

International Olympiad on English Language & Literature

Segment: Grade 9-10

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 passages 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.

In some countries, the meat of river dolphins is considered to have medical properties, and consequently they are killed in large uncontrolled numbers. But, as with sea dolphins, the majority of deaths are caused inadvertently. Many river dolphins have been found with appalling injuries after collisions with boats and, as the volume of boat traffic in many parts of the world is likely to grow, the probability of such encounters is bound to increase. The noise created by boats interferes with the dolphins' hearing, reducing their ability to locate food. Furthermore, there is plenty of evidence to suggest that the turbulence caused by dense river traffic reduces the ability of these sensitive creatures to navigate their territory.

However, there are signs of changing attitudes towards the plight of river dolphins. In China, they have been officially recognised as a protected species, along with the giant panda and other critically threatened species. The Chinese government has taken extensive and surprising measures to educate local people through films, posters and even postage stamps. All of this has been greeted with interest by local people. More importantly, associations have been set up, run by local volunteers, to educate fishermen in fishing methods designed to stop the harm which is often done to river dolphins, however unintentionally these associations are often delighted at how quickly ordinary people understand the importance of urgent action to conserve river dolphins. One factory to use the river dolphins as its trademark, and other companies have rushed to follow their example, with a dolphin hotel, a dolphin department store, dolphin shoes.... the public imagination has been caught! Not surprisingly, the river dolphin is becoming a household name and its survival problems are well known.

In one part of China, a nature reserve has been built to protect river dolphins. Funded by the government and public donations, this reserve provides a protected breeding area for river dolphins which, it is hoped, will result in an increase in the dolphin population. Local support for this project is considerable, since it is likely to provide new jobs and has a great potential as a tourist attraction. A hospital has also been constructed where the injured dolphins are treated until they are well enough to be returned to the river.

We should be heartened by such conservation stories. Nevertheless, through our arrogance and ignorance we have already managed to cause tremendous harm to our environment. Dolphins are in the unfortunate position of acting as living indicators of the effects of this damage. They are symbolic not only of love, peace and harmony, but of what we have done, and are still doing, to our planet.

From paragraphs 1, 2, 3, 4 and 5:

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?

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.

From paragraphs 8, 9 and 11:

12. Why is it unlikely that there will be a reduction in the number of dolphins killed in collisions with boats?

13. In your own words, explain why, according to the writer, we have caused 'tremendous harm to our environment'.

14. Explain the last sentence of the passage according to your own word.

From the entire passage:

15. Choose five of the following words or phrases. For each of them give one word or short phrase (of not more than seven words) which has the same meaning of the word or phrase used in the passage.

- A) In vogue
- B) Delighted
- C) Distinction
- D) Overriding
- E) Deliberate
- F) Inadvertently
- G) Appalling
- H) Heartened.

16. The passage describes the ways in which both sea and river dolphins are under threat in modern times.

Using your own words as far as possible, summarise the difficulties and dangers encountered by river dolphins and the steps to protect them.

Your summary, which must be in continuous writing (not note form), must not be longer than 160 words.

17. You have certainly heard of Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs). Mention the name of your country and also briefly describe about the goals which your country have achieved and the goals where your country is striving to achieve.

18. If you were assigned as the Chief Policymaker of the educational system of your country, what would you do or what measures would you take to better the system?

19. Mention two instances where you thought yourself to be a leader. And justify why you thought yourself to be a leader in light of those instances.

20. Suppose, there are two schools of thoughts. The first one tells you that the international conventions or conferences on climate change do not provide fruitful solutions and in actuality, these conferences or conventions are not helpful at all. The other school of thought believes that, being aware of global warming and climate change and doing something good for the nature and environment individually will ultimately help. If all the individual global citizens showers concern for the environment, it would have been more beneficial for the environment and nature. Which school of thought do you repose your faith to?