For many Americans, 2013 ended with an unusually bitter cold spell. Late November and December **saw** early snow and bone-chilling temperatures in much of the country, part of a year when, for the first time in two **decades**, record-cold days will likely turn out to have outnumbered record-warm ones. But the U.S. was the exception: November was the warmest ever **globally**, and current data indicates that 2013 is likely to have been the fourth hottest year on record.

Enjoy the snow now, because **chances** are good that 2014 will be even hotter, perhaps the hottest year since records have been kept. That’s because, scientists are predicting, 2014 will be an El Niño year.

El Niño, Spanish for “the child”, **occurs** when surface ocean waters in the southern Pacific become abnormally warm. So large is the Pacific, covering 30% of the planet’s surface, that the **additional** energy generated by its warming is enough to touch off a series of weather changes around the world. El Niños are **associated** with abnormally dry conditions in Southeast Asia and Australia. They can lead to extreme rain in parts of North and South America, even as southern Africa **experiences** dry weather. Marine life may be affected too: El Niños can **reduce** the rising of the cold, nutrient-rich (营养丰富的) water that supports large fish **populations**, and the unusually warm ocean temperatures can destroy coral (珊瑚).

|  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- |
| A)  additional | B)  associated | C)  bore | D)  chances |
| E)  communicated | F)  decades | G)  experiences | H)  globally |
| I)  logically | J)  occurs | K)  populations | L)  realize |
| M)  reduce | N)  saw | O)  specific |  |

**第36题：选N。**分析句子结构可知，句中缺少谓语，结合本句主语late November and December以及前面句子中的2013 ended可知，本空应填动词的过去式，故选项B、C、E、和N入选。本句说的是十一月末和十二月全国大多数地区都出现了早雪并且气温寒冷刺骨，符合此处语义的是N选项。saw意为“遭受，历经；看见”。  
**第37题：选F。**空前的two提示，本空应填名词复数。由前面的“part of a year when, for the first time in two...”可知，本空所填词表示时间概念，故答案为F。 decades意为“十年”。  
**第38题：选H。**本句句子结构完整，所填词在句中作状语，应填副词，故H和I入选。本句说的是十一月是全球范围内最温暖的，所以答案为H。  
**第39题：选D。**分析句子结构可知，空格所在的从句缺少主语，空后的are提示，本空应填名词复数，故D，G和K选项入选。由后面的perhaps可知，本句应该是说：2014年很可能会更热，符合此处语义的只有D选项。chances意为“可能性”，故为答案。  
**第40题：选J。**分析句子结构可知，本句缺少谓语，句子的主语El Niño及空后的时间状语从句为一般现在时提示，本空应填动词的第三人称单数形式，故G和J入选。本句意在指出厄尔尼诺现象在什么情况下会出现，符合此处语义的只有J选项。occurs意为“发生”，故为答案。  
**第41题：选A。**空前的定冠词the和空后的名词energy提示，本空应填形容词或动词的分词形式，修饰名词energy。所以选项A、B和O入选。本句意为：太平洋变暖所产生的……能量足以在全世界引发一系列的气候变化，符合此处语义的是A选项。additional意为“额外的”，故为答案。  
**第42题：选B。**空前的are和空后的with提示，本空应填形容词或动词的分词形式，且该词能与be和with构成合理搭配，be associated with表示“与……有关”，所以答案为B。associated意为“与……有关”。此处是说，厄尔尼诺现象与东南亚和澳大利亚的异常干旱有关。  
**第43题：选G。**分析句子结构可知，本句缺少谓语，空前的主语southern Africa提示，本空应填动词的第三人称单数形式，所以答案为G。experiences意为“经历”，此句意为非洲南部经历着干燥的天气。  
**第44题：选M。**空前的情态动词can提示，本空应填动词原形，故C、L和M选项入选。由本段最后的“warm ocean temperatures can destroy...”可知，此处应该是说厄尔尼诺现象会减弱营养丰富的冷水的上升，所以选M。reduce意为“减少”。  
**第45题：选K。**本句句子结构完整，所填词与large fish一起作动词supports的宾语，因此本空应填名词，显然，K选项populations符合此处语义，故为答案。

"Robot". It is a word that seems very modern; a word that creates a strong mental picture; a picture of something that looks and acts like a human. Robots are not **human** of course. They are machines.

The word "robot" and robots themselves, are less than 100 years old. But humans have been **dreaming** of real and imaginary copies of themselves for thousands of years. Early people made little human statues out of clay. And they cut   **wood** and stone to make them look like humans.

What is the future of robots? The goal of scientists is to **create** a true human-like robot. Some experts have described this robot of the future as one that can act **independently** in the physical world through its own senses and actions. Humans have the **ability** to see, hear, speak and solve problems. Engineers have built robots that have one or two of these abilities. But it takes a number of big expensive computers to make the robots work.

The **biggest** problem in creating a human-like robot is copying human intelligence. The way the human mind works is almost **impossible** to copy. A simple computer can solve mathematical problems far beyond the ability of even the smartest human mind. But the human mind is **better** than a thousand supercomputers at speaking, hearing and problem-solving. Several American and Japanese companies are working to develop the senses of sight and touch for robots. The development of these senses will make robots **much** more useful.

|  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- |
| A)  worse | B)  create | C)  ability | D)  possible |
| E)  imagine | F)  dreaming | G)  better | H)  wood |
| I)  human | J)  impossible | K)  much | L)  independently |
| M)  biggest | N)  copy | O)  robot |  |

**第36题：选I。**全文主要讲述如何使机器人具有人类的特性，根据此空后面一句可判断，作者要表达的意思是：机器人不是人类，是机器。  
**第37题：选F。**此空需要填动词的现在分词，且此动词可以与of搭配，dream of 的意思是“梦想”。  
**第38题：选H。**此空与and之后的stone并列，应属同一类物品，所以选wood。  
**第39题：选B。**此空填动词。根据句意，科学家们的目标是创造出一个类人机器人。  
**第40题：选L。**此空在动词后面，所以需填副词。此句意思是：一些专家认为未来的机器人可以通过自身的感觉和行为在现实世界里独立活动。  
**第41题：选C。**此空需填可与to连用的名词，且根据后一句中的these abilities可判断此空为ability。  
**第42题：选M。**此空需填形容词，选项中只有biggest合适。此句的意思是：制造类人机器人最大的困难是模仿人类的思维。  
**第43题：选J。**系动词后需填形容词。既然前一句提到模仿人类的思维是最大的困难，那么第二句的意思应为人类思维的运作方式几乎是不可能模仿的。  
**第44题：选G。**此空需填形容词的比较级。此句是将人类思维与机器人在听、说、解决问题等方面作比较，自然是前者要优于后者。  
**第45题：选K。**选项中能够修饰比较级的只有much。

    Harvard was named after its first financial supporter, John Harvard. He was a Christian clergyman from the Massachusetts Bay Colony. He left his library and half of everything else he owned to the school when he **died** in 1638.

    Harvard admitted only **men** for most of its history. It opened an allied college for women called the Harvard Annex in 1879. This was later established as Radcliffe College. That women were **permitted** to attend Harvard classes began in the 1940s. But it was 1963 before women were officially enrolled in Harvard University and permitted to earn Harvard degrees.

    Today, Harvard has about 18,000 students in **undergraduate** and graduate programmes. It is considered one of the best universities in the country, the richest, and the most difficult to gain **admission**. Drew Gilpin Faust is the 28th president of Harvard. She is the first female **president** in the university’s history.

    Harvard has had many famous **graduates**. Several American presidents are among them, including the current president, George Bush. He graduated from Harvard’s business school. A current American presidential candidate is also a former Harvard student. Senator Barack Obama graduated from its law school.

    Harvard has also had its share of famous drop-outs. Bill Gates began at Harvard in 1973 and **left** two years later without graduating. We think he did pretty well in life, even **without** the Harvard degree, but the school gave him an **honourary** degree last year.

|  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- |
| A)  left | B)  graduates | C)  popularity | D)  honourary |
| E)  without | F)  men | G)  died | H)  honourable |
| I)  permitted | J)  admission | K)  returned | L)  undergraduate |
| M)  teacher | N)  president | O)  with |  |

**第36题：选G。**此题要求填动词。根据He left his library and half of everything else he owned to the school可以推断此人是在临终前将财产遗赠给哈佛大学的。  
**第37题：选F。**此题要求填作admit宾语的名词。根据其后一句话中提到，直到1879年才开设了招收女学生的学院。可以推断，在此之前哈佛只招男学生。  
**第38题：选I。**此题要求填动词的过去分词形式。由women were... 可以判断本句是被动句。选项中只有I项符合条件，且词义合适。  
**第39题：选L。**此题要求填名词。根据后面的and graduate programmes，可以判断出and前后两项应是并列的。graduate programme是研究生项目，那与此并列的就是本科生项目。故选择L。  
**第40题：选J。**此题要求填名词。本句是说哈佛是美国最好的大学之一，是最富有也是最难考取的大学。gain admission表示被录取。  
**第41题：选N。**此题要求填名词。前一句已经表明了Drew Gilpin Faust是哈佛第28任校长，后一句是在此基础上补充说明她是哈佛历史上第一位女校长。  
**第42题：选B。**此题要求填名词。本段列举了众多有所成就的人都是从哈佛毕业的，故第一句作为中心句，要表达的就是哈佛有许多著名的毕业生。此处的graduate表示毕业生。   
**第43题：选A。**此题要求填动词。本段讲述的是哈佛也有许多著名的肄业生，比如比尔·盖茨。比尔·盖茨1973年入学，两年后辍学。故选A。  
**第44题：选E。**根据原文，此空填动词、形容词、名词均不合适，根据选项只有介词合适。根据上下文：人们认为，即使没有哈佛的学位，比尔·盖茨也照样成功了。可知E正确。  
**第45题：选D。**此题需要填形容词。根据上下文可推断，哈佛后来授予比尔·盖茨荣誉学位。选项中honourary意思是“荣誉的、名誉的”，而honourable表示“可敬的、值得尊敬的”。故选D。