



## B

Topiary, the practice of training plants into defined shapes, might remind people of scenes from *Alice in Wonderland*. Michael Gibson believes its lessons go beyond the aesthetic (审美). “Topiary teaches patience. After trimming (修剪), you have to wait for new growth,” he explained. “It can also reduce anxiety and improve focus.” In other words, it benefits both plants and humans.

To that end, Gibson uses his training in therapeutic horticulture (疗愈园艺) to serve communities. He is known for his distinctive style, based on what he calls the “Gibson method,” which has five elements: storytelling; geometry for balance and harmony; a special tree-trimming technique that shapes trees; visual effects for striking appearances; and directional trimming, which smooths the surface like brushing hair.

Depending on the plant variety and location, a single tree can take 5 to 10 hours to complete, while larger projects may take 20 to 30 hours and need to be maintained two or three times a year. At home in South Carolina, he retrims his topiaries every six to eight weeks, and a design can take years to fully develop.

Gibson started developing his signature method early in life. His mother, a beautician, taught him to cut hair, and his artist father introduced him to the fundamentals of art — geometric shapes, proportional faces, and 3D images. After years of practice in the yard, he turned topiary into a side job while doing other work. Gradually, clients and neighbors noticed his vision, and by 2021 he transformed it into a full-time career, focusing on and continuing to refine his topiary art.

Gibson is now creating a therapeutic sensory garden. He hopes it will be a place both children and adults keep returning to, while teaching them lessons in horticulture they can apply in everyday life. “When we’re throwing away dead wood and branches we don’t need anymore, think of those as bad habits,” he said. “You need to cut off the bad habits so they don’t affect your design later. That’s a life lesson.”

24. Which aspect of topiary does Gibson stress in paragraph 1?
- A. Its aesthetic value.                      B. Its psychological benefits.  
C. Its traditional methods.                D. Its commercial potential.
25. Which of the following best describes the Gibson method?
- A. Tech-driven.              B. Time-efficient.              C. Straightforward.              D. Multidimensional.
26. What is paragraph 4 mainly about?
- A. The impact of family education.              B. Gibson’s path to his craft.  
C. The challenge of topiary career.              D. The popularity of topiary art.
27. What is the life lesson from horticulture according to Gibson?
- A. Life is a journey of rises and falls.              B. Beauty is in the eye of the beholder.  
C. Removing what holds us back helps us grow.              D. What doesn’t defeat you makes you stronger.

## C

Many people believe that confidence comes from ability. In other words, if someone speaks with certainty, they must know what they are talking about. However, psychological research suggests that the opposite can also be true: individuals with limited ability may display surprisingly high levels of confidence while remaining largely unaware of their limitations. This phenomenon is known as the Dunning-Kruger effect.

People with this cognitive (认知的) bias tend to believe they are far more capable than they really are. Because they know little about a subject, they often mistake their limited understanding for real competence and remain unaware of how much they do not know.

This idea was first examined by psychologists David Dunning and Justin Kruger. In a series of experiments, participants were asked to complete tests involving grammar, logical reasoning, and humor. After finishing the tasks, they were asked to estimate how well they had performed. To the researchers' surprise, participants who scored in the lowest group consistently rated their performance much higher than it actually was. For example, those in the bottom 12% often believed they had performed above average. In contrast, participants who achieved high scores tended to underestimate their performance.

According to researchers, this pattern can be explained by a "dual burden." The skills needed to perform a task well are also required to judge one's own performance. When people lack these skills, they not only make more mistakes but also fail to assess their performance accurately.

The Dunning-Kruger effect has important real-world consequences, as it discourages individuals from seeking feedback or further study. To overcome this, one must understand that true confidence is built on accurate self-awareness. It is developed through continuous learning, actively seeking constructive criticism, and, most crucially, by grounding self-assessment in measurable standards, such as test scores, recorded progress, or expert feedback, rather than merely relying on subjective feelings. This practice not only clarifies what one knows but also sharpens one's ability to judge that knowledge.

28. According to paragraph 3, participants who scored lowest on the tests \_\_\_\_\_.
- A. overestimated their performance                      B. took more time to finish the tests  
C. doubted the reliability of the results                D. focused more on others' performance
29. Why does the author mention the term "dual burden" ?
- A. To explain the underlying cause of overconfidence.  
B. To introduce a new method for psychological testing.  
C. To contrast the different burdens faced by participants.  
D. To emphasize the difficulty of performing complex tasks.
30. What does developing true confidence involve?
- A. Intense competition and high ambition.            B. Powerful inspiration and active learning.  
C. Critical thinking and self-encouragement.        D. Objective evaluation and honest reflection.
31. What might be the best title for the text?
- A. When Cognitive Bias Clouds Thinking            B. Why Self-Awareness Can Shape Ability  
C. When Confidence Outruns Competence            D. Why Overconfidence Can Be a Good Thing

## D

What if we could fight farm weeds with a precise strike instead of blanket chemicals? This vision is now becoming a reality in the farmlands of China. The Hg LaserWeeder, a new machine developed by Huagong Tech, marks a major breakthrough in precision agriculture by making targeted weed control a practical reality.

This advancement responds directly to the persistent problems associated with traditional farming. Decades of heavy reliance on chemical herbicides (除草剂) have caused significant environmental harm, including soil degradation and water pollution. For China, a nation with vast agricultural lands, finding a sustainable solution is a matter of particular urgency.

So, how does this “robot farmer” work? At its core, it combines artificial intelligence with advanced light technology. Its AI-powered visual system, trained on a vast database of plant images, acts as a smart “eye” that can distinguish weeds from crops in milliseconds. Once a weed is spotted, the robot delivers a precise laser beam (激光束) to each weed’s growth center, destroying key cells and causing the plant to die naturally, all without harming the surrounding crops or the soil.

The advantages of this approach are substantial. In terms of efficiency, an advanced model equipped with 32 laser heads can destroy up to 320,000 weeds per hour, which is four to eight times more efficient than traditional methods. Through continuous operation, it achieves a weed control rate of over 95%, far outperforming hand weeding and **obviating** the need for this back-breaking task. Ecologically, it significantly reduces the use of chemicals, thereby cutting off a primary source of agricultural pollution.

The introduction of this technology is part of a broader shift toward automated and sustainable agriculture in China and abroad. As farms worldwide seek to enhance efficiency while minimizing environmental impact, robotic solutions like the Hg LaserWeeder are likely to become increasingly common. This technology signals a move toward precision agriculture, where data-driven tools enable farmers to manage their crops with greater accuracy and less dependence on chemicals, pointing the way for a cleaner, more efficient future for farming.

32. What is the main factor behind the development of the Hg LaserWeeder?

- A. The shortage of clean water.
- B. The vast farmlands in China.
- C. The pollution from chemicals.
- D. The failing power of herbicides.

33. What is the main role of the visual system in the Hg LaserWeeder?

- A. To deliver laser beams.
- B. To protect nearby crops.
- C. To capture plant images.
- D. To identify target weeds.

34. What does the underlined word “**obviating**” in paragraph 4 mean?

- A. Facing.
- B. Removing.
- C. Sharing.
- D. Delaying.

35. What can we infer about future agriculture from the last paragraph?

- A. It will rely more on smart robotic tools.
- B. It will witness more global cooperation.
- C. It will prioritize environment over yields.
- D. It will improve the social status of farmers.

第二节（共 5 小题；每小题 2.5 分，满分 12.5 分）

阅读下面短文，从短文后的选项中选出能填入空白处的最佳选项。选项中有两项为多余选项。

Did you know that your stylish jacket or favorite jeans might once have been plastic bottles? This is the world of rPET, also known as recycled polyester (聚酯纤维). \_\_\_36\_\_\_ As a result, a used water bottle can take on a new life as activewear or even high-fashion pieces.

\_\_\_37\_\_\_ First, plastic bottles are collected, sorted, and cleaned. After cleaning, they are cut, melted into liquid, and stretched into thin fibers. These fibers are then spun into yarn (纱线), which can be woven into different kinds of fabric. Finally, the fabric goes through finishing processes such as printing or coating to achieve the desired color, pattern, and performance.

Some people assume that clothing made from “waste” must be cheap or low-quality. It is true that plastic-based fabrics can be less breathable and may feel rough for people with sensitive skin. \_\_\_38\_\_\_ According to a Textile (纺织品) Exchange report, the use of rPET grew by 20% between 2020 and 2021, and made up about 14% of all global polyester production in 2022. This growth comes from rising awareness of both its practical advantages and its environmental value.

In terms of performance, rPET is strong, durable, and quick-drying — qualities that make it ideal for sportswear. \_\_\_39\_\_\_ Beyond performance, rPET supports the environment. Producing it uses 99% less water than producing traditional polyester, an important benefit for water-stressed regions involved in textile manufacturing. It also helps reduce waste. About 25 rPET bottles can be turned into the fibers for one jacket. \_\_\_40\_\_\_

rPET is not a perfect solution to plastic pollution, but it is a meaningful step toward more sustainable fashion and a cleaner planet.

- A. It is also lightweight and wrinkle-resistant.
- B. However, market trends tell a different story.
- C. The transformation happens through several steps.
- D. This keeps millions of plastic bottles out of landfills each year.
- E. Recycling rPET fabric back into new fabric can be challenging.
- F. While it is safe to wear, it releases microplastics when it is washed.
- G. Unlike traditional polyester made from petrol, rPET uses existing plastic.

### 第三部分 语言知识运用（共两节，满分 30 分）

#### 第一节（共 15 小题；每小题 1 分，满分 15 分）

阅读下面短文，从短文后各题所给的 A、B、C 和 D 四个选项中，选出可以填入空白处的最佳选项。

One day, I closed a big deal at work and returned home in a good mood. To \_\_\_41\_\_\_, I decided to play Monopoly with my children. The game started off happily, with everyone \_\_\_42\_\_\_ and excited. At one point, my youngest asked, “Can I pay you later? I want to build this hotel, or I’ll \_\_\_43\_\_\_.” I smiled but said \_\_\_44\_\_\_, “No, that’s not how it works. This is the deal.” My answer \_\_\_45\_\_\_ him, and he immediately broke down, crying loudly.

This moment \_\_\_46\_\_\_ me deeply. I wondered why I made my child cry just over a \_\_\_47\_\_\_. I wondered since when I had become such a serious person. Growing up with two big brothers, I learned to \_\_\_48\_\_\_ to earn my place at home from an early age. Later, in my \_\_\_49\_\_\_, I carried that fighting spirit into business deals. But at home, I was \_\_\_50\_\_\_ how to be gentle and understanding. Even in a simple game, I was treating it like a real \_\_\_51\_\_\_. I had been so used to the work mode that I didn’t realize I was bringing it into family life.

That night, I understood that I needed to \_\_\_52\_\_\_. I had been so caught up in work that I forgot to \_\_\_53\_\_\_ when I was with my family. Life wasn’t a business deal — it was about connection, warmth, and \_\_\_54\_\_\_. From then on, I promised myself to leave my work behind, be more patient, and enjoy the \_\_\_55\_\_\_ moments with my children.

- |                  |              |                |                |
|------------------|--------------|----------------|----------------|
| 41. A. compete   | B. conclude  | C. celebrate   | D. cooperate   |
| 42. A. trusted   | B. engaged   | C. relieved    | D. addicted    |
| 43. A. lose      | B. reply     | C. forget      | D. regret      |
| 44. A. gently    | B. proudly   | C. seriously   | D. hesitantly  |
| 45. A. confused  | B. impressed | C. interrupted | D. upset       |
| 46. A. hurt      | B. struck    | C. shamed      | D. inspired    |
| 47. A. deal      | B. task      | C. game        | D. goal        |
| 48. A. wait      | B. fight     | C. prepare     | D. forgive     |
| 49. A. career    | B. education | C. training    | D. investment  |
| 50. A. learning  | B. ensuring  | C. pretending  | D. forgetting  |
| 51. A. lesson    | B. success   | C. adventure   | D. negotiation |
| 52. A. return    | B. change    | C. defend      | D. explain     |
| 53. A. step back | B. show up   | C. settle down | D. look around |
| 54. A. honesty   | B. rewards   | C. efforts     | D. presence    |
| 55. A. busy      | B. tense     | C. simple      | D. crucial     |

第二节（共 10 小题；每小题 1.5 分，满分 15 分）

阅读下面短文，在空白处填入 1 个适当的单词或括号内单词的正确形式。

Located in the historic Dashilan area of Beijing's Qianmen district, the Daguanlou Cinema is one of the earliest cinemas in China and is celebrated \_\_\_56\_\_\_ the birthplace of Chinese film, representing the lasting legacy (遗产) of cinematic art and modern \_\_\_57\_\_\_ (innovate).

In 1905, Ren Qingtai, owner of Fengtai Photo Studio, invited Peking Opera master Tan Xinpei to star in an opera movie \_\_\_58\_\_\_ (name) *Dingjun Mountain*. Classic scenes like "Requesting Orders," "Swordplay," and "Battle" \_\_\_59\_\_\_ (film) as silent movie parts. These were first shown at the then-called Daguanlou Theater on December 28, 1905, \_\_\_60\_\_\_ (mark) the beginning of Chinese cinema's journey.

Today, the Daguanlou Theater has evolved (演变) into the Daguanlou Cinema, \_\_\_61\_\_\_ ground floor hosts a living museum, displaying stills from *Dingjun Mountain*, classic posters, and historical film projectors. Walking through, visitors can \_\_\_62\_\_\_ (direct) experience the century-old story of Chinese cinema.

In recent years, beyond developing film-related products, it \_\_\_63\_\_\_ (establish) strong ties with the Dashilan area, emerging as a dynamic model for cultural tourism that attracts many domestic and overseas tourists with its \_\_\_64\_\_\_ (character) mix of movie screenings, shopping, and tea appreciation.

The cinema's fusion (融合) of the old and the new offers \_\_\_65\_\_\_ unique experience, attracting young audiences seeking a connection with the past while enjoying modern comfort.

第四部分 写作（共两节，满分 40 分）

第一节（满分 15 分）

你校英文报 Youth Voices 最近发起主题为 "My Ideal AI Learning Partner" 的征文活动，请你写一篇短文投稿，内容包括：

- (1) 它的样貌；
- (2) 它的功能。

注意：微信公众号 IAI English

- (1) 写作词数应为 80 左右；
- (2) 可适当增加细节，使内容充实、行文连贯。

***My Ideal AI Learning Partner***

第二节（满分 25 分）微信公众号 IAI English

阅读下面材料，根据其内容和所给段落开头语续写两段，使之构成一篇完整的短文。

Lily and I were huge Harry Potter fans. Since third grade, we had spent our lunch breaks pretending to fly on paper broomsticks (扫帚) and dreaming about receiving our own acceptance letters from Hogwarts. So when Lily showed me her most treasured book — a first-edition copy of *Harry Potter and the Philosopher's Stone* passed down from her aunt — my eyes widened in amazement. It wasn't just a book. It was a passport to our magical world.

After weeks of begging, she finally agreed to lend it to me. "Please be careful with it," she said as she handed it over.

I held it tightly against my chest and promised, "I'll guard it with my life!"

But that promise lasted only three hours.

On my way home, I held the book close, protecting it from the rain with my umbrella. Suddenly, a car drove through a puddle (水坑) nearby. I jumped back in surprise, and the book slipped from my hands. It fell right into the muddy water. I grabbed it immediately, my heart racing. The beautiful cover was now spotted with mud. When I opened it, my stomach dropped. There, on our favorite picture of Harry flying on his broomstick, was a tear running right through his broom.

That night, I couldn't sleep. I kept staring at the damaged page, feeling terrible. Part of me wanted to lie and blame a runaway dog. Maybe Lily would believe me. But deep down, I knew that running away from my mistake wouldn't make it disappear — not the tear in the book, and not the guilt in my heart.

So I decided to fix the book the way Lily would like: with a bit of magic. What if the tear wasn't just a tear, but a line of shining light? I pulled out my toolbox, found a gold pen, and took out some Harry Potter stickers I had been saving for years. My eyes landed on one particular sticker — a broomstick with wings. What if that broomstick had been flying beside Harry all along?

注意：微信公众号 IAI English

- (1) 续写词数应为 150 左右；
- (2) 请按如下格式在答题卡的相应位置作答。

**Paragraph 1:** *With these ideas in mind, I opened the book to the damaged page.* \_\_\_\_\_

微信公众号 IAI English

**Paragraph 2:** *The next morning, I walked up to Lily with the book in my hands.* \_\_\_\_\_