

1.

Coral reefs(珊瑚礁)are not just beautiful to look at, but also very useful. They shelter nearly 25% of ocean life and provide food for billions of people. However, like many other species, this amazing ecosystem(生态系统)is in danger of dying out!

There are two main reasons for the destruction—the rising carbon dioxide levels caused by global warming as well as human influences like bottom operation. While not much can be done about the former, the loss caused by the latter can be reduced.

Bottom operation involves dropping nets to the ocean bed and then dragging them up when filled with fish. This action damaged the ocean floor, causing the coral branches to separate from the reefs. While that is very discouraging, the good news is that if these branches are found quickly, they can be saved. At present, that work is being performed by volunteer divers. But the method has only limited success because they cannot stay long underwater, nor reach depths of over 200 meters where some of the deep-sea coral grows.

However, this is not the case for Coralbots—the robots that can constantly seek out broken branches. A team of ‘coralbots’, each individually working to simple rules will piece together damaged bits of coral, allowing them to regrow. They are programmed to be able to distinguish between other things and the coral. The robots work together in groups, similar to bees. If one coralbot is damaged then the others will still be able to complete the task.

Dr Lea-Anne Henry said: “The project of using coralbots offers us the possibility to restore(修复)the function of reefs. It is in the final stage of testing. Once ready, the researchers hope to build hundreds of them and use them effectively in the waters off Scotland and then hopefully in the oceans across the world.”

21. Which of the following is a cause of the danger that coral reefs are facing?

- A. The appearance of new creatures
- B. The seriously polluted sea water
- C. The activities of volunteer divers
- D. Human activities like bottom operation

22. Compared with volunteer divers, coralbots _____.

- A. can stay longer underwater B. must work as bees do
- C. can distinguish what is coral D. can never be damaged

23. What does the underlined word “them” in the last paragraph refer to?

- A. Coralbots B. Broken branches
- C. Working bees D. Bits of coral

24. We can infer from the passage that _____.

- A. bottom operation has affected most underwater creatures
- B. broken branches of coral can regrow if saved in time
- C. hundreds of the coralbots have worked well in the oceans
- D. with the coralbots all damaged coral reefs can be restored

2.

The English writer Samuel Johnson famously said, “You find no man who is willing to leave London. No, sir when a man is tired of London, he is tired of life, for there is in London all that life can afford.” More than two centuries have passed since Johnson’s age, but his words still ring true. Here, you’ll find the historic Tower of London and the Tate Modern both considered must-sees. Shakespeare’s sonnets(十四行诗) are still being uttered by actors. Londoners most certainly still look up to the royals, but they also rock out to Coldplay and Lily Allen. And while they still sip tea, they now drink Starbucks, too.

How to Save Money in London

Find the free attractions. Many of London’s top things to do, including the National Gallery, Hyde Park and the Portobello Road Market, are absolutely free to enjoy.

Ride the Tube. Taking taxis will add up quickly, so buy a pay-as-you-go Oyster Card and travel on London’s underground system, nicknamed the “Tube”.

Dine smart. Corridors like Brick Lane offer fantastic cultural food for bargain prices; fish and chip shops are a cheap standby and takeaway food costs less than dine-in.

London Culture & Customs

London is one of the fashion capitals of the world, and its residents tend to reflect that. Practically, pack an umbrella for the rainy days and a scarf or some layers for the chilly ones. As for tipping, restaurants and cafes will usually add a 10- to 15-percent service charge to the bill. If a service charge is not allotted(指定), it’s customary to tip the same (between 10 and 15 percent). If you’re drinking at a pub or wine bar, tipping is flexible. And in a taxicab, tip the driver to the nearest pound or about 10 percent of the cost.

London Dining

London used to be highly criticized for its heavy and common menu items. Now, London is considered as one of the most gourmet cities in the world. And with its melting pot of cultures, it’s not difficult to see why. London offers everything from modern British to Malaysian. For Indian food, we suggest visiting the curry houses on