

International Olympiad on English Language & Literature

Segment: Grade 3-5

Test on Writing Skill

Name: _____

Country: _____

Signature of the participant

Institute: _____

Email: _____

Signature of the invigilator

Rules and Regulations:

1. You have to be present in the examination hall well before the commencement of the test.
2. You will not be permitted to enter the examination hall 30 minutes after the commencement of the test.
3. You will not be permitted to leave the examination hall until after 30 minutes of commencement of the test.
4. If you have any paper/chit with you, surrender them to the invigilator now.

Read the passage below and answer the related questions:

Dolphins are very much vogue these days. Along with rainbows, they have become a symbol of a new age of love, peace, and harmony. Although, like human beings, they are mammals, they have adapted surprisingly well to an environment completely different from their own. There is no doubt that people love these aquatic creatures, considering them to be both intelligent and beautiful.

This fascination with dolphins is not a novelty; they have delighted people for centuries and they occupy a special place in folklore around the world. For example, the ancient Mediterranean cultures believed that the dolphin represented a vital power of the sea, and early Greek mythology describes many encounters between their gods and dolphins. Dolphins graced many forms of art in ancient societies. Killing a dolphin was punished by the death penalty. Around the world, many cultures believed that any intentional harm done to a dolphin could cause ill-fortune or moral sickness.

Dolphins are able to make sounds in the form of little clicks, through which they communicate with each other. Many dolphins are able to keep high out of water, sometimes to indicate the presence of fish to their companions, and sometimes simply out of exuberance. As well as making clicking sounds, they make other sounds which damage the balance of their prey, making it easier for capture. They are also able to work out where their prey is by listening to the echoes of sounds which their prey makes. Thus, special ability is called echolocation, and it enables dolphins to explore their environment over a wider distance than eyesight allows, and to find their prey in a dark, watery world where sight is often of little use.

Modern, efficient methods have been introduced that allow fishermen to bring in record catches. However, these methods make no distinction between fishes and dolphins, so that the latter then often become victims of these environmentally destructive fishing methods. In some parts of the world, fishermen have noticed that particularly large tuna fish swim underneath dolphins. Realising, therefore, that financially rewarding catches of tuna fish await those willing to take advantage of the tuna-dolphin bond, the fishermen deliberately net these dolphins under to catch the tuna swimming below them.

Modern fishing nets, unlike those in even the recent past, are made of very strong materials which dolphins can neither detect nor break and, in some places, local fishermen use these nets with the specific intention of catching dolphins for food. It is difficult not to have sympathy for these fishermen. In many fishing communities, fish stocks- on which people have always depended- are dwindling. The sea provides their best food, but local people are unable to compete with the huge fishing vessels which have recently been sent into waters by large international companies. As a result, they have to turn to whatever food sources remain, simply in order to survive, and the only available food is often dolphins.

It is not only sea dolphins that are under threat; river dolphins are also on danger of extinction because of human behaviour. They frequently become entangled in fishing nets used by local people whose overriding concern is feeding their families. Other dolphins are accidentally caught on large fishing hooks strung in lines along river beds. It is perfectly understandable that people respond to the need to provide food for their families by fishing in local rivers, but their fishing equipment is a major hazard for dolphins. Pesticides, which are used to boost crop production in agricultural areas, pollute the nearby rivers, and the dolphins living there stand no chance against these powerful poisons. When beautiful creatures can be poisoned by factory waste, which is often dumped in rivers; this waste may be hidden, but it is still present and highly dangerous.

In many parts of the world, dams are often constructed to provide water to irrigate crops or to produce hydroelectric power. However, the benefits brought about by these dams are offset by the damage done to dolphins, which are prevented from swimming upstream to breed, as are the small, migratory fish on which

they feed. Thus, an important food source for dolphins is seriously depleted. In some countries, the construction of dams has led to the extinction of many species of river dolphin. Dams restrict the flow of freshwater in nearby rivers, and the lack of fresh water deprives dolphins of oxygen. In addition, dams separate dolphins into small, isolated groups that cannot interbreed. The threat to river dolphins means that government organisations need to consider holding workshops to deliberate on what can be done to save river dolphins.

1. Give one reason why, according to the writer, people love dolphins.
2. How can we tell that in some cultures dolphins were considered to be as important as human beings?
3. What did people in many cultures believe could be the result of intentionally harming a dolphin? Answer in your own words.
4. In what two ways do dolphins use their ability to make sounds? Number your answers (I) and (II).

5. Give two reasons to explain why dolphins 'leap high out of the water'. Answer in your own words.

6. What single feature of the dolphins' environment means that their eyesight is 'often of little use' in catching their prey?

7. According to the writer, what benefit do fishermen derive from the modern fishing methods?

8. In what way are modern fishing methods 'environmentally destructive'?
9. Explain fully the benefits gained by fishermen who 'take advantage of the tuna-dolphin bond'.
10. Why, even in the recent past, were fishermen less likely to be able to catch dolphins than fishermen today?
11. Explain fully why in the past local fishermen did not need to kill dolphins for food.
12. Write an article on "Manners maketh man".

13. Explain your viewpoint on the importance of learning another language other than your mother tongue and English.

14. Write a story which includes the words: "I am glad my mother didn't give up..."

15. What do you know about STEAM education?

16. Explain what measures you will take as a global citizen to save your planet.