

## SÈRIE 4

## PART 1: READING COMPREHENSION

Choose the correct answer according to the text. Only ONE answer is possible.

[0.5 points each correct answer. Wrong answers will be penalized by deducting 0.16 points. There is no penalty for unanswered questions.]

- 1- According to the text, scientists have warned that more than half of all amphibians in Europe could be driven to extinction ...
  - a) because they live mostly in Mediterranean regions.
  - b) except island species, which are not at risk.
  - c) due to the effects, among others, of climate change.**
  - d) unless habitat destruction, diseases and climate change get out of control.
  
- 2- Why do conservationists fear for the future of some species of amphibians in Britain?
  - a) Because island species cannot be affected by viruses.
  - b) Because its cool climate negatively affects amphibians.
  - c) Because the effects of viruses on amphibians in that area are already devastating.**
  - d) Because viruses only attack specific species of amphibians, like the common toad.
  
- 3- When researchers talk about the "bleak outlook" for Europe's amphibians, it means that ...
  - a) the future of Europe's amphibians is unpredictable.
  - b) they are very pessimistic about the future of Europe's amphibians.**
  - c) the situation of Europe's amphibians is going to get better in the near future.
  - d) they hope nothing is done to prevent their extinction.
  
- 4- According to Sir David Attenborough,
  - a) the extinction of amphibians will take place within a few decades.
  - b) amphibians are essential to certain ecosystems and environments.**
  - c) many ecosystems depend on half of the species of amphibians.
  - d) the precarious future of amphibians is affecting the expansion of towns and cities.
  
- 5- In the text, Garner argues that we will feel the effects of the disappearance of some amphibians ...
  - a) only when crops are affected by a particular fungus.
  - b) when the effects are more direct on us**
  - c) when the rise in insects sucking our blood becomes evident.
  - d) when snakes, fish and birds are left with no food.
  
- 6- According to the text, one of the effects of climate change has been ...
  - a) the extinction of many amphibians because of infections caused on them by fungus.**
  - b) that in the Peñalara national park amphibians have been wiped out by a virus.
  - c) an increase in number of amphibians.
  - d) the expansion of towns and cities.
  
- 7- On the whole and according to the text, why is the situation alarming?
  - a) Because climate change is killing animal species on a massive scale in Europe.
  - b) Because planet warming will probably affect most amphibian habitats.**
  - c) Because the number of amphibians is increasing dramatically.
  - d) Because amphibians do not have anything to eat.
  
- 8- According to scientists and conversationists, the solution to these problems are:
  - a) to close greenhouses and keep captive amphibians in zoos.
  - b) to increase gas emissions and put an end to breeding programmes.
  - c) not to do anything, as it is too late.
  - d) to reduce gas emissions and to encourage breeding programmes for threatened species.**

**Listening Comprehension****Svalbard – the Land beyond the North Cape**

In this radio programme you are going to hear some new words. Read and listen to them. Make sure you know what they mean.

**Peaked:** *punxegut / puntiagudo*

**Wildlife:** *vida salvatge / vida salvaje*

**Settlement:** *assentament / asentamiento*

**Average:** *mitjana / media*

**Hunting:** *caça / caza*

**Seals:** *foques / focas*

Ready?

Now read the questions on the next page. Read them carefully before listening to the radio programme.

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Presenter: In the High Arctic, floating in the midnight sun and embraced by the Polar night, Svalbard is an archipelago of peaked mountains and imposing glaciers. No other place in the far North offers such an abundance of polar features and wildlife in such a limited area. Today in our programme "Round the World", I'm pleased to introduce Chris Van Gils, a keen traveller to the North and an expert on Polar life.

.....  
[Now listen to the interview]

Hi Chris and welcome to our programme!

Chris: Hello. It's a pleasure to be here today.

Presenter: Just a week ago Chris was in Svalbard. Well, Chris, first of all, tell us something about this archipelago.

Chris: Probably everybody knows about the North Cape. Well, many people believe this is the northernmost part of the world that is inhabited but it's not true. Svalbard is a group of islands situated half-way between Norway and the North Pole. This land, the size of the republic of Ireland, is only 600 miles from the Pole. The word Svalbard comes from Norse, the language that people spoke in Scandinavia in the past, and it means "cold coast", a good name for a land which today is 60 percent covered by ice. So Norse sailors knew of it but we don't know why that knowledge got lost. It was not till Barents, Willem Barents, a Dutch sailor, rediscovered the land in 1596 that ...

Presenter: ...Are you telling us that the Norse knew about Svalbard but that then Svalbard kind of disappeared till 1596? That's a really interesting part of history.

Chris: Well, ... yes. When Barents arrived in Svalbard, he named it Spitsbergen. It means "the peaked mountains". Today this name is confined to the largest island in the archipelago. Since 1925 it is part of the Kingdom of Norway.

Presenter: And how do you recommend that we visit the islands, by car? By plane? By boat?

Chris: There are no roads on the islands and, in fact, Svalbard is a fragmented archipelago with many small islands over a large area of 63000 km<sup>2</sup>. So the best way to discover the landscapes is over the waves. Sailing also offers the best chances, the best opportunities to see wildlife in a limited amount of time. Bearded seals, walrus and, with some luck, a polar bear can all be seen easily within a short distance.

Presenter: And when do you think it's the best time of the year to visit Svalbard? Must be very dark and cold in the winter!

Chris: Yeah, yeah. It is dark and it's cold as well. The average temperature in the winter is about 12 degrees centigrade below zero. So it's cold. But it is also cold in summer when the average temperature is 42 ° Fahrenheit, so about 6° Centigrade. And I'm talking about Longyearbyen. Longyearbyen is the largest settlement in the archipelago, on the Spitsbergen island. In fact there are only three islands which are populated: Spitsbergen, Bear Island and Hopen. And only about 2000 people live there.

Presenter: That's not many, is it? I mean, it must be lonesome to live there.

Chris: Well, most of them are scientists studying the Polar ecosystem. But yes, not many people are able to bear the cold and the...

Presenter: ...and the long winter nights.

Chris: Yeah. The Polar night starts on the 14th of November and it lasts till the end of January. On the other hand, the midnight sun starts on the 19th of April and lasts till the end of August. It is hard. I had to take some medicines to get used to that lack of sun for so long.

Presenter: And what about polar bears? Have you been able to see one?

Chris: Well, you won't believe this but it's easier to see them today than it was some years ago.

Presenter: How come? I thought they were in danger of extinction.

Chris: The thing is that because polar bears appear very commonly on Svalbard and sometimes they attack people, everybody needs to take precautions when outside the settlements: this includes carrying a rifle. Nevertheless, the law protects polar bears and so it is forbidden to harm or disturb them unless there is considerable danger of injury to a person.

Presenter: Wow! Polar bears attack human beings? Scary, isn't it?

Chris: Well..., in the summer, some polar bears go ashore, go to the... Their favourite food is seals so they go and hunt them in their habitat. Climatic change is also affecting polar bears since there is less food and so they sometimes go hunting in the rural settlements where, of course, people live.

Presenter: I can see it's an amazing trip. That's been a very interesting discovery. Thank you, Chris, for being with us today.

Chris: My pleasure. Thank you.

## QUESTIONS

Choose the correct answer according to the text. Only one answer is correct.  
[0.25 points each correct answer] [Wrong answers will be deducted]

1. Where is Svalbard situated?
  - a. 600 miles from Ireland.
  - b. In the North Cape.
  - c. Between Norway and the North Pole.**
  - d. On the coast of Scandinavia.
  
2. Why is Svalbard a good name for the archipelago?
  - a. Sixty per cent of the people who lived there wear beards, "bard" in Norwegian.
  - b. People used to speak Svalbard in Scandinavia in the past.
  - c. Sval means "ice" in Dutch.
  - d. The name means "cold coast" in Norse.**
  
3. Who discovered the islands?
  - a. A Dutch sailor called Willem Barents.
  - b. A Dutch sailor whose name was Norse.
  - c. People who lived in Barents.
  - d. Probably Norse sailors.**
  
4. What happened in 1925?
  - a. The archipelago was rediscovered.
  - b. Svalbard became Norwegian.**
  - c. Spitsbergen was discovered.
  - d. Norway became a kingdom.
  
5. What's the best way of exploring the archipelago?
  - a. By car.
  - b. By boat.**
  - c. By bus.
  - d. By plane.
  
6. What's the average temperature in Spitsbergen in winter?
  - a. 12° C below zero.**
  - b. 10 ° C below zero.
  - c. 6° C below zero.
  - d. 6° C above zero
  
7. Why did Chris have to take some medicines while he was in Svalbard?
  - a. He got a terrible cold.
  - b. Because of the Polar night there is no sun for 2 months and a half.**
  - c. The midnight sun burnt parts of his body.
  - d. A bear attacked him.
  
8. Why do people in Svalbard carry rifles?
  - a. People have to defend polar bears when outside.
  - b. People go hunting very often.
  - c. Bears are known to hunt humans on occasions.**
  - d. There are a lot of seals and people can kill them.

## SÈRIE 3

## PART 1: READING COMPREHENSION

Choose the correct answer according to the text. Only ONE answer is possible.

[0.5 points each correct answer. Wrong answers will be penalized by deducting 0.16 points. There is no penalty for unanswered questions.]

1. Arranged marriages...
  - a. are banned in western countries.
  - b. are illegal in some western countries.
  - c. are not common in Eastern countries.
  - d. **are usual in Asian countries.**
  
2. The objective of *Arrange Me a Marriage* is...
  - a. **to assist people in finding their ideal partner.**
  - b. to help people to recover their lost partner.
  - c. to find people ready to give love a chance..
  - d. to encourage engaged people to get married.
  
3. The participants in *Arrange Me a Marriage* are people who...
  - a. **are ready to be married if they find the right person.**
  - b. believe in everlasting love.
  - c. are not afraid of any kind of relationship.
  - d. are in love and yet not able to express it.
  
4. Ms Rahman's key for the perfect marriage is ...
  - a. to love each other very much.
  - b. to be patient with your couple.
  - c. to share the same habits.
  - d. **to be as compatible as possible.**
  
5. Which factor is not considered by Aneela as important for a successful marriage?
  - a. Upbringing.
  - b. **Origin.**
  - c. Income.
  - d. Attraction.
  
6. Geeta Singh affirms that in an arranged marriage, the couple...
  - a. know each other perfectly.
  - b. tend to hate each other.
  - c. **can count on their relatives in difficult times.**
  - d. have no real reasons to argue at all.
  
7. Geeta Singh thinks that in Great Britain people...
  - a. have a positive opinion of arranged marriages.
  - b. **are often prejudiced against the idea of arranged marriages.**
  - c. do not care about arranged marriages.
  - d. ignore the existence of arranged marriages.
  
8. A lot of young people in Asia believe that in arranged marriages future partners ...
  - a. **try to make a good impression on each other.**
  - b. don't act freely, but forced by their parents.
  - c. do not show their real feelings.
  - d. feel free to be themselves.

**Listening Comprehension****SAVE THE ANIMALS**

In the following conversation you are going to hear some new words. Read and listen to them. Make sure you know what they mean

*Threat* : amenaça / amenaza

*Flock* : estol d'ocells / bandada de pájaros

*Legacy* : llegat / legado

*Wipe out* : eliminar / eliminar

*Pigeon* : colom/ paloma

Ready?

Now read the questions on the following page. Read them carefully before listening to the conversation.

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The IUCN, International Union for Conservation of Nature, has recently met in Barcelona to discuss the situation of many of the world's animals which are threatened with extinction. In this interview, Professor Andrew Beckman, from the Arizona State University School of Life Sciences, discusses some of the dangers that many mammals face and what can be done to avoid extinction.

[Now listen to the rest of the interview]

**Reporter:** Professor Beckman, thank you for accepting to talk to us about the IUCN meeting

**Professor Beckman:** Thank you for inviting me. It is a pleasure to be able to talk to your audience about this very serious problem.

**Reporter:** Could you tell us about some of the topics that have been discussed in this meeting?

**Professor Beckman:** Sure. Well, first of all, we have been able to listen to experts from many different parts of the world who have told us about the situation in their regions and the efforts that many of them are making to find solutions to their problems.

**Reporter:** I see. We have all heard about the threat of extinction of some animals, like elephants and gorillas. But really how bad is the situation in general?

**Professor Beckman:** Well, conservationists have taken the first detailed look at the world's mammals in more than a decade, and the news isn't good. Just to give you an idea, we estimate that one in four species is threatened with extinction and that the population of one in two is declining.

**Reporter:** So that means that if we don't do anything about it, in a few years half of the world's mammals may have disappeared?

**Professor Beckman:** Exactly, and that is just for mammals. The situation for birds, fish and other animals isn't much better either.

**Reporter:** And how fast could these animals actually disappear if we don't take any actions? That is, how fast can a species become extinct?

**Professor Beckman:** You'd be surprised, actually, to know how easy it is to wipe out an entire species in just a few years. Take the American passenger pigeon, for instance. In the 19th century, it was so abundant that when they flew over a town, you couldn't see the sun! In 1866, a cloud

of birds passed into southern Ontario. It was a mile wide, 300 miles long, and took 14 hours to pass a single point. Estimates suggest over 3.5 billion birds in that flock. Less than 50 years later, only one single female pigeon was left, and it died in the Cincinnati zoo in 1914.

**Reporter:** That is an amazing story. But surely people are much more concerned with conservation these days and it would be impossible for something like that to happen now.

**Professor Beckman:** It is true that some people are concerned, and that big efforts are being made to avoid extinction. But at the same time, animals are disappearing indirectly, mostly due to habitat destruction. For land species, habitat loss is a major threat across the tropics, including deforestation in the Americas, Africa and Asia. Hunting is having devastating effects in Asia, but African and South American species are also affected.

**Reporter:** So one of the most important actions is to preserve natural areas and avoid deforestation?

**Professor Beckman:** Yes, in fact, that is a crucial factor. In many cases, species may be disappearing even before they become known to scientists. Newly discovered species are among those that are not well documented, living in regions in need of future research such as tropical forests in West Africa and Indonesia. Marine mammals are not as well known as land mammals and are more difficult to study.

**Reporter:** Well, I know most people would agree that it is a sad thing for a species to become extinct. But really what is the effect that this kind of extinction could have on our lives?

**Professor Beckman:** Well, the extinction of a particular species is probably an indication of the serious damage that we are doing to our planet, a frightening sign of what is happening to the ecosystems where they live.

**Reporter:** So what can we do to change this dramatic situation?

**Professor Beckman:** First of all, we must set clear objectives for the future to reverse this tendency and to ensure that our legacy is not to wipe out many of our closest relatives. That is why the Barcelona meeting was so important.

**Reporter:** Any final thoughts?

**Professor Beckman:** I think the bottom line is, what kind of a world do you want to leave for your children? Do we want our children to look at dolphins and pandas in books and TV documentaries and feel about them like we feel about dinosaurs? Or do we want to do everything that is in our hands so that future generations can still enjoy the natural world in all its beauty and diversity?

**Reporter:** Thank you very much for your time, Professor Beckman. It has been very interesting talking to you and I hope that it is not too late to save all that beauty and diversity.

**QUESTIONS**

Choose the correct answer according to the text. Only one answer is correct. Look at number 0 as an example.

[0.25 points each correct answer] [Wrong answers will be deducted]

1. What is the situation with elephants and gorillas?
  - a. They have received very good news.
  - b. **Most people know that they are threatened with extinction.**
  - c. Conservationists are taking a first detailed look at them.
  - d. There's only one elephant and four gorillas left.
  
2. The situation for birds, fish and other animals is...
  - a. not as good as it is for mammals.
  - b. better than it is for mammals.
  - c. much worse than it is for mammals.
  - d. **just as bad as it is for mammals.**
  
3. In 1866, a cloud of birds passed into southern Ontario that ...
  - a. took 50 years to pass.
  - b. was 300 miles long and 14 miles wide.
  - c. **contained an estimate of over 3.5 billion birds.**
  - d. were flying to die in the Cincinnati zoo.
  
4. What happened to the last passenger pigeon?
  - a. It flew over Ontario for 3.5 billion miles
  - b. **It died in the zoo in 1914.**
  - c. It lived for 50 years in the Cincinnati zoo.
  - d. It left the zoo when the female pigeon died
  
5. What is the major threat to land species across the tropics?
  - a. **The effects of habitat loss.**
  - b. The disappearing efforts of some concerned people.
  - c. The devastating effects for hunters.
  - d. The preservation of natural areas.
  
6. Many newly discovered species are disappearing...
  - a. because they are not well documented.
  - b. because they are not known to scientists.
  - c. **before they are known to scientists.**
  - d. before they need future research.
  
7. Marine mammals are...
  - a. more difficult to study in the tropical forests of West African and Indonesia.
  - b. **more difficult to study than land mammals.**
  - c. well documented in the forests of Indonesia.
  - d. as difficult to study as land mammals.
  
8. Why are clear objectives for the future necessary?
  - a. So they can meet again in Barcelona.
  - b. Because we need to wipe out many of our closest relatives.
  - c. Because the tendency has been reversed.
  - d. **So that the tendency can be reversed.**