**Text 3**

① Up until a few decades ago, our visions of the future were largely—though by no means uniformly—glowingly positive. ② Science and technology would cure all the ills of humanity, leading to lives of fulfillment and opportunity for all.

直到十年前，我们对未来的幻想是非常积极的。科学技术能够治愈人类所有的疾病，让我们所有人的生活很满足。

uniformly 一致的

① Now utopia has grown unfashionable, as we have gained a deeper appreciation of the range of threats facing us, from asteroid strike to epidemic flu and to climate change. ② You might even be tempted to assume that humanity has little future to look forward to.

现在乌托邦不那么时髦了，随着我们对威胁更深入的理解，从小行星撞击地球到流感到气候变化。你可能会尝试假设人类没有多少未来了。

① But such gloominess is misplaced. ② The fossil record shows that many species have endured for millions of years—so why shouldn’t we? ③ Take a broader look at our species’ place in the universe, and it becomes clear that we have an excellent chance of surviving for tens, if not hundreds, of thousands of years. ④ Look up *Homo sapiens* in the “Red List” of threatened species of the International Union for the Conversation of Nature (IUCN) and you will read: “Listed as Least Concern as the species is very widely distributed, adaptable, currently increasing, and there are no major threats resulting in an overall population decline.”

但是这种沮丧时错误的。化石告诉我们很多种族经历了数百万年，为什么我们不能呢？把目光放大宇宙的视角看我们物种的位置，就会知道我们有很大的机会活一万年。看一看*Homo sapiens*中的濒危物种“红色清单”，你就会知道“清单将那些广泛分部，适应能力强，正在增长，没有让整个人口下降的威胁物种列为无危胁物种。”

gloominess 沮丧

① So what does our deep future hold? ② A growing number of researchers and organisations are now thinking seriously about that question. ③ For example, the Long Now Foundation has as its flagship project a mechanical clock that is designed to still be marking time thousands of years hence.

我们的未来会怎样？大量的研究员和机构在思考这个问题。例如，the Long Now Foundation拥有一台被设计于一千年之后还能即时的机械钟。

hence 从此刻起的意思

① Perhaps willfully, it may be easier to think about such lengthy timescales than about the more immediate future. ② The potential evolution of today’s technology, and its social consequences, is dazzlingly complicated, and it’s perhaps best left to science fiction writers and futurologists to explore the many possibilities we can envisage. ③ That’s one reason why we have launched *Arc*, a new publication dedicated to the near future.

可能思考长距离的未来比思考当下的未来要容易。当下的技术革命、社会结果时非常复杂的，最好留给科幻小说家和未来学家去探索我们能预见的可能。这也是为什么我们创建*Arc*, 一个致力于描绘未来的出版物。

willfully 任性的

dazzlingly 使人目眩的

① But take a longer view and there is a surprising amount that we can say with considerable assurance. ② As so often, the past holds the key to the future: we have now identified enough of the long-term patterns shaping the history of the planet, and our species, to make evidence-based forecasts about the situations in which our descendants will find themselves.

但是从长远角度，有很多东西我们能够做很大程度的预测。毕竟，过去永远未来的钥匙：我们已经拥有足够的这个星球形成历史的长期模式，和我们的祖先，作为证据基础去预测我们子孙的状况。

descendants 子孙

① This long perspective makes the pessimistic view of our prospects seem more likely to be a passing fad. ② To be sure, the future is not all rosy. ③ But we are now knowledgeable enough to reduce many of the risks that threatened the existence of earlier humans, and to improve the lot of those to come.

长期角度来看，对未来悲观似乎是一时的风尚。当然，未来不都是好的。但是我们有足够的知识去健身人类生存的风险，并为后人改善这些风险。

fad 风尚。

31. Our vision of the future used to be inspired by

[A] our desire for lives of fulfillment.

[B] our faith in science and technology.

[C] our awareness of potential risks.

[D] our belief in equal opportunity.

32. The IUCN’s “Red List” suggests that human beings are

[A] a misplaced race.

[B] a sustained species.

[C] the world’s dominant power.

[D] a threat to the environment.

33. Which of the following is true according to Paragraph 5?

[A] The interest in science fiction is on the rise.

[B] *Arc* helps limit the scope of futurological studies.

[C] Technology offers solutions to social problems.

[D] Our immediate future is hard to conceive.

34. To ensure the future of mankind, it is crucial to

[A] draw on our experience from the past.

[B] adopt an optimistic view of the world.

[C] explore our planet’s abundant resources.

[D] curb our ambition to reshape history.

35. Which of the following would be the best title for the text?

[A] Uncertainty about Our Future

[B] Evolution of the Human Species

[C] The Ever-bright Prospects of Mankind

[D] Science, Technology and Humanity