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1.【江苏省南京市六校联合体 2024 届高三上学期调研英语试卷】

The world may have a new supercontinent within 200 million to 300 million years as the Pacific Ocean shrinks and closes.

Researchers at Curtin University in Australia and Peking University in China used a supercomputer to model the evolution of Earth's tectonic plates(地质构造板块) and the formation of a future supercontinent. Their findings were published in the journal National science Review.

"Over the past two billion years, Earth's continents have collided(相撞) together to form a supercontinent every 600 million years，known as the supercontinent cycle. This means that current continents are due to come together again in a couple of hundred million years time," said lead author Dr. Chuan Huang, a research fellow in Curtin's Earth Dynamics Research Group and the School of Earth and Planetary Sciences. ;

The team's simulation showed that due to the fact that Earth has been cooling for billions of years since its formation, the thickness and strength of the tectonic plates beneath the oceans have reduced over time. As a result, the formation of a new supercontinent is more likely to happen by the closing up of the Pacific Ocean. Reducing by a few centimeters per year, the Pacific Ocean's current reach of 10,000 kilometers will close up in less than 300 million years.

"The resulting new supercontinent has already been named Amasia because some believe that the Pacific Ocean will close when America collides with Asia. Australia is also expected to play a role in this important Earth event, first colliding with Asia and then connecting America and Asia once the Pacific Ocean closes," Huang said.

Changes in the distribution of continents and oceans will cause changes in climates, "particularly when ocean currents are stopped by continental collision, or new ocean currents are formed when continents break apart," said study coauthor Zheng-Xiang Li, distinguished professor in Curtin's School of Earth and Planetary Sciences. "Earth, as we know, will be completely different when Amasia forms. The sea level is expected to be lower, and the vast interior of the supercontinent will be very dry with high daily temperature ranges."

Researchers expect more earthquakes as the continental plates collide. Surrounded by a new super ocean, the newly formed supercontinent will also have decreased biodiversity.

Scientists are still trying to understand Earth's supercontinent cycle, which is driven by heat and gravity. The research team wants to establish how Earth's tectonic plates started and when the first continents formed, as well as what kicked off the supercontinent cycle. "We are only starting to look at the entire Earth system, from its core to its atmosphere, as a closely linked system that evolved together," Li said.

28. What leads to the formation of the new supercontinent?

A. The rising temperature of the Earth.

B. The expansion of the Pacific Ocean.

C. The reduced strength of the tectonic plates.

D. The appearance of many new tectonic plates.

29. What is believed by some scientists about the new supercontinent?

A. The involving parts.　　B. Its climate pattern.

C. The way it breaks apart.　　D. Its distance from Australia.

30. What will probably happen to the newly formed supercontinent?

A. There will be a rise in the sea level.

B. There will be lots of water in its interior.

C. The variety of its living things will be reduced.

D. Its temperature will stay the same all year around.

31. What does the last paragraph mainly want to show?

A. The entire Earth system faces an uncertain future.

B. The origin of the supercontinent cycle is hard to trace.

C. The Earth's supercontinent cycle will pose a big threat.

D. There is more to discover about the supercontinent cycle.

Mark Twain was dismissive of those people who think it is possible for someone to learn how to write a novel. "A man who is not born with the novel-writing gift has a troublesome time when he tries to build a novel," he said. "He has no clear idea of his story. In fact, he has no story."

British writer Stephen Fry puts it another way. He says that successful authors are those who know just how difficult it is to write a book.

These days, however, technology is making the life of an author a little easier. For Michael Green, a US data scientist-turned-novelist, the need to use technology to simplify and streamline the writing process came when he was in the middle of writing his first book.

With 500 pages of a complex story written, he recalls that the process became difficult to manage: "I had all these documents on the deeper aspects of the world I was creating. I was worried about not being able to keep track of it all. That is when I switched into my more data science-minded approach to solving a complex problem with a lot of different places."

The end result was that Mr Green created Lynit, a digital platform to help authors plan and weave together the many elements that form a story, such as the themes, characters and major events." Once the authors get a new idea that they want to bring into the story, with Lynit they are able to input it into a natural framework," he said, "As new ideas come in, they change, maybe by creating new nodes (节点) and new relationships."

Once the book has been published, technology is also playing an ever-increasing role in publicity and connecting with readers. Websites and apps from specialist firms allow authors to participate in live question-and-answer sessions with their readers.

Michael Green believes technology will become even more important as a new generation of tech-savvy(精通技术的) writers become more well known. "What I'm finding with Generation Zand even younger writers is that they are looking for technology to give them guidance," he said. “They see it as a tool to learn and grow with rather than extra work.”

32. What can we learn from Michael Green's writing experience?

A. It is really difficult to become a writer.

B. Writers can be creative in using technology.

C. Technology can be a helpful tool to writers.

D. Writers need to adopt different writing approaches.

33. What is an advantage of technology according to the text?

A. It can translate thoughts into sentences.

B. It brings authors closer to their readers.

C. It makes it possible for anyone to be a writer.

D. It can inspire authors to produce more good ideas.

34. What can be inferred from the last paragraph?

A. New technology matters to young writers.

B. Young writers rely too heavily on technology.

C. The new generation of writers should be tech-savvy.

D. Tech-savvy writers become known thanks to technology.

35.What is the writer's attitude towards the writing-assistance technology?

A. Critical B. Favorable C. Unconcerned D. doubtful

2.【Z20 名校联盟(浙江省名校新高考研究联盟)2023-2024 学年高三上学期第一次联考】

C

Consider the possibility that all human technology started with a mistake— or at least a lack of hand-eye coordination. In a new study published on Friday in Science Advances, Lydia Luncz and Tomos Proffitt, both at the Max Planck Institute for Evolutionary Anthropology in Leipzig, Germany, argue that mistakenly created flakes（薄片） may have been our ancient ancestors' or other now-extinct early human relatives" first step toward creating the sharp-edged tools that they used to butcher animals and cut edible plants.

To do their research, Luncz and Proffitt traveled to an abandoned oil palm plantation near Thailand's Phang

Nga Bay and collected more than 1, 100 pieces of nut-cracking stones used by a troop of long-tailed macaques （猕猴）. Macaques crack open oil palm nuts by placing them on a flat stone and striking their shell with another stone. These monkeys often miss the nut and accidentally break the stones, producing sharp flakes. Luncz and Proffitt analyzed these stones, which revealed a surprising fact: The flakes that the macaques unintentionally produced looked a lot like the oldest stone tools that were intentionally made by hominins （古人类）.

Macaques don't use the sharp flakes they create for anything, Luncz adds, noting that the monkeys have sharp teeth and don't need cutting tools. The similar ancient stone tools collected from some of the earliest known sites, however, show evidence of being used for cutting tasks. For example, in Oldowan, a site dating between 3. 3 million and 1. 5 million years ago, researchers analyzed use-wear patterns on the tools and found that some of the flakes showed damage along their edges, indicating that they had been used for cutting. Cut marks on some fossils revealed that hominins had used stone tools for butchering the animals, making it clear that the sharp stone tools were anything but unintentional by-products of other pounding activities.

Despite the findings, to reveal the mechanism for the emergence of flake technology, researchers still need to learn how hominins made the leap from accidentally producing sharp flakes to picking them up and using them. Luncz and Proffitt hope to find the missing link in further studies.

28. What can we learn from paragraph 2?

A. The two researchers went to Thailand and collected 1, 100 flakes.

B. Long-tailed macaques used the flakes to crack open oil palm nuts.

C. Macaques deliberately produced flakes for cutting by breaking stones.

D. The flakes produced by macaques were similar to hominins' stone tools.

29. Why does the author mention the Oldowan site in paragraph 3?

A. To provide specific proof.　　B. To clarify a complex concept.

C. To present an interesting fact.　　D. To make a detailed comparison.

30. What will Luncz and Proffitt probably focus on in their future study?

A. Why macaques create flakes.　　B. Why hominins used stone tools.

C. How macaques cut food with flakes.　　D. How hominins began using flakes.

31. What is the best title of the passage?

A. A mistake: the origin of human technology.

B. Flake technology: from macaques to hominins.

C. Pounding activities: on human evolutionary course.

D. A missing link: long-tailed macaques create flakes.

D

MICROSOFT says it has used the natural language AI ChatGPT, created by the company OpenAI, to control a range of robots with simple text commands.

The chatbot was trained on a vast amount of data, including source code. It has previously demonstrated the ability to write software based on text and even to fix errors in existing code. Microsoft has now used the AI to take text commands from humans and interpret them into code that can control robots directly. In one test, ChatGPT wrote code to instruct a robotic arm to create a Microsoft logo from wooden blocks. In another, it steered a drone to reach a point while avoiding obstacles. The research was intended "to see if ChatGPT can think beyond text, and reason about the physical world to help with robotics tasks".

ChatGPT isn't in direct, real-time control of the robot, but simply creates the code that controls it. Microsoft said in its blog post that ChatGPT output shouldn't be applied directly to a robot without "careful analysis", but experts wan that it is risky to even begin thinking about placing AI in control of physical machines.

Mark Coeckelbergh at the University of Vienna, Austria, says that regulations may be needed in order to set out where AI can be used and who is responsible should things go wrong. "It's a very dangerous thing to just say "let's give control of these computers to AI', " says Coeckelbergh. "The problem with contemporary artificial intelligence is that it's not transparent to the user. That's a huge problem. "

Others were sceptical about the ability of language models to program robots for complex tasks. Kathleen Richardson at De Montfort University Leicester, UK, says that AI language models are convincing mimics （模仿者）, but that their real ability-including their adaptability to control robots-is often **exaggerated**. "I think Microsoft, and most people who design robots, have too much confidence in what they can do, " she says.

32. Which function doesn't belong to ChatGPT according to MICROSOFT?

A. Create code. B. Correct code errors.

C. Write software. D. Control robots directly.

33. What can we infer from paragraph 3?

A. Experts agree that we can apply AI to code analysis.

B. Experts warn against the idea of using AI to control robots.

C. Microsoft believes ChatGPT output should be used indirectly.

D. ChatGPT output has been widely applied after careful analysis.

34. What does the underlined word "exaggerated" in the last paragraph mean?

A. Neglected. B. Simplified. C. Overestimated. D. Praised.

35. What is the author's attitude towards the ability of ChatGPT to control robots?

A. Objective. B. Favorable. C. Critical. D. Indifferent.

3.【广东省七校联合体 2023-2024 学年高三上学期第一次联考】

C

People trained to detect lies often rely on multiple signs, such as eye contact, length of responses and the details in what people say, but studies have shown that assessing a wide range of behavioural information can make it harder to decide if someone is lying. Bruno Verschuere at the University of Amsterdam and his colleagues wondered whether solely focusing on the detail of statements could provide more consistent results.

To test this idea, researchers asked 44 students to go for a walk or steal from a mock (模仿的) crime. Students were instructed to lie if they committed the fake theft.

Next, the researchers recruited 171 people to watch six truthful and six deceptive (欺骗的) interviews from these recordings, ranking interviewees' eye contact and detail level. The results revealed that both truth-tellers and liars averted (转移) their gaze a similar amount, but truthful statements were substantially more detailed than deceptive ones, suggesting the latter is a more useful way to tell that someone is lying.

The researchers then asked 405 people to judge the true nature of six truthful and six deceptive statements randomly chosen from the interviews. Around half of the participants used multiple cues to identify liars. The remaining participants solely ranked the level of detail in answers on a scale of 1 to 10, with1 a 6 or above counting as truthful. Those using multiple cues distinguished lies from the truth 59% of the time, while those relying solely on detail achieved 66%.

"Our take is that using just one cue can provide a simpler way to judge lies from the truth," says Verschuere. Nevertheless, in the real world, you would probably need to confirm the accuracy of statements through extra further investigations or follow-up questions, he says.

8. Bruno Verschuere and his colleagues conducted the research to confirm that _____.

A. behavioral information played a vital role in finding out the truth

B. people should be trained to detect lies by referring to multiple cues

C. truthtellers and liars shared something in common when performing the task

D. it's relatively easier to identify liars by relying only on the detail of statements

9. What can we learn from paragraph 3 and 4?

A. Liars turned away their eyes more often than truth-tellers.

B. Truthful statements included considerably more details than deceptive ones.

C. It's difficult for participants to detect liars by using multiple cues like eye contact.

D. Participants who relied on one cue can distinguish lies from the truth faultlessly.

10. What did Verschuere think of the real-life application of his research?

A. It had some limitations.

B. It made no sense.

C. It could be perfectly applied.

D. It had no potential market.

11. What's the purpose of the passage?

A. To introduce readers to the classification of lies.

B. To encourage readers to apply the results in real life.

C. To warn readers of psychological harm of telling a lie.

D. To inform readers of scientific findings on detecting liars.

D

In the animal kingdom, mimics (模仿) are not rare. Stick insects pretend to be twigs. Hawk moth caterpillars resemble poisonous snakes. The examples, though, are visual. Auditory mimicry is rarer. Danilo Russo of the University of Naples Federico II thinks he has found a novel case of it, as he describes in Current Biology. Some bats, he believes, mimic angry bees in order to scare away owls that might otherwise eat them.

Dr. Russo first noticed bat buzzing a few years ago. The noise struck him as similar to the sound of some bees. He wondered whether bat buzzing was a form of mimicry which helped to scare off would-be predators.

To test this idea, he and his colleagues first recorded the buzzing that captured bats made. Then, with protective clothing, they began the more dangerous task of recording the buzzing made by different bees. Computer analysis revealed that bees' and bats' buzzing were, indeed, similar.

Then the researchers recruited several owls. They put the owls, one at a time, in an enclosure with branches for them to stay on, and two boxes with holes in them. They placed a loudspeaker alongside one of the boxes and, after the birds had settled in, broadcast through it five seconds of uninterrupted bat buzzing and a similar amount of insect buzzing three times in a row for each noise. As a control, they broadcast in like manner several non-buzzing sounds made by bats.

During the broadcasts and for five minutes thereafter, they videoed the owls. After analysis, the results were **unequivocal**. When they heard both the bat buzzing and the bee buzzing, the owls moved as far from the speakers as they could. In contrast, when the non-buzzing bat sounds were played, they crept closer.

Dr. Russo believes this is the first reported case of a mammal using auditory mimicry to scare away a predator.

They strongly suspect, however, that it is not unique. Anecdotes suggest several birds also make buzzing noises when their nests are disturbed. And with the result of the experiment, he therefore predicts that auditory mimicry is far more widespread than currently realized.

12. What was Dr. Russo's assumption of the study?

A. Bats imitate the voice of angry bees to frighten away enemies.

B. The buzzing of bats is similar to the sound of some bees.

C. Auditory mimicry is rather common in the animal kingdom.

D. Only some bats have the capacity of auditory mimicry.

13. How did Dr. Russo test his idea?

A. By consulting experts in this field. B. By referring to other scholars' analysis.

C. By collecting computer data. D. By conducting series of scientific experiments.

14. What does the underlined word "unequivocal" in paragraph 5 possibly mean?

A. Disappointing. B. Controversial. C. Definite. D. Uncertain.

15. What is a suitable title for the text?

A. A New Trick to Scare Away Owls B. Animal Mimicry: Buzz off

C. A Self-protection Behavior among Animals D. Bats: No More Victim to Owls

4.【湖南天壹名校联盟2024届高三9月大联考英语】

C

For 85 years, the Harvard Study of Adult Development has tracked an original group of 724 men and more than 1,300 of their male and female descendants (后代) over three generations, asking thousands of questions and taking hundreds of measurements to find out what really keeps people healthy and happy.

Through all the years of studying these lives, one crucial factor stands out for the consistency and power of its bond to physical health, mental health and longevity: good relationships.

In 2008, researchers telephoned the wives and husbands of Harvard Study couples in their 80s every night for eight nights. Researchers spoke to each partner separately and asked them a series of questions about their days.

On days when these men and women spent more time in the company of others, they were happier. Like most older people, those in the Harvard Study experienced day-to-day rises and falls in their levels of physical pain and health difficulties. But researchers found that the people who were in more satisfying relationships were cushioned (缓冲) somewhat from these ups and downs of mood—their happiness did not decline as much on the days when

they had more pain. Simply put, their happy marriages seemed to have a protective effect.

Elizabeth Gillespie, a therapist of couples, stated that although most of us found that our experience of relationships might be hard, and at times, impossible, it is essential to our well-being.

Today we live in much more complicated environments, so meeting our social needs presents different challenges. We might be sitting on a gold mine of vitality that we are not paying attention to, because it is hidden by the shiny appeal of smartphones or pushed to the side by work demands.

8. What's the purpose of the Harvard Study of Adult Development?

A. To study their lives over three generations.

B. To reveal the secret to health and well-being.

C. To track the descendants of an original group.

D. To study the relationship between health and happiness.

9. How did the researchers carry out the study?

A. By working with other researchers.

B. By tracking specific groups of people.

C. By helping participants with social difficulties.

D. By comparing the results from different people.

10. Why did the author mention the examples in Paragraph 4?

A. To provide evidence for the bond of health and longevity.

B. To introduce the concept of physical pain and health difficulties.

C. To show the negative impact of unhappy marriages on older people's mood.

D. To support the positive impact of satisfying relationships on people's lives.

11. According to Elizabeth Gillespie, what is essential to our well-being?

A. Having good social connections.

B. Declining pains and difficulties.

C. Overcoming ups and downs of mood.

D. Experiencing rises and falls of physical health.

D

It's a reality that food production, biodiversity and carbon storage in ecosystems are competing for the same land. As humans demand more food, so more forests are cleared, and farms become less pleasant to many wild animals and plants. Therefore, global conservation will fail unless it addresses the issue of food production.

Fortunately, some new technologies are being developed that make a system-wide revolution in food

production possible. According to recent research, this transformation could meet increased global food demands by a growing human population on less than 20% of the world's existing farmland.

Around four-fifths of the land is used to produce meat and dairy. Global meat consumption has increased by more than 50% in the past 20 years. Producing all that extra meat will mean either changing even more land into farms, or **cramming** even more cows, chickens and pigs into existing land. Neither option is good for biodiversity.

Unless food production is tackled head-on, we are left with no hope of long-term success. We need to tackle the cause of biodiversity change. The principal global approach to climate change is to focus on the cause and minimize greenhouse gas emissions, not to manufacture (制造) billions of parasols (遮阳伞). The same is required for biodiversity.

Luckily, lab-grown food provides an alternative. The process involves growing animal products from real animal cells, rather than growing actual animals. Animal cruelty would be eliminated and, with no need for cows wandering around in fields, the factory would take up far less space to produce the same amount of meat or milk.

Other emerging technologies include microbial protein production, where bacteria use energy derived (来自) from solar panels to change carbon dioxide and other nutrients into carbohydrates and proteins. This could generate as much protein as soybeans but in just 7% of the area.

It is even possible to generate sugars through extracting CO, from the atmosphere, all without ever passing through a living plant or animal. The resulting sugars are chemically the same as those derived from plants but would be generated in a tiny fraction of the area required by conventional crops.

12. What plays a key role in global conservation?

A. Carbon storage.　　B. Food production.

C. New technology.　　D. Existing farmland.

13. What does the underlined word "cramming" in Paragraph 3 mean?

A. Producing.　　B. Transforming.　　C. Packing.　　D. Dividing.

14. What is the principal global approach to biodiversity change?

A. Focusing on the cause of it.　　B. Developing new technologies.

C. Manufacturing billions of parasols.　　D. Minimizing greenhouse gas emissions.

15. What is the main idea of Paragraph 5 to Paragraph 7?

A. New technologies make lessening farmland possible.

B. Generating sugars requires a tiny fraction of the area.

C. Lab-grown food helps to produce more meat and milk.

D. New technologies have resolved the issue of food production.

5.【山东省齐鲁名校2023-2024学年高三上学期9月第一次学业质量联合检测】

C

You're passed over for a job. Your back aches. Faced with difficulties large and small,you wonder if you're an unlucky person. We turned to experts to understand why we believe in luck and how we can have that belief to make changes in our attitude towards life.

Richard Wiseman, a psychology professor, doesn't believe there's anything magical about luck — it won't help you or hurt you. "On the other hand, considering yourself lucky or unlucky is a way of seeing yourself, which has an impact on how you behave and how you think, and becomes a self-fulfilling anticipation," he says. "So, in a sense, it absolutely does exist."

The sociology lecturer Vik Loveday interviewed academic employees who were on temporary contracts, an uncertain situation that caused anxiety. In general, when one of these academics learned about good news concerning their careers, such as getting a permanent job, they would attribute it to luck. Because they felt they had so little control,a move in a positive direction happened almost by accident, rather than as the result of hard work.

In a 2021 study, Professor Woolley has looked at this idea in children and adulthood. For example, basketball player Michael Jordan would wear his college practice shorts under his National Basketball Association uniform for good luck. "Obviously, it's that the superstitious (迷信的) custom gives him confidence and then he plays better," Woolley says.

Is it possible to change your attitude towards luck to get better outcomes? Wiseman believes some steps can improve your luck. He has found "lucky people not only maximize opportunities and know where they're heading, but often they change course depending on how the wind is going". Lucky people can also transform bad experiences to good. Specifically, you can shift your focus towards the positive by keeping a "luck diary". Also don't be a creature of habit. Watch a different TV program, speak to different people — even small shifts can be effective.

8. What does Wiseman say about luck in paragraph 2?

A. It might be wise to try one's luck.

B. Luck is a magical force to control us.

C. The belief in luck influences our behavior.

D. People's well-being is determined by luck.

9. What is the example of Jordan's lucky shorts used for?

A. Confirming Loveday's study.

B. Showing luck exists in real life.

C. Disapproving Woolley's research.

D. Comparing different lucks in sports.

10. How can we improve our luck according to the last paragraph?

A. Getting into a routine.

B. Sticking to a goal firmly.

C. Setting down terrible things.

D. Making changes flexibly.

11. What can be a suitable title for the text?

A. Less Anxiety, More Luck

B. Good or Bad Luck? Up to You

C. One Can Stay Lucky Through Life

D. Genius — the Mother of Good Luck

D

The steam engine, electric lighting, refrigeration. If you're wondering what these things have in common, they're examples of transformative technologies that lifted worker productivity. Does generative AI belong on that list?

Hardly a day passes without some news of the great things that so-called large language models (LLMs) can do — from writing academic papers to designing buildings — along with projections on how many jobs will be wiped out as companies figure out ways to apply the new technology. But economists are divided on whether the likes of OpenAI's ChatGPT or Google's Bard have the potential to jump-start productivity growth worldwide.

Researchers in a consulting firm project AI will deliver $4.4 trillion in economic benefits annually to the global economy, equal to 4.4% of global output in 2022 Harvard professor Neeley **likens** the birth of generative AI to the arrival of the Internet. "It is exactly that moment we are facing again — that vital moment that forever changes how we work, how we interact with one another, how we think, how we produce. We are at that moment again."

There are plenty of reasons to be skeptical, though. Robert Gordon, a professor at Northwestern University and author of *The Rise and Fall of American Growth*, argues that the Internet and AI haven't been as revolutionary as what economists call general-purpose technologies, such as electricity.

Worries about AI replacing workers have been at the center of a labor dispute in Hollywood writers and actors. A survey by Microsoft found that 49% of the people say they're worried AI will replace their jobs.

On the flip side, blue collar workers could benefit. "It won't change blue-collar work, but it will change who can get out of blue collar work and get into better jobs," an economic historian at Cornell University says. "We are

living through one of those turning points in human history."

12. Why does the author mention OpenAI's ChatGPT and Google's Bard?

A. To introduce a debate. B. To define a concept.

C. To make a prediction. D. To explain a technology.

13. What does the underlined word "likens" mean in paragraph 3?

A. Contributes. B. Attaches. C. Compares. D. Changes.

14. What can we know about Robert Gordon?

A. He is in favor of AI. B. He acts as an electricity professor.

C. He is an economist and author. D. He suspects AI's revolutionary role.

15. What does the economic historian think about blue collar work in the AI-era?

A. Doubtful. B. Promising. C. Fascinating. D. Worrying.

6.【安徽省江淮名校十校联盟 2024 届高三第一次大联考】

Decisions in life are rarely black and white but usually involve shades of gray. At dinner time, the decision you face is not between fasting and eating like a pig, but whether to take that extra spoonful of food. When exams are around the corner, your decision is not between quitting them and studying 24 hours a day, but whether to spend an extra hour reviewing your notes. Economists use the term "marginal changes" to describe minor adjustments to an existing plan of action.

In many situations, people make the best decisions by thinking at the margin. Margin means "edge", so marginal changes are adjustments around the edges of what you are doing. Suppose, for instance, that you ask a friend for advice about how many years to stay in school. If he compares the lifestyle of a person with a Ph. D. to that of a grade school dropout, you might complain that this comparison is not helpful for your decision. You have some education already and most likely are deciding whether to spend an extra year or two in school. To make this decision, you need to know the additional benefits that an extra year in school would offer (higher salaries throughout life and the pure joy of learning) and the additional costs that you would pay (tuition and the forgone salaries while you are in school). By comparing these marginal benefits and marginal costs, you can evaluate whether the extra year is worthwhile.

Individuals and firms can make better decisions by thinking at the margin. A rational decision-maker takes action if and only if the marginal benefit of the action exceeds the marginal cost.

28. What does "fasting" underlined in Paragraph 1 mean?

A. Eating or drinking a lot. B. Eating little or no food.

C. Eating on a regular basis. D. Eating without appetite.

29. Why does the author give an example in Paragraph 2?

A. To explain marginal thinking. B. To solve real-life problems.

C. To evaluate marginal thinking. D. To encourage adjustments.

30. What can we infer from the text?

A. It is unnecessary to make minor adjustments to plans.

B. Comparison makes little sense in decision-making.

C. People often weigh up benefits and costs of decisions.

D. Marginal changes are controversial among individuals.

31. Which of the following can be the best title for the text?

A. Marginal Thinking Leads to Better Decisions

B. Marginal Benefit Goes beyond Marginal Cost

C. Rational Thinkers Exist in All Aspects of Life

D. Pleasure Results from Effective Comparison

After waking up, you may feel frustrated that you cannot recall the dreams you had last night. Artificial Intelligence (AI) may be able to help.

Previously, there have been AI models that can turn texts into images. They do this by learning from a large amount of data from both texts and images. This time, researchers from Osaka University in Japan have trained an AI system called Stable Diffusion to recreate images directly based on people's brain scans, Science magazine reported.

The researchers used an online data set provided by the University of Minnesota, which consisted of brain scans from four participants as they each viewed a set of 10, 000 photos. The scans were recorded by functional magnetic resonance imaging (fMRI). The AI then learned about the participants' brain activities by analyzing changes in blood flow shown by the fMRI data—when a part of the brain is activated, more blood will flow to it. It then matched the brain activity with the photos. Through this method, the AI learned how human brains would react when seeing different photos. Finally, the researchers tested the AI on additional brain scans from the same participants when they viewed photos of objects.

If the person looked at an airplane, for example, the AI would use the brain scan data to create an image of a very blurry (模糊的) airplane. Then, it would turn on the previous “text-to-image” model and improve the quality

of the image by feeding itself the keyword “airplane”. The final images were “convincing” to about 80 percent accuracy, according to the researchers.

The new study created a novel approach that combines texts and images to “decode the brain”. According to Ariel Goldstein from Princeton University, in the future, the technology can be used to record imagined thoughts and dreams or allow people to understand how differently other animals perceive (感知) reality.

32. What is Stable Diffusion meant to do?

A. Scan people's brains. B. Turn texts into images.

C. Use brain scans to rebuild images. D. Record relevant experimental data.

33. How did the AI learn about the participants' brain activities?

A. By analyzing changes in blood flow. B. By asking the participants questions.

C. By comparing different brain scans. D. By referring to previous AI models.

34. What can we learn from the text?

A. Dreams can hardly be forgotten by us. B. Texts and images help decode the brain.

C. People's brains are affected by fMRI. D. The AI creates clear images of objects at first.

35. What does Ariel Goldstein say about the technology?

A. It has been adopted in many countries. B. Its development is far from satisfactory.

C. It is lacking in convincing evidence. D. Its application has a great prospect.

7.【2024 届福建省三明市等 5 地高三上学期一模英语试题】

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A robot created at Standford University is diving down to shipwrecks (沉船) in a way that humans can’t do. Known as OceanOneK, the robot allows its operators to feel like they’re underwater explorers, too.

OceanOneK resembles (像) a human diver from the front, with arms, hands and eyes that capture the underwater world in full color. The back of the robot has computers and eight multidirectional thrusters (推进器) that help it carefully explore the sites of fragile shipwrecks. When an operator at the ocean’s surface uses controls to direct OceanOneK, the robot’s touch-based feedback system causes the person to feel the water’s resistance.

The idea for OceanOneK came from a desire to study coral reefs in the Red Sea at depths beyond the normal range for divers. While OccanOneK was designed to reach maximum depths of 656 feet, researchers had a new goal:1 kilometer, hence the new name for OceanOneK. The researchers changed the robot’s body by using special foam to increase buoyancy (浮力) and fight the pressures of 1, 000 meters more than 100 times what humans

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