

A. dawn    B. charged    C. cast    D. vision    E. discouraged    F. centered    G. historical    H. witnessed    I. trusted    J. force    K. instant

Contemporary worries about the impact of technology are part of a historical pattern.

Faster, cheaper, better — technology is one field many people rely upon to offer a \_\_1\_\_ of a brighter future. But as the 2020s \_\_2\_\_, optimism is in short supply. The new technologies that dominated the past decade seem to be making things worse. Social media were supposed to bring people together. In the Arab Spring of 2011 they were hailed (赞扬) as a liberating \_\_3\_\_. Today they are better known for invading privacy and undermining democracy. E-commerce, ride-hailing and the gig economy may be convenient, but they are \_\_4\_\_ with underpaying workers and crowding the streets with vehicles. Parents worry that smartphones have turned their children into screen-addicted zombies.

The technologies expected to dominate the new decade also seem to \_\_5\_\_ a dark shadow. Artificial intelligence (AI) may well entrench (使根深蒂固) bias and prejudice, threaten your job and shore up authoritarian rulers. 5G is at the heart of the Sino-American trade war. Autonomous cars still do not work, but manage to kill people all the same. Polls show that internet firms are now less \_\_6\_\_ than the banking industry. At the very moment banks are striving to rebrand themselves as tech firms, and internet giants have become the new banks.

Today's gloomy (忧郁的) mood is \_\_7\_\_ on smartphones and social media, which took off a decade ago. Yet concerns that humanity has taken a technological wrong turn, or that particular technologies might be doing more harm than good, have arisen before. In the 1970s the despondency (沮丧) was prompted by concerns about overpopulation and environmental damage. The 1920s \_\_8\_\_ a backlash (强烈抵制) against cars, which had earlier been seen as a good answer to the pain of horse-drawn vehicles.

In each of these \_\_9\_\_ cases disappointment arose from a mix of unrealized hopes and unforeseen consequences. However, the pessimism can be overdone. Too often people focus on the drawbacks of a new technology while taking its benefits for granted. Worries about screen time should be weighed against the much greater benefits of convenient communication and the \_\_10\_\_ access to information and entertainment that smartphones make possible.

A. prevented    B. stubbornly    C. banning    D. attention    E. ignore    F. fortunately    G. overlooked    H. track    I. extend    J. solution    K. bowing

Climate protests drew millions around the world in September. Many of the Democratic presidential candidates have rolled out ambitious plans to cut carbon while making the economy greener. And yet a leading cause of climate change remains persistently \_\_1\_\_: clothing.

The clothing and footwear industry is responsible for 8 percent of global greenhouse gas emissions. Without intervention (干预), the industry's impact on the climate is on \_\_2\_\_ to increase by almost half by 2030.

Clothes are easy to \_\_3\_\_ because they are made far away and have throughout history been made by low-paid laborers. But clothing affects every other environmental problem we care about. A cotton T-shirt requires thousands of gallons of water to make. And when the polyester or nylon clothes get washed, they junk up our oceans with microplastic pollution.

But \_\_4\_\_, some clothing companies are waking up to the climate crisis. A growing number of brands are \_\_5\_\_ to grass-roots pressure and consumer surveys that show that sustainability and ethics are top concerns for young shoppers. But fashion can't go green by itself. It won't even make a dent (凹痕) in the problem without international cooperation and mainstream \_\_6\_\_.

The clothing industry, like most industries, is also \_\_7\_\_ reliant on fossil fuels. They're used to fire up boilers in textile mills, to make the pesticides dumped onto cotton fields and to produce the gobs of chemicals that dye and finish fabrics. Getting clothing off oil will not be easy.

Consumers have an important part to play in making fashion sustainable. We can work to \_\_8\_\_ the life of all clothes by switching more of our purchases to secondhand and online resale, renting for special occasions, and repairing clothes instead of throwing them away.

We need activists, journalists, scientists and academics who focus on sustainability to include clothing in their work. And we need government action and innovative policy that addresses the global impact of the stuff we buy. For example, France has passed a bill \_\_9\_\_ the destruction of unsold clothing.

But first we need all people who care about climate change to understand that they're part of the problem and the \_\_10\_\_, just by wearing clothes.

A. eating B. uncertain C. status D. fallen E. occupied F. claimed G. action H. squeezed I. expanded J. looking K. unimaginable

LONDON — One by one, the pubs are disappearing in Hampstead, a jewel-box village of cobbled lanes and Georgian homes that has become one of this city's most fashionable neighborhoods.

Changing economics and shifting tastes have \_\_1\_\_ roughly one out of every five pubs during the last two decades in Britain, and things are growing worse. Since the 2008 financial crisis, 7,000 have shut, leaving some small communities facing something \_\_2\_\_: life without a "local," as pubs are known.

And that has spurred (鼓励) the government into \_\_3\_\_. New legislation is letting people petition (请愿) to have a pub considered an "asset (财产) of community value," a(n) \_\_4\_\_ that provides a degree of protection from destruction and helps community groups buy pubs themselves.

Still, the traditional pub is being \_\_5\_\_ as never before, even after George Osborne, Chancellor of the Exchequer, reversed course last March and reduced the tax paid on every pint of beer, by a penny. Antismoking laws are keeping smokers away. Cut-price beer for sale at supermarkets is \_\_6\_\_ into business.

And then there is a cultural shift on beer: People in Britain are drinking about 23 percent less beer than a decade ago. Pubs have been trying to take up the slack (萧条) with other beverages and \_\_7\_\_ food menus.

One battleground here in Hampstead is at the Old White Bear. A handsome, two-chimney building of red brick, the Bear has \_\_8\_\_ its spot on Well Road for three centuries.

But after the Old White Bear was bought by a group of developers through a company on the Isle of Man, 2,000 people signed a petition to save the pub. The Bear has been declared

an asset of community value, and the local council has so far refused permission to turn it into a six-bedroom house. Even so, the pub closed on Feb. 2. With the developers determined to fight, the Bear's future is \_\_9\_\_.

Guy Wingate, a longtime patron, pointed to Hampstead's \_\_10\_\_ locals. While the village has other pubs, the Old White Bear, he said, had become the center of his community.

"You destroy that, and we're either all going to wander the streets or stay indoors and not see each other ever again," Mr. Wingate said.