

Reading text A

You should spend about 20 minutes answering questions 1 to 10

The Big Question: Can India's tigers be saved or are they now destined to disappear?

Officials at the Panna Nature Reserve in the state of Madhya Pradesh in India, the so-called tiger state, revealed that there were no longer any of the big cats in the entire park. (1) _____ forest officials reported not sighting any of the animals for some time, a leading wildlife organisation carried out a survey. The state's forest minister, Rajendra Shukla, confirmed that the reserve, which three years ago had up to 24 tigers, no longer had any whatsoever. Almost all are believed to have been killed.

This is not the first time a prestigious reserve has reported that its tigers have disappeared. In 2005, it was revealed that all the tigers in the Sariska Tiger Reserve in Rajasthan had also been killed. What makes this case different is that the (2) _____ faced by the park were regularly drawn to the attention of officials. A committee formed by India's Supreme Court even warned of the potential danger facing the park and how Panna could see a repeat of what happened at Sariska. A report by the central government's forest ministry says "warning bells sounded regularly for the past eight years" but that the local authorities did not listen.

A census carried out on behalf of the government and handed to the Indian Prime Minister two years ago revealed that the total may be as few as 1,300 animals. The upper limit was put at 1,500. While there are no (3) _____ figures, some estimates suggest that at the turn of the 20th Century, the population may have stood at 100,000. Some experts believe there may now be as few as two genetically viable populations of tigers in India, located in the Corbett Tiger Reserve in Uttarakhand and the Kanha Tiger Reserve in Madhya Pradesh, (4) _____ is said to have inspired Rudyard Kipling to write *The Jungle Book*.

The most urgent problem is the failure of the authorities to stop people from hunting. Tiger skins and body parts still power a huge market in China and elsewhere in East Asia where they are believed to have special medicinal powers. Campaigners say that a skin can be sold for £5,300. The authorities suffer from a lack of trained, properly-equipped forest guards. Salaries are low and motivation is often lacking. There are widespread suggestions of corruption.

Another more long-term reason is the increasing lack of (5) _____ for tigers. India's large population is increasingly coming into contact with tigers, with often fatal results for man and beast. Without protected habitats, there is nowhere safe for these large, animals to breed and live. Experts say all the evidence shows that tigers and humans cannot safely co-exist and (6) _____ there is a willingness to set aside designated, protected areas, then the tiger's chances are not good. A further factor is the shortage of food. If deer and antelope are being hunted, tigers may be tempted to kill farm animals, something which pushes them into further confrontation with humans.

It is not just in India that tigers are suffering. Over the past 100 years, tiger populations across the world have (7) _____ by as much as 95 per cent and are now facing extinction. Of the nine sub-species of tiger, three – the Caspian, Javanese and Balinese – are already gone. A fourth, the South China tiger, is already considered "functionally extinct" with perhaps fewer than 30 surviving in the wild. Elsewhere the Sumatran tiger is listed as critically endangered. The others – the Indochinese, the Malayan, the Siberian and India's Bengal tiger – all face massive threats.

As far back as 1972 when then Prime Minister Indira Gandhi established Project Tiger, the value of saving this hugely symbolic animal had been recognised. Tens of millions of pounds have been spent in an often

disorganised series of conservation efforts. Today there are more than 40 reserves. And some positive things are being done; last year, three tigers were taken by plane into the Sariska reserve in an effort to try and renew the population.

Some experts say the (8) _____ size of the tiger population makes its future scientifically unviable. (9) _____, such conservationists still chose to carry on their work in the hope of a miracle. Ashok Kumar, vice-president of the Wildlife Trust of India, said it was essential that attention was paid to improving the training of forest guards, boosting their number and employing park directors who had the dedication to deal with the hunting problem. He said he was encouraged by the government's current environment minister and that there were populations in several regions of India that were viable. He said: "The long-term future of the tiger can be (10) _____."

Questions 1 to 10

Choose from options A to D to complete the gaps in the text. Only one option is correct. Write the correct letter in boxes 1 to 10 on your answer sheet.

- | | |
|---|--|
| 1. A. Next
B. Then
C. Before
D. After | 6. A. when
B. whether
C. unless
D. because |
| 2. A. problems
B. diseases
C. reservations
D. warnings | 7. A. fallen
B. risen
C. increased
D. remained |
| 3. A. general
B. vague
C. precise
D. free | 8. A. normal
B. large
C. small
D. huge |
| 4. A. which
B. where
C. who
D. when | 9. A. Therefore
B. Furthermore
C. Moreover
D. However |
| 5. A. guards
B. medicine
C. money
D. space | 10. A. saved
B. funded
C. maintained
D. developed |

Reading text B

You should spend about 40 minutes answering questions 11 to 25.

Buses May Help Climate Battle in Developing Cities

- A** In Bogota, Colombia, like most major streets in booming cities of the developing world, the Seventh Avenue resembles a noisy, exhaust-coated parking lot; a traffic jam of cars and the old, smoke-puffing private minibuses that have long provided transportation for the masses.
- B** However, a few blocks away, modern red vehicles full of commuters speed down the four center lanes of Avenida de las Américas. The long, segmented, low-emission buses are part of a novel public transportation system called bus rapid transit, or B.R.T. It is more like an above-ground subway than a collection of bus routes, with seven intersecting lines, enclosed stations that are entered through electronic barriers with the swipe of a card and coaches that feel like trams inside.
- C** Versions of these systems are being planned or built in dozens of developing cities around the world, such as Mexico City, Cape Town, Jakarta, Indonesia, and Ahmedabad and India, to name only a few. They provide public transportation that improves traffic flow and reduces smog at a fraction of the cost of building a subway.
- D** Furthermore, the rapid transit systems have another benefit: they may hold a key to combating climate change. Emissions from cars, trucks, buses and other vehicles in the booming cities of Asia, Africa and Latin America account for a rapidly growing component of heat-trapping gases linked to global warming. While emissions from industry are decreasing, those related to transportation are expected to rise more than 50 percent by 2030 in industrialized and poorer nations. Moreover, 80 percent of that growth will be in the developing world, according to data presented at a recent international conference in Bellagio, Italy. To be effective, any new international climate treaty must include “a policy response to the CO2 emissions from transport in the developing world,” the Bellagio conference statement concluded.
- E** Bus rapid transit systems like Bogotá’s, called TransMilenio, might hold an answer. Now used for an average of 1.6 million trips each day, TransMilenio has allowed the city to remove 7,000 small private buses from its roads, reducing the use of bus fuel — and associated emissions — by more than 59 percent since it opened its first line in 2001, according to city officials.
- F** In recognition of this feat, TransMilenio quickly became the first large transportation project approved by the United Nations to generate and sell carbon credits. Developed countries that exceed their emissions limits under the Kyoto Protocol or that simply want to demonstrate a “green” image, can buy credits from TransMilenio to balance their emissions budgets, bringing Bogotá an estimated \$300 million so far, analysts say. Indeed, the city has provided a model of how international programs to combat climate change can help expanding cities.
- G** “Bogotá was huge and messy and poor, so people said, ‘If Bogotá can do it, why can’t we?’ ” said Enrique Peñalosa, an economist and a former mayor of the city who took TransMilenio from a concept to its initial opening in 2001 and is now advising other cities. In 2008, Mexico City opened a second successful bus rapid transit line that has already reduced carbon dioxide emissions there, according to Lee Schipper, a transportation expert at Stanford University, and the city has applied to sell carbon credits as well.
- H** With its wide streets, dense population and a tradition of bus travel, Bogotá had the ingredients for success. To create TransMilenio, the city used two to four traffic lanes in the middle of major

boulevards, isolating them with low walls to create the system's so-called tracks. On the center islands that divide many of Bogotá's two-way streets, the city built dozens of distinctive metal-and-glass stations. Just as in a subway, the multiple doors on the buses slide open level with the platform, providing easy access for baby strollers and older riders. Hundreds of passengers can wait on the platforms, avoiding the delays that occur when passengers each pay as they board.

- I Mr. Peñalosa noted that the negative stereotypes about bus travel required some clever rebranding. Now, he said, upscale condominiums advertise that they are near TransMilenio lines. "People don't say, 'I'm taking the bus,' they say, 'I'm taking TransMilenio,'" he added, as he rode at rush hour recently, chatting with other passengers.
- J TransMilenio is building more lines and underpasses to allow the buses to bypass clogged intersections, but for the moment the real challenge is overcrowding. Juan Gómez, 21, a businessman, takes TransMilenio only on days when he cannot drive, and he complained that it was often hard to find a seat. "It's O.K., but I prefer the car," he said.

SAMPLE EXAM

Questions 11 to 15

Choose the best heading for **paragraphs marked E to I** from the list of headings below.

Write the correct number i) to vii) in boxes 11 to 15 on your answer sheet.

List of paragraph headings

- i) Special stations similar to subway
- ii) The Kyoto Protocol
- iii) A solution to increasing emissions
- iv) Bogota's TransMilenio
- v) A boost to property
- vi) Other cities are learning from Bogota
- vii) Winning international recognition

- 11. Paragraph E
- 12. Paragraph F
- 13. Paragraph G
- 14. Paragraph H
- 15. Paragraph I

Questions 16 to 19

Complete the sentences below using **NO MORE THAN THREE CONSECUTIVE WORDS FROM THE TEXT PER SPACE**. Write your answers in the boxes 16 to 19 on your answer sheet.

16. The mass-transit system described in the text looks like _____.
17. It is expected that there will be more emissions from _____ in developing countries in the future.
18. TransMilenio earns millions of dollars for Bogota by selling _____ to other countries.
19. The biggest problem for TransMilenio at the moment is that there are too many _____.

Questions 20 to 23

According to the text, what are **FOUR** benefits of the TransMilenio? Choose **FOUR** letters A-H. Write your answers in boxes 20 to 23 on your answer sheet.

- A. Reduction in traffic congestion in Bogota.
- B. The removal of thousands of small buses from the streets.
- C. Average 1.6 million passenger journeys per day.
- D. Income generation from sale of carbon credits.
- E. Approval by the United Nations.
- F. Reduction in bus fuel consumption.
- G. Help in the battle against climate change.
- H. Faster journey times.

Questions 24 and 25

What do the following underlined words refer to in the texts? Choose one of the options. Write a letter A to D in the boxes 24 to 25 on your answer sheet.

24. Paragraph H

With its wide streets, dense population and a tradition of bus travel, Bogotá had the ingredients for success. To create TransMilenio, the city used two to four traffic lanes in the middle of major boulevards, isolating them with low walls to create the system's so-called tracks. On the center islands that divide many of Bogotá's two-way streets, the city built dozens of distinctive metal-and-glass stations. Just as in a subway, the multiple doors on the buses slide open level with the platform, providing easy access for baby strollers and older riders. Hundreds of passengers can wait on the platforms, avoiding the delays that occur when passengers each pay as they board.

- A. traffic lanes
- B. wide streets
- C. major boulevards
- D. tracks

25. Paragraph I:

Mr. Peñalosa noted that the negative stereotypes about bus travel required some clever rebranding. Now, he said, upscale condominiums advertise that they are near TransMilenio lines. "People don't say, 'I'm taking the bus,' they say, 'I'm taking TransMilenio,'" he added, as he rode at rush hour recently, chatting with other passengers.

- A. negative stereotypes
- B. upscale condominiums
- C. people
- D. passengers

You must answer BOTH writing sections.

Writing question A

You should spend about 30 minutes on this question. Write your answer in the space provided on the answer sheet.

You are a second-year undergraduate student studying Marketing and Business Communications at a university in the United States. The first year of your studies went well, but this term you and your classmates are having problems with a particular class.

Write a letter to the Dean of the Faculty. In the letter:

- describe the situation
- explain your problems
- propose a solution

Write at least 150 words. You do not need to write any addresses, but you must use the correct salutation and sign-off.

Writing question B

You should spend about 60 minutes on this question. Write your answer in the space provided on the answer sheet.

The Colombian Government has recently greatly increased the budget for grants available to students to study at private universities in Colombia.

To what extent do you agree or disagree with this policy?

You should write at least 300 words. Give reasons for your answer and include any relevant examples from your knowledge or experience.