



B

Still seeking a destination for your weekend break? There are some places which are probably a mere walk away from your college.

Kling's Art Centre

A day at the Centre could mean a visit to an exhibition of the work of one of the most interesting contemporary artists on show anywhere. This weekend sees the opening of an exhibition of four local artists.

You could attend a class teaching you how to 'learn from the masters' or get more creative with paint — free of charge.

The Centre also runs two life drawing classes for which there is a small fee.

The Botanic Garden

The Garden has over 8,000 plant species; it holds the research and teaching collection of living plants for Cambridge University.

The multi-branched *Torch Aloe* here is impressive. The African plant produces red flowers above blue-green leaves, and is not one to miss.

Get to the display house to see *Dionaea muscipula*, a plant more commonly known as the Venus Flytrap that feeds on insects and other small animals.

The Garden is also a place for wildlife-enthusiasts. Look for grass snakes in the lake. A snake called 'Hissing Sid' is regularly seen lying in the heat of the warm sun.

Byron's Pool

Many stories surround Lord Byron's time as a student of Cambridge University. Arriving in 1805, he wrote a letter complaining that it was a place of "mess and drunkenness". However, it seems as though Byron did manage to pass the time pleasantly enough. I'm not just talking about the pet bear he kept in his rooms. He spent a great deal of time walking in the village.

It is also said that on occasion Byron swam naked by moonlight in the lake, which is now known as Byron's Pool. A couple of miles past Grantchester in the south Cambridgeshire countryside, the pool is surrounded by beautiful circular paths around the fields. The cries of invisible birds make the trip a lovely experience and on the way home you can drop into the village for afternoon tea. If you don't trust me, then perhaps you'll take it from Virginia Woolf — over a century after Byron, she reportedly took a trip to swim in the same pool.

61. As mentioned in the passage, there is a small charge for _____.
- attending the masters' class
 - working with local artists
 - ✓ learning life drawing
 - seeing an exhibition

62. "Torch Aloe" and "Venus Flytrap" are _____.
- common insects
 - ✓ impressive plants
 - rarely-seen snakes
 - wildlife-enthusiasts
63. We can infer from the passage that Byron seemed _____.
- to fear pet bears
 - ✓ to like walking
 - to be a heavy drinker
 - to finish university in 1805
64. In the passage Byron's Pool is described as a lake _____.
- ✓ surrounded by fields
 - owned by Lord Byron
 - located in Grantchester
 - discovered by Virginia Woolf
65. What is the passage mainly about?
- ✓ Some places for weekend break.
 - A way to become creative in art.
 - The colourful life in the countryside.
 - Unknown stories of Cambridge University.

C

Harvard researchers have created a tough, low-cost, biodegradable (可生物降解的) material inspired by insects' hard outer shells. The material's inventors say it has a number of possible uses and someday could provide a more environmentally friendly alternative to plastic. The material, made from shrimp (虾) shells and proteins produced from silk, is called "shrilk." It is thin, clear, flexible and strong.

A major benefit of the material is its biodegradability. Plastic's toughness and flexibility represented a revolution in materials science during the 1950s and '60s. Decades later, however, plastic's very durability (耐用性) is raising questions about how appropriate it is for one-time products such as plastic bags, or short-lived consumer goods, used in the home for a few years and then cast into a landfill where they will degrade for centuries. What is the point of making something that lasts 1,000 years?

Shrilk not only will degrade in a landfill, but its basic components are used as fertilizer (肥料), and so will enrich the soil.

Shrilk has great potential, the inventors said. Materials from which it is made are plentiful in nature, found in everything ranging from shrimp shells, insect bodies to living plants. That makes shrilk low cost, and its mass production possible should it be used for products demanding a lot of material.

Work on shrilk is continuing in the lab. The inventors said the material becomes flexible

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when wet, so they're exploring ways to use it in wet environments. They're also developing simpler production processes, which could be used for non-medical products, like for computer cases and other products inside the home. They're even exploring combining it with other materials, like carbon fibers, to give it new properties.

66. Paragraph 1 of the passage is mainly about shrilk's _____.
- remarkable design
 - interesting name
 - ✓ major features
 - basic elements
67. What has become a concern about plastic?
- ✓ Using it properly.
 - Producing it cheaply.
 - Developing its properties quickly.
 - Evaluating its contributions fairly.
68. According to the inventors, shrilk has great potential partly because _____.
- it can help plastic degrade
 - it can be found in living things
 - its mass production has been realized
 - ✓ its raw materials are abundant in nature
69. What are the inventors doing in the lab?
- Replacing carbon fibers with shrilk.
 - ✓ Testing shrilk's use in wet conditions.
 - Making shrilk out of used household goods.
 - Improving shrilk's flexibility for medical purposes.
70. Which of the following can be the best title for the passage?
- Recent Progress in Environmental Protection
 - Benefits of Insects in Scientific Research
 - The Harm of One-time Products
 - ✓ A Possible Alternative to Plastic

Part IV Writing (45 marks)

Section A (10 marks)

Directions: Read the following passage. Fill in the numbered blanks by using the information from the passage.

Write NO MORE THAN THREE WORDS for each answer.

Since the earliest civilizations, people have controlled rivers to meet society's demands. Today, rivers are controlled for many reasons, primarily to maintain reliable water supplies for daily, agricultural and industrial needs, for power generation, for navigation (航行), and

to prevent flooding.

River control is achieved by channelization, a term that covers a range of river engineering works, including widening, deepening, straightening and stabilization of banks, and by the construction of dams.

An important period of channelization took place in Europe during the 19th century, when many large rivers were straightened and their beds deepened. One of the most dramatically changed was the Tisza River, a branch of the Danube that flows through Hungary. The controlling of the Tisza, designed to reduce flooding and make land for agriculture, included cutting off more than 100 meanders (河曲), shortening the river's length by nearly 400 kilometers.

One of the most common ways in which people control rivers is by damming them. The past 50 years or so has seen an increase in dam construction worldwide, and at the beginning of the 21st century, there were about 800,000 dams globally, some towering more than 200 meters in height.

Despite their successes, many dams also cause significant environmental changes that prove harmful. Some particularly deep reservoirs (水库) can bring about earthquakes due to the stress on their bottom rocks caused by huge volumes of water. Downstream of a reservoir, the river is certainly influenced in many ways: water volume, speed and quality are all affected, leading to changes in the landscape and among plants and animals.

