

# English

## Reading Test

**2002**  
60 min  
50 marks

### 1. Questions and Answers

In this booklet, there are different types of questions for you to answer in different ways. The space for your answer shows you what type of writing is needed.

- **short answers**  
Some questions are followed by a short line or box.  
This shows that you need only write a word or phrase in your answer.
- **several line answers**  
Some questions are followed by a few lines.  
This gives you space to write more words or a sentence or two.
- **longer answers**  
Some questions are followed by a large box.  
This shows that a longer, more detailed answer is needed to explain your opinion.  
You can write in full sentences if you want to.
- **other answers**  
For some questions you need do no writing at all and you should tick, draw lines to, or put a ring around your answer. Read the instructions carefully so that you know how to answer the question.

#### Marks

The number in the margin tells you the maximum number of marks for each question.

Please wait until you are told to start work. You should work through the booklet until you are asked to stop, referring to your reading book when you need to.

**You will have 45 minutes for this test.**

## 2. INTRODUCTION

*THE texts show some different views of forest fires and their effects.*

*In England, forest fires are rare and can be destructive. In many other parts of the world, where they happen quite frequently, they can have a beneficial effect.*

*A forest fire can burn for days, or even weeks, through many square kilometres of land. Newspapers and television reports show dramatic pictures of whole forests ablaze.*

*But the news reports do not mention that these huge fires can have good effects as well as bad. Although they destroy much of the forest, they also help it to grow again more healthily.*

# The Spark of New Life

Would you believe that the effects of a forest fire can be beneficial as well as destructive? The fire is part of a cycle that helps new life to grow.

**An established forest is home to many different plants and animals.**

There is always a danger of fire in the forest. Fires can be caused by people being careless, or by lightning strikes. Scientists have calculated that lightning starts over half of all forest fires in the west of the United States.



**A forest fire destroys many trees and other plants.**



When there is a lot of old, dead wood on the forest floor, it catches alight easily and burns fiercely. Animals are good at finding safe places and most of them survive. Approximately 30,000 elk live in Yellowstone National Park but in the fires of 1988 only about 240 were killed.

**Seedlings grow on the newly cleared and fertilised ground.**

A type of tree in North America known as a 'fire pine' benefits from the heat generated by a fire. The seeds are held in place in the cones by a sticky substance called resin. During a fire, the mature tree may be killed but the cones fall to the ground and the resin melts, releasing thousands of new seeds to grow.



**New species of trees grow and larger animals return to the forest.**

In Alaska in the 1930s, fires broke out and destroyed several forests of black spruce trees. Soon after the fires, grasses and plants quickly began to grow on the bare ground and insects and small animals came to feed on them. A few years later, forest rangers noticed that different kinds of trees were growing there. These new trees attracted moose and other animals which had not previously inhabited the forest.



**Small animals and insects return to the forest and adapt to their new environment.**



After fires in the rainforests of Borneo in 1983, scientists studied how certain animals adapted to the changed habitat. They noticed that a group of macaque monkeys changed their pre-fire diet of fruits, seeds and flowers to dried fruits, young shoots and insects after the fire.

Photographs (bottom right) courtesy of British Broadcasting Corporation. All other photographs used with permission of Corbis.

3. These questions are about *The Spark of New Life*.

Choose the best word or group of words to fit the passage and put a *ring* around your choice.

1. Many forest fires are caused by

- smoke
- animals
- lightning
- rain

1 mark

2. A forest fire can help plants to grow by

- giving them shelter
- clearing the ground
- making leaves fall
- giving them shade

1 mark

3. As soon as the new plants start to grow,

- large animals
- forest rangers
- small creatures
- fire pines

begin to feed on them.

1 mark

4. Gradually, different plants grow and

- large animals
- forest rangers
- big bushes
- fire pines

move into the area so that in time there is

1 mark

5.

- less soil
- more space
- less grass
- more variety

than before.

1 mark

6. Why does the **fire pine** need heat to release its seeds?

.....  
.....

1 mark

7. How did the macaque monkeys of Borneo adapt after the fire?

.....  
.....

1 mark

8. How were the forests of Alaska different:

a) shortly after the fires?

.....

1 mark

b) a few years after the fires?

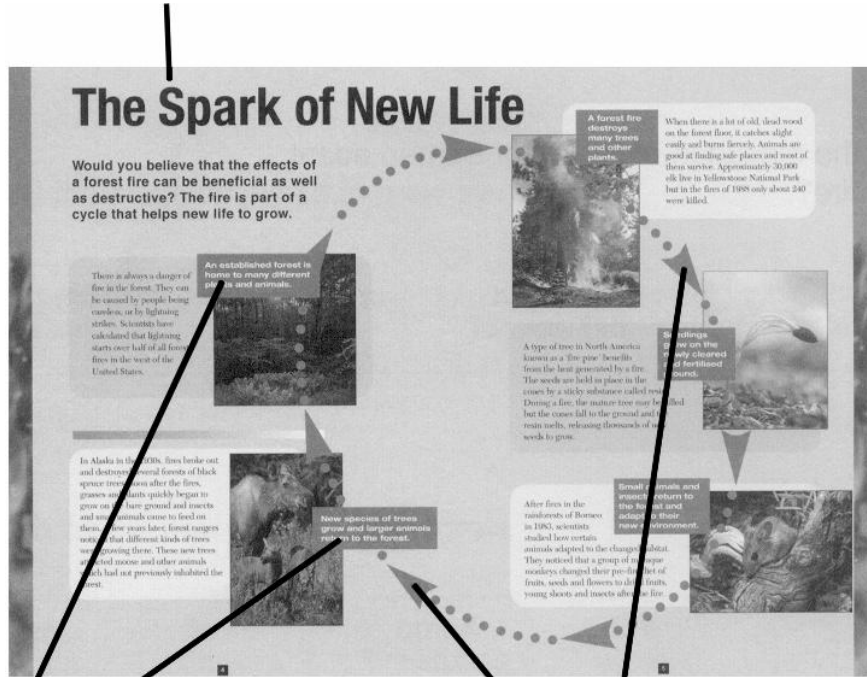
.....

1 mark

9. (a) Why is The Spark of New Life a good title?

.....

.....



9b. What is the purpose of the writing in the boxes?

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

9c. What do the arrows show you about the structure of the text?

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

3 marks

4. There's a Fire in the Forest

*There's a fire in the forest!  
The creatures are fleeing  
The flames close behind  
With the wind driving onward.  
From underbrush up to  
The high moving tree-tops  
The fire's surging forward.  
There's a fire in the forest;  
The whole woods are burning.  
The whole world is burning!  
The creatures are seeking  
The safety of streams  
Beyond the hot burning.  
The creatures are fleeing;  
They are labouring, straining  
To reach the cool river  
They know just beyond them,  
To escape the fierce burning,  
To reach the cool stream  
For which they are yearning.*

*by W.W.E. Ross  
with permission of Mary L. Hutton.*

5. These questions are about the poem *There's a Fire in the Forest*.

1. In the poem, what are the forest animals:

a) escaping from?

.....

1 mark

b) looking for?

.....

1 mark

2. Find two verbs in the poem that suggest movement.  
Write **one** word next to each dot.

·1 .....

·2 .....

1 mark

3. What is the main idea of the **second verse** of the poem?

Tick the best answer.

the speed and heat of the fire

the size and depth of the river

the fear and urgency of the animals

the thirst and hunger of the animals

1 mark

4. How has the feeling of panic been created in this poem:

a) in the choice of words? .....

.....

1 mark

b) in the way the lines are written? .....

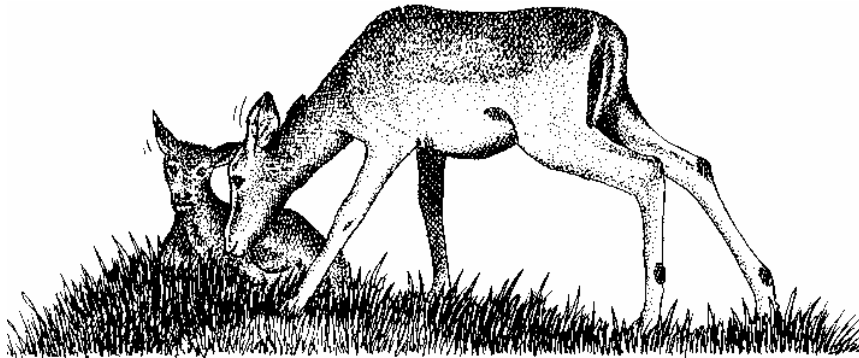
.....

1 mark



# *The Flames Come Closer*

*A baby impala is born on the African plains.  
A thunderstorm starts a fire some miles off.  
The smoke and flames are too far off to worry the  
impala doe, its mother ... for the moment.*



The new-born baby was struggling to stand, helped by his mother who nudged him with her soft muzzle. The baby rose, fell, rose again.

After ten minutes he was standing and trying to take his first feed. In that time the peace of the morning was going.

To the north there was a widening belt of smoke, in which the crimson of flames flickered. The bone dry grass was burning in a wall of fire which seemed to create its own wind. At more than a walking pace the wind blew the fire southwards.

Out of the grass, insects rose in their thousands and, within minutes, birds were congregating as if called to a free feast. They kept just ahead of the thickening smoke, gulping down the dazed insects as they fled before the fire.

The animals began to move south. The baboons were the first to take the alarm. With the old dog baboons barking furiously and nipping at the hindquarters of the stragglers, the families moved out of harm's way, the babies clinging underneath their mothers, whimpering.

Zebra, impala, wildebeest, a pride of lions and two cheetahs, all headed away from the approaching flames. There was a vague smell of burning covering the whole landscape, even when the fire was still two miles away. Only those unable to run stayed to wait for the terror which would not stop until it came to bare ground, and there was nothing else to burn.

The impala doe was nervous, and when a family of wild dogs ran by without even giving her a second glance, it seemed to make her even more determined to move. She got her baby to feed and, when he had taken all he could and wanted to lie down and rest, she butted him gently to his feet again.

He tottered a dozen yards, then gave an excited little jump, only to topple and lie panting. His mother butted him gently again, encouraging him to stand. She ran a few yards away and her son bleated in terror. She came back and stood close, making coaxing sounds, and he struggled again to his feet. His mother turned and walked away, calling to him.



Bleating feebly, as if trying to tell his mother he was doing his very best, the new-born impala began to run. His spindly legs looked far too thin and shaky to support even a body as delicate as his. Yet he ran at least three yards before slipping into a wart hog hole.

For a moment the impala stared with widening eyes at the spot where her baby had been a moment before, then she bounded back. He was there, staring up with big brown eyes, and it was a minute or more before he tried to get out. He was still too young to be afraid.

The smell of burning was greater now. The impala doe knew the danger. At other times it had been easy enough to escape the approaching flames. She could leap thirty feet at a time ... but her baby could not even walk now.

It took several minutes to get him out of the hole, and then he stood on three legs. He had injured a back leg. It was not serious, but it meant he would have to walk slowly, with a limp.

There were no other animals about now. They were all moving south, just a little more quickly than the fire. They were in no real danger.

The impala mother and son moved at only half the speed of the advancing fire. Very soon she could hear the warning crackle as the flames ate up the dead grass, and even consumed shrubs and small trees.

They found themselves at a dried-up river bed. The baby impala, so tired now that his legs were trembling, rolled down the steep bank and lay too exhausted to get to his feet. Now there was thick smoke billowing overhead, and the crackling roar of the fire was terrifyingly loud.

The impala doe, eyes bulging with fear, leaped across the dry stream bed, and hesitated as if not quite sure whether to leap up the steep bank, and so go on to safety. The fawn watched her, and his anxious cries were drowned by the roar and crackle of the fire.



His mother came back to him in one beautiful bound. Above her, smoke and burning grass swept over the edge of the bank, forming a curtain which shut out the sky. The impala doe suddenly lay down, partly covering her baby.

The fire leaped across the dry river bed. It flared up on the other side. There were a few moments when the air was almost too hot to breathe, then the flames had gone; only smoke and ash remained. A welcome breath of air swept softly down the dried river bed, and the smoke swirled and eddied, then began to lift upwards. For the impala and her baby, the danger had passed.

from *The Empty Land* by Arthur Catherall

7. These questions are about the extract from the story *The Flames Come Closer*.

1. Choose the best group of words to complete the sentence and put a *ring* around your choice.

The flames move quickly because of

the animals

the sun

the wind

the smoke

1 mark

2. Underline **two** words in the paragraph below which describe the impala doe's feelings:

*The impala doe was nervous, and when a family of wild dogs ran by without even giving her a second glance, it seemed to make her even more determined to move. She got her baby to feed and, when he had taken all he could and wanted to lie down and rest, she butted him gently to his feet again.*

1 mark

3. Here are some of the main events from the story.  
Number them to show the sequence of events.

One has been done for you.

Impala doe lies down covering the baby impala.

Impala doe encourages baby impala to stand.

Baby impala rolls down bank of dried-up river bed.

Animals begin to flee from the approaching fire.

Baby impala falls down wart hog hole.

2 marks

4. Choose the best group of words to complete the sentence and put a *ring* around your choice.

The impala doe is in particular danger because

she is nearest to the fire

the other animals may catch her

she cannot move fast because of the baby

she cannot run because she is injured

1 mark

5. *Only those unable to run stayed to wait for the terror...*

a) What is **the terror**?  
.....

1 mark

b) Why do you think the writer used the word **terror**?  
.....  
.....  
.....

1 mark

6. *He was still too young to be afraid.*

Explain what this means and why it is important to the story.

.....  
.....  
.....

2 marks

7. The impala doe *hesitated as if not quite sure whether to leap up the steep bank...*

Explain fully what this shows about the impala doe's actions and feelings at this point in the story.

.....  
.....  
.....  
.....  
.....  
.....  
.....

3 marks

8. *His mother came back to him in one beautiful bound.*

Why has the word *beautiful* been used to describe the impala doe's action?

.....  
.....

2 marks

9. **Find and copy** a phrase which tells you that the impala doe and her baby were safe.

.....

1 mark

10. Look at the first three paragraphs starting from

*Out of the grass...*

How does the writer build up the sense of fear as the fire approaches?

.....  
.....  
.....  
.....  
.....  
.....  
.....

3 marks

8.

NEWS.....

WEDNESDAY, AUGUST 22, 2000

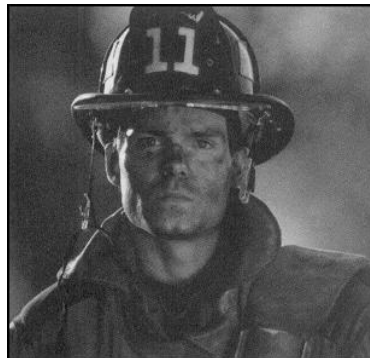
## Fire threatens thousands of acres

**FIRE** fighters are still attempting to gain control of the fire raging through 2,400 acres of dense forest in Westland.

**By Susan Elliot**

Soldiers yesterday joined forest rangers in making a fire break, cutting down trees ahead of the fire to stop it spreading further. But then the wind changed and the fire suddenly veered northwards, so the flames continue on their destructive path.

Although the fire is progressing at great speed, the vast area is uninhabited and no human life is threatened.



Fire fighter Joe Millar:

**'This fire's like an untamed hungry beast.'**

Fire fighter Joe Millar said yesterday: ‘This fire’s like an untamed hungry beast – the moment you think you’ve got it under control it surprises you with a sudden movement and it’s escaped. That’s what happened when the wind changed.’



Millar and his colleagues are standing by with high-tech equipment and foam-spraying helicopters to make their next attempt at taming the blaze.

But not everyone agrees with their action. Also on the scene is Carol Parker, an expert from The Forestry Ecological Survey. She says: ‘We have argued for several years that it’s a waste of resources to try to control a fire like this, where there’s no threat to human life or property.’

Parker points to other parts of the world where ‘let-burn’ policies have been adopted as part of forest management. This means closely watching the fire but making no attempt to extinguish it. She explains: ‘The forest will grow again after the fire – this should be seen as just one stage in a cycle of regeneration.’



**Carol Parker:**

**'It is far better to manage the forest properly.'**

For Joe Millar, tracking the progress of the fire from a lookout post, these arguments are beside the point. ‘At daybreak we’ll tackle the fire from the air. You can’t just stand and watch the forest being devoured and do nothing.’

**9. These questions are about the article *Fire threatens thousands of acres.***

1. How are the fire fighters trying to put the fire out?

Write down **two** ways.

1. ....

2. ....

2 marks

2. Which of the following facts can be found in the article?

Tick **two** boxes.

The fire is dangerous to people living in the area.

The fire is unpredictable because of the wind.

Fire fighters have succeeded in getting the fire under control.

Some people think that fires like this should be left to burn.

Nothing can grow after the fire has destroyed the forest.

2 marks

3. Why does Carol Parker think the fire should not be put out?

.....

.....

1 mark

4. Why has the reporter included quotations from Joe Millar and Carol Parker in this article?

.....

.....

.....

1 mark



5. Joe Millar calls the fire  
*an untamed hungry beast.*

What does this phrase suggest about the fire?

Explain your answer fully.

.....  
.....  
.....

2 marks

**10. These questions are about the whole booklet.**

1. Carol Parker says that the fire should be seen as  
*just one stage in the cycle of regeneration.*

Using what you have read on *The Spark of a New Life*, explain what this means.

.....  
.....  
.....

2 marks

2. Sentences have been left out of three of the texts you have read.

Match each sentence to the text you think it came from.

Draw one line to each box.

**Birds have been fleeing their nests.**

*information text*

**The animals lifted their heads and sniffed the air.**

*newspaper article*

**Animals quickly move to safer parts of the forest.**

*extract from story*

1 mark

The reading booklet is called *Fire – Friend or Foe?*

Think about everything you have read in the reading booklet and explain why this is a good title.

.....

.....

.....

.....

.....

.....

.....

3 marks