

Read the passage carefully and then answer all the questions that follow.
Answer all the questions. You are recommended to answer them in the order set.

Close Encounters of the Wild Kind

(Amidst the rapid growth of the wildlife-watching industry, Christian Amodeo examines the rise of the ethical safari and finds out how to get the most out of a responsible wildlife-watching experience.)

- 1 Standing upright ⁱⁿ a vast, barren glacial valley in daylight, and wearing a brightly coloured jacket, I knew I was breaking several golden rules of wildlife watching. Worse still, there was no cover to speak of – Svalbard has no trees. I had strayed from my camp during my first visit to the Norwegian Arctic and was preoccupied with taking photographs when I noticed a white animal farther up the valley moving towards me. 5
- 2 My first reaction was panic. The hairs on the back of my neck stood on end. With no landmark against which to gauge the size of the creature, the words 'polar' and 'bear' appeared in my head in very large, bold letters. It was not a polar bear, but rather a diminutive Arctic fox looking very clean against the greys of the landscape. I remained perfectly still, aware of how conspicuous I was. Soon enough, the fox spotted me. Now it was watching me. Thus began a patient stand-off during which I began to feel rather embarrassed, not least because I was so obviously out of context in this inhospitable environment, while my new acquaintance was very much in his element. He soon trotted off into the grey distance, leaving me cold but exhilarated. 10 15
- 3 To feel out of place, as I had on that windswept Arctic shore, is perhaps not unusual. It is worth remembering that we are guests in a strange environment and are duty-bound to limit our impact. This may also maximise our chances of spotting timid or wary animals. The three most common mistakes people make when wildlife watching are to be smelly, noisy and impatient. "The longer you stay, the greater the chance of seeing something spectacular," says Malcolm Tait, an author and ornithologist. "I also think people may be put off because they do not know what they are looking for. One of the great pleasures of wildlife watching is trying to work out exactly what it is you are looking at. Once you have started, you have got a lifetime of discovery and pleasure ahead of you." 20 25
- 4 To help you identify animals, take a pocket guide and do not forget a notepad and pencil to jot down all that you see. Another vital piece of equipment is a pair of binoculars or a camera's telephoto lens. High-powered binoculars allow you to keep your distance from animals, which you should never approach or get too close to, in case they become nervous and flee, or worse, become aggravated. 30
- 5 Over time, many more places have opened up to wildlife-watching tourism, allowing us to see more animals in more environments than ever before. From polar regions to the darkest equatorial rainforests, it seems nowhere is off limits. Each location has a unique array of environmental, wildlife and local issues, as well as special tour operators that should be attentive to them. 35
- 6 Wildlife observation has always proved inspirational for humans. It led Charles Darwin to provide us with a better understanding of how we evolved and inspired such everyday innovations as velcro. US author Peter Matthiessen wrote, "The variety of life in nature can be compared to a vast library of unread books, and the plundering of nature is comparable to the random discarding of whole volumes without having opened them and learned from them." While there is indeed much to learn from many species not yet known to science, it is the already opened 'books' that attract the majority of us – in ever increasing numbers. 40

- 7 Awareness and understanding of the state of the planet and its wildlife has been spurred on by the efforts of conservation groups and natural history television. This, in turn, has led to an increased demand for wildlife tours or the addition of a wildlife-watching component to traditional holidays. It seems people want to discover nature for themselves. There is no way to compare seeing an animal in the wild with watching one on television. While a filmmaker may spend six months shooting an animal and will get closer to it than you will when watching it in the wild, there is no greater pleasure than seeing an animal in its own environment. 45 50
- 8 Although the term is overused, 'ecotourism' allows tourists both to see and help wildlife. This encouraging development within the wildlife industry offers hope for the future of many endangered species, as money from clients is often given directly to conservation organisations. Tour operators who are listed with independent bodies such as Responsibletravel.com have ethical policies in place to ensure that proper procedures are followed. They use the services of local communities, train local guides and have close ties to conservation projects. 55
- 9 Tour operator Rekeru, for example, has established its own school – the Koyiaki Guide School and Wilderness Camp – for young Maasai in Kenya. Maasai have largely been excluded from the benefits brought to the region by tourism; they make up just 15 percent of employees in tourist camps. Presently over-subscribed, the school is set to increase the number of pupils this year. "It is a concerted effort to put the running of the reserve into the hands of indigenous people," says Rekeru's Ron Beaton, founder of the school. 60 65
- 10 Conservation organisations have also realised that tourism can help educate people and provide a valuable source of revenue and even manpower. World Wildlife Fund, for example, runs trips that give donors the chance to see for themselves how their financial aid is assisting conservation projects in the field. 70
- 11 However, not all wildlife watching trips are so hands-off. Some offer the opportunity to participate in research and conservation. Earthwatch is a non-profit international environmental group that does just that. Participation in an Earthwatch project is a positive alternative to wildlife-watching expeditions, as members of the public are offered the opportunity to be on the front line, not the sidelines, of conservation. Volunteers work alongside scientists on field-research projects and assist in gathering the data needed to protect some of the world's most delicate ecosystems. 75
- 12 "Travelling through Africa on a well-planned safari has no equal on this planet for satisfaction, fun and creating a balance in one's own life and mind," says Colin Bell, director of Wilderness Safaris, an award-winning tour operator. "For some people, a safari is not about ticking animals off a list, it is a life-changing experience." Sometimes you just have to know when to leave the camera dangling around your neck and instead absorb a scene in the old-fashioned way, taking from it no physical souvenir, but a sense of well being, of peace, of gratitude for having experienced it and a memory that will last a lifetime. 80 85
- 13 Far from being a mere holiday activity, wildlife watching is often a humbling experience and an opportunity to take respite from the modern world. Tait says, "There is beauty in watching and being surrounded by nature that can earth the soul." 90

From paragraphs 1 & 2

- 1 (a) What are two of the golden rules of wildlife watching that the writer was breaking? [2]
(b) What is a possible consequence of breaking these rules? [1]
- 2 (a) Give two reasons why a "polar bear" was the first animal that the writer thought he saw. [2]
(b) "Thus began a patient stand-off during which I began to feel rather embarrassed" (lines 12 -13)
Explain in your own words why the writer felt embarrassed. [2]

From paragraph 3

- 3 (a) According to the writer, why are we duty bound to limit our impact in the wild? [1]
(b) In your own words, what are two ways through which we can maximise our chances of spotting animals? [2]
(c) Why is 'trying to work out exactly what it is you are looking at' (line 25) a great pleasure of wildlife watching? [1]

From paragraph 4

- 4 In your own words, give two reasons why it is important to keep a distance from the animals. [2]

From paragraph 6

- 5 (a) "...the plundering of nature is comparable to the random discarding of whole volumes without having opened them and learned from them." (lines 40 - 42)
In your own words, explain what the writer means. [2]
(b) What do the "opened books" (lines 43 - 44) refer to? [1]

From paragraph 7

- 6 "This, in turn, has led to an increased demand for wildlife tours..." (line 47)
What does 'this' refer to? [1]

From paragraph 8

- 7 What ensures that the benefits of ecotourism are reaped? [1]

From paragraph 9

- 8 What is the ultimate reason for tour operator Rehero to establish its own school for young Maasai in Kenya? [1]

From paragraph 11

- 9 "However, not all wildlife watching trips are so hands-off." (line 71)
What word in this paragraph suggests that some wildlife watching trips are hands-off? [1]

From the whole passage

- 10 For each of the following words, give one word or a short phrase (of not more than seven words) which has the same meaning that the word has in the passage.

1. preoccupied (line 4)
2. conspicuous (line 11)
3. array (line 35)
4. concerted (line 65)
5. respite (line 88)

[5]

- 11 Using your own words as far as possible, summarise the advantages of wildlife observation.

USE THE MATERIAL FROM LINE 37 TO LINE 90.

Your summary, which must be in continuous writing (not note form), must not be longer than 150 words (not counting the words given to help you begin).

Begin your summary as follows:

Wildlife observation has always proved inspirational for human beings as... [25]

**River Valley High School
Secondary Three
Mid-Year Examination 2006
English Language
Paper 2**

1a) The two golden rules of wildlife watching that the writer was breaking are straying alone from his camp on his first visit to the Norwegian Arctic and wearing a brightly coloured jacket.

1b) He might be killed by the wildlife in the forest.

2a) The first animal that the writer saw was white in colour and had the size of the polar bear.

2b) He felt that he is out of the place in the unwelcoming surroundings when facing the animal which is very much familiar in the surroundings.

3a) We are visitors in a bizarre surroundings.

3b) The two ways of maximizing our chances of spotting animals are not to be stinking, loud and intolerant and to know exactly what we want to see.

3c) You would be able to discover more about what you are trying to look at.

4) A distance should always be kept in case they become anxious and run away or they might become provoked.

5a) The writer means that aggressiveness of nature is similar to throwing away books without using them and reading them, indicating the wastage should we not try to discover the wonders of nature.

5b) It refers to the discovered part of nature.

6) "This" refers to the appreciative and alertness of nature brought about by the conservation groups and natural history television.

7) The tour operators have moral policies to follow to make sure that the appropriate procedures are ensured.

8) It is to train the young people from young the knowledge of conserving the nature.

9) The word is "alternative".

10)

1. Preoccupied: lost in thought

2. Conspicuous: noticeable
3. Array: collection
4. Concerted: determined
5. Respite: breather

11)

- Provides us with the information about how we progressed and creates new creations daily.
- Consciousness and perceptive of nature were encouraged by the preservation groups and natural history television, leading to rising nature tours or wildlife-watching programs in conventional holidays.
- Wants to experience seeing the nature up-close and will get to see the creature in its own surroundings.
- Gives money to preservation groups directly when they go on nature tours which will help endangered animals.
- Help teach people and offer an important supply of income and manpower.
- Hands on preservation activities increase voluntary work by people to conserve the nature.
- Recollection that will last a life span.
- Awesome experience and good opportunity to take a rest from the busy city life