

**English B - Standard Level**  
**- Paper 2 -**  
**Reading comprehension**

### **Text A: Underwater Wonder**

*WWF's Lida Pet-Soede on the fight to protect the Coral Triangle, an area of sparkling and rare marine diversity.*

When a middle-aged mum offers to do an underwater rap in front of thousands, two things are certain. One: her pre-teen daughters will '**totally**' disown her. Two: she must have a very good reason.

Step forward, or perhaps wade this way, Netherlands- born Lida Pet-Soede. As head of the World Wide Fund for Nature (WWF) Coral Triangle Initiative, Pet-Soede is on a mission to get us to "stick our heads in the water" to appreciate what lies under the sea's surface.

In the Coral Triangle; that's iridescent corals, psychedelically-hued fish, magical molluscs, turtles, sharks, mantas and countless plants. Spanning Malaysia, Indonesia, the Philippines, Papua New Guinea, the Solomon Islands and Timor Leste, the Coral Triangle generates an estimated \$12 a year from nature-based tourism, much of which comes to the region's coral-encrusted 132,800 km of tropical coastline.

This six million sq kilometer area holds one third of the world's coral reefs and reef fish. It covers just 1% of the earth's surface, but contains more species in two football pitches worth of its waters than the entire Caribbean.

But researchers warn that over-fishing, climate change, pollution and coastal development will so seriously deplete the reefs (which provide coral fish with food and breeding grounds) that by 2050, they will provide half the fish protein they do today.

With 125 million people relying on these reefs for their food and income, the threat to human health and wellbeing, as well as marine species, is very real. Pet-Soede says the plight of the area is overlooked because of its 'invisibility'.

"My tree-hugger friends have it a bit easier in that respect. Within the last 20 years, the deforestation on the island of Sumatra has been shocking - you can see that. But when the problem is under the surface of the ocean, it's not so visible."

Though progress is being made, Pet-Soede argues: "There are just too many people taking too many fish. It's pretty straightforward. We cannot keep meeting the demand for tuna and shrimp from the USA, China and Japan.

"The Indonesian government and others in the Triangle have agreed to protect at least 10% of their oceans by setting up Marine Protected Areas (MPAs). We are on the way



to achieving that," she explains, "but it has been a hard slog to secure the current 2% made up of MPAs."

And what of the underwater rap? "I am trying to get a former Miss Indonesia to do that with me. If 5,000 people buy a \$5 spot in the Coral Triangle through the WWF website, I have committed to attempt the challenge. It's a bit of fun, and hopefully my kids will not be completely mortified, but I'm also doing it to get the message out there, and for people to take notice. These issues are not so far removed from your daily life, even if you do not dive or ever expect to. You don't have to be a conservationist to make the right choices," says Pet-Soede.

"I personally think you should eat seafood. I think you should eat it and enjoy it, but just don't waste it and when you buy it, **make the right choice**."

-Holland Herald

- **Answer questions in complete sentences.**

1. Why is the word 'totally' in single quotations?
  
2. Why according to Pet-Soede, are people less concerned about the coral reef than deforestation?
  
3. How will Pet-Soede's underwater rap help save the Coral Triangle?
  
4. What do you think that Pet-Soede means when she says that people have to 'make the right choices'?

- **The sentences below are either true or false. Tick the correct response then justify it with a relevant brief quotation from the text. Both a tick and a quotation are required for one mark.**

5. Many people depend on the welfare of the coral reef.

TRUE  FALSE

**Justification:**

6. The Coral Triangle Initiative aims to turn the reef into a Marine Protected Area.

TRUE  FALSE

**Justification:**

TRUE  FALSE

7. Pet-Soede's children will be proud of their mother's underwater rap.

**Justification:**

- ***The words in the left column are taken from the text. Find the word in the right column that is closest in meaning to one of the words on the left.***

***- Write the letter in the appropriate box.***  
***Note: there are more words on the right than needed.***

8. Rare (line 2)	a. be grateful for
9. Disown (line 5)	b. renounce
10. Appreciate (line 9)	c. unique
11. Iridescent (line 10)	d. belittle
12. Deplete (line 19)	e. wonderful
13. Slog (line 33)	f. shimmering
	g. journey
	h. struggle
	i. diminish

## Text B: How Cell Phone Behavior Affects Other People

[1] Compulsive cell phone users leave others feeling confused, trapped, disrespected, and angry. These users are often feeding their own ego at the expense of others.

Telephone booths were invented for a reason. The first ones were made of beautiful hardwoods and often had plush carpet on the floor. They were placed in railroad stations, fancy hotels and banks for the sole purpose of providing privacy for the user. There was a door to keep others away during the conversation and a window to let others know the booth was occupied. It was a wonderful way to have a private transaction in a public place without involving a third person in a two-way call.



[2] The days of phone booths are long gone, of course, but people haven't stopped having the need to talk privately in public. Cell phones have become pervasive in our society and have many social implications. There are four main reasons why bystanders and observers have a negative response to these kinds of conversations.

[3] One of the most disturbing elements of cell phone use is the "absent presence" described by Lisa Kleinman of the University of Texas School of Information. She writes "When technology use occurs, the individual can become an absent presence to the group, removing themselves from the context of shared group behaviors to become involved in a virtual world that is not available to those around them. Depending on group norms, this individual use of technology signals a particular social message and has implications ...".

Observers, listeners and bystanders often get confused and wonder "Is he talking to me?" It is disconcerting to say the least.

[4] To some observers, people who carry on loud phone conversations in public are just showing off. They seem to project a "baffling sense of entitlement", according to anthropologist Dr. Robbie Blinkoff, and offer the public appearance of emotional fulfillment. They come across as self-important jerks who are advertising their own worth, status and/or desirability, depending on the portion of the conversation the observer can hear.

Alternately, some people perceive rude cell phone users as overgrown babies who are attached to their phones like a security blanket or pacifier. In any case, when someone disengages from reality to talk on the phone, he violates an everyday sense of normal behavior, which leaves everybody around him feeling violated.

[5] Disembodied talk by someone else on a cell phone makes almost anybody feel trapped and controlled by a passive-aggressive person. If the private conversation they are forced to listen to then turns into the ego-building sort of social transaction mentioned above, they are likely to suffer emotional damage as a result. The unwilling listener usually has limited options for escaping from or shielding himself from the conversation. He feels like an interloper in a private sphere and often looks around for an alternate activity or conversation.



[6] Observers generally feel suspended, ignored or dismissed when someone's phone rings. They feel disrespected and worthless. They feel that they have been invaded and disengaged from the public sphere through no fault of their own. Having been given a technological cold shoulder, the person who was relegated to the bottom

of the social importance scale now feels worthless and will react with either anger or shame, depending on a number of factors. Since there is usually no escape from this kind of situation, his self-esteem plummets and the "flight or fight" reflex is triggered.

Talking on a cell phone while in the presence of others involves juggling two parallel social contexts. This often causes cognitive overload as well as social consequences for the user. The cell phone conversation disturbs the real-life situation more than the situation disturbs the conversation. Musical ringtones, loud voices, distracted talkers, inattention blindness and compulsive checking for text messages are all distressing to those in the real-life situation.

Cell phone users are not interacting with the world around them and often believe that the world around them isn't really there. This leads to the passive-aggressive stance that the real world shouldn't intrude on their right to disengage from it. Many cell-yellers another rude cell phone users are actually oblivious to the reactions of others and blind to their own faults. What the rest of us can do about it is the topic of another article.

#### **Text B: - How Cell Phone Behavior Affects Other People**

**- Match the headings with the paragraphs in the text. Write the appropriate letter in the line provided.**

(1) _	—	a. Others Feel Unimportant When Interrupted by a Cell Call
(2) _	—	b. Others Often Think Cell Phones are Being Used as Ego-Builders
(3) _	—	c. Friends, Observers, and Bystanders are Affected in Negative Ways
(4) _	—	d. Others are Confused by Cell Phone Conversations in Public
(5) _	—	e. Others Become Insecure
(6) _	—	f. Private Conversations in Public Places Irritate Others
		g. Four Tips on Using Your Cell Phone in Public
		h. What to Do About Pesky Cell Phones
		i. Others Feel Trapped and Controlled by Cell Phone Conversations

**- Complete the following sentence based on information as it appears in the text.**

7. There used to be telephone booths in public spaces in order to

**- Choose the correct answer from a, b, c, d. Write the letter in the box provided.**

8. According to Lisa Kleinman, 'absent presence' refers to ...

- a. People are physically present but mentally absent.
- b. People are physically absent but mentally present.
- c. People are physically present and mentally present.
- d. People are physically absent and mentally absent.

9. Dr. Robbie Blinkoff believes that mobile phones ...

- a. are a useful tool for staying connected.
- b. are a distraction that can lead to accidents.
- c. are a threat to public health.
- d. are a threat to national security.

10. When people talk on their cell phone, they make others ...

11. Answering the phone while with others creates a problem because ...

d. None of the above.

12. Most people who call in social situations

### Text C: The Challenge of Modern Parenting

Over the last few decades, our culture has become less and less clear about its messages to parents and other [ 1 ] ..... and educators of its children. Parents often experience doubts or [ 2 ] ..... regarding the decisions they make for their children's sake because they receive so much conflicting advice from various "experts" in the field of child rearing.



Much of this confusion is a result of the rapid changes our society as a whole has been going through. We've discarded a lot of old [ 3 ] ..... about what the roles for men and women should be, but we haven't always been able to replace the models that we've done away with. Basically we have embarked upon an age of experimentation. We're working mostly with both helpful and not-so-helpful [ 4 ] ..... from other parents and teachers who are in the same boat as we are.

We're likely to have an easier time throughout this period of trial and [ 5 ] ..... if we can shed the belief that we must be perfect parents the first time around. The life of the family is a learning experience not only for children, but also for their guardians. If we are gentle with ourselves then our lessons will likewise be gentler. We're going to be venturing into a lot of unexplored areas with our children, and we'll need to trust our gut feelings and intuition. We may have firm notions about doing everything contrary to the ways that our parents did them, or we may encounter [ 6 ] ..... where their tried and true approaches seem to work best. What is most important is that our love and [ 7 ] ..... for our children be the forces that govern our decisions. If we are to do without role models and scripts throughout our lives as parents, then our hearts must be our guides.

Dispensing with the old blueprints for how mothers and fathers should raise their children can be seen as a fruitful phase in the growth of humanity. We have a(n) [ 8 ] ..... to try new approaches that could potentially work better than the methods that previous generations have used. This [ 9 ] ..... will go a lot smoother for us if we can let go of the expectation that we will be completely enlightened parents. Redefining our identities as men and women is a task that requires [ 10 ] ..... and a little room for error. Journeys into unknown [ 11 ] ..... often involve taking two steps forward and one step back.

We swell with pride in seeing our young ones make their first baby steps. Why not, then, take a little pride in our own?

### Text C: - The Challenge of Modern Parenting

- Which words go in the gaps in Text F? Choose the words from the list and write them in the below. Note: there are more words than needed.

OPPORTUNITY	<input type="text"/>	PROGRESS	SITUATIONS	INPUT
TERRITORY	<input type="text"/>	LEEWAY	MISTAKES	ERROR
COMPASSION	<input type="text"/>	PROCESS	GUARDIANS	<input type="text"/>

**Example: X guardians**

1. ... adults	7. ...
2. ... guilt	8. ...
3. ... notions	9. ...
4. ... concepts	10. ..
5 ... territory	11. ..
6 ... progres	

- Answer the questions.

12. According to the author, what is the challenge of raising children in modern times?

13. What are two things parents should keep in mind in order to face this challenge? (2 marks)

14. How does the author view this evolution of parenting strategies? Give evidence to support your answer.