

## C

Plant-based leathers have the potential to revolutionize the fashion industry. Now, MycoWorks, a California based biotech company, has created a new eco-friendly, vegetal leather derived from mushrooms. The leather turns mycelium (菌丝体)—threads from the root structure of mushrooms—into a material that imitates the look and feel of an animal-based leather.

“It’s the first time that a company has been able to produce a vegetal product which is matching or even exceeding the quality and durability of a natural one. It’s a super achievement,” Patrick Thomas, former Hermès CEO and a member of MycoWorks board of directors, said in a statement.

MycoWorks creates this special material by using engineered mycelium cells. As the cells grow into 3D structures, they become densely intertwined (交织的), eventually forming a tough material, called Fine Mycelium, which has the strength, durability and performance of the traditional leather. The result differs from other vegetal leathers made with mushrooms. Most mushroom leathers are made from compressed solid foam that mycelium forms naturally, but without engineering, they lack the same look and feel as an animal-based leather.

Fine Mycelium can grow in trays (托盘). These trays can be designed to fit a designer’s exact specifications, avoiding any waste. After Fine Mycelium is harvested, it is tanned (鞣色) and finished to look and feel like an animal leather.

Last year, luxury fashion brand Hermès debuted their Victoria bag, which featured MycoWork’s Fine Mycelium material. Other companies, including Adidas with their Mylo-made Stan Smith shoes and Lululemon with their mushroom-based yoga products, have also jumped on the eco-friendly trend.

The use of plant-based leathers comes during a time when scientists and innovators are trying to come up with solutions for the climate crisis and animal agriculture. Environmentally, manufacturing animal-based leathers creates **havoc** because of deforestation and methane emissions connected to the animals raised for leathers.

However, some experts criticize the new mushroom-based leather because it is currently only available as a rare item. For the material to be a truly sustainable option and make a major impact, it would need to be more accessible. They question whether the company can provide designers with enough material to create their products.

28. What is special about MycoWorks’ new leather?

- A. It is the first to be made from mycelium.
- B. It is an eco-friendly and vegetal produce.
- C. It is the first-ever mushroom-based leather.
- D. It is comparable with the animal-based leather.

29. What can we learn from the text?

- A. MycoWorks has been partly financed by Hermès.
- B. MycoWorks’ new leather has made a high fashion debut.
- C. Trays are needed when designers deal with Fine Mycelium.
- D. 3D technology is used when MycoWorks creates its new leather.

30. What does the underlined part “havoc” in Paragraph 6 probably mean?

- A. Chaos.
- B. Harmony.
- C. Evolution.
- D. Fortune.

31. Which of the following do some experts concern most?

- A. The price of the new leather.
- B. The supply of the new leather.
- C. The quality of the new leather.
- D. The durability of the new leather.

## D

Psychologists specializing in the field of decision-making have discovered that employing a decision worksheet is among the most effective approaches for tackling significant choices. Researchers in the optimization branch of psychology analyze real-world decisions made by individuals and contrast them with theoretically ideal decisions to gauge their similarity. Advocates of the worksheet technique contend that it leads to optimal outcomes, representing the best choices. While decision worksheets come in various formats, they share fundamental characteristics. They begin with a clear and concise problem definition, followed by the explanation of all possible solutions. Subsequently, the relevant factors impacted by each choice are listed, and their relative importance is determined. Each factor is assigned a numerical value

reflecting its significance, and these values are summed to calculate a decision's score. The alternative with the highest score emerges as the superior choice.

Given that many significant problems encompass multiple facets, individuals encounter several choices, each bearing unique advantages and drawbacks. The advantage of employing a pencil and paper decision-making method lies in its capacity to accommodate more variables than the human mind can typically handle and retain. On average, individuals can juggle about seven ideas simultaneously. Decision worksheets prove exceptionally beneficial when decisions involve numerous intricate variables and relationships. A practical illustration pertinent to numerous college students revolves around the post-graduation question: "What will I do after graduation?" A graduate might contemplate seeking specialized training in a job, pursuing further education, or embarking on a year of international travel.

The decision worksheet begins with a brief problem statement, which helps narrow the scope. It is crucial to differentiate between long-term and immediate objectives since the decision-making process often diverges for each. While focusing on long-term goals, a graduating student might reformulate the previous question as follows: "What post-graduation path will lead to a successful career?"

32. What is the first step in the decision-making process using a worksheet?

- A. Defining the problem concisely.
- B. Thinking of all potential solutions.
- C. Listing the consequences of each solution.
- D. Determining the relative importance of considerations.

33. According to decision-worksheet theory, an optimal decision is defined as one that \_\_\_\_\_.

- A. has the most points assigned to it
- B. utilizes the most decision worksheets
- C. involves the fewest variables for consideration
- D. reaches the widest consensus among people

34. What is the author's attitude toward employing a pencil and paper decision-making procedure?

- A. Ambiguous.
- B. Sceptical.
- C. Supportive.
- D. Dismissive.

35. What is the primary focus of the passage?

- A. Research on human decision-making processes.
- B. The utility of decision worksheets in complex choices.
- C. A comparison between actual and ideal decisions.
- D. Distinctions between long-term and short-term decision making.

## 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可以填入空白处的最佳选项。选项中有两项为多余选项。

### Dispose of Your Credit Card Without Burying It

Disposing of unwanted items in our lives often means simply throwing them into the garbage or recycling bin — or, if they're still useful, giving them away. It's different with old credit cards, which should be destroyed so nobody can use them fraudulently (欺诈地). \_\_\_\_36\_\_\_\_ Here's how to get rid of an old card.

#### First, contact the issuer

If closing the account is your goal, you'll have to call the number on the back of your card and ask to do so. If your card is a rewards card, remember to first redeem points or cash back. Change any automatic payments to a different card, and be sure to pay the final card bill.

#### Cut up plastic cards

Sharp scissors and smart trimming will do the job here. "We recommend that consumers cut through the EMV chip, then further cut the card a few times along the short side, and dispose of the sections in more than one trash bag," says Sarah Grano, a spokeswoman for the American Bankers Association. \_\_\_\_37\_\_\_\_

#### Send back metal cards

\_\_\_\_38\_\_\_\_ Contact your issuer. Typically, you can mail it back for disposal. "For example, when American Express sends a replacement card, it also sends an addressed return envelope to mail back an old metal card for destruction," says Heather Norton, spokeswoman for American Express.

#### Check back on your account

Don't obsess about identity theft of an old credit card. You generally won't be responsible for fraudulent charges anyway. 39 It's a good idea to check your account statement to make sure there's been no fraud.

### Closing an account can hurt you

Closing a credit card account can lower your credit rating. That's because credit scores consider your "credit utilization ratio", or how much of your available credit you're using. And when you close an account, you have less available credit. 40 Closing an old card decreases the average age of your accounts.

- A. It could be worth closing the account anyway.
- B. Scores also consider the length of time you've had the card open.
- C. Or feed cards into a machine designed to handle them.
- D. Take care with debit cards and other plastic where fraud means you might be missing money.
- E. But how to destroy a payment card properly is not obvious, especially with new metal credit cards.
- F. Destroying a metal card by yourself is harder and potentially dangerous.
- G. Skip this step if you're simply replacing an expired card or one that has been compromised.

## 第三部分 语言运用 (共两节, 满分 30 分)

### 第一节 (共 15 小题; 每小题 1 分, 满分 15 分)

Stephanie rescued Flynn from an animal centre in 2014, after she was found as a puppy wandering the streets alone. "She was super shy and sweet, and absolutely 41 of men," Stephanie recalled. "We 42 and she overcame her unpleasant experience."

But in May 2020, six-year-old Flynn suddenly 43 her back when she jumped on Stephanie's bed and landed 44. "She became paralysed and her two back legs stopped working," Stephanie said.

Flynn had to have emergency 45 and a month of recovery before she could put one paw in front of the other again. "Quite a few people told me to 46 and said she'd be a lot of work, but I never would. I had 47 and I knew God would help her," Stephanie said.

One year on, their roles 48 when Stephanie was diagnosed with a cancer in September 2021. Flynn became 49 from Stephanie and refused to leave her side until she got better. "Flynn was my biggest 50. I couldn't have got through it without her," Stephanie said. "She 51 me every day. When I am tired or unwell, I think about how she 52. She never quit. We've been through all the highs and lows of life together."

Seven-year-old Flynn's 53 doesn't just inspire Stephanie, but lots of strangers too. Stephanie is 54 to her supportive family for helping her through her own health 55, and to all of Flynn's social media followers.

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|----------------------|------------------------|-----------------|--------------------|
| 41. A. tolerant      | B. frightened          | C. confident    | D. ignorant        |
| 42. A. bonded        | B. followed            | C. suspected    | D. failed          |
| 43. A. trembled      | B. stretched           | C. lowered      | D. broke           |
| 44. A. skillfully    | B. cautiously          | C. awkwardly    | D. safely          |
| 45. A. power         | B. surgery             | C. conference   | D. supplies        |
| 46. A. take her in   | B. pick her up         | C. put her down | D. show her around |
| 47. A. faith         | B. courage             | C. mercy        | D. regret          |
| 48. A. disappeared   | B. expanded            | C. conflicted   | D. exchanged       |
| 49. A. withdrawn     | B. inseparable         | C. different    | D. invisible       |
| 50. A. decision      | B. mistake             | C. possibility  | D. support         |
| 51. A. believes      | B. inspires            | C. amazes       | D. carries         |
| 52. A. pushed on     | B. took responsibility | C. gave away    | D. made trouble    |
| 53. A. determination | B. hardship            | C. confidence   | D. positiveness    |
| 54. A. sensitive     | B. committed           | C. grateful     | D. compared        |
| 55. A. plans         | B. battles             | C. warning      | D. education       |

### 第二节 (共 10 小题; 每小题 1.5 分, 满分 15 分)

Sam Altman, the chief executive of OpenAI, 56 (issue) a warning to lawmakers to act before artificially intelligent technology causes "significant harm 57 the world," said Cat Zakrzewski in The Washington Post. Testifying before a Senate Judiciary committee this week, Altman "advocated a number of 58 (regulate)—

including a new government agency \_\_\_\_\_59\_\_\_\_\_ (charge) with creating standards” for AI. Unlike contentious hearings with other tech CEOs, lawmakers “appeared in a listening mood” with Altman, \_\_\_\_\_60\_\_\_\_\_ company developed the breakthrough AI chatbot ChatGPT. Altman said the technology could \_\_\_\_\_61\_\_\_\_\_ (use) for disinformation, emotional manipulation, or even “target drone strikes.” Yet he affirmed “his company will continue” \_\_\_\_\_62\_\_\_\_\_ (enhance) its AI models.

The hearing left Washington with decisions \_\_\_\_\_63\_\_\_\_\_ (make). There is no consensus on \_\_\_\_\_64\_\_\_\_\_ to do about “the large language models that are trained on copyrighted works.” AI-driven propaganda, though, may be the single most urgent problem. Altman admitted one of his “areas \_\_\_\_\_65\_\_\_\_\_ greatest concern” was AI-created disinformation that could influence the 2024 election.