

## IELTS General Reading Sample Paper 2

### Reading Passage 1

#### Zeppelin

Zeppelin, rigid airship of a type originally manufactured by Luftschiffsbau-Zeppelin, consisting of a cigar-shaped, trussed, and covered frame supported by internal gas cells. The first Zeppelin airship was designed by Ferdinand, Graf von Zeppelin, a retired German army officer, and made its initial flight from a floating hangar on Lake Constance, near Friedrichshafen, Germany, on July 2, 1900. Beneath the 128-metre (420-foot) craft a keel-like structure connected two external cars, each of which contained a 16-horsepower engine geared to two propellers. A sliding weight secured to the keel afforded vertical control by raising or lowering the nose, while rudders were provided for horizontal control. The craft attained speeds approaching 32 km (20 miles) per hour. During World War I the Germans achieved moderate success in long-range bombing operations with the zeppelin-type rigid airship, which could attain higher altitudes than the airplanes then available. On two occasions during 1917, German zeppelins made flights of almost 100 hours' duration. Such performances led many people to believe that large airships would play a prominent part in aviation development. A number of zeppelins were distributed to the Allied countries as a part of postwar reparations by Germany. Of many subsequent zeppelins, the two most famous were the Graf Zeppelin, completed in September 1928, and the giant Hindenburg, first flown in 1936. The Graf Zeppelin inaugurated transatlantic flight service, and by the time of its decommissioning in 1937 had made 590 flights, including 144 ocean crossings, and had flown more than 1.6 million km (1 million miles). In 1929 the craft covered about 34,600 km (21,500 miles) in a world flight that was completed in an elapsed time of approximately 21 days. The Hindenburg, 245 metres (804 feet) long, was powered by four 1,100-horsepower diesel engines, giving it a maximum speed of 135 km (84 miles) per hour. In 1936 this airship carried a total of 1,002 passengers on 10 scheduled round trips between Germany and the United States. On May 6, 1937, while landing at Lakehurst, New Jersey, the hydrogen-inflated craft burst into flames and was completely destroyed, with a loss of 36 lives. The Zeppelin airship works were destroyed by Allied bombing during World War II, and building of the huge rigid airships was never resumed. In 1993, descendant companies of Luftschiffsbau-Zeppelin founded Zeppelin Luftschifftechnik GmbH, which built the Zeppelin NT ("New Technology"), a smaller (75-metre, or 250-foot) helium-filled airship that in 2001 began to offer short sightseeing trips over Lake Constance and other locations.

1. Zeppelin made its initial flight from:

- A. Runway
- B. Floating hangar
- C. Deck

2. Rudders on the airship were provided for:

- A. Fuel storage
- B. Horizontal control
- C. Durability

3. Zeppelins were used during WW I against Allied because:

- A. They could carry more munition
- B. They could fly long distances
- C. They could attain higher altitudes than the airplanes

4. After the war Germans distributed a number of Zeppelins to Allied as:

- A. Souvenirs
- B. Patent
- C. A part of postwar reparations

5. The giant Hindenburg, first flew in the year:

- A. 1928
- B. 1929
- C. 1936

6. The Hindenburg flew scheduled round trips between these countries:

- A. Germany and United Kingdom
- B. Germany and United States
- C. Germany and Kiel

## Reading Passage 2

### Bring back the big cats

It's time to start returning vanished native animals to Britain, says John Vesty. There is a poem, written around 598 AD, which describes hunting a mystery animal called a llewyn. But what was it? Nothing seemed to fit, until 2006, when an animal bone, dating from around the same period, was found in the Kinsey Cave in northern England. Until this discovery, the lynx - a large spotted cat with tassel led ears - was presumed to have died out in Britain at least 6,000 years ago, before the inhabitants of these islands took up farming. But the 2006 find, together with three others in Yorkshire and Scotland, is compelling evidence that the lynx and the mysterious llewyn were in fact one and the same animal. If this is so, it would bring forward the tassel-eared cat's estimated extinction date by roughly 5,000 years.

However, this is not quite the last glimpse of the animal in British culture. A 9th- century stone cross from the Isle of Eigg shows, alongside the deer, boar and aurochs pursued by a mounted hunter, a speckled cat with tasselled ears. Were it not for the animal's backside having worn away with time, we could have been certain, as the lynx's stubby

tail is unmistakable. But even without this key feature, it's hard to see what else the creature could have been. The lynx is now becoming the totemic animal of a movement that is transforming British environmentalism: rewilding.

Rewilding means the mass restoration of damaged ecosystems. It involves letting trees return to places that have been denuded, allowing parts of the seabed to recover from trawling and dredging, permitting rivers to flow freely again. Above all, it means bringing back missing species. One of the most striking findings of modern ecology is that ecosystems without large predators behave in completely different ways from those that retain them. Some of them drive dynamic processes that resonate through the whole food chain, creating niches for hundreds of species that might otherwise struggle to survive. The killers turn out to be bringers of life.

Such findings present a big challenge to British conservation, which has often selected arbitrary assemblages of plants and animals and sought, at great effort and expense, to prevent them from changing. It has tried to preserve the living world as if it were a jar of pickles, letting nothing in and nothing out, keeping nature in a state of arrested development. But ecosystems are not merely collections of species; they are also the dynamic and ever-shifting relationships between them. And this dynamism often depends on large predators.

At sea the potential is even greater: by protecting large areas from commercial fishing, we could once more see what 18th-century literature describes: vast shoals of fish being chased by fin and sperm whales, within sight of the English shore. This policy would also greatly boost catches in the surrounding seas; the fishing industry's insistence on scouring every inch of seabed, leaving no breeding reserves, could not be more damaging to its own interests.

Rewilding is a rare example of an environmental movement in which campaigners articulate what they are for rather than only what they are against. One of the reasons why the enthusiasm for rewilding is spreading so quickly in Britain is that it helps to create a more inspiring vision than the green movement's usual promise of 'Follow us and the world will be slightly less awful than it would otherwise have been.'

The lynx presents no threat to human beings: there is no known instance of one preying on people. It is a specialist predator of roe deer, a species that has exploded in Britain in recent decades, holding back, by intensive browsing, attempts to re-establish forests. It will also winkle out sika deer: an exotic species that is almost impossible for human beings to control, as it hides in impenetrable plantations of young trees. The attempt to reintroduce this predator marries well with the aim of bringing forests back to parts of our bare and barren uplands. The lynx requires deep cover, and as such presents little risk to sheep and other livestock, which are supposed, as a condition of farm subsidies, to be kept out of the woods.

On a recent trip to the Cairngorm Mountains, I heard several conservationists suggest that the lynx could be reintroduced there within 20 years. If trees return to the bare hills elsewhere in Britain, the big cats could soon follow. There is nothing extraordinary about these proposals, seen from the perspective of anywhere else in Europe. The lynx has now been reintroduced to the Jura Mountains, the Alps, the Vosges in eastern France and the Harz mountains in Germany, and has re-established itself in many more places. The European population has tripled since 1970 to roughly 10,000. As with wolves, bears, beavers, boar, bison, moose and many other species, the lynx has been able to spread as farming has, left the hills and people discover that it is more lucrative to protect charismatic wildlife than to hunt it, as tourists will pay for the chance to see it. Large-scale rewilding is happening almost everywhere - except Britain.

Here, attitudes are just beginning to change. Conservationists are starting to accept that the old preservation-jar model is failing, even on its own terms. Already, projects such as Trees for Life in the Highlands provide a hint of what might be coming. An organisation is being set up that will seek to catalyse the rewilding of land and sea across Britain, its aim being to reintroduce that rarest of species to British ecosystems: hope.

1. What did the 2006 discovery of the animal bone reveal about the lynx?

- A. Its physical appearance was very distinctive.
- B. Its extinction was linked to the spread of farming.
- C. It vanished from Britain several thousand years ago.
- D. It survived in Britain longer than was previously thought.

2. What point does the writer make about large predators in the third paragraph?

- A. Their presence can increase biodiversity.
- B. They may cause damage to local ecosystems.
- C. Their behavior can alter according to the environment.
- D. They should be reintroduced only to areas where they were native.

3. What does the writer suggest about British conservation in the fourth paragraph?

- A. It has failed to achieve its aims.
- B. It is beginning to change direction.

**C. it has taken a misguided approach.**

**D. It has focused on the most widespread species.**

**4. Protecting large areas of the sea from commercial fishing would result in**

**A. practical benefit for the fishing industry.**

**B. some short-term losses to the fishing industry.**

**C. widespread opposition from the fishing industry.**

**D. certain changes to techniques within the fishing industry.**

**5. According to the author, what distinguishes rewilding from other environmental campaigns?**

**A. Its objective is more achievable.**

**B. Its supporters are more articulate.**

**C. Its positive message is more appealing.**

**D. It is based on sounder scientific principles.**

### **Reading Passage 3**

#### **Google Loon Project**

**Loon LLC is an Alphabet Inc. subsidiary working on providing Internet access to rural and remote areas. The company uses high-altitude balloons in the stratosphere at an altitude of 18 km (11 mi) to 25 km (16 mi) to create an aerial wireless network with up to 1 Mbps speeds. A reference to the balloons used, Project Loon began as a research and development project by X (formerly Google X), but later spun out into a separate company in July 2018.**

**The balloons are maneuvered by adjusting their altitude in the stratosphere to float to a wind layer after identifying the wind layer with the desired speed and direction using wind data from the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA). Users of the service connect to the balloon network using a special Internet antenna attached to their building. The signal travels through the balloon network from balloon to balloon, then to a ground-based station connected to an Internet service provider (ISP), then into the global Internet. The system aims to bring Internet access to remote and rural areas poorly served by existing provisions, and to improve communication during natural disasters to affected regions. Key people involved in the project include Rich DeVaul,**

chief technical architect, who is also an expert on wearable technology; Mike Cassidy, a project leader; and Cyrus Behroozi, a networking and telecommunication lead. The balloons use patch antennas – which are directional antennas – to transmit signals to ground stations or LTE users. Some smartphones with Google SIM cards can use Google Internet services. The whole infrastructure is based on LTE; the eNodeB component (the equivalent of the "base station" that talks directly to handsets) is carried in the balloon. On June 16, 2013, Google in New Zealand where about 30 balloons were launched in coordination with the Civil Aviation Authority from the Tekapo area in the South Island. About 50 local users in and around Christchurch and the Canterbury region tested connections to the aerial network using special antennas. After this initial trial, Google plans on sending up 300 balloons around the world at the 40th parallel south that would provide coverage to New Zealand, Australia, Chile, and Argentina. Google hopes to eventually have thousands of balloons flying in the stratosphere.

1. Project loon was inaugurated by

A. Alphabet Inc.

B. Loon LLC

C. Google X

2. Project loon balloons are positioned in

A. Troposphere layer.

B. Mesosphere layer.

C. Stratosphere layer.

3. Project loon aims at

A. Eradicating natural calamities??

B. Bringing internet access to remote and poorly connected rural areas????????????????

C. Better mapping of rural areas

4. Google Internet services can be accessed on some smartphones by using

A. Special Internet antenna

B. Google SIM cards

**C. Wifi**

**5. Component which is equivalent of the base station that talks directly to handsets is carried in the balloon**

**A. eNodeB**

**B. Iridium**

**C. patch antennas**

**6. Google plans on sending up 300 balloons around the world at**

**A. North pole**

**B. Equator**

**C. 40th parallel south**