PARAGRAPH 1

Buffalo, zebras, wildebeests, topi, and Thomson's gazelles live in huge groups that together make up some 90 percent of the total weight of mammals living on the Serengeti Plain of East Africa. They are all herbivores (plant-eating animals), and they all appear to be living on the same diet of grasses, herbs, and small bushes. This appearance, however, is illusory. When biologist Richard Bell and his colleagues analyzed the stomach contents of four of the five species (they did not study buffalo), they found that each species was living on a different part of the vegetation. The different vegetational parts differ in their food qualities: lower down, there are succulent, nutritious leaves; higher up are the harder stems. There are also sparsely distributed, highly nutritious fruits, and Bell found that only the Thomson's gazelles eat much of these. The other three species differ in the proportion of lower leaves and higher stems that they eat: zebras eat the most stem matter, wildebeests eat the most leaves, and topi are intermediate.

Directions: Mark your answer by filling in the oval next to your choice.

1. The word "illusory" in the passage is closest in meaning to

- ○ definite
- ○ illuminating
- ○ misleading
- ○ exceptional

2. The word "sparsely" in the passage is closest in meaning to

- ○ widely
- ○ thinly
- ○ clearly
- ○ freshly

3. Which of the following questions about Richard Bell's research is NOT answered in paragraph 1?

- ○ Which of the herbivores studied is the only one to eat much fruit?
- ○ Which part of the plants do wildebeests prefer to eat?
- ○ Where did the study of herbivores' eating habits take place?
- ○ Why were buffalo excluded from the research study?

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