

Years of research have passed by since then. Now, Victoria Kaspi, a physics professor and principal investigator on the FRB team, predicts that once the more advanced telescopes come online in 2024, the location and distance of most FRBs detected can be found out, which will provide "golden opportunities for astronomers to study the large-scale structure of the universe".

Finally, this "unicorn" story came to a somehow surprising end. Several years ago, a team reanalyzed the same data from the radio telescope by which Lorimer found the first FRB. There was one more that they had previously missed. Since then, other teams have analyzed even older data and found FRBs in those datasets too.

"They were just sitting there, waiting to be discovered by better techniques," Lorimer says.

63. Which of the following has the closest meaning to the underlined word in paragraph 3?

A. Optimistic. B. Curious. C. Supportive. D. Doubtful.

64. Why did the author mention unicorns in the first paragraph?

A. To suggest that the new scientific discovery was a myth.
 B. To imply magical creatures may actually exist in the world.
 C. To symbolize the previously unknown and unseen discoveries.
 D. To quote an incident that once happened in the field of science.

65. Why was it bad news that other FRBs found also came from Lorimer's telescope?

A. Because it might mean the results were not reliable.
 B. Because they were all found by a young graduate student.
 C. Because these were given the name perytons and were not real FRBs.
 D. Because not every astronomer had the same type of telescope as Lorimer.

66. What can we imply from this passage?

A. It's possible for just one event to start a new field of scientific research.
 B. New scientific discoveries can't be made without advanced research techniques.
 C. Scientists shouldn't deny new discoveries even if they lack evidence temporarily.
 D. Scientists should be careful to distinguish new discoveries from errors in the datasets.

答案: DCAC

06.静安区

(C)

The cultivation of plants by ants is more widespread than previously realized, and has evolved on at least 15 separate occasions.

There are more than 200 species of ant in the Americas that farm *fungi* (真菌) for food, but this trait evolved just once sometime between 45 million and 65 million years ago. Biologists regard the cultivation of fungi by ants as true agriculture appearing earlier than human agriculture because it meets four criteria: the ants plant the fungus, care for it, harvest it and depend on it for food.

By contrast, while thousands of ant species are known to have a wide variety of interdependent relationships with plants, none were regarded as true agriculture. But in 2016, Guillaume Chomicki and Susanne Renner at the University of Munich, Germany, discovered that an ant in *Fungi* cultivates several plants in a way that meets the four criteria for true agriculture.

The ants collect the seeds of the plants and place them in cracks in the bark of trees. As the plants grow, they form hollow structures called domatia that the ants nest in. The ants *defecate* (排便) at designated absorptive places in these domatia, providing nutrients for the plant. In return, as well as shelter, the plant provides food in the form of fruit juice.

This discovery prompted Chomicki and others to review the literature on ant-plant relationships to see if there are other examples of plant cultivation that have been overlooked. "They have never really been looked at in the framework of agriculture," says Chomicki, who is now at the University of Sheffield in the UK. "It's definitely widespread."

The team identified 37 examples of tree-living ants that cultivate plants that grow on trees, known as *epiphytes* (附生植物). By looking at the family trees of the ant species, the team was able to determine on how many occasions plant cultivation evolved and roughly when. Fifteen is a conservative estimate, says Campbell. All the systems evolved relatively recently, around 1 million to 3 million years ago, she says.

Whether the 37 examples of plant cultivation identified by the team count as true agriculture depends on the definitions used. Not all of the species get food from the plants, but they do rely on them for shelter, which is crucial for ants living in trees, says Campbell. So the team thinks the definition of true agriculture should include shelter as well as food.

63. According to biologists, why is ant-fungus cultivation considered as a form of true agriculture?

- A. Because it occurred earlier than human agriculture.
- B. Because it fulfills the standards typical of agricultural practices.
- C. Because it redefines the four criteria for true human agriculture.
- D. Because it is less common than previously thought.

64. What motivated Chomicki and others to review the literature on ant-plant relationships?

- A. They determined on new family trees of the ant species.
- B. They overlooked some tree-living ants that provided nutrients for the plants.
- C. They never studied the ant-plant relationships within the context of agriculture.
- D. They never identified any ant species that engaged in cultivation of fungi.

65. Which of the following statements is supported by the team's findings according to the passage?

- A. Ants' cultivation of plants is limited to a few specific species.
- B. The cultivation of fungi by ants is considered the earliest form of agriculture.
- C. True agriculture in ants involves only food-related interactions with plants.
- D. Ants have independently cultivated plants on at least 15 distinct occasions.

66. What is the passage mainly about?

- A. The evolution of ants in the plant kingdom.
- B. The widespread occurrence of ant-plant cultivation.
- C. The discovery of a new ant species engaging in agriculture.
- D. The contrast between ant agriculture and human agriculture.

答案: 63-66 BCDB

07. 阅行区

(C)

How to Recruit (招聘) with Softer Skills in Mind

Soft skills matter to employers. An analysis of almost 5000 job descriptions showed companies have shifted away from emphasizing financial and operational skills towards social skills—an ability to listen, reflect, communicate and *empathise* (共情).

The trouble is that soft skills are hard to measure. Worse still, the conventional process for recruiting people is often better at recognizing other qualities. The early phases of recruitment focus on screening candidates based on their experiences and hard skills, criteria that are easiest to assess remotely. The later phases, when candidates and employers engage in actual conversation, are better suited to assessing an applicant's softer skills. Think of how fundamentally unsocial the situation is! Candidates are expected to talk, not listen; to impress, not empathise. Structured interview scripts enable like-for-like comparisons but they also limit the space for naturalness.

Two recent studies of what makes for a good team member agree on what might be described as an ability to read the room. One research found people who can accurately judge the level of influence held by various team members possess a magic power called "status acuity". Such room-readers reduce group conflict and enhance team performance. They accordingly designed a test, in which participants watched a video of a group performing a task. The participants then rated members of the group based on how much respect each was perceived to hold. People whose ratings were closest to the assessments of the team members themselves had the quality of status acuity.

The other study found that certain individuals consistently made their groups perform better than expected. Such people are genuine team players, capable of making the whole greater than the sum of the parts. These wonderful creatures did not stand out from their peers on IQ tests. But they did significantly better on the "Reading the Mind in the Eyes" test, an assessment in which participants are shown pictures of various facial expressions and then have to pick the word that best describes what each person is feeling.

Better tests are not the only way to gather more information about soft skills. Don't just have people higher up the food chain ask interview questions. Ask the people who interact casually with applicants, from the assistants to the receptionists, what they thought of them.

Undeniably, people may succeed in faking their way through the process. And there may be more room for interviewers' prejudice to emerge. Finding someone annoying may be a signal that someone lacks social skills. But it may also mean that they are nervous or that interviewers are bad-tempered. Recruitment is set to change and is unlikely to become less challenging.

63. What makes the recent recruitment process distinct from the traditional one?

- A. Prioritization of soft skills.
- B. Focus on a screening method.
- C. Dependence on structured interview scripts.
- D. Emphasis upon financial and operational skills.

64. According to the third and fourth paragraph, a person with the ability to read the room is capable of _____.

- A. adjusting one's behavior or attitude swiftly to fit the context
- B. understanding the individual's perspective to respond appropriately
- C. resolving group conflict or judging facial expressions in a situation
- D. interpreting individual's role within a team or their mood

65. What is the purpose of the two studies mentioned in the passage?

- A. To identify ways to perfect structured interview scripts.
- B. To discover shortcuts for testing and identifying soft skills.
- C. To explore recipes for cultivating a qualified team member.
- D. To introduce methods of improving candidates' non-technical skills.

66. What can be implied from the last two paragraphs?

- A. Integrating soft skills assessment into a hiring process won't introduce side effects.
- B. Employees in lower positions may provide useless insights into applicants' soft skills.
- C. Interviewers' prejudice may influence their fair assessments and perceptions of candidates.
- D. There is no possibility of individuals successfully deceiving others during the interview.

答案: 63. A 64. D 65. B 66. C

08.青浦区

(C)

In the roughly 250 years since the Industrial Revolution, the world's population, like its wealth, has exploded. Before the end of this century, however, the number of people on the planet could shrink for the first time since the Black Death. The root cause is not an increase in deaths, but a drop in births. Across much of the world the fertility rate, the average number of births per woman, is collapsing. Although the trend may be familiar, its extent and its consequences are not. Even as artificial intelligence (AI) leads to optimism in some quarters, *the baby bust* (婴儿荒) hangs over the future of the world economy.

Whatever some environmentalists say, a shrinking population creates problems. The world is not close to full and the economic difficulties resulting from fewer young people are many. The obvious one is that it is getting harder to support the world's pensioners. Retired folk draw on the output of the working-aged, either through the state, which requests taxes on workers to pay public pensions, or by cashing in savings to buy goods and services or because relatives provide care unpaid. But whereas the rich world currently has around three people between 20 and 64 years old for everyone over 65, by 2050 it will have less than two. The implications are higher taxes, later retirements, lower real returns for savers and, possibly, government budget crises.

Low proportion of workers to pensioners are only one problem resulting from collapsing fertility. Younger people have more of what psychologists call "**fluid intelligence**", the ability to think creatively so as to solve problems in entirely new ways. This youthful energy adds to the accumulated knowledge of older workers. It also brings change. Patents filed by the youngest inventors are much more likely to cover breakthrough innovations. Older countries and their young people are less enterprising and less comfortable taking risks. Because the old benefit less than the young when economies grow, they have proved less keen on pro-growth policies, especially housebuilding. Creative destruction is likely to be rarer in ageing societies, restricting productivity growth in ways that compound into an enormous missed opportunity.

Eventually, therefore, the world will have to make do with fewer youngsters—and perhaps with a shrinking population. With that in mind, recent advances in AI could not have come at a better time. A productive AI economy might find it easy to support a greater number of retired people. Eventually AI may be able to generate ideas by itself, reducing the need for human intelligence. Combined with robotics, AI may also make caring for the elderly less labour-intensive. Such innovations will certainly be in high demand.

If technology does allow humanity to overcome the baby bust, it will fit the historical pattern. Unexpected productivity advances meant that *demographic time-bombs* (人口定时炸弹) failed to explode. Fewer babies mean less human genius. But that might be a problem human genius can fix.

63. What can be learned from the first paragraph?

- A. The collapsing fertility rate is to blame for the shrinking population.
- B. Black Death marked the shrinking number of people for the first time.
- C. Industrial Revolution weakened the increase of the world's population.
- D. The public are familiar with the extent and the influence of the baby bust.

64. What makes it harder to support the world's pensioners?

- A. Close relatives have refused to take care of the old without being paid.
- B. The output of the working-aged which the old can draw on is shrinking.
- C. The old have cashed in savings to cover expenses of goods and services.
- D. The government has requested taxes on younger employees to pay pensions.

65. Why does "**fluid intelligence**" (in Paragraph 3) suffer in ageing societies?

- A. Because older workers boast more accumulated knowledge.
- B. Because the old benefit less than the young in creative destruction.
- C. Because collapsing fertility results in low proportion of workers to pensioners.
- D. Because restricting productivity growth compounds into a missed opportunity.

66. The best title for the passage is probably ____.

- A. The Old Pensioners Make a Comeback
- B. Artificial Intelligence Leads to a Bright Future
- C. The Measures to Overcome the Baby Bust
- D. The Effect of the Baby Bust on Economy

答案: 63-66 ABBB

09.松江区

(C)

Antibiotics, which can destroy or prevent the growth of bacteria and cure infections, are vital to modern medicine. Their ability to kill bacteria without harming the patient has saved billions of lives and made surgical procedures much safer. But after decades of overuse, their powers are fading. Some bacteria have evolved resistance, creating a growing army of superbugs, against which there is little effective treatment. *Antimicrobial* (抗菌的) resistance, expected to kill 10 million people a year by 2050 up from around 1 million in 2019, has been seen as a crisis by many.

It would be unwise to rely on new antibiotics to solve the problem. The rate at which resistance emerges is increasing. Some new drugs last only two years before bacteria develop resistance. When new antibiotics do arrive, doctors often store them, using them only reluctantly and for short periods when faced with the most persistent infections. That limits sales, making new antibiotics an unappealing idea for most drug firms.

Governments have been trying to fix the problem by channeling cash into research in drug firms. That has produced only limited improvements. But there is a phenomenon worth a look. Microbiologists have known for decades that disease-causing bacteria can suffer from illnesses of their own. They are supersensitive to attacks by phages, specialised viruses that infect bacteria and often kill them. Phages are considered a promising alternative to antibiotics.

Using one disease-causing virus to fight bacteria has several advantages. Like antibiotics, phages only tend to choose particular targets, leaving human cells alone as they infect and destroy bacterial ones. Unlike antibiotics, phages can evolve just as readily as bacteria can, meaning that even if bacteria do develop resistance, phages may be able to evolve around them in turn.

That, at least, is the theory. The trouble with phages is that comparatively little is known about them. After the discovery of penicillin, the first antibiotic, in 1928, they were largely ignored in the West. Given the severity of the antibiotic-resistance problem, it would be a good idea to find out more about them.

The first step is to run more clinical trials. Interest from Western firms is growing. But it is being held back by the fact that phages are an even less appealing investment than antibiotics. Since they are natural living things, there may be trouble patenting them, making it hard to recover any investment.

Governments can help fund basic research into phage treatment and clarify the law around exactly what is and is not patentable. In time they can set up phage banks so as to make production cheaper. And they can spread awareness of the risks of overusing antibiotics, and the potential benefits of phages.

63. We can learn from paragraphs 1 and 2 that _____.

- A. doctors tend to use new antibiotics when the patients ask for them
- B. antimicrobial resistance is developing more rapidly than predicted
- C. new antibiotics fail to attract drug firms due to limited use of them
- D. previous antibiotics are effective in solving modern health problems

64. What is phages' advantage over antibiotics?

- A. They can increase human cells when fighting bacteria.
- B. They are not particular about which cells to infect and kill.
- C. They can evolve accordingly when bacteria develop resistance.
- D. They are too sensitive to be infected by disease-causing bacteria.

65. According to the passage, the obstacle to phage treatment is that _____.

- A. there is little chance of patenting phages in the future
- B. governments provide financial support for other research
- C. the emergence of superbugs holds back drug firms' interest
- D. over-dependence on antibiotics distracts attention from phages

66. What is the main idea of the passage?

- A. Governments fail to stop the use of antibiotics.
- B. Phages could help prevent an antibiotics crisis.
- C. Development of antibiotics is limited by phages.
- D. Antimicrobial resistance calls for new antibiotics.

答案: 63-66 CCDB

10.徐江区

C

Zion National Park in Utah has plenty of trails, but Angels Landing may be the most breathtaking. Picture this. You begin the hike on the wide and well-maintained West Rim Trail. It follows the river and then crosses the bottom of the canyon, surrounded by 270-million-year-old layers of rock. Relaxing, right? Just wait for it. The trail then starts to climb via a series of *switchbacks* (急转弯) leading up the side of the mountain. Then more switchbacks: 21 tighter turns, called “Walter’s Wiggles,” where elevation levels rapidly increase. Your heartbeat is probably rapidly increasing at this point, too.

On top of Walter’s Wiggles, you can stop for a stunning view (perhaps with a marriage proposal) and a restroom stop while you *contemplate* (仔细考虑) the final stretch of the hike. If you’re afraid of heights, it’s best to turn back now. The last stretch is the real test of bravery.

The last half mile of the hike is what really ranks it as one of the nation’s most dangerous. Angels Landing itself is a fin-like formation *jutting* (突出) 1,500 feet out of the canyon, and this is where you make the final 500-foot climb. Guardrails and chains *bolted* (拴住) into the cliff help you keep from tumbling over the extremely steep ledge. You’re literally living on the edge, and you don’t want to trust the “angels” down there to catch you. Once you reach the top, however, it’ll all be worth it: 360-degree views of the canyon make a great backdrop for kicking back and having a meal before you come back down the way you came.

Angels Landing might be dangerous, but thankfully, not too many people have had fatal falls. According to the park website, seven people have died in the 100 years the park has existed. Still, this is a very vigorous hike. If you’re out of shape, bringing young children along, feel ill or prone to fainting, or are just plain afraid of heights, opt for an easier trail.

Angel’s Landing is a great hike for most of the year, besides the cold winter months when the trails could become dangerously slippery. Summer is the most popular time of year — and therefore the most crowded — but it can also get extremely hot, so opt for an early morning hike while the temperatures are still mild.

Sure, it’s dangerous, but there’s a reason this is one of Zion’s most popular hikes. If you’re up for the challenge, Angels Landing will definitely deliver rewards.

This article first appeared on Curiosity.com.

63. What geological feature surrounds the hiker during the initial part of the hike?
 - A. Plenty of trails in the park.
 - B. Mountain Peaks.
 - C. 270-million-year-old layers of rock.
 - D. Grass Meadows.
64. What is the main attraction and appeal of Angels Landing?
 - A. The challenging hike with switchbacks
 - B. The 360-degree views of the canyon
 - C. The well-maintained West Rim Trail
 - D. The river crossing and rock formations
65. Which of the following statement is true according to the passage?
 - A. If a tourist is afraid of heights, it’s best to turn back onto Angels Landing.
 - B. Seven people have died so far due to slippery trails in winter.
 - C. Bringing young kids along to climb onto Angels Landing will be appreciated.
 - D. Taking a break with the views of the canyon as background is absolutely worth the trip.
66. Which of the following could be the best title for the passage?
 - A. Unveiling the Hidden Beauty: Exploring Zion National Park’s Trails
 - B. Zion’s Ultimate Thrill: The Adrenaline-Pumping Angels Landing Expedition
 - C. Chasing Heights: Angels Landing Adventure in Utah’s Zion National Park
 - D. Angels Landing: Conquering Utah’s Breathtaking and Daring Hike in Zion National Park

答案: 63-66 CBDD

11.杨浦区

(C)
In memory of Eleanor
-- a woman _____

[1] Eleanor Lowenthal – my grandmother – in desperate need of income to put her husband through graduate school, walked into the Harvard Museum of Comparative Zoology. There, she convinced the scientists that she was the perfect person to *mount* (安放) and catalog their growing ant collection.

[2] At the time, a promising graduate student named E.O. Wilson was coming up in the department. Wilson, who passed away in December 2021, was called the “father of biodiversity”. When Eleanor joined the department, researchers were racing to collect and catalog *specimens* (标本) . As Wilson shifted research towards smaller, less glamorous species that nonetheless held ecological significance, he set the stage for conservation biology. Behind the scenes, technicians like my grandmother preserved the specimen that furthered Wilson’s work and continue to provide new insights and opportunities for researchers across the globe.

[3] At the time, hiring a 21-year-old woman who had dropped out of art school was a significant gamble. It paid off. Eleanor’s job as a technician required the same manual flexibility and coordination that art school had demanded. The job required her to work quickly, yet precisely. Rushing could risk ruining a rare specimen, but Eleanor could process ants as quickly as Wilson could mail them back from his expeditions to Australia and Papua New Guinea. She sometimes mounted as many as 200 a day.

[4] It wasn’t a coincidence that Eleanor found work in entomology. Wilson’s high-profile research on ants cracked an opening for women in previously male-dominated field of conservation, which was centered around studying big game in the first half of the 20th century.

[5] Even when women’s early work has been credited, the language used to describe their contributions often minimized their role in the team, not mentioning them by name. A recently discovered department report includes lines such as, “**A large amount of spreading and setting insects was done by the lady assistant,**” and “**The collection has been remarkably free from pests... due to the continuous care of the lady assistant.**”

[6] The department now functions like a library (specimen can be borrowed for study or examined on site), and serves as a training center for the next generation of scientists who use the collection in ways Wilson and my grandmother probably never imagined.

[7] Eleanor didn’t realize the impact of her contribution at the time – the technician role was just a job that paid \$38 a week. But she’s come to appreciate the significance of her work on a project that spans centuries. “You can see how it goes from one era to another,” says Eleanor. “It’s so important to have this library for people to make connections and new discoveries.”

63. The first two paragraphs write about _____.

A. why Eleanor was chosen to be an assistant for Wilson B. what convinced Wilson switch to the study of ants
 C. how Eleanor’s and Wilson’s career paths crossed D. when technicians like Eleanor started to get hired

64. Why were the lines in the report cited in the fifth paragraph?

A. To prove how important women’s early work was.
 B. To show women’s role at the time was not fully recognized.
 C. To give a vivid description of the nature of women’s work.
 D. To teach the wisdom of writing good science reports.

65. What can be learned from the last two paragraphs?

A. Today’s researchers are still enjoying the benefits of Eleanor’s work.
 B. Eleanor is now working as a supervisor in the department.
 C. New scientific discoveries are the results of collective wisdom.
 D. Nobody’s work is as important as Eleanor’s in the department.

66. Which of the following should be filled in the title “In memory of Eleanor -- a woman _____”

A. whose struggle mirrored the social changes in the status of women
 B. whose work won her fame in the then male-dominated field of conservation
 C. who pioneered a unique ant management system at the Harvard Museum
 D. who worked behind the scenes with extraordinary speed, accuracy and artistry

答案: 63-66 C B A D

12.长宁区

(C)

When I volunteered as a social worker at a domestic violence shelter in a developing country, I imagined the position for which my university experience had prepared me. I imagined conducting intake interviews and walking around from organization to organization seeking support that the women would need to rebuild their lives. When I arrived, I felt as if I already had months of experience, experience gained in the hypothetical situations I had invented and subsequently resolved single-handedly. I felt thoroughly prepared to tackle the situation I assumed was waiting for me.

I arrived **full of zeal**. Within moments, my reality made a sharp break from which I had expected. The coordinator explained that the shelter's need for financial self-sufficiency had become obvious. To address this, the center was planning to open a bakery. I immediately enthused about the project, making many references to the small enterprise case studies I had researched at the university. In response to my impassioned reply, the coordinator declared me in charge of the bakery. At that moment, I was as prepared to bake bread as I was to run for political office. The bigger problem, however, was that I was completely unfamiliar with the for-profit business models necessary to run the bakery. I was out of my depth in a foreign river with only my coordinator's confidence to keep me afloat.

They say that necessity is the mother of invention. I began finding recipes and using the expertise of friends. With their help making bread, printing leaflets and making contacts, the bakery was soon running successfully. After a short time it became a significant source of income for the house.

In addition to funds, baking bread provided a natural environment to work with and get to know the women of the shelter. Kneading dough(揉面团) side by side, I shared in the friendly atmosphere of the kitchen, treated to stories about their children and the towns and jobs they had to leave behind to ensure their safety. Baking helped me develop strong relationships with the women and advanced my understanding of their situations. It also improved the women's self-esteem. Their ability to master a new skill gave them confidence in themselves, and the fact that the bakery contributed to the upkeep of the house gave the women a sense of pride and the confidence that they had the capability to support themselves.

Baking gave me the opportunity to work in a capacity I had not at all expected, but one that proved very successful. Learning to bake gave me as much newfound self-confidence as it gave the women, and I found that sometimes quality social work can be as simple as kneading dough.

答案: 63-66 BCAB

13. 嘉定区



(C)

New research confirms that human footprints found in New Mexico are probably the oldest direct evidence of human presence in the Americas, a finding that upends what many scientists knew about human habitation and *migration* (迁徙).

The footprints were discovered at the edge of an ancient lakebed in White Sands national park. According to the new paper published in the journal *Science*, they date back to between 21,000 and 23,000 years ago. Actually, the estimated age of the footprints was first reported in *Science* in 2021, but some researchers raised concerns about the dates. Questions focused on whether seeds of water plants used for the original dating may have absorbed ancient carbon from the lake—which could, in theory, throw off radiocarbon dating by thousands of years. But the new study presents two additional lines of evidence for the older date range. It uses two entirely different materials found at the site, ancient *pollen* (花粉) and stone grains.

The reported age of the footprints challenges the once conventional wisdom that humans did not reach the Americas until a few thousand years before rising sea levels covered the Bering land bridge between Russia and Alaska, perhaps about 15,000 years ago. “This is a subject that’s always been controversial because it’s so significant. It’s about how we understand the last chapter of the peopling of the world,” said Thomas Urban, an *archaeologist* (考古学家) at Cornell University, who was involved in the 2021 study but not the new one.

Thomas Stafford, an independent archaeological geologist in New Mexico, who was not involved in the study, said he “was a bit suspicious before” but now is convinced. The new study isolated about 75,000 grams of pure *pollen* from the same stone layer that contained the footprints. “Dating *pollen* is laborious but worthwhile,” said Kathleen Springer, a research geologist at the US Geological Survey and a co-author of the new paper.

Ancient footprints of any kind can provide *archaeologists* with a quick look of a moment in time. While some archeological sites in the Americas point to similar date ranges—including necklaces carved from giant animal remains in Brazil—scientists still question whether such objects really indicate human presence. “White Sands is unique because there’s no question these footprints were left by people,” said Jennifer Raff, a scientist at the University of Kansas, who was not involved in the study.

63. The underlined word “upends” (paragraph 1) is closest in meaning to “_____”.

A. comprises B. connects C. challenges D. compares

64. According to the passage, what is special about the new research?

A. It shows the footprints were made by the Russians.
 B. It offers more convincing lines of evidence for dating.
 C. It confirms that the ancient humans enjoyed living by the lake.
 D. It reveals the footprints are much younger than previously thought.

65. It can be inferred from the last paragraph that _____.

A. necklaces are valuable objects for archaeologists to date animals
 B. human footprints are often sure signs of human presence
 C. ancient objects in Brazil are excluded from the study
 D. White Sands is one important archaeological site

66. Which of the following might be the best title of the passage?

A. Scientists Discover New Species of Humans in Americas
 B. Humans Reached Americas 15,000 Years Earlier Than Believed
 C. American Archaeologists Unearthed Valuable Manmade Objects
 D. New Research Confirms Early Human Presence in Americas

答案: 63-66 CBBD

14. 浦东新区

(C)

I was among 31 murderers sent to the Louisiana State Penitentiary in 1962 to be executed or imprisoned for life. We were unskilled, impulsive and uneducated misfits, mostly black, who had done dumb, impulsive things—failures, rejects from the larger society. Now a generation has passed since I've been here, and everything is much the same as I found it. The vast majority of us are handed over to suffer and die here so politicians can sell the illusion that permanently putting people to prison will make society safe.

Getting tough has always been a “silver bullet”, a quick fix for the crime and violence that society fears. Each year in Louisiana—where excess is a way of life—law-makers have tried to outdo each other in legislating harsher penalties. The only thing to do with criminals, they say, is get tougher. In the process, the state boasts one of the highest lock-up rates in the country, and imposes the most severe penalties in the nation.

If getting tough resulted in public safety, Louisiana citizens would be the safest in the nation. They're not. Louisiana has the highest murder rate among states. Prison, like the police and the courts, has a minimal impact on crime because it is a response after the fact. It doesn't work. The idea of punishing the few to discourage the many is fake because potential criminals either think they're not going to get caught or they're so psychologically distressed that they don't care about the consequences of their actions. The threatened punishment, regardless of its severity, is never a factor in the equation.

Prison has a role in public safety, but it is not a cure-all. The only effective way to contain crime is for society to work to prevent the criminal act in the first place. Our youngsters must be taught to respect humanity of others and to handle dispute without violence. It is essential to educate and equip them with the skills to pursue their life ambitions in a meaningful way. As a community, we must address the adverse life circumstances that breed criminality. These things are not quick, and they are not easy, but they are effective. Politicians think that's too hard a sell. They want something they can point to at re-election time. So the drumbeat goes on for more police, more prisons, more of the same failed policies.

Ever see a dog chase its own tail?

63. Which of the following situations is **not** regarded as a “silver bullet”?

- Employing a roundabout way to help students correct their mistakes.
- Setting up refuges to shelter the homeless war victims.
- Training farmers with farming techniques to help them out of poverty.
- Adopting effective policies to save economy from worsening.

64. According to the passage, law makers' failure to make proper legislation is due to the fact that _____.

- they are proud and boastful of high lock-up rates
- they fail to address the root of the problem
- they don't treat people of different races alike
- they give priority to precaution over punishment

65. The idiom best describing the effective way to ease the severity of crime in Louisiana is _____.

- turn over a new leaf
- get a kick out of it
- an eye for an eye
- prevention is better than cure

66. What is the best title for the passage?

- Prisons—A Tool for Election
- Why Prisons Don't Work
- An Appeal from a Murderer
- Why Society Is a Safer Place

答案: 63-66 ABDB

15. 普陀区

(C)

In recent years, the International Space Field set off a new round of exploration craze, hoping to further master the space secrets and resources. Countries are busy developing rockets and satellites, developing manned space technology, formulating plans to explore the moon and Mars, and conquering space “One step ahead”.

When engineers develop a spacecraft, they ask a few key questions that guide their process, says David Klaus, a professor of aerospace engineering at the University of Colorado Boulder, who studies risk assessment and human spaceflight. They are, he explains, “What do we want to do? What does it take to do it? What can go wrong? And what can we do to reduce the chance of the bad things going wrong?” These questions seem simple enough, but the answers are essential.

When NASA, SpaceX, Blue Origin or anyone else considers sending humans into space, the vehicle they build must do three things. First, it has to accommodate the crew members by meeting their basic needs such as oxygen, food and water. Second, it should allow them to accomplish mission objectives. Lastly, it must protect the people onboard and on the ground from the risks of spaceflight and reentry. Sometimes meeting one need introduces new risks. The crew needs to breathe, of course, but it was high-pressure tanks of liquid oxygen that caused an explosion on Apollo 13, and it was the fuel powering an oxygen generator that sparked a fire onboard the Mir space station in 1997.

Not only do astronauts float through a near vacuum(真空) filled with radiation, but in low-Earth orbit, where the International Space Station (ISS) operates, crews have to deal with a growing cloud of debris(碎片) circling Earth, which are usually from old satellites. The ISS’s debris protective covering can absorb impacts from particles smaller than half an inch, but between 1999 and 2022, the station had to fire pushers 32 times to avoid contact with larger objects. A single hit would be dangerous; at speeds of 17,500 miles per hour, even something the size of a softball can cause severe damage.

What is the point of looking decades into space and struggling to explore the vastness of the universe? The development of the space industry has brought humans many benefits, the most important of which is the spread of information. The cell phone signal and TV signal people use now are all benefiting from the development of the space industry. The ultimate goal of mankind is to go deeper into space, and to explore more unknown worlds, that is, the Moon, Mars and beyond, and what humanity is eager to achieve is a common home of freedom and equality.

63. Why did the writer mention the explosion on Apollo 13 in Paragraph 3 and the fire onboard the Mir space station?

- A. To explain the high risks of the space industry.
- B. To show the disadvantages of the space travel.
- C. To prove the unexpected risks of the spaceflight process.
- D. To describe the new risks involved in meeting the requirements.

64. What is the main idea of the fourth paragraph?

- A. The space environment itself piles on danger.
- B. Any misstep on a space mission is fatal.
- C. It is very difficult to complete the space mission.
- D. Space engineers work hard to clean up space debris.

65. What is the ultimate goal of human exploration of space?

- A. More unknown planets and stars.
- B. Freedom and equality of human beings.
- C. More protection against human diseases.
- D. Space secrets and endless resources.

66. What does the underlined phrase in the last paragraph mean?

- A. Studying space for countless years.
- B. Living in space for many years.
- C. Exploring space for some ten years.
- D. Observing space for several ten years.

答案: 63-66 D A B D

16. 奉贤区

(C)

Scientists know that the internal forces that generate Earth's magnetic field (磁场) can change and that the strength of the field swings over time. This can lead to gradual shifts in the intensity and location of Earth's magnetic north and south poles and even reversals where Earth's magnetic poles trade places.

But are these geomagnetic events responsible for extreme weather, extinction, and even disasters? Claims that Earth's magnetic field is responsible for climate change are widespread online, but scientists say the theory has no basis. "At this time there aren't any credible mechanisms that could make it a possibility," says Gavin Schmidt, a climatologist in New York. "It's not that we're ruling out magnetic effects on climate without thinking about it, we collectively have thought about it, and it's been found devoid."

There are three north poles on Earth: true north, geomagnetic north, and magnetic north. True north is a fixed position on the globe that points directly towards the geographic North Pole. But geomagnetic north, currently located over Canada's Ellesmere Island, is not a fixed point—it represents the northern axis (轴) of Earth's magnetosphere and shifts from time to time. Magnetic north corresponds to magnetic field lines and is what your compass locates.

During a pole reversal, Earth's magnetic north and south poles exchange locations. This happens on average every 300,000 years or so, but the last reversal occurred around 780,000 years ago. Some scientists have assumed that reversals and the corresponding decrease in strength of the magnetic field could cause a big problem that increased solar radiation was able to enter Earth's atmosphere, altering ozone levels and driving global climate shifts and extinctions.

Kirk Johnson, a director of the Smithsonian's National Museum of Natural History, has spent much of his career studying the extinction of dinosaurs. While analyzing fossil records and timelines surrounding his research, Johnson zeroed in on the magnetic reversal that occurred around 66.3 million years ago.

Deep ocean samples revealed significant climate change around 66.3 million years ago. But this also coincides with a large volcanic eruption in India called the Deccan volcanism, which produced some of the longest lava (熔岩) flows on Earth. "We've always owed that transition to the carbon dioxide released by the Deccan volcanism and the increase of greenhouse gases," says Johnson. "There are two things happening: The magnetic field is changing, the Deccan volcanism is happening, and there's climate warming. So that would be an example of coincidental climate change."

63. The underlined word "**devoid**" in paragraph 2 probably means _____.
 A. fruitless B. obvious C. reasonable D. misleading
64. Which north pole on earth is involved in the pole reversal?
 A. True north. B. Geomagnetic north. C. Magnetic north. D. Geographic north.
65. Which of the following is **TRUE** according to the passage?
 A. The geomagnetic events are to blame for the climate change.
 B. The decrease in strength of the magnetic field resulted in extinction.
 C. The magnetic field is changing all the time with the climate warming.
 D. Internal forces which produce Earth's magnetic field can alter over time.
66. Which of the following statements does Kirk Johnson most probably agree with?
 A. A magnetic reversal doesn't necessarily cause climate change.
 B. A magnetic reversal is accompanied with significant climate change.
 C. The extinction of the dinosaurs is due to the magnetic reversal.
 D. Climate change is not relevant to the carbon dioxide emission.

答案: 63-66 ACDA