

Part 1: Reading Comprehension / Vocabulary (40 points)

Read the following article carefully and do the comprehension tasks.

Battling the Rainforest Killers

Climate specialists believe that mankind's demise¹ is certain should the Amazon rainforest cease to exist. Its vegetation simultaneously provides life-giving oxygen and absorbs polluting carbon dioxide, and as such, the rainforests are often alluded to as the Earth's 'lungs'. Common sense tells us that we wouldn't deliberately uproot something so vital to our survival, and yet it is a perpetual challenge to stop Brazilian farmers from doing exactly that. To them, the rainforests stand in the way of profits. With woodland destruction continuing unabated for decades, it seemed that the fate of rainforests was sealed, but in the past few years a new hope has arisen.

In Brazil, that hope takes the form of an environmental protection agency known as IBAMA. The agency employs a team that is responsible for surveying an area of land half the size of the United States. These 'rainforest police' use a combination of equipment and technology to monitor deforestation and actually arrive at the scene while the illegal clearing of trees is still in progress. The operation has been instrumental in slowing the pace of slashing and burning down forests by 80% in the past decade. However, the agency still continues to play cat and mouse with the farmers, as the farmers learn new ways to evade the IBAMA's patrols.

It's money that drives the farmers to continue to commit their environmental crimes, despite the ever-increasing chance of being caught. The prices of cash crops have risen steadily over the years, due to droughts and food shortages in other areas of the world. Farmers have become more familiar with the techniques that IBAMA uses to track them. They know that the satellite imagery is only sophisticated enough to identify large swathes of deforested land. A smaller area will go undetected, so the farmers adapt – they reduce the size of the areas they are clearing and create smaller farms. The police are aware of the farmers' ruses² and are working on refining their imaging technology to detect even smaller areas.

The organisation's endeavours are not only daunting in their scope, but extremely dangerous, too. It's not misleading to refer to the agency's officials as 'policemen', even if not in the conventional sense of the word. Not only are they equipped with space technology GPS devices and high-tech computers, but they've got guns strapped to their belts as well. When they visit a site to investigate illegal activities, they sometimes come face to face with the guilty parties, and with so much at stake, anything can happen. The farmers, who are also landowners, don't like limitations being imposed on them concerning what they do with their property. Therefore, just as Brazil's government is fighting to protect the environment, the profiteering landowners are fighting back to save their profits. Members of the environmental police have lost their lives, as have activists working to protect the rainforests against activities such as illegal logging and unlawful land claims.

The efforts of the environmental police have certainly been impressive in halting the ongoing destruction of Brazil's rainforests, but there is a wider debate in progress. While the behaviour of the farmers is by no means altruistic, their farms do provide food. Hunger and starvation are serious problems we face on our planet today, so the choice is – do we protect the forests in order to save the world's climate or do we expand areas of farmland in order to feed the world's population? This region of Brazil is one of the most fertile areas for growing many different crops, but without oxygen, without a liveable atmosphere or temperate climate, there will be no one alive to consume the region's produce anyway. One thing that's not up for debate, though, is that the solution to this dilemma should not be achieved through the use of violence. As such, Brazil's environmental protection agency will continue to do battle with the rainforest killers through peaceful means.

¹ demise: Untergang

² a ruse: eine List

1. Multiple choice

Circle the correct answer, A, B, C or D. Only one answer is correct.

(8 POINTS)

1. It is a fact that

- A mankind will not survive unless all rainforests are protected.
- B the earth's lungs will stop working in 10 years' time.
- D people in Brazil generally do not care about their rainforests.
- D more and more parts of rainforests are being cut down.

2. The writer suggests that Brazilian farmers

- A want nothing more than to destroy the rainforests.
- B are not concerned about the consequences of their actions.
- C would like to maximise the rainforest's productivity.
- D are challenging today's views about the environment.

3. What does the phrase 'play cat and mouse' refer to in line 26?

- A the farmers' methods of farming
- B the damage done to wildlife
- C the actions of farmers and police
- D the tactics of the police

4. IBAMA's satellite imaging technology

- A is completely successful in preventing illegal logging.
- B can detect the greater part of farmers' illegal activities.
- C is being adapted in order to meet farmers' changing tactics.
- D is capable of identifying both large and small areas of cleared land.

5. The reason the writer informs us that the task force carries weapons is

- A to convey the level of seriousness in the task force's activities.
- B to describe the sophistication in the task force's equipment.
- C to say how the task force uses unlawful means to protect forests.
- D to show how traditional methods are still the best methods.

6. The environmental police

- A have been able to stop the destruction of the rainforest.
- B have been involved with illegal parties.
- C face physical danger on their missions.
- D are working together with environmental activists.

7. The writer discusses the rights of landowners to show that

- A the landowners' actions are completely justifiable.
- B the issue has complications that are worth considering.
- C the struggle to protect their rights must continue.
- D the police don't show consideration for landowners' rights.

8. The aim of the debate the writer discusses towards the end of the text is

- A how far governments can go to protect the environment.
- B if the damage done to the rainforest truly affects mankind.
- C whether methods used to protect rainforests should be violent.
- D what choices mankind must make in how land is used.

2. Synonyms

Give a synonym or a synonymous expression for each of these words/expressions taken from the text. Keep the meaning of the word in the text. (8 POINTS)

1. simultaneously (3) _____
2. yet (8) _____
3. to arise (14) _____
4. to drive (29) _____
5. devices (49) _____
6. therefore (57) _____
7. unlawful (63) _____
8. to achieve (82) _____

3. Antonyms

Find an antonym or an antonymous expression for each of the following words. Do not use the word again in any form. (8 POINTS)

1. to cease (2) _____
2. vital (8) _____
3. to employ (17) _____
4. slowing (24) _____
5. to rise (32) _____
6. to be aware of (41) _____
7. guilty (53) _____
8. to expand (73) _____

4. Translation

Translate these words into German, giving the meaning they have in the text. (8 POINTS)

1. common sense (6) _____
2. perpetual (9) _____
3. the fate ... was sealed (13) _____
4. actually (21) _____
5. drought (33) _____
6. sophisticated (37) _____
7. daunting (45) _____
8. fertile (76) _____

5. Find the correct word

Find words/expressions in the text to match the following definitions. All words are to be found in chronological order between lines 1 and 64. (8 POINTS)

1. to mention someone or something in an indirect way _____
2. with a definite intention, not by chance or by accident _____
3. something that needs a lot of skill, energy and determination to deal with or achieve _____
4. to regularly check something or watch someone in order to find out what is happening _____
5. to avoid meeting someone who you do not want to see _____
6. a lack of something that you need or want _____
7. someone with an important position in an organization _____
8. to hold or keep something in position by tying something around _____

13. The woman was convicted and sentenced six months of prison.
 A to C with
 B for D on
14. Luckily, only of the medicine got spilt when she dropped the glass.
 A less C few
 B little D a few
15. Hardly of the paintings at the gallery were for sale.
 A none C some
 B few D any
16. The lecturer stopped his notes before he continued.
 A to check C to checking
 B checking D with checking
17. How dare you accuse me !
 A to cheat C that I cheated
 B cheating D of cheating
18. I have some suggestions to before we start our new project.
 A do C make
 B give D express
19. You'll have plenty of to travel when you study here.
 A options C opportunities
 B openings D occasions
20. It's no crying over him – the bastard!
 A use C worth
 B point D point in
21. If you want to improve your language skills after graduating, there is a range of schools to choose from.
 A big C great
 C wide D high
22. In the marathon, Swiss star Dario Cologna managed to up with the Norwegian champion 2 miles before the finish.
 A catch C run
 B turn D come
23. We'll be delighted to and show you the sights when you come in summer!
 A see you off C take you up
 B look you after D put you up
24. I've never had intelligent dog as my Gino.
 A a so C such an
 B as much an D a more than

2. Open Cloze

Put one appropriate word into the gaps of this text.

(8 POINTS)

Electronic Voting System

Because university lectures (1) _____ usually attended (2) _____ a large number of students, there is little interaction (3) _____ the lecturer and the students and (4) _____ way for the lecturer to check whether the students are benefitting. Thanks (5) _____ an invention known (6) _____ an electronic voting system – or ‘clickers’ for short – this situation is beginning to change.

‘Clickers’ are hand-held devices on (7) _____ students click the relevant button to answer questions posed by the lecturer. The students’ answers are communicated to the lecturer’s computer either by infra-red transmitter (8) _____ by radio frequency and the results are displayed on the lecturer’s projection screen at the front of the hall.

Initially lecturers presumed that the advantage of clickers for students would be that they would make lectures an interactive, (9) _____ than a passive, experience. But there have been unforeseen advantages for the lecturers themselves because they are much more in touch with (10) _____ each student is getting (11) _____ with the subject.

There are advantages for the students because if they get an answer wrong, they won’t be embarrassed in front of (12) _____ peers. But there are other advantages, too.

Clickers are also getting the students talking to (13) _____ other. Some lecturers are getting students to talk to their neighbours about (14) _____ they put and why. If clickers are used properly, they have huge potential in allowing lecturers to pitch their lectures (15) _____ the right level and get feedback on (16) _____. This is especially helpful at the beginning of a course.

3. Word Formation

Fill the gaps in the sentences with one appropriate word which is related to the word in the margin. The word has to be spelled correctly! (10 POINTS)

1. Speleologists came across an _____ cave deep in the Jura mountains. EXPLORE
2. There has been a clash of _____ between the two leaders. PERSON
3. The speaker kept _____ to the subject of nuclear danger several times in her lecture. REFERENCE
4. You should have _____ to your customers for selling them this rubbish! APOLOGY
5. There have been a number of _____ in the company's financial report. ACCURATE
6. I knew he was a liar! I have _____ him from the start. TRUST
7. It was _____ colder in the mountains than we had expected. CONSIDER
8. The new gardener works _____ and takes up far too much time for everything. EFFICIENCY
9. The study will _____ the long-term effects of exposure to radiation. VALUE
10. What is your _____ status? – I'm divorced. MARRIAGE
11. Lots of people wrote letters to express their _____ for all that Sir Colin had done for them. GRATEFUL
12. How did you _____ in getting a loan from the bank? You'll never be able to pay it back! SUCCESS
13. The little English girl's _____ during their holidays in Portugal was all over the news. APPEAR
14. It was the most _____ story that won the creative writing competition. HUMOUR
15. It is not very _____ to leave your bag unattended. ADVICE

16. Look how _____ Mary decorated the birthday cake for her brother! SKILL
17. How can you be so _____ of your sister's success? ENVY
18. To become a consultant, a _____ in law or economics is required. QUALIFY
19. Lady Beckett had used up all her _____. In the end she died a poor, lonely woman. SAVE
20. Pamela _____ to leave her boyfriend if he didn't treat her more kindly. THREAT

4. Tenses and Verb Forms

Complete the text with an appropriate tense / form of the words in brackets. Both active and passive forms as well as modal verbs are possible. (18 POINTS)

The narrator is a shy young English girl who works as a companion/secretary for the dreadful Mrs Van Hopper, a wealthy, nosy, elderly American. Here they are in a hotel in Monte Carlo; Mrs Van Hopper always on the lookout for VIPs of any kind with whom she will chat and show off her own self-importance. Last night she spotted a new arrival, the intriguing Maxim de Winter...

I can see it as if it (1) _____ (be) yesterday, on that unforgettable afternoon – never mind how many years ago – when she (2) _____ (sit) at her favourite sofa in the lounge, (3) _____ (debate) her method of attack.

I knew too, when she (4) _____ (miss) dessert, that she would wish to finish lunch before the new arrival and so install herself where he (5) _____ (pass).

Suddenly she turned to me, her eyes alight. 'Go upstairs quickly and find that letter from my nephew, the one with the snapshots. Bring it down right away.'

I saw then that her plans (6) _____ (form), and the nephew (7) _____ (be) the means of introduction. Embarrassed, I (8) _____ (feel) that the newcomer (9) _____ (not/welcome) intrusion. In what little I (10) _____ (learn) about him at lunch, I could imagine, in spite of my youth and inexperience of the world, that he (11) _____ (resent) this sudden bursting in upon his solitude. Why he (12) _____ (choose) to come to the Cote d'Azur was not our concern, and anyone but Mrs Van Hopper (13) _____ (understand). I wished I (14) _____ (have) the courage to warn him of the ambush...

When I (15) _____ (return) to the lounge I (16) _____ (see) that he (17) _____ (already/leave) the dining-room, and she, fearful of (18) _____ (lose) him, (19) _____ (not wait) for the letter, but (20) _____ (risk) a direct introduction of her own. He (21) _____ (even now/sit) beside her on the sofa.

'Mr de Winter (22) _____ (have) coffee with us, go and ask the waiter for another cup,' she said, her tone just casual enough to warn him of my position. Her method of introduction was a form of self-protection, for once I (23) _____ (take) for her daughter, which had been an embarrassment for us both.

'I'm afraid I (24) _____ (contradict) you,' he said to her, 'you (25) _____ (have) coffee with me'; and before I knew what (26) _____ (happen), he (27) _____ (sit) in my usual hard chair, and I on the sofa beside Mrs Van Hopper. She started to show him the photographs of her nephew's wedding. 'I (28) _____ (not think) I should care for Palm Beach,' he said, and (29) _____ (glance) at him I thought how unreal he would look against a Florida background. His face was arresting, sensitive, medieval in some strange inexplicable way, and I (30) _____ (remind) of a portrait seen in a gallery, I (31) _____ (forget) where, of a certain Gentleman Unknown. I realised I (32) _____ (lose) the thread of conversation. 'No,' he was saying, 'that sort of thing (33) _____ (never amuse) me.' 'Well,' Mrs Van Hopper gave her fat, complacent laugh, 'If Billy (34) _____ (have) a home like Manderville, he (35) _____ (not want) to play around in Palm Beach, ' she said. 'I (36) _____ (tell) it's like fairyland, there's no other word for it.'

(Adapted from *Rebecca* by D. du Maurier)

5. Transformation

Rewrite the following sentences using the word in bold without changing the meaning in any way. (12 POINTS)

1. Before moving in we had to call a painter to redecorate our flat. **HAVE**
Before moving in we had _____.
2. 'I only washed your jeans the day before yesterday, Tony!' said his mum. **TOLD**
Tony's mum _____.
3. Leah suggested that I arrive on time for the presentation. **LATE**
Leah advised _____ for the presentation.
4. Smith gave the ball to Jones just before the referee blew his whistle. **BY**
Jones _____ Smith just before the referee blew his whistle.
5. The court convicted Charles of stealing the diamonds. **FOUND**
Charles _____ stealing the diamonds.
6. Peter regretted selling his sports car so cheaply. **WISHED**
Peter _____ his sports car for more money.
7. I advise you to get a second opinion before you have this operation. **BETTER**
You _____ a second opinion before you have this operation.
8. The last time I saw Jenny was the day she got married in 1995. **WEDDING**
I _____ day in 1995.
9. It was so cold that two of her toes froze off. **LESS**
If _____.
10. It would have been possible for Denise to take us in her car. **COULD**
Denise _____ us a lift.
11. Although the main actor played well, the critics didn't like the play. **GOOD**
In spite _____ by the main actor, the critics didn't like the play.
12. I don't feel like having dinner at that posh place. **RATHER**
I _____ have dinner at that posh place.